

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Ribich leads men's XC

Itemizer-Observer staff report

BILLINGS, Mont. — Western Oregon sophomore David Ribich finished 15th at the NCAA Division II West Region Championship on Saturday afternoon. Ribich completed the 10,000-meter course in 30 minutes, 36.07 seconds and earned All-Region honors.

Junior Josh Dempsey placed 78th in 32:29.3.

Junior Kennedy Rufener led the women's team with a 27th-place finish. She completed the 6,000-meter course in 22:11.25. Sophomore Grace Knapp took 32nd in 22:17.23.

VOLLEYBALL DEFEATS ALASKA FAIRBANKS: Western Oregon's volleyball team defeated Alaska Fairbanks 25-

23, 25-14, 25-20 on Thursday before falling to Alaska Anchorage 25-21, 25-19, 26-24 on Saturday.

Against Alaska Fairbanks, junior Sydney Blankinship recorded 10 kills, three digs and three blocks to lead the Wolves. Senior Paige Orth

added nine kills, while junior Alisha Bettinson and sophomore Mariella Vandenkooy had eight. Sophomore Maddie Mehcz recorded 37 assists.

Western Oregon (9-14 overall, 6-10 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) played Concordia Tuesday after press time. The Wolves host Montana State Billings Thursday at 7 p.m. in the team's final home match of the season.

FOOTBALL FALLS AT AZUSA PACIFIC: Western Oregon's football team lost to Azusa Pacific 33-8 on Saturday.

The Wolves did not score until the fourth quarter, when quarterback Nick Duckworth hit receiver Paul Revis for a 70-yard touchdown. Azusa Pacific held Western Oregon to 235 yards of total offense.

WOU (3-6 overall, 2-5 GNAC) closes out the regular season at Simon Fraser Saturday at 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TO HOST SHOOTOUT: Western Oregon's women's basketball team will host the WOU/Hampton Inn Division II Shootout this weekend. The Wolves will play San Francisco State Saturday at 4 p.m. and Cal State East Bay Sunday at 2 p.m. WOU defeated Linfield 82-71 on Oct. 31 before falling to Portland State 100-96 in overtime in the team's two exhibition games.

MEN'S BASKETBALL TO OPEN SEASON: Western Oregon's men's basketball team will open the 2016-17 season at the GNAC/Pac West Challenge this weekend in Fresno, Calif. The Wolves play Point Loma on Friday and Fresno Pacific on Saturday.



Ribich



Bettinson

Fighting for the ball



COURTESY OF HILLSBORO TRIBUNE PHOTOGRAPHER CHASE ALLGOOD/for the Itemizer-Observer
Central's Juan Ortiz collides with a Hillsboro defender during the Panther's 4-0 loss to Hillsboro on Nov. 2 in the first round of the state playoffs. Hillsboro lost to Wilsonville in the quarterfinals. Central finished the year with an 8-6-2 record.

Dallas: Dragons play at No. 1 Summit on Friday



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas senior Cade Caudill (5) celebrates moments after the Dragons' win on Friday.

Continued from Page 11A

"They run the same offense as us," White said. "We have the ability to know how to handle their defense and offense, and felt we had the upper hand because of that."

Dallas built a 30-0 lead by halftime.

"I saw that they looked bigger than us, but I thought we were faster," coach Tracy Jackson said. "I think you could see the difference in speed between us. I think we set the right tone. I don't care who you

are, you get down 20-0, you start to question everything."

Dallas didn't let up from there.

"They're physical, just like us," Cody Janssen said. "My brothers, we just tore it up."

Dallas will play at No. 1 Summit in the state quarterfinals on Friday.

Summit defeated No. 16 Crater 50-21 in the first round.

"I think offensively they have arguably the best quarterback around," Jackson said. "Defensively they are a

pressure defense. They are going to blitz everybody a lot of the time and we have to plan accordingly."

Before then, players celebrated a momentous occasion — the thrill of victory. It was a moment that, despite having ambitions to do more, will stick out for players long after the season ends.

"It means a lot for us," White said. "We haven't been super successful in the playoffs. We talked about creating our own legacies and we started that (on Friday)."

Central: Panthers to host Redmond Friday at 7 p.m.

Continued from Page 11A

"I think one thing is when you get to the post-season you want to see your guys really start coming together," Hedrick said. "I think we started seeing that the last couple games of the regular season and really proved that point on Friday."

The Panthers' were rewarded with one last home game of the season.

Central will host No. 14 Redmond in the quarterfinals Friday at 7 p.m.

Redmond defeated No. 3 Silverton 35-27 on Friday to advance.

"It's kind of funny, we hadn't even left the field yet and, with social media



Morales

Hedrick said. "I thought, let me celebrate this victory for a moment, but it will certainly be nice to play at home and have our home crowd."

Redmond poses a difficult challenge, with an offense that aims to confuse defenses.

It will require great discipline from the Panthers on defense to stop and get Redmond's offense off the field.

"Redmond is a team that is incredibly well-coached," Hedrick said. "They have an offense that you just don't see. Dallas' offense is problematic

enough. Redmond's is almost twice as complicated as what Dallas runs. I'm always glad we only play Dallas once a year. Now we have Redmond and trying to duplicate and see the people they bring in misdirection plays and how many times they hand the ball off in the backfield, we have our work cut out for us."

If Central wins, the Panthers advance to play the winner of No. 7 St. Helens versus No. 2 Wilsonville in the state semifinals on Nov. 18.

"We'll practice like we would for any other day," Hedrick said. "We'll fill the evening schedule a little bit more, maybe have a couple dinners together where we aren't coaches and players anymore. We're just human beings having dinner, and we are on equal ground. It's nice."

PREP FOOTBALL

Earhart, Tuipulotu earn player of the year honors

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Dallas senior Tanner Earhart and Central senior Marlon Tuipulotu were named the Mid-Willamette Conference's players of the year.

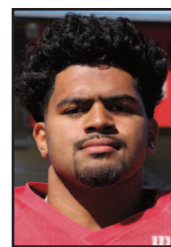
Earhart, the MWC's offensive player of the year, rushed for more than 1,500 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Tuipulotu, the league's defensive player of the year, recorded 44 tackles, four sacks and two fumble recoveries.

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE: Guard: Cody Janssen (Dallas, senior); tackle: Marlon Tuipulotu (Central, senior);

tight end: TJ Dimick (Dallas, junior); wide receiver: Peter Mason (Central, senior); running back: Tanner Earhart (Dallas, senior).

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE: Defensive line: Marlon Tuipulotu (Central, senior);



Tuipulotu

defensive line: Cade Caudill (Dallas, senior);

linebacker: Jacob Collins (Dallas, senior); defensive back: Peter Mason (Central, senior).

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE: Guard: Jordan Dickson (Central, junior); tackle: Josh Willden (Dallas, senior); running back: AJ Morales (Central, senior).

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE: Linebacker: Jackson Holstad (Central, senior); defensive back: Jason Richey (Dallas, senior).

HONORABLE MENTIONS: Guard: Tim Hensley (Dallas, senior); tackle: Kyle Aklin (Central, senior); tight end: Xander Bailey (Central,



Earhart

junior); wide receiver: Andrew Barry (Central, senior);

quarterback: Peter Mendazona (Central, junior); running back: Aaron White (Dallas, senior); defensive line: Sam Crow (Central, senior);

defensive line: Tim Hensley (Dallas, senior); defensive line: Josh Willden (Dallas, senior); linebacker: Jacob Ronco (Dallas, senior); linebacker: Brycen Grillo (Dallas, junior); linebacker: TJ Dimick (Dallas, junior); linebacker: Evan Courtney (Dallas, junior); defensive back: Marcus Cedillo (Central, junior); defensive back and kick returner: Aaron White (Dallas, senior).

PREP FOOTBALL

Mountaineers fall to Dufur in state playoffs

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DUFUR — Falls City's football coach Laric Cook has preached "trust the process" to his players.

The Mountaineers saw what they aspire to be during the team's 54-2 loss to Dufur on Friday in the first round of the 1A state playoffs.

"Dufur, they are the defending state champions," Cook said. "They brought back 80 to 90 percent of their starters. They're bigger, they're faster and they're stronger. That was the difference. They didn't play any harder than our kids. Our kids played their butts off."

The playoff game was the Mountaineer's first in 34 years.

Reaching state was a big step forward for the program, but Cook knows the offseason is where the real difference will be made as the Mountaineers got a taste of what it will take to succeed in the 1A state

playoffs.

"Somehow, we have to get faster," Cook said. "I want them to know we will show up anywhere and play anybody, anytime."

Offseason workout programs will be key.

The Mountaineers have seen what it takes to be a true contender in Class 1A.

Now, Cook hopes to lead Falls City to the next step in developing the program into a perennial contender — one that isn't afraid to play the best teams in the state.

"We want to know what it's like to be in a fight," Cook said. "I want them to be in the fight in the phone

booth. I don't want them to back down from that. I want them to get in there and be a part of it. We may not be the biggest or most talented, but by golly, we aren't scared of throwing our hat in the ring and standing toe to toe with you. You'll know you've been in a fight."

Field: Dragons will practice at Central this week

Continued from Page 1A

Larson reached out to Central athletics director Shane Hedrick.

"It's about helping your neighbor sometimes," Hedrick said. "In the community, when you get a law enforcement call, we rise together. This happened to be

an opportunity where their field wasn't playable and ours was available. It's an honor to let Dallas use the facility. Dallas had a big win against Eagle Point on the turf and it allowed the game to be decided on the field rather than a mud bowl. It was a matter of helping each

other out."

Dallas defeated Eagle Point 50-14 on Friday. As the Dragons celebrated a victory, players didn't seem to mind the change of venue.

"We had a little less of a crowd because of it, which is a bummer, but it's a better field," senior Caedmon Blair

said. "It's a field that we're not going to slip on."

Larson said the district has looked at possible plans to alleviate the drainage issues at Dallas High but are awaiting response from the city of Dallas on whether the district could tap into the city's sewer system. If granted ap-

proval, the district would look at potential costs.

Dallas City Manger Ron Foggin did not find whether the school district had sent in an official request to the city before press time.

Plans to fix the drainage system would entail more than just the football field,

Larson said.

"All the water that comes off the baseball, softball and practice fields all drains toward the south end zone," Larson said. "Addressing that would open the door to using the field more. We could have soccer under the lights."