

CENTRAL BOYS TENNIS

Cable headed back to state

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

CORVALLIS — Central senior Kevin Cable didn't want his season to end yet.

Thanks to a strong showing at the Mid-Willamette Conference district tennis tournament, he will get his wish.

Cable finished third in the boys singles bracket, earning one of the league's four spots at the state tournament.

"It went pretty well," Cable said. "I got to state like my goal was. I played a good match against Sam (Larson in the semifinals) and gave him a little bit of a run there."

Cable will play second-seeded Carter Quigley, of Summit, Thursday in the first round of the state tournament.

"I'm going to go out there and do the best I can," Cable said. "I probably won't win because he's a great player, but I'll do the best I can and see what happens."

The senior knows his serve will have to be on point for him to perform well.

"Just getting that serve down," Cable said. "That's my big weapon. I want to return better. I didn't return very well against Sam and I think if I would have, I could have won that match."

Cable knows he has a tough road ahead of him at the state tournament, but returning to state gives Cable a chance to end his high school athletics career on a high.

"I've always wanted to play in the singles state tournament," Cable said. "It means a lot to get there."

GIRLS TENNIS: Despite seeing its season come to a close,

State Tennis

What: Class 5A state tennis championships.
When: Thursday, 2 p.m.; Friday, TBA; Saturday, TBA.
Where: Portland Tennis Center (Thursday and Friday) and Tualatin Hills Tennis Center (Saturday).
What's at stake: Senior Kevin Cable will compete for a chance to win a state title.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

Central senior Kevin Cable serves during a match on Friday afternoon in Corvallis at the district tournament.

Central's girls tennis team made a bit of program history at the district tennis tournament.

"Everybody won at least one match at district, which is a first. Our team record for district was 15-11, a very good performance for us," Central coach Dave Eble said. "I was very pleased with the overall team play at districts."

Junior Kylie Smith advanced to the consolation finals in the singles bracket, while the pair of Julia Hamar and Andrea Garibay advanced to the consolation final in the doubles bracket.

"Thinking about it from the

beginning of the year, I never would have thought that I could improve as much as I have," Smith said.

The girls may not be sending anyone to state, but Smith said what they've learned from playing and watching others has proven to be invaluable for the future.

"I've gotten a lot better even (during the tournament) with different shots and thinking smarter and my consistency," Smith said. "You see all these really good players out there and it's not the ones who are playing the hardest who are winning, it's the people who are most consistent."

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Softball set to host play-in game against North Eugene

Itemizer-ObsERVER staff report

DALLAS — Dallas' softball team will host North Eugene in the OSAA 5A state play-in round Friday at 4:30 p.m.

The Dragons finished third in the Mid-Willamette Conference. A 7-6 loss to Silverton in the team's regular season finale on Friday dropped Dallas from second to third.

But the Dragons are confident they will prevail against North Eugene on Friday.

"I think we're in a good place," coach Brandi Jackson said. "We want to beat that play-in curse. We're sick of losing in the play-in round."

Dallas has been bounced in the play-in round each of the last two years, despite

playing at home.

"I'm a big proponent of taking care of us and then good things will happen," Jackson said. "... I think getting that first win in post-season is going to be a huge confidence booster."

North Eugene finished the regular season with a 4-19 record overall and a 4-17 mark in Midwestern League play, finishing in sixth place. The winner advances to the first round of the state playoffs on May 25.

But players won't take anything for granted.

"We have to take this game and grab control of it," Makena Linn said.

The play-in round has not been kind to Dallas in recent years. Players are ready to make some new history on Friday.

"We've come ready to compete," catcher Ciara Greisen said.

BASEBALL CLINCHES SECOND: Dallas' baseball squad swept South Albany last week to close out the regular season. The Dragons won 13-2 on May 10, 3-1 on May 11 and 4-0 on Friday.

Pitcher Tucker Weaver threw 12 strikeouts for the Dragons on May 10.

The wins, coupled with two losses from Corvallis, allowed Dallas to clinch second place in the MWC and an automatic berth to the first round of the state playoffs.

Dallas will host a playoff game on May 25.

The Dragons ended the season on an eight-game win streak and won 10 of their final 12 games. Dallas outscored opponents 87-43 during the second half of league play.

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Baseball to host Eagle Point with trip to state on the line

Itemizer-ObsERVER staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Thanks to taking two of three games against Corvallis, Central's baseball team will be at home for its play-in game on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

The Panthers defeated the Spartans 10-6 on May 10 and 7-4 on May 11 before falling 11-7 on Friday.

The wins helped Central (12-12 overall, 10-11 MWC) clinch fourth place in the Mid-Willamette Conference

— and a home play-in game against Eagle Point.

The winner advances to the first round of the state playoffs on May 25. Eagle Point finished in fifth place in the Midwestern League with an 11-12 mark overall and an 8-10 record in league play.

SOFTBALL TO HIT THE ROAD FOR PLAY-IN GAME: Central's softball team will have to hit the road for its play-in game on Friday. The Panthers fell to Silverton 10-9 on May 10 and Corvallis 14-

3 on May 11 in the team's league finale. Central (11-11 overall, 9-9 Mid-Willamette Conference) finished in fifth place in the league standings and will face the Midwestern League's fourth-place finisher in the play-in game: Crater.

Crater went 13-13 overall and 10-8 in league play.

The Panthers play at Newport Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. Crater played at South Medford Tuesday after press time. The winner advances to the first round of the state playoffs.

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Softball finishes 2016 campaign with 9-8 record

Itemizer-ObsERVER staff report

PERRYDALE — Perrydale's softball team's season came to a close on Thursday as the Pirates fell to Central Linn 12-2. The Pirates also

fell to Taft 7-1 on May 11.

Perrydale ended the season with a 9-8 record overall and a 4-6 mark in Special District 2 play, finishing in fourth place.

The top two teams from the league advanced to the state playoffs.

BASEBALL SPLITS DOUBLE HEADER: Perrydale's baseball team

split a doubleheader with Central Linn on Friday, winning 7-3 before falling 9-7. The victory was the team's second of the season.

Perrydale (2-15 overall, 2-12 Spe-

cial District 2) played at East Linn Christian Tuesday after press time. The Pirates close out the season at home against Country Christian Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Pirates: Relay squad earns wild card berth

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Senior Sarah Clark finished second in the javelin and discus and third in the 300 hurdles to earn state berths in all three events.

"It means the world to me," Clark said. "I knew I could do it, but I was really nervous."

Price and Clark also made state in 2015. Clark hopes this time she leaves Eugene with at least one medal.

"I would love to get onto the podium and get a medal," Clark said.

The girls 4 x 100 relay team of Anna McGill, Keiley Griffin, Hannah Hallock finished third at districts, but received a wild card bid.

"When coach called me telling me to not pack up my track shoes and uniform just yet, I was filled with joy," Hallock said.

Three of the four athletes are seniors and Hallock, McGill and Griffin also played softball — making balancing the two hard.

"The difficult part is not being able to put in 100 percent in both sports no matter how hard you try," McGill said. "Softball being my priority, this track thing was just for fun until I saw our time after the first time we ran. Then I knew we had a shot and I've been striving for state ever since."

McGill, Hallock and Griffin were used to running with each other. Price was a late addition to the team.

"The 10 minutes before the actual race was the only time we ran with Taylor," Griffin said.

But the Pirates pulled through and are also headed to Eugene.

"I am excited for this week and I'm just extremely thankful for my coach for cooperating with my insane schedule," McGill said. "I'm blessed with the opportunity to compete this weekend and can't wait to see how we do."

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Dallas: Gniadecki falls in final to Sam Larson

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Gniadecki entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed — a ranking he didn't take lightly.

"It puts the pressure on you," Gniadecki said. "People expect you to win."

Gniadecki advanced to the final when he played Corvallis senior Sam Larson, falling in three sets. The two faced each other three times this season — each match went three sets.

"(Sam) played better than me (on Friday)," he said. "But I'm happy for the season overall."

Gniadecki will face Milwaukee senior Mario Sensat in the first round of the state championship on Thursday.

Gillette and Dudley entered the district tournament ranked seventh in the doubles bracket, but advanced to state after defeating Woodburn 6-4, 6-4 on Thursday. The pair fell in the semifinals and third-place matches on Friday, but had already clinched its spot at state.

"We're really excited," Dudley said. "We wanted to go to state from the beginning of the season. It's good to finally get there."

Gillette and Dudley joined forces midway through the season. Gillette was primarily a singles player before the switch.

"I thought I played well with Josh and the singles side was stacked, so I thought there was a better chance at making state in doubles," Gillette said.

Gillette and Dudley will face Race Latham and Cameron Meade, of Hermiston, in the first round of the



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

Josh Dudley and Joe Gillette finished fourth at the Mid-Willamette Conference district tournament.

State Tennis

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What's at stake: Thomas Gniadecki and the doubles pair of Josh Dudley and Joe Gillette will compete for a state title.

state tournament on Thursday.

"I don't know if there will be tons of expectation," Gillette said. "We just want to play the best we can and see how it goes."

Gniadecki said he'll try to enter state ready to enjoy the moment — though he does hope to get one more shot at Larson. But no matter what happens, Dallas hopes to continue surprising.

"I'm really happy Joe and Josh made it to state, too," Gniadecki said. "I'm glad I won't be alone. I just have to remember to have fun and play."

GIRLS TENNIS: Dallas' girls tennis team saw its season come to an end at the district tournament.

The Dragons saw the doubles pairs of Addie Gillette and Lynn Gumpinger, and Megan Ronco and Amanda Schafer ad-

vance to the quarterfinals before falling. Kinzi Boer advanced to the consolation semifinals.

"Last year, we only had one doubles team make it to the quarterfinals," girls coach Jordan Sollman said. "This year, we had two, and all four girls on those doubles teams will be coming back next year. We had a lot of youth and we saw a lot of growth this year. ... They didn't back down from anything and they played hard. I was very pleased with what I saw improvement-wise."

Sollman hopes the experience at districts inspires his players to work harder than ever before.

"This shows the girls where they need to be if they want to take that next step," Sollman said. "It gives you a marker. You see the competition. The big thing is taking that and thinking about how much time are you going to invest this offseason before you begin next year."

FALLS CITY TRACK AND FIELD

Falls City duo earn state bids

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

PORTLAND — Falls City's track and field teams saw two athletes book their trip to state during the Special District 1 championships on Friday and Saturday in Portland.

Senior thrower Ryan Macnab placed second in the boys shot put and sophomore Jeremy Labrado finished second in the boys triple jump to earn their spot at state, which begins Thursday in Eugene.

"It was a good season," Simmons said. "We only lose three seniors (two boys, one girl) so we have a lot of talent coming back."

This will be Labrado's and Macnab's first trip to state, but they are both excited to see

CLASS 1A TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Falls City qualifiers: BOYS — Ryan Macnab, sr., shot put (seeded 12th); Jeremy Labrado, soph., triple jump (seeded 11th).



Macnab

what the experience is all about.

"It's pretty cool," Macnab said. "My friend Tristan (Yeager) made it to state. It's something I've wanted to do too. I'm excited for it."

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Labrado