

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
Boys basketball: Century/Hillsboro Tournament: Central vs. Tigard (at Century), 8:15 p.m. Dallas at Pendleton, noon. Falls City vs. Firm Foundation (at Southwest Christian), 4:30 p.m.

Girls basketball: Nike Interstate Shootout: Dallas vs. TBA, TBA. Valley 10 Tournament: Falls City vs. Camas Valley (at Southwest Christian), 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29
Boys basketball: Century/Hillsboro Tournament: Central vs. TBA, TBA. Falls City at Portland Waldorf, 3:30 p.m. Mapleton at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.

Girls basketball: Nike Interstate Shootout: Dallas vs. TBA, TBA. Valley 10 Tournament: Falls City at Portland Waldorf, 2 p.m. Mapleton at Perrydale, 4 p.m.

Men's basketball: Central Washington at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

Women's basketball: Western Oregon at Simon Fraser, 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling: Central, Dallas at Northwest Duals, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30
Boys basketball: Century/Hillsboro Tournament: Central vs. TBA, TBA.

Girls basketball: Nike Interstate Shootout: Dallas vs. TBA, TBA.

Wrestling: Central, Dallas at Northwest Duals, 9 a.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 31
Men's basketball: Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon, 2 p.m.

Women's basketball: Western Oregon at Western Washington, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 2
Girls basketball: Central at West Albany, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 3
Boys basketball: Putnam vs. Central, 7 p.m. Falls City at Oregon School for the Deaf, 7 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian at Perrydale, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball: Putnam at Dallas, 7 p.m. Falls City at Oregon School for the Deaf, 5:30 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4
Wrestling: Central at 4-way league duals (at Woodburn), 4 p.m. Dallas at 4-Way league duals (at Lebanon), 4 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Central boys lose to Churchill

EUGENE — Central's boys basketball team lost to Churchill 73-49 on Dec. 21. Churchill led 37-33 at the half before using a third-quarter surge to pull away for the victory. The Panthers (2-3 overall) will compete at the Century/Hillsboro Tournament Wednesday (today) through Friday before hosting Putnam Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Dallas girls defeat Hillsboro

HILLSBORO — Dallas' girls basketball team defeated Hillsboro 46-43 on Dec. 21. Olivia Nelson scored 12 points to lead the Dragons. Becca Ronco added 10 points, and Stefani Tallon scored nine points. The Dragons trailed 29-28 entering the fourth quarter.

Dallas played Sherwood Tuesday after press time. The Dragons will compete at the Nike Interstate Shootout Wednesday (today) through Friday before hosting Putnam Tuesday at 7 p.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Richey fires up Dragons

Senior expands game to become a more complete leader



Dallas senior Jason Richey scored 16 points during the Dragons 61-50 victory over Redmond on Dec. 21. Richey scored 18 points against North Eugene on Thursday.

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-ObsERVER

DALLAS — Senior Jason Richey showed flashes of offensive brilliance for Dallas' boys basketball team.

"Over the course of last year, he developed the ability to score in a number of ways," coach Trent Schwartz said.

Richey could shoot the long ball, loft a floater, and get to the basket, and carved out a clear role on varsity.

"He was a good spark coming off the bench," Schwartz said.

Coming off the bench is no longer the case for Richey.

He has upped his game in every facet and has seen it evolve in new ways.

Perhaps the biggest change in his offensive game is his passing. Forced to play point guard earlier this season when Aaron White missed time due to illness, Richey showed off his skills

as a distributor.

"I would say I'm a better passer (than last season)," Richey said. "It gives me more confidence to drive to the basket knowing I can pass it out if I get stuck."

Add in his ability to hit shots from all over the court, and Richey has become one of the Dragons' most difficult players to stop.

"It makes them respect your shot," Richey said. "Once you hit a few outside shots, your inside game opens up and vice versa. It helps both ways."

Richey scored a team-high 18 points during a 44-40 win over North Eugene on Thursday; 16 points during a 61-50 victory over Redmond on Dec. 21; and 11 points during a 59-54 loss to North Salem on Dec. 20.

But his biggest improvements have little to do with putting the ball in the basket.

See RICHEY, Page 11A

Basketball

- Dallas' boys basketball team competed at the Rebel Basketball Classic.
- The Dragons defeated Redmond 61-50 on Dec. 21 and North Eugene 44-40 on Thursday.
- Jason Richey had 18 points against North Eugene. Carter Weisensee added nine points, while Aaron White scored five points, grabbed four rebounds and had three steals.
- Dallas (3-3 overall) played Hermiston Tuesday after press time. The Dragons close out nonleague play at Pendleton Wednesday (today) at noon.

PREP SWIMMING

Holstad displays talent, confidence

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-ObsERVER

INDEPENDENCE — Central freshman swimmer Grace Holstad doesn't like to lose.

Whether she's swimming the butterfly during a meet or swimming against teammates during a practice, Holstad has a singular goal in mind: Finish before anyone else.

"I'm a super-competitive person," Holstad said. "I always want to be first."

Holstad has her sights set on making her presence felt in the world of swimming.

Swimming is in the DNA of the Holstad family.

Holstad's mother swam the freestyle at the Junior Olympics, and there was little doubt that Grace would follow suit and grow to love the water.

Turns out Grace, who began swimming competitively at the age of 7, loved the thrill of victory.

"I've been swimming as long as I can remember," she said. "I love it. I love the competitive feeling. I love when there's someone neck-in-neck with me. There's nothing else that compares to it."

Grace quickly settled into a stroke that gives many swimmers great difficulty — the butterfly.

"I don't remember if it was hard for me at the beginning, but I just knew I liked it and had fun working at it," Holstad said. "It is a difficult stroke. I like how it challenges me. It's just fun."

See HOLSTAD, Page 11A



Central freshman swimmer Grace Holstad hopes to make state in the butterfly.

PERRYDALE BASKETBALL

Boys, girls fall in close contests

Itemizer-ObsERVER staff report

BANDON — For the first time this season, Perrydale's boys basketball team was truly tested. The Pirates defeated Yoncalla 53-44 in the first round of the Bandon Dunes Invitational before falling to Pacific 50-49 on Dec. 21.

Perrydale's game against Yoncalla was a tight contest throughout, coach Brian Domes said.

"We had our first taste of adversity," Domes said. "It was good to see them tested. We figured we were going to get a win, but we thought it'd be easier. It was a tough game."

The Pirates raced out to a 21-6 lead over Pacific, but Pacific fought back. In the



Domes



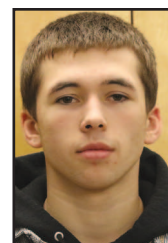
Janesofsky

fourth quarter, the lead changed multiple times, and Perrydale fell just short of a victory.

"I have to give (Pacific) credit," Domes said. "They dug in and stayed with it."

Haylen Janesofsky, Daniel

Domes and Cooper Butler all performed well, Brian Domes said. The team is



Butler

searching for consistency from its other contributors.

"I think we needed this," Domes

said. "I think you can learn more from being on the losing side. With some of our less-experienced players, we want them to understand the importance of where we need to be defensively."

Perrydale hosts Mapleton Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Willamette Valley Christian Tuesday at 7 p.m.

GIRLS SPLIT GAMES AT INVITATIONAL: Perrydale's girls basketball team found itself in



Starr

a pair of tightly contested games at the Bandon Dunes Invitational. The Pirates defeated Yoncalla 24-20 on Dec. 20, but lost to Pacific 36-32 on Dec. 21.

"I was really happy (with what I saw)," coach Terry Newton said. "We had one practice in the last 10 days, and the first game — we struggled a bit, but did what we had to do to win the game. Against Pacific, we played really hard and battled."

Senior Sierra Starr suffered an injury during the Pacific game and did not return, but the Pirates continued to compete well, Newton said.

"It was a challenge for us," he said. "They made a lot of mistakes. That's part of being young, but they also forced a lot of mistakes."

The invitational served as a good lesson for the Pirates, Newton said.

"I hope they learn to understand to play more patiently," he said. "They tend to want to try to get everything real quick."

Perrydale hosts Mapleton Thursday at 4 p.m. and Willamette Valley Christian Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

As the Pirates continue to learn on the fly, Newton is excited to see how quickly this team can develop.

"I think a month from now we'll be a totally different team," he said. "They're playing fairly well as a young core right now."