

## SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4**  
**Baseball:** Central at Dallas, 3 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:** Central at Woodburn, 3:45 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 3:45 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 5**  
**Boys tennis:** Dallas at Crescent Valley, 4 p.m.

**Girls tennis:** Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4 p.m.

**Softball:** Sheridan at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 6**  
**Baseball:** Dallas at Central, 3:30 p.m. Western Mennonite at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m. Central Washington at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.

**Softball:** Central at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 4:30 p.m.

**Track and field:** Falls City at Toledo Twilight, 3 p.m. Perrydale at Regis Twilight Invitational, 3 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 7**  
**Baseball:** Central Washington at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

**Track and field:** Western Oregon at Oxy Invite, all day. Western Oregon at Oregon Twilight, all day. Western Oregon at Linfield Open, all day.

**MONDAY, MAY 9**  
**Baseball:** Santiam at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

**Softball:** Santiam at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 10**  
**Baseball:** Corvallis at Central, 4:30 p.m. South Albany at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.

**Softball:** Central at Silverton, 4:30 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11**  
**Baseball:** Central at Corvallis, 3:30 p.m. Dallas at South Albany, 4:30 p.m.

**Boys tennis:** Central, Dallas at MWC District Tournament at Crescent Valley, 1 p.m.

**Girls tennis:** Central, Dallas at MWC District Tournament at Crescent Valley, 8 a.m.

**Softball:** Central at Corvallis, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. Taft at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

**Track and field:** Central, Dallas at Mid-Willamette Conference District championship at Central, 3 p.m.

**Schedules Subject to Change**

## QUICK HITS

### Local Pop Warner athletes honored

DALLAS — Dallas Pop Warner football had 11 participants selected as Academic All-Americans for the Pop Warner Pacific Northwest Region.

Athletes honored were: Easton Barcroft, Alexandria Cavan, Luke Hess, Owen Hess, Karson Hevener, John Hofenbredl, Alex Lavier, Haydn Millard, Kaden Moore, Cael Morrison and Kahl Murdock.

In order to be selected, recipients must be in fifth grade or higher, maintain a 90 percent or higher GPA and have a complete report card from the prior year submitted.

The Pacific Northwest Region includes Oregon, Alaska, California, Nevada, Washington and Idaho.

### Polk Pedalers to meet on Saturday

DALLAS — The Polk Pedalers Bicycle Club will host a free ride Saturday at 8 a.m. Riders will meet at Courtyard Coffee House, 156 SE Mill St., Dallas, and will begin a 25-mile easy ride to Independence.

For more information: 503-623-6533.

## CENTRAL BOYS TENNIS

# Advantage Eltelbany, Spreadbury

### Panthers' No. 1 doubles heat up the court

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central boys tennis players Hassan Eltelbany and Brice Spreadbury always considered themselves singles players.

That all changed this spring.

"We both looked at playing singles and it looked like it'd be a tough bracket," Spreadbury said. "We looked at doubles and felt we had a better chance to make it to state."

The duo joined forces, becoming Central's No. 1 doubles pair.

The path hasn't been easy. "The hardest part for me is letting the ball go and recognizing there's another person," Eltelbany said. "You have to be patient. That's always tricky for me, waiting for someone else to do something on the court."

Relying on someone else was something new for both players — as was changing the way they approach each point.

"It's a totally different game than singles," Spreadbury said. "It's not as much about how hard you hit it,

but more about angles and strategy."

The duo realized early on they had a long way to go to realize their potential.

Eltelbany, a junior, and Spreadbury, a senior, found ways to gain experience, whether through watching clips of doubles matches on-

line or playing together after practice whenever they could.

"We understood that we're going to have to trust each other," Eltelbany said. "We're going to have to let the other one do the work sometimes and not make it so hostile on the court."

Their first serve can be a major strength, while years of playing singles has allowed their forehands to be more accurate and powerful than some of their competition, but their main advantage is something that can't be taught — friendship.

See **CENTRAL**, Page 12A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Brice Spreadbury and Hassan Eltelbany have become Central's top doubles pair.

## Boys tennis

• Central's boys tennis squad fell to Silverton 5-3 on Friday in the team's final home match of the season.

• Kevin Cable, Chris Polanco and Adam Rangel earned wins in singles play for the Panthers.

• Central defeated Lebanon 5-3 on April 27. Cable, Anthony Martinez and Rangel earned wins in singles play. The doubles pairs of Brice Spreadbury and Hassan Eltelbany, and Justin Landers and Bailey Yates also earned wins.

## DALLAS SOFTBALL

# El-Hato, Dragons explode against Raiders

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

CORVALLIS — Dallas senior Yasmine El-Hato has had her fair share of highlights during her softball career.

Few can rival what happened on Thursday.

Dallas' softball squad, fresh off an 8-5 win over Silverton on April 27, was looking to avoid a letdown against Crescent Valley on Thursday.

The Dragons put any doubts to rest early, racking up 26 hits en route to a 29-4 win over the Raiders.

Among a game full of standout performances, El-Hato may have shone brightest, recording six hits, including three home runs and a double while driving in 11 runs.

"Crescent Valley was a great game," El-Hato said. "Things just seemed to click, not only for me, but for everyone on the team."

It's true, games like Thursday are the outliers, but El-Hato worked tirelessly throughout the year to take her game to new heights.

El-Hato had a strong junior campaign, one that saw her hit a team-high 12 home runs with a .420 batting average.

In previous years, El-Hato played volleyball in the fall and basketball in the winter.

She knew she'd have to make a choice entering her senior year.

"I've been playing softball since Kids, Inc. T-ball when I was 6," El-Hato said. "I have loved it since then. I knew at some point I would have to narrow it down. There was

## Softball

• Dallas' softball team fell to Lebanon 10-2 on April 26 before defeating Silverton 8-5 on April 27 and Crescent Valley 29-4 on Thursday.

• The Dragons overcame a 4-0 deficit against Silverton. MaKena Linn, Madi Feldman, Ashlee Lichtenberger and Yasmine El-Hato recorded two hits each to lead the Dragons.

• Freshman pitcher Kaelynn Simmons earned the win giving up just two hits and one earned run. She threw six strikeouts during five innings of work.

• Dallas saw 10 different players record hits against the Raiders, including three from Olivia Nelson and Simmons.

never any question which sport I would choose. Softball was my game from early on."

She spent much of the year playing on a traveling team, giving her valuable experience.

"Coming into this season, I felt really good," she said. "I was fortunate to play with the Oregon Titans 18U traveling team over the summer and that definitely prepared me for my school season. It helped me not only with my batting, but pitching and first base as well."

She's become the Dragons' No. 1 pitcher and one of the team's most dangerous hitters — two things that can help feed each other to succeed.

See **DRAGONS**, Page 11A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

Dallas senior Yasmine El-Hato delivers a pitch during a game against Central on April 15.

## COLLEGE BASEBALL

# Senior chooses baseball over gaming



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Western Oregon senior Trevor Podratz takes a pitch during a game against Montana State Billings on Saturday afternoon.

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Trevor Podratz "retired" in eighth grade — deciding to trade in an Xbox controller for a baseball bat — a decision that has benefited Western Oregon's baseball team in a big way.

It was his seventh-grade year that Podratz turned professional, playing Halo 2 in official tournaments for money.

"A bunch of us guys liked video games and sports," Podratz said. "I was kind of living the dream as a seventh-grader."

Podratz competed professionally for about five months that year, but by the time eighth grade rolled around, Halo 2 faded into the background.

"I was getting ready for

## Furious finish

• Western Oregon's baseball team hosts Central Washington for a pair of doubleheaders Friday at 1 p.m. and Saturday at noon.

• The Wildcats enter the series in first place with a 22-14 record in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

• WOU is second with a 21-15 record. Montana State Billings and Northwest Nazarene entered the week tied for fourth with a 19-15 mark in league play.

• The top three teams advance to the conference tournament, which begins May 12.

high school, and baseball became my passion," Podratz said.

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