

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
Baseball: South Albany at Central, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Country Christian, 4:30 p.m. Montana State, Billings at Western Oregon, 2 p.m.
Boys tennis: Lebanon at Central, 4 p.m. Corvallis at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Girls tennis: Central at Lebanon, 4 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 4 p.m.
Softball: Dayton at Central, 4 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Delphian at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Track and field: Central at Crescent Valley, 3:45 p.m. Falls City, Perrydale at Southwest Christian Invitational, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
Girls tennis: Central at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Softball: Dallas at Crescent Valley, 4:30 p.m. GNAC Championships: Concordia vs. Western Oregon (at Lacey, Wash.), noon.
Track and field: Western Oregon at Titan Twilight (Eugene), all day.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
Baseball: Central at South Albany, 4:30 p.m. Corvallis at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Regis at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m. Montana State, Billings at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.
Boys tennis: Silverton at Central, 4 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 4 p.m.
Girls tennis: Central at Silverton, 4 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Softball: South Albany at Central, 4 p.m. Regis at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m. GNAC Championships: Concordia/Western Oregon vs. Saint Martin's/Central Washington, TBA.
Track and field: Dallas at Rob Allen Twilight (Lebanon), 4 p.m. Falls City at Waldport Small School meet, 4 p.m. Western Oregon at Raider Invitational (Ashland), all day. Western Oregon at Oregon State High Performance meet, all day.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30
Baseball: Montana State, Billings at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.
Softball: GNAC Championships: TBA vs. TBA, noon.
Track and field: Central at Dick Baker Invitational (Gladstone High School), 11:15 a.m. Western Oregon at Raider Invitational (Ashland), all day. Western Oregon at Oregon State High Performance meet, all day.

MONDAY, MAY 2
Baseball: Perrydale at St. Paul, 4:30 p.m.
Boys tennis: Corvallis at Central, 4 p.m. Lebanon at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Girls tennis: Central at Corvallis, 4 p.m.
Softball: Perrydale at St. Paul, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 3
Baseball: Dallas at Central, 4:30 p.m.
Girls golf: Central, Dallas at MWC Regionals (at Quail Valley, Banks), 10 a.m.
Girls tennis: Dallas at Lebanon, 4 p.m.
Softball: Central at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4
Baseball: Central at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Kennedy, 2:30 p.m.
Boys tennis: Central at Woodburn, 4 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Girls golf: Central, Dallas at MWC Regionals (at Quail Valley, Banks), 10 a.m.
Girls tennis: Woodburn at Central, 4 p.m. Dallas at Silverton, 4 p.m.
Softball: Crescent Valley at Central, 4:30 p.m. South Albany at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Kennedy, 3 p.m.
Track and field: Dallas at Corvallis, 3:45 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

STAT SHEET

6 The number of true home games Western Oregon softball team was able to play during the 2016 regular season. WOU advanced to the GNAC Championships this weekend.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Central warns against possible phone scam

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER



INDEPENDENCE — Central High School is warning businesses and resi-

dences against a possible phone scam occurring in Polk County. CHS Athletics Director Shane

Hedrick said he received word from local businesses who received a call from a company stating that they are securing ads for a school calendar on behalf of Central athletics.

Most recently, Hedrick said a business brought in an invoice on Tuesday, which he turned over to the police. The high school has not requested any company to

represent them to ask for money for the high school. If you receive a phone call like this, do not give money or information and contact local police.

DALLAS BASEBALL

Kessler embraces multiple roles

Freshman becomes essential piece to Dragons' success this spring



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER
 Dallas freshman Eric Kessler has played in the infield, outfield, catcher and pitcher.

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

DALLAS — Freshman Eric Kessler was confident he could make a strong case for earning a spot on Dallas' varsity baseball squad.

The only thing that made him nervous was being the lone freshman on a roster largely filled with juniors and seniors.

"There was definitely a worry about being the youngest guy on a team full of juniors or seniors and a couple of sophomores," Kessler said. "But this is a great group of guys. They treat me at the same level as them. They don't call me a freshman."

Kessler has proven his worth to teammates and coaches, quickly becoming one of the Dragons' most versatile weapons.

"He's played multiple positions, hits in the top of our lineup and has improved a ton," coach Scot

Baseball

- Dallas' baseball team took two of three games from Silverton last week. The Dragons won 5-2 on April 19 before falling 4-2 on April 20. Dallas closed out the three-game series with a 13-6 win on Friday.
- Pitcher Tucker Weaver earned the win on April 19, throwing nine strikeouts. Eric Kessler had two RBIs.
- Tanner Earhart, Eric Kessler, Everett Minahan and Clay Coxen each recorded two hits on Friday.
- Kessler and Coxen performed strongly on the pitcher's mound, combining to give up two runs over five innings.

McDonald said. There aren't many positions Kessler hasn't tried so far this season. He's seen time in the outfield, second base, third base, catcher and pitcher. **See KESSLER, Page 13A**

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

WOU clinches spot in championships

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

PORTLAND — With a spot in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference softball tournament on the line, Western Oregon responded in a big way, winning three of four against



Boytz

Concordia. The Wolves won a doubleheader on April 20, winning 4-3 and 2-1 in the team's home finale. The Wolves split with Concordia on Thursday, winning 4-2 before falling 5-0.

"For whatever reason, this team just never gets down

Conference championships

What: Great Northwest Athletic Conference Softball Championships.
Who: No. 1 Central Washington, No. 2 Western Oregon, No. 3 Concordia, No. 4 Saint Martin's.
When: Games begin Thursday at noon.
Where: Lacey, Wash.
What's at stake: The conference champion gains an automatic berth in the NCAA Division II Regionals.



Huffman

not over until the final inning and the final out."

Both of WOU's wins on April 20 came in dramatic

on itself," coach Lonny Sargeant said. "They're very resilient. They know the game's not over until the final inning and the final out."

The second game featured Central High graduate Ryanne Huffman scoring the winning run in extra innings.

See WOU, Page 13A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER file
 Western Oregon coach Lonny Sargeant checks his notes during a game on April 9.

CENTRAL GIRLS TENNIS

Smith struggles to conquer doubts

Junior shows progress on court



By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

INDEPENDENCE — It seemed like smooth sailing for Central junior Kylie Smith.

She cruised to a 4-1 lead in the first set of her girls tennis match against South Albany's Lacey McLellan on April 20.

Then, a lost point turned into a lost game and, before long, Smith dropped the first set 6-4.

"It's definitely a mental thing," Smith said. "I see that I start losing, and it frustrates me. Then I start rushing points and it gets worse."

Smith seemed to put those demons to rest in the second set, racing out to a 5-1 lead.

See SMITH, Page 14A

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER
 Central junior Kylie Smith led at one point in both sets of her 6-4, 7-5 loss to South Albany's Lacey McLellan on April 20.