

QUICK HITS

County trio takes part in all-star softball game

EUGENE — Dallas seniors Yasmine El-Hato and Makena Linn and Central senior Kylie Nash took part in the first annual Senior All-Star softball game Sunday at the University of Oregon.

The trio played for team South, which won both games of the doubleheader.

El-Hato hit a grand slam and a double. She also played first base and pitcher. Linn recorded a double and played outfield.

Nash played second base and catcher and also recorded multiple hits.

Polk County track club begins

WEST SALEM — The Polk County Track Club began Tuesday and will run through July 14.

The club meets Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. now through June 16; from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 21-30 and 10 a.m. to noon from July 5-14 at West Salem High School.

The camp will provide instruction for sprints, hurdles, jumps, throwing events, distance running and pole vault.

Cost is \$100 and is open to students in grades 6-12. Fee includes a T-shirt and admission to NCAA Championships (limited supply).

Dallas coach Bill Masei and assistant coach Ali Andreason will be among the coaches running the camp.

For more information: Bill Masei, Bill.Masei@dspd2.org.

Cost does not include USATF registration fee, which is required for competition.

Blue Dolphins excel at Albany

ALBANY — The Blue Dolphins Swim Team competed at the Summer Invitational at the Albany Aquatics Center on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Gentry Hagedorn won the girls 200-yard freestyle (9-years old category) in 3 minutes, 19.09 seconds. Kaitlyn Landis took first in the 200 freestyle (10 years old) in 3:05.16. Landis also won the 100 freestyle in 1:25.13.

Taylor Hagedorn placed first in the girls 200 individual medley (11) in 3:15.23. Emma Irwin won the girls 50 breaststroke (8 and younger) in 1:34.17.

Lonny Stork took first in the girls 50 backstroke (11) in 45.63 seconds.

Elizabeth Dressel won the girls 400 freestyle (15 and older) in 5:27.45 and the girls 200 freestyle relay team (11 and younger) of Sydney Alamein, Taylor Hagedorn, Savannah King and Lonny Stork took first in 2:30.51.

Pickleball returns on Monday

DALLAS — Pickleball returns to the tennis courts by the Dallas Aquatic Center on Monday. Players will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon through the summer. No experience necessary.



Dallas senior pitcher Tucker Weaver threw 82 strikeouts during the 2016 baseball season.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — It's something that frustrates Dallas senior Tucker Weaver, perhaps more than anything else when it comes to baseball.

"People think baseball is boring," Weaver said. "That really bothers me. They don't see the fun side of things that we do or the competitive edge. They see someone throw six pitches and a guy finally hits it and he only goes 90 feet. There's nobody tackling anyone and you don't score 60 points a

game. But it's not about all the action. It's about the passion." Weaver's passion for baseball may be unmatched at Dallas High. Perhaps the only thing greater was his impact for the Dragons during the 2016 season. As the Dragons' ace, he

By The Numbers

1.16 Weaver's Earned Run Average during the 2016 season. The mark was the lowest for Dallas.	82 The number of strikeouts Weaver threw during the season. The senior gave up just four walks.	11 The total number of earned runs Weaver allowed in 67 innings of work during the 2016 season.
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threw 67 innings of work, with 82 strikeouts to just eight walks with a 1.16 ERA, earning the Mid-Willamette Conference's Pitcher of the Year award and helping Dallas advance to the first round of the state playoffs.

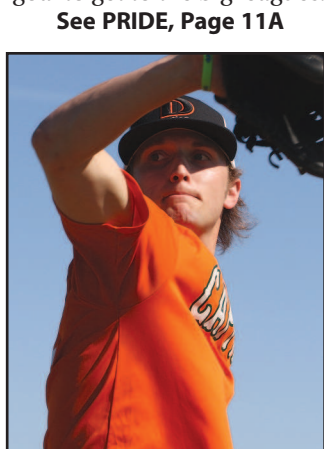
"Tucker is a bulldog," Dal-

las coach Scot McDonald said. "He loves baseball; he loves to compete and he comes through whenever you need him to." His performance makes him the *Itemizer-Observer's* 2016 Baseball Player of the Year.

year. It was a great bonding thing for us." From those early moments, Weaver made it his goal to get to the big leagues.

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Weaver helped Dallas advance to the state playoffs.

Feeling the burn



LUKAS EGGEN

Commentary

There's a belief that every competitive person has: that no matter what the situation, we'll always bet on ourselves to find a way to win. That we'll triumph against long odds, emerge victorious and proud.

And then there's what happened on Saturday. The city of Dallas'

triathlon field games featured corn hole, bocce ball and disc golf. I've had about as much experience playing those three games as I have in curling. And no, I don't have a secret life as a master curler.

On the bright side, that also meant I could unleash some hidden talents as a master bocce baller (?), corn holer or disc golfer. The team We The News was born and ready to dominate.

Of course there was one thing that we couldn't control that worried me — the heat. There was a time

when I would have been OK with 97-degree weather thanks to living in Las Vegas. That time has long since passed.

And, like I'm sure many felt, the temperature felt roughly like the equivalent of sitting in an oven. In hell.

It was hot enough that organizer David Brautigam said more than 10 teams canceled. But I wasn't going to be intimidated by a little heat. I was ready to give the heat a roundhouse kick to the face, Chuck Norris style.

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LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Corn hole was one of three events at the triathlon field games on Saturday.

DALLAS TRACK AND FIELD

Track reaches key lifespan mark

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — When Dallas High School's track surface was installed in 2004, it brought much-needed help.

The track it replaced was about a decade old. The new surface, the L2000, gave the Dragons a place to run, practice and compete on.

That same track is now 12 years old, causing an increase in injuries and nearing the time where repairs are a necessity, not a luxury, track and field coach Bill Masei said.

"What we need to do is keep kids off (the track) as much as possible," Masei said.

In addition, Dallas gave its athletes Fridays off from practice to give them more time to recover from the pounding. The change in training methods was in response to an increase in injuries — especially shin splits — over the last few years.

"Our trainer, Brent Darrington, said we have to figure out how to keep the kids off the track," Masei said. "Part of it is doing more prevention and keeping them off the track to prevent the pounding."

The change had the desired effect, Masei said. Having kids run on grass as much as possible and increased rest time kept kids healthier, but it also came at the cost of training time.

"From a training standpoint, it's not an ideal situation," Masei said. "But from the health perspective, I'd rather have not as much training and be healthy for the big meets than more training and not as healthy."

The track's condition has also affected another area — the number of home track and field meets Dallas is willing to host.

"We only have one home meet scheduled next year right now," Masei said. "I think that's good from a perspective of not having to compete on it."

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