

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
Baseball: Class 5A state playoffs first round: Dallas at Putnam, 5 p.m.
Softball: Class 5A state playoffs first round: Sandy at Dallas, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 27
Baseball: Class 5A state playoffs quarterfinals, TBA.
Softball: Class 5A state playoffs quarterfinals, TBA.

TUESDAY, MAY 31
Baseball: Class 5A state playoffs semifinals, TBA.
Softball: Class 5A state playoffs semifinals, TBA.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Santiam Christian trio excels at state

EUGENE — A trio of Polk County Santiam Christian students placed at the OSAA 3A state track and field championships on Thursday and Friday in Eugene.

Rebeka Preston broke her own school record and became a state champion in the girls 400-meter run, finishing in 58.80 seconds. She also placed fifth in the 200 (26.82).

Preston was also part of the 4 x 400 relay team that took third, finishing in 4:11.63, a new school record, and the 4 x 100 relay team that finished fifth in 51.75 seconds.

August Thornton took sixth in the boys 1,500, setting a new school record in the process with a time of 4:14.16. Zach Watson took 12th in the 800, finishing in 2:13.10.

Five middle school wrestlers named to national team

DALLAS — Five members of the LaCreole Middle School wrestling team were named to the national team: Rami Arel, Cooper Hise, Cael Morrison, Haydn Millard and Ashton Brecht.

The five earned the honor by reaching the middle school state finals in their respective weight classes and took part in the middle school National Duals May 6-7 in Wyoming.

Hise, Morrison and Arel wrestled for the Oregon Blue Team, while Brecht and Millard competed for the Oregon Gold squad.

The teams tied for third place.

For a photo, see www.polkio.com.

Registration open for softball league

DALLAS — Registration is open for the city of Dallas' co-ed softball league.

Play begins June 21 with games on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays through Aug. 11. Games will begin at 6 or 7:15 p.m. at the Lyle ball fields.

Deadline to sign up is June 17. Cost is \$200 per team.

Teams will play seven innings or a max of 70 minutes.

Nine players minimum.

Forms are available online at www.ci.dallas.or.us/756/Adult-Recreation.

For more information: David Brautigam, davidbrautigam@dallasor.gov.

PREP SOFTBALL

Dragons to host first round game

Winner advances to face Corvallis or Churchill on Friday

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — It wasn't the way they imagined, but Dallas' softball team got over the play-in hump and advanced to the first round. Now, the Dragons hope this is just the beginning of its

postseason success.

Dallas moved on to the first round of the state playoffs after North Eugene forfeited due to a lack of players.



The Dragons scheduled an endowment game with Thurston on Thursday instead, falling 6-5.

Dallas earned the sixth seed in the playoffs and will host 11th-seeded Sandy Wednesday (today) at 5 p.m.

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Class 5A State First Round

What: Sandy at Dallas.
When: Wednesday, 5 p.m.
Where: Dallas High School.
Admission: Adults, \$6; students, \$4.
What's at stake: The winner advances to the second round on Friday against the winner of Corvallis vs. Churchill.

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Panthers soak in moment

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

EUGENE — The deafening silence in the moments before the starting gun fires. The roar of the crowd as runners race toward the finish or jumpers unleash a gigantic leap.

In the world of track and field, there's nothing quite like state at Hayward Field. Central senior Reba Hoffman soaked in the moment for the last time. After placing fifth in the girls triple jump at the OSAA 5A state track and field championships on Saturday, Hoffman reflected on her final meet as a Central Panther.

"It's awesome," Hoffman said. "...

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I'm just thankful for the coaches and how much they put into me over the

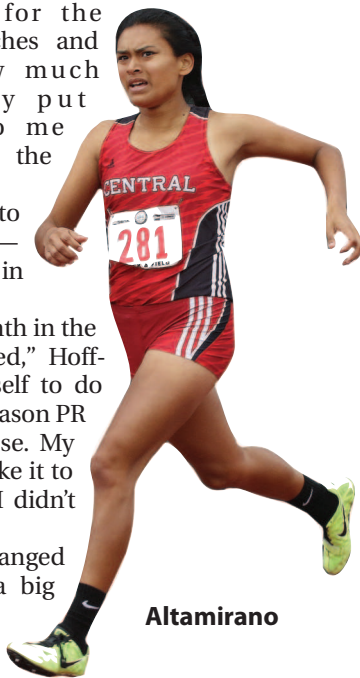
last four years."

Hoffman is no stranger to making the state meet — earning a trip to Eugene in three of her four seasons.

"Freshman year, I got eighth in the long jump and I was pissed," Hoffman said. "I expected myself to do better. I wanted to get my season PR and I didn't even come close. My sophomore year I didn't make it to finals, and my junior year I didn't even make it to state."

Missing state entirely changed Hoffman's perspective in a big way.

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Altamirano



Central senior Reba Hoffman placed fifth in the girls triple jump at state on Saturday.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Pirates see all athletes place at state



From top left: Anna McGill, Hannah Hallock, Taylor Price and Kiele Griffin celebrate after the 4 x 100-meter relay.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

EUGENE — For all but one of Perrydale's state qualifiers, the 1A state track and field meet on Thursday and Friday at Hayward Field was a final chance to end their high school career with a bang.

The Pirates rose to the occasion.

Senior hurdler Taylor Price took third in the finals of the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 17.24 seconds. Price was also part of the 4 x 100 relay team, along with fellow seniors Anna McGill and Hannah Hallock and sophomore Kiele Griffin, that took sixth (54.24 seconds).

Senior Sarah Clark finished fourth in the javelin with a throw of 114 feet, 6 inches and eighth in the shot put with a mark of 31-3



Clark

½ as every athlete who made the trip to Hayward Field ended by reaching the podium.

The girls 4 x 100 team always seemed like more of a fantasy than a reality for many of its members.

"Some of us, like me, Taylor and Hannah, talked a little bit last year about putting a team together," McGill said. "It was always more of a joke, though."

Pirates coach Brian Evans saw their potential and decided to entice them just a bit.

"Coach told us if we did track, he'd buy us all cleats, so we did it," Griffin said,

with a smile.

McGill, Hallock and Griffin came together from the start. Price joined the relay team right before districts. The team earned a wild card berth to state and, despite limited practice time, found its way to the podium in sixth place.

"It was rocky, but we knew it was going to be our last race," Price said. "We wanted to push hard, no matter what."

The Pirates did just that, leaving its seniors with a lasting memory.

"It was a great way to end our senior year together," Hallock said.

As the 4 x 100 team surprised even themselves, Clark ended her high school career by placing in two events — the javelin and shot put.

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