

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12
Boys Soccer: Central at Lebanon, 4 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 4 p.m.

Cross-country: Central, Dallas at Lebanon, TBA.

Girls Soccer: Lebanon at Central, 4 p.m. Dallas at Silverton, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Central at Dallas, 6 p.m. Perrydale at Jewell, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13
Football: Central at Lebanon, 7 p.m. Corvallis at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Volleyball: Central at Philomath, 5 p.m. Crosshill Christian at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer: Western Washington at Western Oregon, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14
Football: Triangle Lake at Falls City, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Sherman, 7 p.m.

Boys Soccer: McNary at Central, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15
Cross-country: Central, Dallas at George Fox XC Classic, 10 a.m. Western Oregon at Mike Hodges Invitational, 10:30 a.m.

Football: Western Oregon at Central Washington, 1 p.m.

Volleyball: Western Oregon at Montana State Billings, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 18
Boys Soccer: Dallas at Central, 6 p.m.

Girls Soccer: Central at Dallas, 4 p.m.

Volleyball: Corvallis at Central, 6 p.m. Dallas at Woodburn, 6 p.m. Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at C.S. Lewis, 6 p.m.

Women's Soccer: Western Oregon at Concordia, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19
Cross-country: Central at Woodburn (at Willamette Mission State Park), TBA. South Albany, Corvallis, Crescent Valley at Dallas, TBA.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Cross Creek men's club results

DALLAS — Cross Creek's men's club results for Oct. 4:

Low gross/low net
Gross: 1, Ben Talon-Kayne, 39; 2, Bob McCleery, 40.

Net: 1 (tie), Ken Dankenbring, Lynn Hurt, Derrill Weaver and Ed Johnson, 35.

Revis, Johnson earn weekly honor

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's football players saw receiver Paul Revis and linebacker Tyler Johnson earn offensive and defensive Player of the Week honors from the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Revis set two school records against Simon Fraser on Saturday. Revis hauled in 17 catches for 250 receiving yards — both single game records for WOU.

Johnson recorded six tackles, including three tackles for loss, two sacks and an interception.

Both players helped the Wolves defeat the Clan 33-7.

STAT SHEET

117 The number of receiving yards for former Western Oregon football player Tyrell Williams had on Sunday for the NFL's San Diego Chargers. Williams recorded five catches for 117 yards and a touchdown during the Chargers' 34-31 loss to the Oakland Raiders on Sunday. For the season, Williams has 21 catches for 358 yards and two touchdowns. San Diego is 1-4 this season.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Highburger, Wolves show some attitude

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Something was missing from Western Oregon's football team. Coming off a 31-2 loss to Azusa Pacific on Oct. 1, WOU's defense needed its swagger back.

"I think we needed a week to galvanize," redshirt sophomore Bo Highburger said. "... It takes an attitude that nobody's going to score on us on defense. You take it

as a personal insult if they do."

Western got its groove back on Saturday.

The Wolves held Simon Fraser without an offensive touchdown and minus 8 rushing yards during a 33-7 victory.

Highburger, like he has for much of the 2016 season, played a key role, recording three tackles, including 1.5 tackles-for-loss and one forced fumble.

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LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Western Oregon's Bo Highburger (44) closes in on Simon Fraser's quarterback.

PREP FOOTBALL

A whole new world



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Falls City junior Jacob Oberg decided to play organized football for the first time this fall.

Oberg adjusts to life on the gridiron and in America

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Falls City junior Jacob Oberg always enjoyed watching others play football.

This fall, he decided to join the Mountaineers on the gridiron.

"The first time you get hit, it's kind of a wake-up call," he said. "You're like, whoa."

Oberg isn't just adjusting to life on the gridiron.

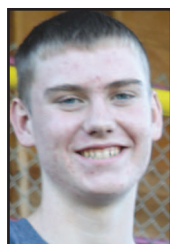
This school year is his one chance to experience high school in America, and he plans to take full advantage before his time runs out.

Since the year 2000, the Oberg family has lived primarily in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso in Africa, where they perform missionary work, including building churches, digging wells and helping with medical issues.

The family returns to the states once every three to four years while his dad speaks to churches about his experiences.

"We're usually in West Africa for three or four years at a time, then we come to the states for a year," Oberg said.

That means this school year is his one chance to live it up the best he can — though he's had to adjust to getting comfortable



Oberg

where Oberg lives in Africa — and language. French is the primary language spoken in the town Oberg lives in Africa.

But he's also learned that certain preconceived notions about Americans aren't true.

"Let's face it, over there, they think of Americans as people who eat a lot and have plenty," Oberg said. "I see that's not always the case. I can see that it's very different here, but it's also kind of the same."

On the football field, Oberg has been learning on the fly, but he is excelling, earning a starting spot on the offensive and defensive line.

"I always hear the coaches' voices in the back of my head telling me, don't get too far deep or close in the pocket," Oberg said.

He still needs a reminder from time to time about where he should be, but his enthusiasm is infectious.

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with a different culture.

"It's a pretty big culture shock," Oberg said. "The U.S. is a lot wealthier than Africa. It's pretty poor over there. The culture is just different. It's hard to explain."

Among the biggest differences are weather — it remains hot year-round — and language.

Falls City on the brink of a state playoff berth

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Falls City's football team has been here before. Each of the last two seasons, the Mountaineers have had a chance to make the state playoffs — something they haven't done since 1982.

Each of those times, Falls City fell short.

The Mountaineers hope the third time's the charm.

Falls City hosts Triangle Lake Friday at 7 p.m. A win, and the Mountaineers clinch the Special District 3 north title — and an automatic berth to the state playoffs.

"I don't hide it; I put pressure on them," coach Laric Cook said. "I tell them, it's time (we make the state playoffs). It's been too long. Each of the last two years we should have won a league title, but we didn't because our kids didn't stay true to what needed to be done. This group is a little bit different. They're a little more driven."

Showing the desire is part of the equation. Trusting the game plan will be key against Triangle Lake. Having the discipline to trust their preparation has been a struggle in previous years.

See **STATE**, Page 13A

Playoff potential

- Falls City hosts Triangle Lake Friday at 7 p.m.
- A win and the Mountaineers clinch the Special District 3 north title and earn an automatic berth to the state playoffs.
- Falls City has not been to the state playoffs since the 1982 season.
- Triangle Lake is on a three-game win streak.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Dragons hope third set sparks playoff run



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
 Dallas sophomore setter Emma Classen returns a hit against Corvallis on Thursday night.

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — In a span of less than 10 minutes against Corvallis on Thursday, starting outside hitter Maggie Blair and middle blocker Tristin Savage went down with injuries.

It would have been easy for the Dragons to lay down in the third set. Instead, Dallas gave the Spartans a challenge, leading for much of the set, before falling 25-23, 25-13, 26-24.

"It's crazy, that's the only way I can explain it," coach Shana Lavier said. "Two starters go down with injuries, and my girls played with more heart and hustle (in the third set) than I've seen all season. It was cool to watch."



Savage

Dallas showed in that third set it could keep up with the MWC's top team. The Dragons kept possessions alive with digs, extending and winning long points, and minimizing errors.

For at least one set, Dallas went blow for blow with the league's top team.

"We knew we had nothing to lose and played with all our heart," sophomore Emma Classen said.

That third set is what Lavier hopes inspires the Dragons for a late season push — one that Dallas badly needs if it wants to extend its season. Dallas entered its match at Silverton on Monday losers of four in a row in league play. The Dragons entered the week in seventh place in the Mid-Willamette Conference — one game behind South Albany after a three-set loss to Silverton on Monday.

The top six teams advance to the postseason. Blair will return Wednesday (today) but Lavier said there is no timetable for Savage's return.

On paper, losing two starters so late in the season could be a nail in the coffin for the team's postseason hopes.

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