

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Central hands Lebanon league loss

Itemizer-Observer staff report

LEBANON — Facing the top team in the Mid-Willamette Conference, Central's softball team handed Lebanon its first loss in league play, earning a 10-3 victory on Friday.

Pitcher Erin Cole threw a complete game for the Panthers, which scored eight runs in the fourth inning to break open the game.

Jori Kerr went four for five with one RBI. Mariah Hyre drove in two runs on four hits, including a pair of doubles.

Central also defeated Crescent Valley 19-1 on May 4. Kerr had three hits, including a grand slam. Kylie Nash and Kyra Noon also hit home runs. Kerr and Nash each had five RBIs.



Central's Erin Cole throws against Dallas on May 3. Cole helped the Panthers defeat Lebanon 10-3 on Friday.

The Panthers opened the week with a 10-5 loss to Dallas on May 3.

Central played Silverton Tuesday after press time. The Panthers finish the reg-

ular season at Corvallis Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. and at Newport on May 18 at 5 p.m.

Central (11-9 overall, 9-7 MWC) entered the week in fourth place in the league standings.

BASEBALL SWEEP BY DALLAS: Central's baseball team dropped three games to Dallas. The Panthers fell 15-5 on May 3, 6-1 on May 4 and 8-4 on Friday. The Panthers opened a three-game series with Corvallis Tuesday after press time. Central plays at Corvallis Wednesday (today) at 3:30 p.m. and Friday at 4:30 p.m. before closing out the regular season at West Albany Tuesday at 5 p.m. The Panthers entered the week in fifth place in the MWC, one game behind Silverton for fourth and two games ahead of South Albany.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central: Meet begins today

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"They will need to come up big," Cirino said. "The competition for second is very close in all three throws."

Junior Peter Mason broke the 20-foot barrier for the first time in his career in the triple jump, recording a personal best mark of 21-4 1/2 on April 30 and is ranked second, as is Isaac Burgett in the 400-meter run; the 4 x 100 relay team of Casey Brown, Isaiah Abraham, Jaxon Hutchinson, and Nick Burgett, and the 4 x 400 relay team of Nick Burgett, Joshua Peterson, Isaac Burgett and Juan Rivera.

Sophomore Bethanie Altamirano is seeded second in girls 200 and 400, while the girls 4 x 100 relay team of Elizabeth Chavez, Alex Alvarez, Altamirano and Reba Hoff-



Chavez

man is also ranked second.

Central had four athletes qualify for state in 2015 — a number the Panthers hope to exceed in 2016.

Cirino has stressed that while seedings give each athlete an idea of the competition he or she will face, once the competition begins, anything is possible.

And ultimately it's which athletes can dig deep and perform their best under pressure that will decide who moves on to state and whose season comes to an end.

"All of our kids are well aware that anything can happen and nothing is guaranteed," Cirino said. "Last year, we had a girl seeded eighth win a league championship in the long jump. It will take lifetime bests for any one of them to advance to state and they know that."

Mason

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Dallas baseball sweeps Panthers

Itemizer-Observer staff report

LEBANON — Dallas' baseball team clinched at least a home play-in game after sweeping rival Central last week. The Dragons defeated the Panthers 15-5 on May 3, 6-1 on May 4 and 8-4 on Friday.

Tanner Earhart and Everett Minahan hit the Dragons' first home runs since 2014 in the opening game of the series. Earhart had three hits, including a double and a home run. Minahan also hit a double and a home run during the victory.

Pitcher Tucker Weaver earned the win in the second game of the series, throwing nine strikeouts. He also had three hits and two RBIs at the plate.

"We've been talking about playing your best baseball at the end of the season," Dallas coach Scot McDonald said. "Early in the season we had some losses where we weren't hitting or playing defense like we expect. We're putting it together now and stringing those wins together and good things are happening now."

The Dragons entered the week winners of five straight and six of their last seven. Dallas opened its final series of the regular season against South Albany Tuesday after press time. The Dragons play at South Albany on Wednesday (today) and hosts the Rebels Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Dallas (14-9 overall, 12-6 Mid-Willamette Conference) entered the se-



Dallas sophomore Treve Earhart, No. 4, attempts to slide into second base.

ries with a chance to pass Corvallis (13-8 MWC) for second place in the league standings. The top two teams in the MWC gain an automatic berth to the first round of the state playoffs. The third- and fourth-place teams will host a play-in game.

SOFTBALL WINS THREE: Dallas' softball team went 3-0 last week. The Dragons defeated Central 10-5 on May 3, South Albany 10-0 on May 4 and Corvallis 10-6 on Friday.

Kaelynn Simmons and Yasmine El-Hato each recorded two hits against the Panthers. Pitchers Emma Classen and Simmons combined to throw a two-hitter against South Albany as Olivia Nelson,

Ashlee Lichtenberger, Ciara Greisen and El-Hato had two hits each.

Dallas entered the week on a five-game win streak and has scored 10 or more runs in four straight. The Dragons (16-5 overall, 11-4 MWC) hosted Crescent Valley Tuesday after press time.

Dallas closes out the regular season at Lebanon on Wednesday (today) and at Silverton on Friday. Both games are scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m.

The Dragons entered the week ahead of Silverton (10-6 MWC) for second place in the league standings. The top two teams in the MWC automatically qualify for the 16-team state playoff bracket. The third seed will host a play-in game.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Softball drops two of three

Itemizer-Observer staff report

PERRYDALE — Perrydale's softball team dropped two of three games. The Pirates lost to Kennedy 7-0 on May 4 before defeating Sheridan 17-4 on Thursday. Perrydale fell to Santiam 10-4 on Monday.

Jacki Juarez, Sierra Starr and Anna McGill recorded hits for the Pirates against Kennedy. Stats for Perrydale's other two games were not reported as of press time.

The Pirates host Taft on Wednesday (today) and

Central Linn on Thursday before ending the regular season at Taft on Tuesday. All games are scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

BASEBALL LOSES THREE: Perrydale's baseball squad lost a trio of games. The Pirates fell to Kennedy 14-0 on May 3, Western Menonite 17-5 on Friday and Santiam 9-0 on Friday. Perrydale hosts Central Linn Friday at 3 p.m. before playing at East Linn Christian Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. The Pirates (1-14 overall, 1-11 Special District 2) close out the season by hosting Country Christian on May 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Benz: Senior has finished second at state twice

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But that doesn't mean Benz isn't motivated to take home a district title.

Benz has reached the 5A state championship meet in each of her first three years, culminating with second place finishes in the discus as a sophomore and junior.

As she and her teammates prepare for the Mid-Willamette Conference

championships this week, she wants to make sure her career ends with a few more memories.

Benz enters districts seeded first in both the shot put and discus, but she's far from the only Dragon looking to book a trip to Eugene.

Dallas coach Bill Masei said hurdler Naomi Howe, seeded second in the 300-meter hurdles, and Kayley



White

tenders.

"Those are the three that I think have strong chances on the girls side," Masei

Sayer, ranked second in the long jump and third in the triple jump will also be strong state contenders.

"We have some other girls who can do well and if they PR, they can make some noise. I think Jennifer Webb and Stefani Tallon in the hurdles can challenge for a spot to state."

Junior Aaron White, like Benz, is also looking to make a return to state. White placed fifth in the triple jump at state in 2015.

White is ranked first in the boys triple jump and third in



Howe

the long jump. "I would say he's a favorite to get back to state," Masei said. Junior Jacob Deming is seeded second in the pole vault, third in the 300 hurdles and 400 and sixth in the 110 hurdles.

"Jacob is going to have multiple chances in a bunch of different events," Masei said.

As Dallas' state hopefuls vie for their ticket to Eugene, Benz wants to end her high school career by achieving a few more goals.

"A great memory would be to get first in at least one of my events at state," Benz said. "At districts, I want to get a school record."

Tennis: Cable seeded third

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"I'm hopeful we will go on to state," boys coach Patty Youngren said.

Anthony Martinez, Joel Robison and Chris Polanco are unseeded in the singles bracket as

are the doubles pairs of Brian Larson and Nathaniel Miller, Bailey Yates and Justin Landers and Luis Vera and Clark Gallagher.

Cable advanced to state in 2015 in doubles but faces a new challenge in singles play against tough competition.

The top four players and doubles pairs advance to the state tournament.

The girls squad sees Pa-

tience Teague enter as the eighth seed with Kylie Smith, Tamoka Naru and Ana Martinez entering unseeded.

The doubles pairs of Renee Bruning and Danielle Chance, Olivia Teague and Diana Huerte, Julia Hamar and Andrea Garibay, and Annika Riddle and Alex Trevino enter the tournament unseeded, though girls coach Dave Eble said the Panthers can surprise.

"Anybody can have a good tournament," Eble said. "We could have people win in several rounds in the main draw and there are some chances for players to do well in the consolation. It pretty much depends on how they play."

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DALLAS TENNIS

Boys, girls ready to invade districts

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas' boys and girls tennis teams could be ready to make a big impact at the Mid-Willamette Conference district championships this Wednesday through Friday.

Senior Thomas Gniadecki earned the top seed in the boys singles bracket, while the doubles pair of Joe Gillette and Josh Dudley earned the seventh seed.

Caedmon Blair, Cole Oace and Luis Zavala and the doubles pairs of Evan Koons and Honorio Colipano, Travis Wilson and Michael Friesen, and Ryan Bibler and Randy Mullins are unseeded, but coach Caleb Gillette said that doesn't mean anything once they step onto the court.

"They know they have to

Road To State

Who: Dallas and Central boys and girls tennis.
What: Mid-Willamette Conference championships.
When: Wednesday, 8 a.m. (girls), 1 p.m. (boys); Thursday, 8 a.m. (boys), 1 p.m. (girls) and Friday, 1 p.m.
Where: Timberhill Tennis Club, Corvallis.
What's at stake: The top four finishers in singles and doubles play advance to the state championship later this month.



Gillette

play their best, but once you're out there, what matters is how you perform," Gillette said.

The girls squad also hopes to make a mark at the district tournament.

The doubles pair of Addie Gillette and Lynn Gumpinger is seeded fourth



Dudley

in the girls bracket, while Megan Ronco and Amanda Schafer will enter seeded eighth. The girls team's singles players, Emily Cuno, Molly Peffley, Morgan Bateman and Kinzi Boer, enter the tournament unseeded, but coach Jordan Sollman has high expectations.