

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Softball opens MWC play with dominating wins



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas pitcher Yasmine El-Hato earned a complete game shutout against Central on Thursday afternoon.

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Dallas High School softball team began league play with a pair of convincing victories. The Dragons defeated rival Central 6-0 on Thursday before downing South Albany 11-1 on Friday. Dallas, which also defeated Woodburn 27-0 on March 29, outscored opponents 44-1 last week.

“The girls are working really hard in practice, and it is paying off,” Dragons coach Brandi Jackson said. “We’ve been conditioning a lot more than they’re used to, and I think that’s keeping them in the game from the first through the seventh inning rather than having a lull.”

That conditioning has been both a boon — and a challenge — for players.

“It kills me, but it pays off,” senior Yasmine El-Hato said.

Dallas has scored 11 or more runs in four of its last five games, something Jackson said is a result of their willingness to be aggressive at the plate.

“Ever since Medford, we’ve just been hitting really well, honestly,” Jackson said. “We talked about, as a whole, being aggressive early and better things will

happen instead of getting behind in the count.”

Six starters (Olivia Nelson, Yasmine El-Hato, Ashlee Litchenberger, Emily May, Kaelynn Simmons and Makenna Linn) have five or more hits and are batting .400 or higher.

Dallas (7-1 overall, 2-0 MWC) played at Corvallis Tuesday after press time. The Dragons host Crescent Valley Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before playing at Lebanon on Friday and at Silverton on Tuesday.

BASEBALL SWEEPS WARRIORS: Dallas’ baseball team opened Mid-Willamette Conference play with a three-game sweep of Lebanon.

The Dragons defeated the Warriors 5-1 on March 29, 4-3 on March 30 and 7-6 on Friday.

Pitching ruled the day during the first two games. Senior Tucker Weaver earned a complete game win on March 29, throwing 14 strikeouts without allowing an earned run.

Senior Everett Minahan followed that up with a complete game victory of his own on March 30. Minahan threw

seven strikeouts, as the Dragons scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning to rally.

The Dragons came back from five runs down to complete the sweep on Friday.

Dallas (5-3 overall, 3-0 MWC) played at Woodburn Tuesday after press time. The Dragons host the Bulldogs Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before closing out the series Friday at Woodburn. Dallas opens a three-game set against Crescent Valley Tuesday.

QUARTET OF ATHLETES PLACE FIRST AT TITAN TRACK CLASSIC: Dallas’ boys and girls track and field teams placed fifth at the Titan Track Classic at West Salem High School on Saturday.

The girls saw a pair of first-place finishes. Senior Naomi Howe won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 48.23 seconds. Junior Kayley Sayer took first in the long jump with a mark of 16 feet, 8 1/2 inches.

Senior Kyleen Benz took second in the discus (109-8) and fifth in the shot put (33-9). Jennifer Webb finished second in the 100 hurdles (16.77).

Juniors Jacob Deming and Aaron White led the boys team.

Deming won the 300 hurdles in 42.18 seconds, while White placed first in the triple jump with a leap of 41-1 3/4.

Junior Harrison Broadus finished second in the javelin (157-9), and Cody Webb took third in the 110 hurdles (16.47).

Dallas will compete at Central Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before hosting Woodburn, Silverton and Crescent Valley on April 13 at 3 p.m.

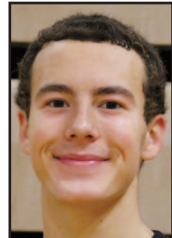
GIRLS TENNIS WINS TWO: Dallas’ girls tennis defeated Woodburn 5-3 on March 29 and Central 5-3 on Friday.

Emily Cuno won a three-set thriller 6-3, 4-6, 9-7 against the Bulldogs to earn a singles point. The doubles pairs of Lynn Gumpinger

and Addie Gillette, Megan Ronco and Allison Hirshi, Mikayli Laizure and Kloe Totten, and Amanda Schafer and Kinzi Boer earned doubles points.

Against the Panthers, Molly Peffley and Emma Cromwell earned singles victories. The doubles pairs of Gumpinger and Gillette, Totten and Laizure, and Schafer and Boer picked up doubles points.

Monday’s results were not available before press time.



Minahan



White



Gumpinger

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Panthers’ bats spark big win over Raiders

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Central’s softball team bounced back from a 6-0 loss to Dallas on Thursday to defeat Crescent Valley 16-6 on Friday.

The Panthers also defeated South Albany 18-4 on March 29.

Kyra Noon went a perfect 4 for 4 against South Albany to go along with four RBI. Kylie Nash went three for four and drove in four runs, while Jori Kerr had three hits and two RBI.

Central’s bats went cold against the Dragons, but recovered on Friday as the Panthers built a 12-0 lead thanks in part to a 2-run home run from Erin Cole in the first inning.

“We have a better feel how we will fall in the league,” Nash said. “I think we saw that it’s a matter of how we play. I don’t think anyone will flat out beat us. When we hit and field like we can, I don’t think anyone can beat us.”

Central’s success during its two wins can be traced back to being willing to attack early in counts.

“One of the biggest differences was our girls jumped on that first pitch strike,” coach Kendra George said. “(Against Dallas) we watched some of those go by.”

The Panthers played Lebanon Tuesday after press time. Central plays at Silverton Wednesday (today) before hosting Corvallis Friday at 4:30 p.m. and Woodburn



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central first baseman Briana Broadus attempts to catch a ball during Central’s 16-6 win over Crescent Valley.

Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

BASEBALL TAKES TWO OF THREE FROM WOODBURN: After two tight games against Woodburn, Central’s baseball team’s bats exploded on Friday in the series finale.

The Panthers recorded 14 hits as Central cruised to a 16-0 win over the Bulldogs on Friday.

The teams split the first two games as the Panthers won the opener 4-2 on March 29 before falling 4-3 on March 30.

“Losing a couple preseason games due to weather sucks,” Panthers coach Zach Miller said. “I think we are still in that

preseason mode, but league play has started. We’ve done a lot of (batting) cage time and that hurts and helps us. We get out here and did too much thinking. We watched a lot of 2-0 fastballs or 1-0 fastballs go by in the first two games.”

That wasn’t the case on Friday. Jackson Holstad hit a two-run home run and Luke McBeth added a solo shot.

“Our approach changed from the last game to (Friday) drastically,” Holstad said. “We were trying to attack early and not get down deep into the count.”

Central played at Lebanon

Tuesday after press time. The Panthers host the Warriors Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before closing out the series at Lebanon on Friday. Central opens a three-game series against Silverton at home Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

“We’ve got to get the bats rolling early,” Holstad said. “Friday was a good day for sure, but their pitching staff wasn’t the best. We’ll see a better staff (this) week and we’ll have to hit some good ones.”

TRACK FALLS TO SILVERTON: Central’s boys and girls track and field squads fell to Silverton on March 30 in a dual

meet. The boys lost 81-64, while the girls fell 105-40. Bethanie Altamirano led the girls with first-place finishes in the 200-meter run (27.57 seconds), and 400 (1:03.33). She also was part of the 4 X 100 relay squad that took first along with Alex Alvarez, Elizabeth Chavez and Sophia Henke.

Annie Taylor placed first in the 300 hurdles (55.32) and Henke won the high jump with a mark of 4 feet, 10 inches.

Jaxon Hutchinson won the 100 in 11.88 seconds to help lead the boys. Antonio Rincon took first in the 400 (54.56).

Sam Cole placed first in the shot put with a throw of 48-3 and Kyle Miller won the discus with a mark of 132-5 1/2.

The 4 x 100 relay team of Isaiah Abraham, Casey Brown, Nick Burgett and Hutchinson, and the 4 x 400 relay squad of Isaac Burgett, Aaron Padilla, Rincon and Hutchinson, also took first.

Central hosts Dallas Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before competing at the Sandy Invitational on Saturday. The Panthers will host South Albany, Lebanon and Corvallis on April 13 at 3:45 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS SPLITS: Central’s boys tennis team defeated South Albany 7-1 on March 29 before falling to Dallas 6-2 on Thursday.

Kevin Cable, Anthony Martinez, Adam Rangel and Clark Gallagher all won singles matches against South Albany. The doubles pairs of Hassan Etebany and Nathaniel Miller, Joel Robinson and Bailey Yates, and Grayson Mann and Cade Magill won their matches as well.

Against the Dragons, Rangel earned a singles point, while the doubles pair of Bryce Spreadbury and Etebany won the Panthers’ lone doubles point.

The girls squad fell to Dallas 5-3 on Thursday. Patience Teague and Aya Kan earned singles victories, while Julia Hamar and Andrea Garibay won in doubles play.

Central’s boys team hosted Crescent Valley Tuesday after press time. The Panthers play at Lebanon on Thursday and at Silverton on Tuesday.

The girls played at Crescent Valley Tuesday after press time and host Lebanon on Thursday at 4 p.m. and Silverton Tuesday at 4 p.m.

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Baseball sweeps Central Washington

Itemizer-Observer staff report

ELLENSBURG, Wash. — Western Oregon’s baseball team won all four games against Central Washington on Saturday and Sunday.

The Wolves won the opening games 9-8 and 4-1 on Saturday.

WOU built a 5-0 lead in the opening game of the series thanks in part to home runs from Cody Sullivan and Nathan Etheridge. The Wildcats tied the game at five before Brandon Oliver hit a solo home run and Etheridge hit a two-run home run to give the Wolves an 8-5 cushion. WOU added one run in the ninth and held off a CWU rally for the victory. In the second game, pitcher Garrett Alvarez shut down the Wildcats en route



Sullivan

to a 4-1 win.

The Wolves’ bats kept connecting on Sunday as WOU closed out the series with a pair of victories (9-5 and 8-0). Snyder and Sullivan hit home runs in the first game, while pitcher Gary Steindorf closed out the series with a complete game in the series finale. Steindorf threw five strikeouts during the victory.

WOU (14-13 overall, 9-8 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) is scheduled to host Concordia for a pair of doubleheaders. First pitch will be at 1 p.m. Saturday

and noon on Sunday.

SOFTBALL GOES 3-3 AT TOURNAMENT: Western Oregon’s softball team went 3-3 at the Tournament of Champions. WOU opened with a 6-2 win over San Francisco State and a 9-6 win over Dominican University of California on Friday.

Alex Frazier hit a home run in both games, none bigger than the walk off grand slam she hit in the bottom of the eighth against San Francisco State. WOU dropped its next three games, falling to Humboldt State (6-2) and Azusa Pacific (2-0) on Saturday and California State, San Bernardino (6-0) on Sunday. Western Oregon closed out the tournament with a 12-3 win over Chamblaine on Sunday. Frazier hit her third home run of the tournament, while Ashlee Lynch also went long. The Wolves are scheduled to host a quartet of

doubleheaders. WOU will play Western Washington Saturday at noon, Simon Fraser Sunday at noon and Montana State Billings on Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.

COLLIER HAS BIG THROW AT STANFORD: Western Oregon’s track and field team sent athletes to compete at the Stanford Invitational, the San Francisco State Distance Carnival and the Jen Boyman Memorial Invitational on Friday and Saturday. Emmi Collier threw an NCAA provisional standard in the shot put at Stanford with a throw of 46 feet, 2 1/2 inches. David Ribich ran the second-best time in WOU history in the men’s 1,500-meter race with a time of 3 minutes, 48.82 seconds at the Distance Carnival. The Wolves will host the John Knight Twilight meet on Friday. The first event begins at 1 p.m.

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Softball wins two

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SHERIDAN — Perrydale’s softball team picked up a pair of nonleague wins last week, defeating Sheridan 14-10 on March 30 and a 19-1 victory over Scio’s JV squad on Thursday.



Amador

The Pirates overcame nine errors against Sheridan to earn the win. Pitcher Hannah Amador threw a complete game without walking a single batter. Anna McGill went 2 for 4 with an RBI and three runs scored. Sierra Starr had a double and drove in

three runs and Hannah Hallock scored three runs.

The Pirates (2-1 overall) played at Regis Tuesday after press time. Perrydale hosts St. Paul Wednesday (today), Scio (JV) on Friday, Kennedy on Monday and Siletz Valley on April 13. First pitch for all games is scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

BASEBALL FALLS TO SHERIDAN: Perrydale’s baseball team closed out its nonleague season with a 10-0 loss to Sheridan on March 30.

The Pirates (0-3 overall) played Regis Tuesday after press time to open league play. Perrydale hosts St. Paul Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. and Kennedy on Monday at 4:30 p.m. before playing at Western Mennonite on April 13.