

Dallas: Dragons face South Albany next



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas running back Tanner Earhart (24) looks to dive for a first down against Central on Friday night.

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"They've developed a good sense of pride in their program, and they're not going to bow down to anybody," Jackson said.

A major theme will be avoiding any lingering effects from the Central game.

"I don't see the loss as it being an apocalypse," Jackson said. "We lost one game by one point to the returning league champions. You don't like losing to them at any time, but there aren't a lot of teams in the position that we

are at."

The run game continues to be the source of Dallas' success on the gridiron.

In addition to Earhart, quarterback Caedmon Blair and running back Jacob Collins also recorded rushing touchdowns against Central on Friday. But the Dragons also know they can't afford to let scoring opportunities slip away like they did against Central.

"We have some things we can build on," Jackson said. "But there's always plenty of room for improvement."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Quarterback Caedmon Blair attempts to elude a tackler.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Dallas excited to show league what it can do

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Last season, Dallas' boys soccer team accomplished something it hadn't in years — winning a match.

This year, when the Dragons defeated St. Helens 3-2 on Sept. 6, players were happy but not satisfied.

"We won a game, but who cares? We want a play-in game this year," Jacob Jones said.

Dallas (1-6 overall), which opened Mid-Willamette Conference play against Lebanon on Tuesday, knows that will be a tall order, but after losing three matches by one goal, players believe they are on the cusp of turning a corner.

"If one goal goes in, we keep trying hard," senior Josh Dudley said. "Before we would kind of give up



Dudley

MWC advance to the postseason.

The league has six teams with records above .500 entering league play.

"Our league is tough, but we have our sights set on having several league wins, which hasn't happened for too long," coach John Jones said.

The Dragons have long been an easy win for opponents. Players are ready to show that is no longer the case.

"People expect us to lose by a lot," Jacob Jones said. "We're used to losing. When that first goal goes in against us, we sometimes

shut down. We have to change that up."

Dudley and Jones will play a pivotal role for Dallas' success going forward.

"Josh is an incredible worker," John Jones said. "He's one of our most consistent kids. He's always there. He doesn't talk a lot, but when he says something, people listen. He's very wise. Jacob is also a very hard worker and does a good job at getting the ball where it needs to go."

But they aren't worried about individual recognition. They want to show the MWC that the Dragons are no longer pushovers.

"I've seen quite a bit of progress from the first match," Dudley said. "We've had people step up to fill positions. ... If we could get early wins, it would build our confidence for the rest of league."

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Volleyball wins two

Itemizer-Observer staff report
INDEPENDENCE — Central's volleyball team picked up a pair of Mid-Willamette Conference victories last week.

The Panthers defeated Woodburn 25-11, 25-19, 25-12 on Sept. 27 and Silverton 25-22, 20-25, 25-20, 28-26 on Thursday.

Krista Omlid had 18 kills against the Silver Foxes to lead Central. Alex Dowdell added 16 kills and 14 digs, while Sydney Nash recorded 27 assists and seven digs.

The Panthers (6-4 overall,



Dowdell

Thursday before hosting Lebanon Monday at 6 p.m. The Panthers play at Dallas on Oct. 12 at 6 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER DROPS FINAL NONLEAGUE MATCH: Central's girls soccer team lost its final nonleague match, falling to Milwaukie 7-0 on

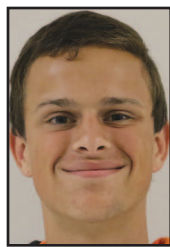
Sept. 27. The Panthers enter league play with a 1-4-1 record overall. Central faced Silverton Tuesday after press time. The Panthers play at South Albany on Thursday and at Crescent Valley on Monday before hosting Lebanon on Oct. 12 at 4 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER FALLS TO NEWBERG: Central's boys soccer team lost to Newberg 3-1 on Sept. 27. The Panthers end non-league play with a 3-2-1 mark. Central opened MWC play against Silverton Tuesday after press time. The Panthers host South Albany Thursday at 4 p.m. and Crescent Valley Monday at 6 p.m.

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Cross places 13th

Itemizer-Observer staff report
ALBANY — Dallas' boys cross-country team took 26th at the Harrier Classic in Albany on Saturday afternoon.



Cross

finished 91st in 18:07.9. The girls squad finished 27th. Junior Alyssa Garner placed 129th in 22:48.3 to lead the girls. Sophomore Bekah Rocak took 149th in 23:31.0.

Dallas will compete at Lebanon on Oct. 12.

GIRLS SOCCER LOSES TO OREGON CITY: Dallas' girls soccer team lost to Oregon City 11-0 on Sept. 27. The Dragons finished nonleague play with a 1-5 mark. Dallas opened Mid-Willamette Conference play against Lebanon Tuesday after press time.

The Dragons host Crescent Valley Thursday at 4 p.m. and



BRIAN EVANS/for the Itemizer-Observer

Perrydale quarterback Daniel Domes looks to pass on Friday night.

blowing teams out, or getting blown out and Janesofsky said the Pirates are excited to see what happens.

"We want to get a good win streak going," Janesofsky said. "It would help get our confidence and morale up and lead us into the playoffs the right way."

Panthers: Central rallies in second half

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Mendazona also rushed for a touchdown in the third quarter to give the Panthers the lead for good at 14-12, and Reyna's touchdown put the Panthers up 21-12 entering the fourth quarter.

A week after seeing the defense hold off South Albany from a potential-game tying score, it was the offense's turn on Friday. After Dallas pulled to within 21-20, the Panthers offense took the field with 6:32 left in the game.

Central made sure Dallas never got the ball back.

"It's awesome," Mendazona said. "Beating Dallas is one of the best feelings in the world. To be this close on Homecoming night, it was so much fun. Our whole

team is electric."

The win didn't come easily, but the Panthers, who have now won three games in a row, showed a few injuries wouldn't deny them a victory.

"That was a good ball game right there," coach Shane Hedrick said. "I tip my hat off to Dallas. They fought incredibly hard and were well-coached. I'm especially pleased with our players. We had kids stepping up and making plays. I thought defensively we played well, and offensively, down 12-7 in the second half to be able to score and take the lead, I thought those were good answers."

Central (3-2 overall, 2-0 Mid-Willamette Conference) plays at Crescent Valley on Friday. The Raiders

present a much different challenge to the Panthers. Crescent Valley quarterback Talanoa Hufanga has thrown for 846 yards and seven touchdowns, while also rushing for 601 yards and 15 touchdowns so far this season.

"They've got a good guy at quarterback," Mendazona said. "We have to contain him. The defense had a tough job this week, but they'll have another tough job next week."

But tackling that challenge could wait — at least for a night. On Friday, the Panthers were all smiles.

"It was an amazing experience for my last year at Central," Reyna said. "Beating Dallas has always been one of our top priorities, and we did it."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central football players enjoy fireworks after defeating Dallas 21-20 on Friday.