

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
Baseball: Lebanon at Central, 4:30 p.m. Woodburn at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. St. Paul at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Central at Silvertown, 4:30 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. St. Paul at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Track and field: Dallas at Central, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7
Boys tennis: Central at Lebanon, 4 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 4 p.m.
Girls tennis: Lebanon at Central, 4 p.m. Corvallis at Dallas, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8
Baseball: Central at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Woodburn, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Corvallis at Central, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. Scio (JV) at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Track and field: Falls City, Perrydale at Life Invitational, 3:30 p.m. Western Oregon at John Knight Twilight meet, 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9
Baseball: Concordia at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.
Softball: Western Washington at Western Oregon (DH), noon.
Track and field: Central at Sandy Invitational, 10 a.m. Perrydale at Banks Invitational.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10
Baseball: Concordia at Western Oregon (DH), noon.
Softball: Simon Fraser at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

MONDAY, APRIL 11
Baseball: Kennedy at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Boys golf: Dallas at Trysting Tree (Corvallis), 10 a.m.
Softball: Kennedy at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m. Montana State, Billings at Western Oregon (DH), 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
Baseball: Silvertown at Central, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Boys tennis: Central at Silvertown, 4 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Girls golf: Dallas at Trysting Tree (Corvallis), 11 a.m.
Girls tennis: Silvertown at Central, 4 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 4 p.m.
Softball: Woodburn at Central, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Silvertown, 4:30 p.m. Montana State, Billings at Western Oregon, 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
Baseball: Central at Silvertown, 4:30 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Western Menonite, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Central at South Albany, 4:30 p.m. Siletz Valley at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Track and field: Corvallis, Lebanon, South Albany at Central, 3:30 p.m. Woodburn, Crescent Valley, Silvertown at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Registration for Dragon Run open

DALLAS — Registration is open for the ninth annual Dragon Run Saturday at 10 a.m. The event features distances for all ages ranging from a quarter mile to 1½ miles long.

There is also a 5-kilometer run for adults, teens and younger kids (accompanied by an adult).

Starting locations differ based on distance, but each race will finish on the Dallas High School track.

Every runner will receive a medal.

After covering the costs of the event, the rest of the money raised will be donated to the Dallas Education Fund.

Cost is \$25 for the 5k run and \$20 for all other distances. A family/group rate (four or more runners) is available.

To register online: www.runsignup.com/DragonRun. Day-of-race registration will also be available at Whitworth Elementary School.



Living it up

Senior making the most of his time in the United States

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — When senior Thomas Gniadecki arrived in America from Denmark, he was shocked.

Not at the culture, or the weather or the education system but at the image he had of what Americans would look like.

“There’s a lot of movies about the U.S. and the food and stuff and that people are all fat here,” Gniadecki said. “They really aren’t that big.”

Of course, Gniadecki, who arrived last year on a foreign exchange student program, also found out Polk County offers a different view than the bustling city life he was used to in Denmark.

“It’s pretty country here,” he said. “I live close to Copenhagen, so there’s just houses and roads. Here, there is land. My first host family had chickens. That was completely different for me. They never had that in the city.”



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Dallas senior Thomas Gniadecki defeated Central senior Kevin Cable 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday afternoon at Dallas High School.

Perhaps the most lasting impact of his time? The food. “(I love) the Cheesecake Factory, Buffalo Wild Wings and Red Robin,” Gniadecki said. “The food is really good here.”

Swinging away

• Dallas’ boys tennis team defeated Woodburn 6-2 on March 29 and Central 6-2 on Thursday.

• Thomas Gniadecki and Caedmon Blair won singles matches against the Bulldogs, while the doubles pairs of Josh Dudley and Cole Oace, Ryan Bibler and Randy Mullins, Honorio Colipano and Evan Koons, and Michael Friesen and Travis Wilson won matches.

Against Central, Gniadecki, Joe Gillette, and Blair won singles points. Mullins and Bibler, Koons and Colipano, and Wilson and Friesen earned doubles points against the Panthers.

Wanting to immerse himself during his time in America, he’s also made it a point to become as involved as possible with Dallas High athletics — joining the soccer and wrestling squads.

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COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Redefining masculinity

WOU part of pilot program to prevent sexual assault, promote healthy masculinity

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

This is the first part of a series on the Healthy Masculinity Campus Athletics Project. Part two will look at the project from the athletes’ perspective.

MONMOUTH — What does it mean to be a man?

Everything from friends and families to TV, movies and books impact how people view masculinity, both positively and negatively.



Western Oregon is one of 13 universities nationwide hoping to identify how society views masculinity among one of the most visible groups on any campus: Male athletes.

They’re hoping by re-

defining masculinity they can prevent something that affects people across the country — sexual assault.

One in five women and one in 16 men will be sexually assaulted while in college according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

In recent history, several high profile cases involving alleged sexual assault have thrust collegiate athletes into the spotlight about the issue.

Western Oregon hopes to be among the leaders in changing the culture around masculinity.

WOU joined a pilot program during the summer of 2015 called Healthy Masculinity Campus Athletics Project.

The HMCAP is part of the Healthy Masculinity Action Project that began in 2012 to “eradicate the harmful expectations and stereotypes our society teaches boys about what it means to be a man.”

The program is an extension of the Campus Against Sexual Assault grant and aims to use athletes’ unique position on campus to promote awareness and prevention.

Representatives from the university attended a three-day training summit last August in Washington, D.C., to discuss the topic.

John Wilkins, WOU Coordinator for Campus Life and Activities, was one of the two who attended the training.

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PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Fairchild outjumps his pain

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — It’s not the technique that Perrydale senior Kirk Fairchild finds most difficult about jumping, though he struggled to master the form required for the high jump, triple jump and long jump.

It’s the pain his body experiences on an almost daily basis.

“My knees are kind of banged up,” Fairchild said. “They started hurting my sophomore year, so I’ve just had to battle through the pain. I keep finding new ways to make them feel better.”

It’s not uncommon to see both of Fairchild’s knees taped up before practice or a meet. But the source of his discomfort remains a mystery.

“I don’t know what it is yet,” he said. “I haven’t gone to the doctors because I don’t want them to tell me no more track.”

Fairchild’s love of track and field has overridden whatever pain he deals with — a surprising development for someone who never planned on competing past his freshman year.

Football was Fairchild’s go-to sport growing up. The spring of his freshman year, track and field was a means to an end to stay in

Off to the races

• Perrydale’s boys and girls track and field teams competed at Kennedy on Thursday afternoon. Sarah Clark led the girls, winning the girls javelin with a throw of 108 feet, 7 inches. Taylor Price added second-place finishes in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles.

Jacob Pope took second in the boys javelin (128-4). Kirk Fairchild took second in the high jump (5-6), fourth in the long jump (18-1) and fourth in the triple jump (35-9).

shape for his favorite sport.

“I came out for track to stay conditioned for football,” Fairchild said. “That’s the only reason I came out.”

The sport piqued his curiosity enough for him to return the following spring.

It was then that coach Brian Evans convinced Fairchild to give jumps a try.

Deciding was easy. Mastering it is a task he’s working on to this day.

“Coach would say let’s focus on this, so we’d work on something like stepping,” Fairchild said. “Then I think I’d have that down and he’d say let’s focus on this part now and the steps would be all wrong. There was nothing there. The first four meets, he’d take pictures of me and show them to me. I’d tell him I look funny and he would just nod and say ‘yes, you do.’”

See **FAIRCHILD**, Page 12A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Perrydale senior Kirk Fairchild holds school records in the long jump, triple jump and high jump.