

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8
Boys basketball: Dallas at Milwaukie, 7:15 p.m.
Girls basketball: Crescent Valley at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9
Baseball: Western Oregon at Fresno Pacific, 6 p.m.
Boys basketball: Perrydale at Oregon School for the Deaf, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Perrydale at Oregon School for the Deaf, 5:30 p.m.
Men's basketball: Western Oregon at Western Washington, 7 p.m.
Women's basketball: Montana State Billings at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10
Baseball: Western Oregon at Fresno Pacific (DH), 2 p.m.
Boys basketball: South Albany at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 7 p.m. Falls City at C.S. Lewis, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Crescent Valley at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Swimming: Central, Dallas at Mid-Willamette Conference District Championships at Corvallis, 12:30 p.m.
Track and field: Western Oregon at the Husky Classic, TBA.
Wrestling: Central, Dallas at Mid-Willamette Conference District Championships at Corvallis, 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11
Baseball: Western Oregon at Fresno Pacific, 11 a.m.
Boys basketball: Falls City at Jewell, 4 p.m.
Girls basketball: Central at Wilsonville, 3:30 p.m. Falls City at Jewell, 2:30 p.m.
Men's basketball: Western Oregon at Simon Fraser, 7 p.m.
Swimming: Central, Dallas at Mid-Willamette Conference District Championships at Corvallis, 1:30 p.m.
Track and field: Western Oregon at Husky Classic, TBA.
Wrestling: Central, Dallas at Mid-Willamette Conference District Championships at Corvallis, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 13
Softball: Western Oregon at Hawaii Pacific (DH), 1 p.m. (HT).

TUESDAY, FEB. 14
Boys basketball: Central at Lebanon, 7 p.m. Dallas at Silverton, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15
Girls basketball: Lebanon at Central, 7 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Softball: Western Oregon at Chaminade (DH), 4:30 p.m. (HT).

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Panther wrestlers place at tourney

SALEM — Three Panther wrestlers placed at the Oregon Folkstyle Championships Jan. 28 and 29.

Brock Pierce placed second in the school boy/girl 152-pound class. Kevin Villa finished second in the Cadet 195 class and Liliana Alvarez took second in the Bantam 70 class.

WOU football welcomes 31

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon football signed 31 players on National Signing Day on Feb. 1.

The Wolves signed players from four states, including Oregon (13), Washington (12), California (five) and Nevada (one).

"We are excited about the athleticism, size and length of our recruiting class," coach Arne Ferguson said.

Western Oregon finished 4-6 overall and 3-5 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play during the 2016 campaign.

A full list of players is available online at www.wouwolves.com.

PREP WRESTLING



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas wrestler Ryan Bibler, right, is among those looking to qualify for state this weekend.

PREP WRESTLING

Central looks for strong showing

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central's wrestling team is ready to stomp the competition at the Mid-Willamette Conference District Wrestling Championship Friday and Saturday at Corvallis High School.

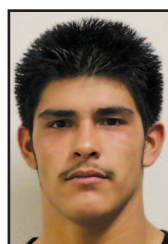
"We are expecting our wrestlers to be at their best for the district tournament," coach Van Holstad said. "This is the time to peak for us."

Districts represents a challenge for Holstad — getting his players mentally prepared without putting too much pressure on them.

"We try to have them approach the district tournament the same as other big tournaments," Holstad said. "It is difficult due to the fact that it is a state qualifier, but they need to come out and wrestle hard the entire tournament."

The Panthers hope to be a major player at districts in Corvallis with several wrestlers, including Sam Crow, David Negrete, Noah Worthington and Chris Polanco, all who should be in contention for a trip to state.

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Negrete



Crow

Back for more

Dragons look to reclaim district championship

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Selective memory. That's what Dallas' wrestling team aims to have ahead of the Mid-Willamette Conference District Championships Friday and Saturday at Corvallis High School.

"You have to remember what you here, but forget about the accomplishments because none of that matters," senior Cody Janssen said. "All that matters right now is districts."

For now, the goal is simple — qualify as many wrestlers as they can for state and win a district title.

Last year, the Dragons finished second as a team — the first time in six years they didn't win a district title. It's safe to say wrestlers want to reclaim that title.

"We got something taken from us last year," Dawson Barcroft said. "But now, we're back."

But the Dragons also know that districts isn't the ultimate goal, and this year could provide a golden opportunity to win state.

Dallas appears to have several wrestlers who could contend for a trip to state. Among those include Tanner and Treve Earhart, Clay Coxen, Janssen, Barcroft, Joseph Foster and Ryan Bibler, but expect a few wrinkles come districts.

See DALLAS, Page 14A

District championships

What: Mid-Willamette Conference District Wrestling Championships.
When: Friday, 11 a.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.
Where: Corvallis High School.
Who: Dallas, Central, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Lebanon, Silverton, South Albany and Woodburn high schools.

Admission: Adults, \$6; students, \$4.
What's at stake: The top four placers in each weight class qualify for the OSAA Class 5A state wrestling championships, to be held Feb. 24-25 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.



PREP SWIMMING

Glade brings strong state of mind

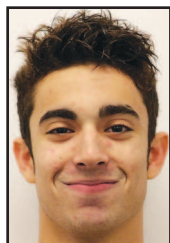
Glade, Holstad among Central's best hopefuls to qualify for the state meet

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — There was a moment that Central junior swimmer Daniel Glade had an epiphany.

"You can go as far as you let your mind lets you go," Glade said. "You realize if you believe you can do it, you can."

It was at the Mid-Willamette Conference District swimming champi-



Glade

onships his freshman year that he found a mental strength that had eluded him.

"I got into a certain state of mind," Glade said. "I had this focus that I hadn't had before."

Glade set personal records that year and

made it to state as part of the 200-yard medley relay team.

After missing out on qualifying for state last season, he's looking to book a return trip as a junior.

"I would feel a lot of joy," Glade said. "Going to state my freshman year with Nathan (Glade) and Ryan (Rosas) and Orion (Waigh) was a great experience. It'd be awesome to relive that in a way."

See GLADE, Page 15A

Battle For State Berths

What: Mid-Willamette Conference District Swimming Championships.
When: Friday, 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Where: Osborn Pool, Corvallis.
Who: Dallas, Central, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Lebanon, Silverton and South Albany.

Admission: Adults, \$6; students (with I.D.), \$4; children, \$4.
What's at stake: The winner of each individual and relay event automatically qualifies for the Class 5A state swim meet, scheduled Feb. 17-18 at Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center in Gresham.

Available wildcard spots are given to the fastest competitors, up to 12 participants.

PREP SWIMMING

Ford tries for 'perfect' finish

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — This isn't anything new for Dallas senior swimmer Jolie-Rae Ford.

She's been a fixture as a top contender at the Mid-Willamette Conference district championships ever since she arrived as a freshman — earning a trip to the state championships in each of her first three seasons.

When she enters the pool in Corvallis on Friday and Saturday, the situation will be familiar — but the circumstance new.

"It's a little weird to think it's my last year," Ford said. "It doesn't feel different — just a little strange. ... In the past, I always thought, 'well I can try that next year.' I can't do that now. I think it's going to be a lot of fun. I'm excited



Ford

to see what we can do there. I want to make this one memorable."

Ford, a lifelong swimmer, has always felt at home in the water, and it's shaped her into the person she is today.

"I have a much better work ethic and teamwork ability than a lot of people do," Ford said. "With swimming, you usually don't know anyone who is on the team, and you have to learn to work with them in a short amount of time. That's a great skill to have."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

Dallas senior Jolie-Rae Ford hopes to qualify for state for the fourth time.

the state meet.

"I think I'd be a completely different person," Ford said. "I probably wouldn't have done any sports at all.

If I did, it'd be gymnastics. That's crazy."

With the swim season winding down, Ford hopes to continue swimming com-

petitively in college. But she knows nothing will match the experience she's had in high school.

See FORD, Page 14A