

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25
Boys basketball: Central at Corvallis, 7 p.m. Jewell at Falls City, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Crosshill Christian, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Jewell at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at Crosshill Christian, 5:30 p.m.
Wrestling: Central at Dallas, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 26
Men's basketball: Western Oregon at Northwest Nazarene, 6:30 p.m.
Women's basketball: Western Washington at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 27
Boys basketball: Central at Woodburn, 7 p.m. South Albany at Dallas, 7 p.m. Falls City at Perrydale, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Woodburn at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at South Albany, 7 p.m. Falls City at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.
Track and field: Western Oregon at University of Washington Invitational, TBA.

SATURDAY, JAN. 28
Boys basketball: Perrydale at St. Paul, 3:30 p.m.
Girls basketball: Perrydale at St. Paul, 2 p.m.
Men's basketball: Western Oregon at Central Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Track and field: Western Oregon at University of Washington Invitational, TBA.
Women's basketball: Simon Fraser at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: Central at Robert Paul Invitational, TBA.

MONDAY, JAN. 30
Boys basketball: Perrydale at Falls City, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Putnam at Dallas, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 31
Boys basketball: Silverton at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at Lebanon, 7 p.m. Oregon School for the Deaf at Falls City, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Oregon School for the Deaf at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.
Swimming: Central at Silverton, 4 p.m. Dallas at South Albany, 4 p.m.

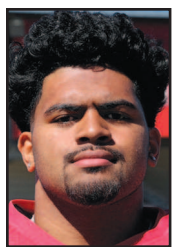
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1
Girls basketball: Central at Silverton, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: Central at Lebanon, 6 p.m. Dallas at Woodburn, 6 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

CENTRAL SWIMMING

Tuipulotu flips to USC

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer



Tuipulotu

INDEPENDENCE — Marlon Tuipulotu announced on Monday that he would be flipping his commitment from the University of Washington to the University of Southern California.

Tuipulotu shared a written statement Twitter but declined to comment further as of Monday night: "Never thought this day would come, but after talking to my family and prayers with them about

this situation, I have decided to decommit from the University of Washington. This was a tough decision for me, and I have nothing but love for the players, the school, and the coaches at the university. A special thanks to Coach Pete and Coach Malloe as they recruited me from the beginning and were one of the first

schools to offer. I honestly wish them nothing but the absolute best in everything they do. From here, I would like to announce that I am still planning to graduate early and will be attending the University of Southern California."

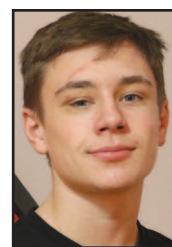
The 6-foot-2, 295-pound defensive tackle verbally committed to Washington last April.

The senior recently competed in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl and was rated the top defensive tackle in the country by 247 Sports.

DALLAS WRESTLING

Dragons take second at Reser's tournament

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer



Foster

HILLSBORO — Dallas' wrestling team sent a clear message to its 5A competition: It's on.

The Dragons finished second overall at the Reser's Tournament of Champions on Friday and Saturday. Roseburg, a 6A school, finished first.

"When you're competing against the best 5A schools, the Hermistons, the Red-

monds, the Hillsboros and the like, you want to fare very well against them," coach Tony Olliff said.

"We were with preoccupied with the 5A schools and how we matched up against them. Finishing ahead of them was good."

See DALLAS, Page 13A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central's Annika Riddell (22) battles Dallas' Stefani Tallon for a loose ball on Friday night. The Panthers defeated the Dragons 42-40.

Panthers rally for thrilling 42-40 victory over Dallas

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer



Riddell

INDEPENDENCE — It was a thrilling finish fit for a rivalry game.

After trailing by eight early in the fourth quarter, Central rallied against Dallas. The teams tied at 40 with time running down in the fourth quarter. Now, the Panthers had a chance to take the lead with time winding down.

"We wanted to do our usual out-of-bounds play, which usually goes to Annika (Riddell) in the post because of her height," Central coach Julie McDonald said. "We saw that

a smaller girl was guarding Meagan Mendazona (Mendazona), so we went to her. Her determination and athleticism can get her to the hole, and if she didn't make (the shot), Annika would be on the opposite side to get the rebound. I felt we had the advantage both ways."

Mendazona took the in-bounds pass and drove right to the hoop. Her shot clanked off the rim, but Riddell was in position to grab

the rebound and go up for another shot.

"I thought, you better make this," Riddell said.

Riddell made the put back — and got fouled.

Her foul shot, however, was less successful, missing the rim entirely.

"I was freaking out and was really nervous," Riddell said.

The missed free throw gave Dallas a chance to inbound the ball. The Dragons were out of timeouts. And Central could foul without sending a Dallas player to the free-throw line, helping to run time off the clock. There was only one rule — don't foul if

Dallas was shooting.

The Dragons got the ball in and sprinted up the court. The Panthers fouled as planned — but not without a bit of controversy. The refs huddled together to discuss how much time was left on the clock and whether Dallas' player was in the shooting motion when fouled.

"I didn't really see what happened, so I was really nervous," Riddell said.

The refs decided the shooting motion had not begun, and the Dragons weren't able to send the game into overtime.

"It feels amazing," Mariah Hyre said. "We kept pushing

Showdown

- Central's girls basketball team defeated Dallas 42-40 on Friday.
- It was the Panthers' fifth game to be decided by three points or less. Central had been 0-4 in those games entering Friday.
- The Panthers return home to host Woodburn Friday at 7 p.m.

each other. We knew we had to beat Dallas."

The victory was a big moment. Central entered its game against Dallas with a 4-7 record overall.

Of the Panthers' seven losses, four have come by three points or less — including a 45-44 loss to Lebanon on Jan. 17. All but one of the team's losses have come by single digits.

Central kept showing improvements, but they weren't resulting in wins.

"We're so young," McDonald said. "You look at these other teams and they have five, six, seven seniors, and we have one. We keep telling them to keep working and looking at the big picture here."

There was little doubt the team could be competitive, but players experienced how difficult it can be to close out a game.

On Friday, the lessons players learned through all the close calls paid off.

"We've been in that situation so many times," McDonald said. "We worked on being confident and showing confidence. We created some fouls and didn't let up on defense."

See CENTRAL, Page 12A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central guard Meagan Mendazona looks to split Dallas' Jordan Dippel and Olivia Nelson on Friday.

QUICK HITS

BDST competes at Lebanon

LEBANON — The Blue Dolphins Swim Team competed at the Lebanon Invitational on Saturday and Sunday.

David Beasley won the boys 200-yard freestyle (11-12) with a time of 2 minutes, 38.85 seconds. Beasley also took first in the 100 freestyle (11-12) in 1:13.82, the 100 backstroke in 1:19.25 and the 50 backstroke (11-12) with a time of 36.25 seconds.

Lonny Stork took first in the girls 50 breaststroke (11-12) in 42.64 seconds and the 50 butterfly (11-12) with a time of 36.04 seconds. Taylor Hagedorn finished first in the 100 butterfly (11-12) in 1:16.20, and Gentry Hagedorn won the 50 butterfly (9-10) with a time of 37.60 seconds.

Other top finishes included a second-place finish in the boys 100 breaststroke (9-10) by Cash Hagedorn in 2:01.10. He also placed second in the 100 backstroke (9-10) in 1:46.40.

The Blue Dolphins also saw second-place finishes from Gentry Hagedorn in the girls 50 freestyle (9-10) in 33.18 and in the girls 200 individual medley (11-12) from Taylor Hagedorn in 2:43.75 and in the boys 50 butterfly (9-10) by Vasilerios Karatzas in 1:01.44.

For more information on the Blue Dolphins Swim Team: www.bluedolphin-swimteam.org.