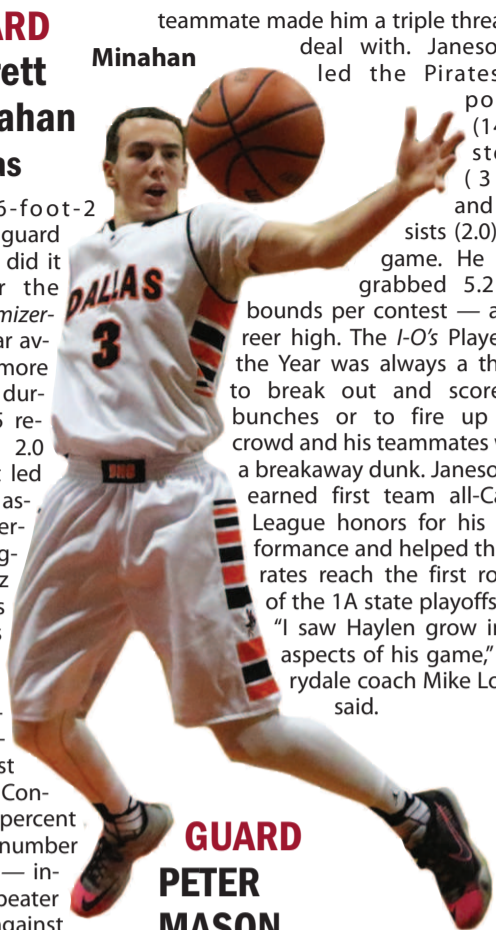


2015-16 ITEMIZER-OBSERVER ALL-REGION PREP BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



GUARD
Everett Minahan
Dallas

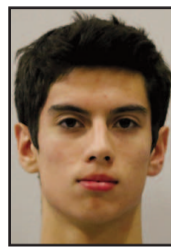
The 6-foot-2 senior guard simply did it all for the Dragons. The 2014-15 *Itemizer-Observer* Player of the Year averaged 16.3 points (and more than 18 points per game during conference play), 5.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.0 steals per game. "Everett led us in points, rebounds, assists and steals by an overwhelming margin," Dragons coach Trent Schwartz said. "He did more on his own to improve his skills than any player I've ever coached." Dallas' season had a disappointing finish, but Minahan provided a bright spot. The first team all-Mid-Willamette Conference selection shot 47 percent from the field and had a number of game-changing plays — including hitting a buzzer-beater shot to force overtime against Central on Jan. 12. The Dragons won the game over their rivals 38-37.



GUARD
PETER MASON
Central

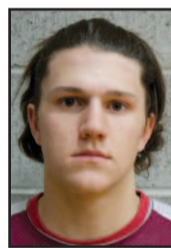
The 6-foot-1 junior guard didn't light up the scoreboard, but he affected the game in a variety of ways. "Peter was the heart of our defense," Central coach Tim Kreta said. "Many times, we asked him to guard our opponent's best players." Mason averaged 4.5 points, 3.9 assists, 2.7 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game. Mason's ability to get his teammates involved and

help the Panthers in a number of different ways made him a key part in the Panthers' success during the season. "Peter was not a shoot-first point guard, and he took pride in finding shooters and making the extra pass to help our offense run," Kreta said. "On more than one occasion, Peter led the team in rebounds, assists and steals." Mason received an all-league honorable mention for his efforts, and the Panthers advanced to the first round of the 5A state playoffs.



WING
Alec Barba
Central

The 6-foot-3 junior wing was the Panthers' most prolific shooter during the 2015-16 season. Barba led the team in 3-pointers with 62 and shot 42.3 percent from beyond the arc. He made six 3-pointers during the Panthers' first-round playoff loss at Churchill. Barba forced opponents to stretch out on defense, opening up opportunities for himself and teammates to find easy buckets. "When Alec is on the court, he makes our team offense run a lot better," Kreta said. "Guards and wings have to honor him. This led all our posts to have better matchups." Barba earned an all-league honorable mention and figures to be an even bigger part of Central's offense as a senior.



POST
Brant Barnes
Perrydale

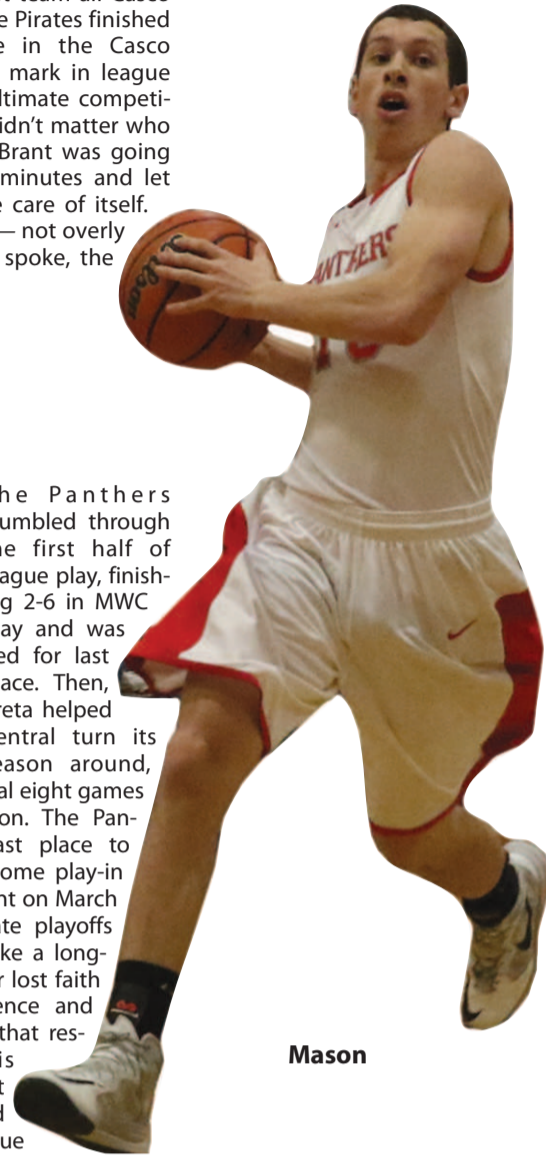
The 6-foot-1 senior post/wing was called upon to im-

prove his offensive prowess during the 2015-16 season, and Barnes delivered. Barnes averaged a team-high 7.4 rebounds per game while ranking second in points, averaging 9.4 points per game. The senior provided a dominant inside presence on offense and defense. Barnes' emergence on the offensive end helped in part to earn him first team all-Casco League honors as the Pirates finished tied for first place in the Casco League with a 14-2 mark in league play. "Brant is the ultimate competitor," Lowry said. "It didn't matter who the opponent was, Brant was going to compete for 32 minutes and let everything else take care of itself. He is a great leader — not overly vocal, but when he spoke, the team listened."

COACH
Tim Kreta
Central



The Panthers stumbled through the first half of league play, finishing 2-6 in MWC play and was tied for last place. Then, Kreta helped Central turn its season around, going 5-3 over its final eight games of the regular season. The Panthers went from last place to fourth and won a home play-in game over Eagle Point on March 2. A trip to the state playoffs may have seemed like a long-shot, but Kreta never lost faith and preached patience and trust — a message that resonated among his players. After a start that could have led to a disastrous league



Mason

Dunk: Junior becomes Pirates' centerpiece

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As a sophomore, Janesofsky began to make his mark at the varsity level, earning a starting role and becoming a key piece in the team's offensive schemes — despite recovering from a left knee injury suffered during football.

"I tore up my knee pretty badly. It was the first play of the season," Janesofsky said. "It was a touchdown, at least."

The injury sidelined him for the rest of the football season. He returned to athletics in time for basketball, but he wasn't the same.

"At the end of my freshman year, I could dunk," Janesofsky said. "I couldn't at the start of my sophomore year."

As Janesofsky recovered physically, he studied the way Perrydale's upperclassmen conducted themselves on and off the court.

"The thing I learned that helped me the most was probably teammate chemistry and being a leader," Janesofsky said. "The upperclassmen really helped me out in those key areas."

This season, Janesofsky broke out in a big way.

His size (6-foot-3), strength, and speed made him a nightmare for defenders to keep track of.

"When I have the ball, I tend to look for mismatches with my defender," Janesofsky said. "For instance, if he is slower, I tend to drive past him more. If he is quicker, I want to get the ball in the middle so I can use my size to my advantage. If he sags off, then I will take the open jumper."

The guard/wing averaged 14.5 points, 3.4 steals and 2.0 assists per game. He also ranked third in rebounds, averaging 5.2 per contest.

"I felt responsible for a lot of the offense," Janesofsky said. "Whenever I would have a bad game and we would lose, I felt completely responsible. When we didn't lose, I have to give the props to my teammates for stepping up in crucial situations."

Janesofsky is no stranger to hitting big shots in key moments for the Pirates — perhaps none more thrilling than when he gets an open

lane for a slam dunk.

"When I break away for a dunk, it definitely gets the adrenaline pumping," Janesofsky said. "It makes me play harder and more intensely afterward as well. Whenever there is an opportunity for a dunk, I want to take it because it is a confidence booster not only for me, but for the team. It gives us the momentum that we need."

Janesofsky hopes to improve even more this off-season. He is playing AAU basketball during the spring and summer, forgoing baseball for the first time in his high school career.

He took a big step forward during the 2015-16 season. Now, he's set for an even bigger campaign during his senior year.

"Basketball means many things to me. It means working hard, having fun, creating friendships and staying humble," Janesofsky said. "... Basketball keeps me focused and helps me to work harder to become the best I can be, not only on the court, but off it as well."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

Junior Haylen Janesofsky led the Pirates in scoring, averaging 14.5 points per game.

Fan: Bergeson not taking credit for Wolves' success in 2015-16

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"We also wanted to have guys who were in love with the game, who were motivated to get better and wanted to play as long as possible," Bergeson said. "We knew the game meant something to them. We wanted guys who had good relationships with their coaches before us, players who were coachable."

Among the players Bergeson recruited include two-time Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year Andy Avgi, Devon Alexander, Julian Nichols and Jordan Wiley.

"Nothing that group has done has surprised me," Bergeson said.

WOU won a regular season title in Bergeson's final year, making it to the NCAA Division II West Regional for the first time.

While Bergeson and his staff played a key role in recruiting some of WOU's major contributors, he's not



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Former Wolves coach Brady Bergeson helped recruit several current WOU players, including Julian Nichols.

about to take responsibility for the team's success this season.

"I'll say this, our staff was responsible for bringing in some of those guys and recruiting them and

for some of their development, but we are in no way, shape, or form taking any credit for what they've done this year," Bergeson said. "Coach (Jim) Shaw has done a phenomenal

job of taking them to the next level. We did as good of a job as we were capable of doing at that period of time, but it is a slightly different team with players playing slightly different roles."

Still, after fostering a positive relationship with the program, Bergeson is thrilled with WOU's success.

"I could not be happier for them," Bergeson said. "I'm so proud of them. No one deserves it more than these guys for how hard they worked."

Bergeson isn't one to dwell in what could have been or second guess his decision to become head coach at Regis. Instead, he's working to build a similar culture to the one he built at Western Oregon and is more than happy to be a fan for a night.

"Without a doubt I'll be tuning in on Wednesday night," Bergeson said. "I'm their biggest fan now. I wish them all the luck."

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Beeson wins 800

Itemizer-Observer staff report

PORTLAND — Western Oregon distance runner Bailey Beeson took first in the women's 800-meter run at the Lewis & Clark Spring Break Open on Friday and Saturday. Beeson finished with a time of 2 minutes, 16.16 seconds. Teammate Stephanie Stuckey placed second in 2:16.49. Emily Wetherell took second in the hammer with a throw of 166 feet, 3/4 inches.

On the men's side, Zach Milligan took first in the high jump with a mark of 6 feet, 6 inches.

WOU will compete at the Willamette Invitational in Salem on Saturday.

BASEBALL DROPS THREE OF FOUR: Western Oregon's baseball team lost three of four games to Northwest Nazarene. The Wolves took the opening game of the series on Friday 6-1 as pitcher Brady Miller earned the victory. Jay Leverett had a triple during the victory. The Wolves dropped the final three games of the series 5-3, 3-2 and 4-2. WOU (9-10 overall,

4-6 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) is scheduled to host Lewis-Clark State Wednesday (today) at 2 p.m. before playing a four-game series at Montana State Billings on Friday and Saturday.

SOFTBALL WINS THREE: Western Oregon's softball squad won a three GNAC contests on Saturday and Sunday. WOU opened with a pair of wins (2-0 and 6-5) against Simon Fraser on Saturday. Pitcher Allison Boytz threw a complete-game shutout in the first matchup. The Wolves rallied from a 5-0 deficit in the second game. Western Oregon tied the game when Ashlee Lynch hit a solo home run in the seventh inning. Emma Alfonso scored the game-winning run with a solo shot.

WOU defeated Western Washington 11-8 on Sunday. Destiny Kuehl hit a pair of home runs, while Lynch also hit a homer. WOU dropped the final game 5-2 on Monday.

The Wolves are scheduled to host a pair of doubleheaders. WOU will face Central Washington Friday at 3 p.m. and Saint Martin's Saturday at noon.