

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Track and field: Dallas, Falls City, Perrydale at Canby All-Comers, noon.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
Baseball: Perrydale at Colton, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
Baseball: Central at The Dalles (DH), 2 p.m. Western Oregon at Northwest Nazarene (DH), 2 p.m.

Softball: Tournament of Champions (at Turlock, Calif.): Western Oregon vs. Holy Names, 9 a.m. Western Oregon vs. University of California, San Diego, 11:30 a.m.

Track and field: Western Oregon at San Francisco State Distance Carnival and Stanford Invitational, all day.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1
Baseball: Western Oregon at Northwest Nazarene (DH), noon.

Softball: Tournament of Champions (at Turlock, Calif.): Western Oregon vs. Academy of Art, 9 a.m. Western Oregon vs. Cal State Dominguez Hills, 3 p.m.

Track and field: Western Oregon at San Francisco State Distance Carnival and Stanford Invitational, all day.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
Softball: Tournament of Champions (at Turlock, Calif.): Western Oregon vs. Sonoma State, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3
Boys golf: Central, Dallas at Cross Creek (Dallas), 10 a.m.

Girls golf: Central, Dallas at Springhill (Albany), 12:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
Baseball: Central at Silverton, 4:30 p.m. Lebanon at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Country Christian at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

Boys tennis: Central at Crescent Valley, 4 p.m. Dallas at Silverton, 4 p.m.

Girls tennis: Crescent Valley at Central, 4 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 4 p.m.

Softball: Central at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Amity at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
Baseball: Silverton at Central, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. Western Oregon at Concordia, 4 p.m.

Softball: Dallas at Central, 4:30 p.m.

Track and field: Central at Silverton, 3:45 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 3:45 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Cross Creek men's club results

DALLAS — Cross Creek's men's club results for March 21:

Low gross/low net
 Gross: 1, Jim Schroeder, 41; 2, (tie), Rocky Kygar and Bill Karjala, 42.

Net: 1, Jack Duncan, 35; 2 (tie), Lee Taylor and Larry Hatcher, 37; 4 (tie), Greg Fisher and Wayne Weathers, 39.

Cross Creek summer league

DALLAS — Cross Creek Golf Course will hold an informational meeting on April 5 at 5:30 p.m. for team captains of summer league teams.

There is still time for players to sign up for the league, which consists of teams of six to 12 players who will compete on Wednesday nights from May to September.

Entry fee is \$100 per team. Teams share in the winnings.

Teams can be made up of individuals, families and/or represent a local business.

For more information: Lynn Hurt, 503-910-3925 or Dave Watson, 503-871-2731.

DALLAS TENNIS

Blair evolves on the court



Dallas senior Caedmon Blair returns a shot against Woodburn on March 22.

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — As a freshman, Caedmon Blair was faced with a decision.

He wanted to find a sport to play in the spring, and it came down to two choices: track and field, or tennis.

"I didn't want to run track, so I decided to play tennis," Blair said.

His first two seasons, he played doubles with former Dallas player Cole Oace.

The pair found some success on varsity, but Blair didn't figure tennis would become a passion.

"I'm always competitive, but at first (tennis) was more fun than anything else," Blair said. "That changed probably last year when I switched to singles. I saw that I had a chance to do something special with it."

As a junior, Blair played singles, but fell short of qualifying for state.

He spent time in the off-season playing with coach Caleb Gillette and saw himself evolve from an athlete playing tennis to a true tennis player.

"My backhand is better and my forehand is better," Blair said. "I have more power, definitely and a better understanding of the game. Last year, my forehand was more of a dinky shot and I was just trying to get the ball into play. This year, I can place the ball to certain spots. It brings another aspect to the game instead of just running around on the court."

Blair's evolution has not gone unnoticed as the senior has played in Dallas' top singles spot.

His match against Woodburn on March 22 showed both his potential and what needs to improve if he wants to achieve his goal of reaching state.

During his match, Blair showed off impressive speed and power — but also struggled to place shots — committing numerous unforced errors.

The wind likely had an effect. The match showed that Blair has the potential, but needs to fine tune if he wants to compete with the league's best players.

See BLAIR, Page 12A

Tennis time

- Dallas' boys tennis team will play at Silverton Tuesday at 4 p.m. The Dragons return home to host South Albany on April 6 at 4 p.m., weather permitting.
- Dallas' girls tennis team defeated Woodburn 8-0 on March 22 and plays at North Marion on Monday before hosting Silverton Tuesday at 4 p.m., weather permitting.
- Follow the *Itemizer-Observer* on Twitter for updates.

CENTRAL TRACK AND FIELD

One giant leap

Henke sets school record in girls triple jump during first meet

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — On March 15, Central's track and field team hosted Crescent Valley for its first meet of the season.

Spirits were high among several of the Panther athletes.

Sophomore Sophia Henke wasn't one of them.

"The weather wasn't good, and I was stressed out," Henke said. "I didn't even know I was supposed to do the triple jump that day."

Her plan was just to scratch the event, but decided to give it a go.

Even though she participated, she wasn't pleased with how her jumps felt.

"It didn't feel right," she said. "I thought, did I really just jump that?"

But Henke said jumps coach Kirk Saxman was far more positive — and with good reason. Henke set the school mark in the triple jump with a mark of 35 feet, 7 inches, breaking the previous mark of 35-1½.

"I wasn't expecting that at all," Henke said. "It was crazy, but pretty cool that it happened."

Henke is a versatile athlete for Central's track team. She has competed in sprints, relay teams and

Track meet

• Central's track and field team competed against North Marion and Woodburn on March 22.

• Isaac Burgett won the boys 200-meter run in 24.36 seconds and the 400 in 53.70. Other first place finishes included Aaron Padilla (800, 2:06.83), Zach Meyer (1,500, 4:28.34), Josh Dickson (300 hurdles, 42.86), Kyle Aklin (shot put, 44 feet, 10 inches), Alec Barba (high jump, 5-8), James Rand (pole vault, 11-0), Peter Mason (long jump, 19-7) and Xander Bailey (triple jump, 36-9).

• Bethanie Altamirano won the girls 100 in 13.30. Other first-place finishes included Bailie Hartford (1,500, 5:23.33), Diana Nye (3,000, 13:10.43), Annie Taylor (300 hurdles, 58.55), and Lexy Anderson (javelin, 84-9).

Central will compete at Silverton on April 5. First event begins at 3:45 p.m.

jump events.

But Henke struggled to build momentum during her freshman year.

"She experienced some injuries last year," head coach Eli Cirino said. "She came back and competed at a pretty high level, but I don't think she was ever at 100 percent."

See LEAP, Page 12A



Central sophomore Sophia Henke set a school record in the triple jump.

PREP ATHLETICS

Committee favors five-class system

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — The debate will continue on whether the OSAA should stick with its current six-classification system or change.

The Classification and Districting Committee held a public meeting March 20 in Wilsonville to receive testimony and review written communication received about potential changes for the OSAA's classification system beginning in the 2018-19 school year.



Currently, the OSAA splits schools into one of six classifications (1A to 6A) based on school size.

The committee supports a draft of a five-classification system because of: re-

duced overall travel compared to the current classification system; greater depth (number of schools) in each classification; more balance when comparing the number of schools in each classification; and provides more stability and less volatility within and between classifications throughout the four-year time block.

Under the current draft favored, draft 13, Central and Dallas would be part of the Mid-Willamette Conference in Class 4A

along with Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Newport, South Albany and Sweet Home.

Perrydale and Falls City would be part of the Casco League in class 1A with C.S. Lewis, Crosshill Christian, Jewell, Kings Valley, Livingstone Adventist, Oregon School for the Deaf, Veritas and Willamette Valley Christian.

Perrydale athletic director Dan Dugan said he there is no easy solution and any new system will have local ramifications,

but sees some positives to the draft.

"I think it evens out teams better overall," Dugan said. "Right now, 5A only has 33 teams. That seems pretty watered down in many respects. With the latest proposal, it appears all classifications will have at least 42 to 45 teams."

The OSAA has had a six-classification system since the 2006-07 school year.

The committee will hold meetings on April 10, April 24, May 22, June 20, Sept. 25 and Oct. 16.