

## QUICK HITS

### BDST competes in Corvallis meet

CORVALLIS — The Blue Dolphins Swim Team competed in a trophy meet in Corvallis on May 25.

Kaitlyn Landis won the mixed 50-meter butterfly (10 and younger) in 48.76 seconds. Gentry Hagedorn won the 50 backstroke (10 and younger) in 48.28 seconds, while Savannah King won the 50 backstroke (11-12) in 44.76.

King also won the 50 freestyle in 37.60.

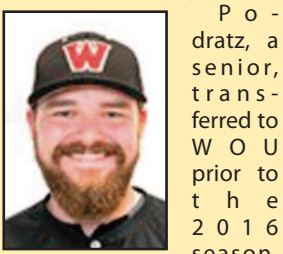
Kadence King took second in the 50 freestyle (10 and younger) with a time of 42.41 and Taylor Hagedorn placed second in the 100 individual medley in 1:34.12.

The Blue Dolphins Swim Team is a nonprofit, competitive swim program based in Dallas.

For more information: Mark Maxwell, familymaxell4@yahoo.com.

### Podratz earns recognition

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon baseball player Trevor Podratz received an All-America honorable mention from the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association on May 25.



Podratz, a senior, transferred to WOU prior to the 2016 season. He led the Wolves in batting average, .391, hits (70) and runs batted in (44).

Podratz also had a 22-game hit streak during the season that saw the Wolves advance to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament championship game before falling to Northwest Nazarene.

Podratz is the third WOU player to earn All-American honorable mention, joining Blake Miller in 2013 and Mike McRae in 2005.

### WOU volleyball adds four

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's volleyball team announced the signing of four student-athletes on May 24.

WOU will add Makanna Behrens (Kennewick, Wash.), Jenna Compton (Phelan, Calif.), Morgan Haskett (Roseburg) and Katherine Huntington (Superior, Colo.).

All four are expected to enroll in the fall and be eligible for competition upon arriving at campus.

Western Oregon finished 8-21 overall and 5-15 in conference play in 2015.

Tommy Gott was announced as new head coach earlier this year.

## STAT SHEET

**70** The number of hits Western Oregon baseball player Trevor Podratz recorded during the 2016 season. Podratz ranked first in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference in batting average (.391) and was second in hits and RBIs.

## PREP SOFTBALL

# Dragons fall in state quarterfinals



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas freshman Kaelynn Simmons gets ready to throw a runner out at first base against Sandy on May 25.

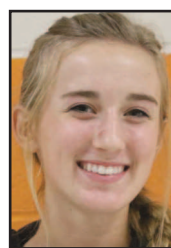
**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

EUGENE — Dallas' softball team's run in the state playoffs ended in the quarterfinals round on Friday. The No. 6 Dragons fell to third-seeded Churchill 6-0 in Eugene, ending Dallas' season.

"Friday's game was a tough loss," senior Yasmine El-Hato said. "We could have won that game if we had brought all our bats and had minimized our errors. I feel like if we had the chance to play them again, we could beat them, no question in my mind. However, things like that happen and we just have to accept it and move on."

The Dragons opened the playoffs with a 9-1 win over Sandy on May 25 in the first round.

Sandy scored the first run of the game in the top of the



Nelson

at the beginning of the season, we would have let that get to us and not stop the bleeding," Dallas coach Brandi Jackson said. "We got in there and shut them down and answered that same inning."

Olivia Nelson recorded a triple in the first inning, Emily May stole third before scoring on an errant throw in the fourth, and the Dragons added five runs in the bottom of the sixth to get some more space.

"It was so much fun," Ashley Lichtenberger said. "Everyone hit the crap out of the ball."

first, but Dallas responded with nine unanswered.



El-Hato

The fun wouldn't last, though, as Dallas finished the season 19-9 overall and 17-7 in Mid-Willamette Conference play.

"Overall, we had a great season," El-Hato said. "I would not have wanted to end my season with



Linn

any other team because they made my senior season memorable."

Dallas will lose several key seniors to graduation, including El-Hato, outfielder Makena Linn and catcher Ciara Greisen.

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# Adult rec grows up

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — When the city of Dallas brought adult recreation programs back in 2013, the goal was simple — give people a way to stay active.

"The original goal was to get adult recreation going," David Brautigam said. "We wanted to establish it, make sure it ran well and was successful. The way to do that was through mainstream sports."

Basketball, volleyball and softball leagues soon popped up and have grown each year. The basketball league has doubled in size from eight teams to 16, Brautigam said.

Now the goal is shifting from establishing adult recreation to offering something for people of all

fitness levels. Things like pickleball, played during the summer, gives older adults an option for getting involved. Now, the city is ready to cast a wide net, Brautigam said.

The city started offering pingpong, played every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7 to 8 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m. at the Civic Center, and a walking club that meets at Roger Jordan Community Park (days vary).

The Triathlon Field Games, consisting of bocce ball, corn hole and disc golf will be held for the first time Saturday at 11 a.m. (registration due Wednesday (today)).

"We're really trying to get people 25 to 70 years old involved in a variety of sports," Brautigam said.

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## Upcoming sports

- Registration for coed softball (due June 17) and men's softball (due July 1) is now open.
- Pingpong is offered every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 7 to 8 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m. at the Civic Center.
- Signups for Mighty Mites is due Friday.
- For more information: www.ci.dallas.or.us/756/Adult-Recreation or David Brautigam, david.brautigam@dallasor.gov.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

Pickleball is one of the activities the city of Dallas helped start that is aimed at attracting adults of all ages to get more active.

## COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD

# Western duo places at national championships

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

BRADENTON, Fla. — Western Oregon sophomore David Ribich and senior Sam Naffziger earned All-American honors Saturday at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Ribich finished fifth in the men's 1,500-meter run with a time of 3 minutes, 50.76 seconds.

"I was trying to position



Ribich

started to pull away early," Ribich said. "I'm looking forward to the next two years to try and chop it down to a

higher place finish." Naffziger finished eighth in the same race in 3:52.37, earning the race's final All-American spot.

"It was all just really surreal," Naffziger said. "It kind of hit me (on Saturday morning) that I would be done after today. The goal was All-American and getting eighth place is still All-American."

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# One down, three to go ...



LUKAS EGGEN

Commentary

It was a moment 26 years in the making. The crowd could barely contain its anticipation. A single putt stood between me and glory.

I took a deep breath, channeled my inner Rory

McIlroy and unleashed a putt that could change the world. Between me and the hole stood what seemed like a canyon sized space. As the ball made its way toward the hole, time seemed to slow.

Would this be the moment all my dreams came true?

Then came the most amazing sound for every golfer — the ball rattling as it settles on the bottom of the cup.

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