

Central: Panthers open league play on Friday

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 “I think it’s all fun,” Jesse said.
 The chemistry between them was clear from the start, Kreta said, and the team is benefitting from it. Will has grown into a leader,

and Jesse can keep Will’s head in the game, when necessary.
 “They have great chemistry,” Kreta said.
 The Panthers lost to Tigard 48-34 on Dec. 28 before defeating Milwaukie 62-

46 on Thursday and Mountain View 51-46 on Friday to win the consolation bracket at the Century/Hillsboro Tournament.
 Central now turns its attention to a critical part of the season.

The Panthers closed out its nonleague season against Putnam Tuesday after press time.
 Central opens Mid-Willamette Conference play Friday at Silverton at 7 p.m. before hosting South Albany

on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.
 The Panthers, which entered the week with a 4-4 record overall, experienced an up-and-down ride during the nonleague season, but the experience has players confident they are

prepared for a run at a league title.
 “We’re progressing pretty dang well,” Will said. “It doesn’t show how hard we are working. I think we’re going to be top notch once league comes around.”

WOU: Omlid records back-to-back double-doubles

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 Western Oregon appeared to be well on its way to a second-straight victory against Northwest Nazarene before a second-half collapse cost the

Wolves a victory.
 WOU led 40-20 at the half, but the Crusaders went on a 32-8 run during the second half en route to a comeback victory.
 Omlid recorded his sec-

ond-straight double-double in the losing effort, with 23 points and 11 rebounds. He also had three steals.
 Western Oregon (5-7 overall, 2-2 Great Northwest

Athletic Conference) plays at Seattle Pacific on Thursday and at Saint Martin’s on Saturday.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL LOSES TWO: Western Oregon’s women’s basketball team lost

to Simon Fraser 71-57 on Thursday and Western Washington 86-65 on Saturday. Savannah Heugly, Ali Nelke and Sydney Azorr scored 10 points each to lead the Wolves against Simon Fraser. Shelby

Snook led WOU against Western Washington with 16 points. WOU hosts Alaska Anchorage Thursday at 7 p.m. and Alaska Fairbanks Saturday at 2 p.m. before playing at Concordia Tuesday at 7 p.m.

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Pirates fall to Lowell

Itemizer-Observer staff report
PERRYDALE — Facing an experienced Lowell squad, Perrydale’s girls basketball team lost 39-20 on Thursday.
 “I think for the first time, we didn’t come out prepared to play,” coach Terry Newton said. “We weren’t attacking and Lowell it to us.”
 Lowell pressed the Pirates, giving its offense troubles all game long, Newton said.
 “It wasn’t anything that surprised us or that we hadn’t seen before,” Newton said. “But when you see a bunch of older girls who are a little bit bigger, our girls aren’t used to the physicality of the game. That’s something we weren’t ready for.”
 Perrydale played Willamette Valley Christian Tuesday after press time — a team that Newton considers one of the favorites to

win the Casco League this season.
 The Pirates play at Jewell on Thursday at 5:30 p.m., at Damascus Christian on Saturday at 4 p.m. and at Livingstone Adventist on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
 “I think compared to a month ago, this team looks totally different,” Newton said. “I’m happy with our progress so far. At some point they have to understand that we can’t keep making the same mistakes.”
BOYS DEFEAT MAPLETON: Perrydale’s boys basketball team topped Mapleton 65-41 on Thursday. The Pirates (6-1 overall, 2-0 Casco League) played Willamette Valley Christian Tuesday after press time. Perrydale plays at Jewell Thursday at 7 p.m., at Damascus Christian Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and at Livingstone Adventist Tuesday at 7 p.m.

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Girls place fifth at shootout

Itemizer-Observer staff report
LAKE OSWEGO — Dallas’ girls basketball team finished fifth in the Game Day bracket at the Nike Interstate Shootout last week.
 The Dragons dropped their opening game of the tournament, losing to Sherwood 43-23 on Dec. 27. Dallas bounced back to defeat Hermiston 35-30 on Dec. 28, Springfield 35-25 on Thursday and West Albany 40-37 on Friday.
 Emma Classen scored a team-high 11 points against Hermiston, and Stefani Tallon added 10 points.
 Olivia Nelson scored a game-high 12 points



Classen

against Springfield, and Katie Senger recorded a game-high 15 points against West Albany.
 Dallas’ game against Putnam on Tuesday was postponed. The Dragons travel to face Lebanon Friday at 7 p.m. before hosting Crescent Valley Tuesday at 7 p.m.
WRESTLING TAKES FIFTH: Dallas’ wrestling team finished fifth in the top bracket at the Northwest Duals on Thursday



Bibler

and Friday.
 The Dragons opened play by going 4-0 in the Lamont Simons bracket, defeating Beaverton, Hood River Valley, Newberg 2 and Lowell.
 The Dragons defeated Bend before falling to Newberg 1 in the top bracket quarterfinals. Dallas defeated North Marion and David Douglas to finish fifth.
 “We had some big performances by Ryan Bibler, Dawson Barcroft, Jacob Jones, Joe Foster, Cody Janssen, Treve and

Tanner Earhart and Clay Coxen,” coach Tony Olliff said. “We also got a lot of help from Bryce Miller, P.J. Holgate, Bryce Jordan and Orion Knudson.”
 Dallas will travel to Lebanon Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. for a three-way dual. Lebanon won the Mid-Willamette Conference Championship in 2016.
BOYS FALL TO PENDLETON: Dallas’ boys basketball team lost to Pendleton 47-34 on Dec. 28. Carter Weisensee scored 11 points to lead the Dragons. Jason Richey added eight points.
 Dallas hosts Lebanon Thursday at 7 p.m. before playing at Hermiston Friday at 7 p.m. and at Crescent Valley on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Wrestling finishes 16th

Itemizer-Observer staff report
ALBANY — Central’s wrestling team finished 16th at the Northwest Duals on Friday and Saturday.
 The Panthers finished fifth in the Jim Phillips bracket, advancing to the middle bracket, where Cen-

tral finished 16th. Senior David Negrete (220 pounds) went undefeated during the duals.
 “We were able to learn from all the duals we wrestled,” coach Van Holstad said.
 The Panthers travel to

Woodburn to compete in a four-way league dual Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before competing at the Bob Bishop Invitational on Saturday. Central hosts Corvallis on Jan. 11 at 4 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL DE-

FEATS WEST ALBANY: Central’s girls basketball team defeated West Albany 47-38 on Monday. Stats were not available as of press time. The Panthers (3-4 overall) open Mid-Willamette Conference play by hosting Silverton Friday at 7 p.m. before playing at South Albany Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Falls City: Girls go 3-0 at tourney

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 “It’s a lot of learning and growing,” Houghtaling said. “We’re doing a lot of drills and it’s fast paced, especially for the freshmen, but they are getting the hang of it and jumping right in.”
 That progress has shown up in the results as of late.
 The Mountaineers reeled off three-straight wins, defeating St. Stephens Academy 48-36 on Dec. 27, Camas Valley 35-26 on Dec. 28 and Portland Waldorf 29-23 on Thursday — victories that coach Micke Kidd said show that little by little, Falls City is putting together the pieces.
 “The girls were aggressive throughout the tournament,” Kidd said. “They attempted 53 free throws during the three games.”
 That is in part because of leadership from returning varsity players, including Houghtaling.
 Though only a sophomore, she is embracing her role as a leader.
 Houghtaling led the Mountaineers in scoring in each of the team’s three wins, scoring 23 against St. Stephens, 16 against Camas Valley and 20 against Portland Waldorf.
 “I really tried to work on my ball handling and working to get open,” Houghtaling said. “I don’t want to just stand there. I want to get open and after a shot, attack the rim and rebound. I’m trying to be a role model of what we should be doing.”

The hope is by building, Falls City will see its hard work pay off for years to come.
 “Maybe not this year, but next year we want to be at the district tournament,” Houghtaling said. “This is what this year is all about, building to next year.”
BOYS BASKETBALL WINS THREE: The boys basketball team won three games last week. The Mountaineers defeated Trinity Lutheran 49-47 on Dec. 27, Firm Foundation 55-30 on Dec. 28 and Portland Waldorf 60-37 on Thursday.
 “We are working a lot harder than we have in the past,” Jeremy Labrado said. “At first it started out with coach pushing us to go harder. Gradually we’ve kind of taken over to work hard ourselves.”
 That hard work paid off last week.
 Labrado scored 22 points against Trinity Lutheran — including a lay-in with two seconds left in overtime, and Austin Burgess added 18 points and 11 rebounds. Zach Varney scored seven points and hauled in 13 rebounds.
 Against Firm Foundation, Burgess had 21 points, and Labrado scored 18 points.
 Labrado and Burgess led Falls City again against Portland Waldorf. Labrado scored 23 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and Burgess recorded 18 points and nine rebounds. Varney narrowly missed a double-double, with nine points and 10 rebounds.
 Falls City entered Tuesday’s game against Oregon School for the Deaf on a four-game win streak.




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