

# Peffley: Senior one of Dallas' top singles players

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Peffley was a track and field athlete in middle school, but the sport caused her more stress than enjoyment.

"It gave me a lot of anxiety, and I wasn't very good at it," she said. "... There were a lot of nerves and a lot of pressure. I wasn't having fun with it."

She decided to turn to tennis.

The main obstacle? She had never even picked up a racket.

With a large number of girls participating and only

a few coaches to help both junior varsity and varsity, there were few chances for coaches to give the girls a lot of individualized focus on JV.

Peffley was left to pick up a large portion of the sport on her own — learning everything from a forehand swinging motion to working on her toss for a serve.

Practice time with her teammates became the only chances she had to learn proper technique and rules — not an easy task for a beginner.

"Someone would hit me a ball, and I would try and hit it back," she said. "I'd look at where it landed and think, what can I do to fix it? A lot of my technique was self-taught."

The results were mixed, at best.

"It was hard learning how to control the ball so it didn't lob over every time," Peffley said.

That changed when coach Julie Hertel first joined the Dragons coaching staff.

"She's helped me with my form," Peffley said. "I've

made huge progress since (coach Hertel has) been here."

Every part of Peffley's game, from her serve to her backhand, began to improve rapidly, and her shot placement went from a liability to a strength.

"I never realized how much strategy there is," Peffley said. "I always kind of played where all I wanted to do was hit it over the net. Hertel came in and showed me strategies like when to approach the net. I would have never learned those things without her.

Now, I can slow things down, see where my opponent's weaknesses are and try and take advantage of them."

To see Peffley play this spring would be to see an experienced player moving quickly around the court — without a hint that the sport was entirely new to her just a few years ago.

"Tennis has taught me how to be independent while still being on a team," she said. "I don't think I'd be as mentally strong if I never played tennis. You have to be able to

catch yourself when you're starting to get frustrated and be able to turn yourself around."

Peffley isn't setting any expectations for her final season as a Dragon. Instead, she's focused on one thing — making tennis fun for herself and her teammates.

"I want to have a lot of fun and enjoy my last season," she said. "I want to do the best I can do. I'm not too picky where I'm seeded as long as I do the best I can in the place that I'm put."

## PREP TRACK AND FIELD

### Hendrickson takes first

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

AMITY — Falls City junior Madelyn Hendrickson won the girls 200-meter run in Amity on Thursday with a time of 29.53 seconds. Britney Potts took second in the 400 in 1:10.92; Gonzales placed second in the 3,000 (15:57.44), and Hendrickson added a pair of second-place finishes in the 100 hurdles (18.90) and long jump (14 feet, 2 inches).

The girls team placed second in the team standings.

The boys were led by



**Hendrickson**

Dylan Young, who took second in the 110 hurdles in 19.39.

Zach Varney placed second in the discus with a throw of 101-1 and Jeremy Labrado finished second in the high jump with a mark of 5-8.

The boys finished fourth in the team standings.

Falls City will compete at

the North Marion JV Invite Thursday at 4 p.m.

Perrydale also competed at Amity. Amity Deters took second in the girls 300 hurdles (51.70) and Abigail Bibler took second in the shot put (29-1).

Jacob Pope led the boys with a fourth-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 136-3.

Perrydale's boys and girls teams took seventh.

Perrydale will compete at the Rob Frank Invitational in Banks Saturday at 10 a.m.

## Pirates: Perrydale faces critical stretch

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The Pirates enter a critical part of the season.

"I think the rest of league it will come down to whoever plays well that week," Mabry said. "That puts us in a decent spot, because we have three good pitchers who we can depend on to give us solid innings of work."

For the Pirates, earning one of the league's three spots to the state playoffs

will come down to timely hitting and reducing errors.

"We have to have more confidence when we're hitting and have less mental errors out in the field," Moore said.

Success at the plate has to come from more than the experienced players, Mabry said.

"With the older guys, we talk about having a plan at the plate," Mabry said. "If you see something you can

drive, you are free to swing at it. The younger guys will get up there and start to overthink and maybe get a little overwhelmed with the moment."

There is hope and excitement in Perrydale's dugout. Turning that into a trip to the postseason is possible, but won't be without challenges.

"Ask me in two weeks, and I'll tell you how we're looking," Mabry said.

## WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

# Whitaker, Holmberg leads track and field at home meet

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's men's track and field team placed second at the John Knight Twilight meet on Friday. The women placed fourth.

Aaron Whitaker took first in the men's 400-meter run with a time of 49.41 seconds; AJ Holmberg took first in the 800 in 1:54.52, just ahead of teammate Dustin Nading, who took second in 1:54.60.

On the women's side, Olivia Woods took first in the

400 in 57.06, ahead of teammates Megan Rose, who took second in 58.16, and Suzanne Van De Grift, who finished third in 58.32.

Nicole Maurmann won the 1,500 in 4:43.79.

Other top finishes included a second-place showing from Codi Blodgett in the men's 100 hurdles (11.27) and a third-place result from Alan Ekanger in the men's 3,000 steeplechase in 9:51.03.

Western Oregon will com-

pete at the Mt. Sac Relays Wednesday (today) and Thursday in Azusa, Calif., before sending athletes to the Beach Invitational in Long Beach, Calif., on Friday and Saturday, and the Bryan Clay Invitational in Azusa on Friday.

**SOFTBALL SPLITS NORTHWEST NAZARENE:** Western Oregon's softball team split a pair of doubleheaders with Northwest Nazarene. WOU won 5-1 and 2-1 on Friday before losing 6-4 and 6-3 on Sat-

urday. The games were moved to Nampa, Idaho, due to weather.

Pitcher Haley Fabian threw a complete game in the first game on Friday.

The Wolves took the lead in the first inning when Ryanne Huffman stole second and Kelsie Gardner stole home from third base.

The Wolves broke a 1-1 tie in the second game in the eighth inning off an RBI single from Zoe Clark.

A doubleheader against Saint Martin's was canceled

due to weather.

Western Oregon plays at Concordia for a doubleheader Friday at 2 p.m. and hosts Concordia for a doubleheader Saturday at noon. The Wolves also host Simon Fraser for a doubleheader Monday at 2 p.m.

**BASEBALL DEFEATS CONCORDIA:** Western Oregon's baseball team defeated Concordia 6-2 on April 5. Brock Pradere, Connor McCord, Jacob Martinez and Nyles Nygaard each had two hits to lead the Wolves.

Pitcher Elias Bedolla earned

the win after throwing five innings with two strikeouts.

WOU's doubleheaders against Saint Martin's on Saturday and Sunday were postponed due to weather.

Western Oregon defeated Saint Martin's 4-3 and 3-2 on Monday.

The Wolves played Saint Martin's in Newberg on Monday. WOU hits the road to play at Montana State Billings for a pair of doubleheaders on Friday and Saturday before playing at Saint Martin's on Tuesday.

## Dallas: Dragons rally for victories

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If there was an area of concern against the Panthers it was this: The Dragons left runners on base and in scoring position multiple times. Letting scoring chances go by is a luxury Jackson knows the team won't have going forward.

"We talked about how we left way too many runners on base," Jackson said. "We have to make sure we are making adjustments at bat to at bat. We have to put the ball in play. We had too

many balls go by with us looking and let too many scoring opportunities go by."

Overall, starting 4-0 in league play is a solid start and shows opponents that the Dragons are ready to contend for a league title.

"We just have to come out and play hard and play our game, not who is across the dugout," Jackson said. "This conference is a tough one, but if we play like we know we can, I think we'll be alright."

## DALLAS ROUNDUP

### Curtis paces girls golf team in Corvallis

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

CORVALLIS — Dallas' girls golf team finished sixth at Trysting Tree in Corvallis on Monday.

Kailee Curtis shot a 94 over 18 holes to lead the Dragons. Natalie Crabtree recorded a 101; Missie Davis added a 151; and Emma May Johnson had a 156.

The girls will host a home tournament at Cross Creek Monday at 11 a.m.

The boys finished in a tie for sixth at Spring Hill in Albany. Xavier White shot a 99 to lead Dallas. Adam Nicholson recorded a 103; Ben

Courtney added a 104; and David Jones scored a 108. Dallas will compete at Tukwila in Woodburn Monday at 10 a.m.

**BASEBALL DROPS TWO OF THREE:** Dallas' baseball team lost two of three games to Lebanon. The Dragons defeated the Warriors 11-4 on April 4 before falling 4-1 on April 5 and 11-5 on Friday.

During Dallas' victory, the Dragons scored five runs in the third inning to grab the lead for good.

The Dragons (4-2 Mid-Willamette Conference) played Central Tuesday after press time. Dallas travels to Central

Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m.

**BOYS TENNIS DEFEATS SOUTH ALBANY:** Dallas' boys tennis team defeated South Albany in a tiebreaker on Thursday.

The two teams were tied 4-4, but the Dragons earned the win due to sets won. Individual match results were not available. Dallas lost to Crescent Valley 8-0 on Monday.

The Dragons played Lebanon Tuesday after press time. Dallas plays at Woodburn Thursday at 4 p.m. before hosting Central Tuesday at 4 p.m.

**TRACK AND FIELD COM-**

**PETES AT CRESCENT VALLEY:** Dallas' track and field teams competed at Crescent Valley on April 5. Team scores weren't available.

Stefani Tallon won the girls 100-meter hurdles in 16.43 seconds, just ahead of teammate Jenifer Webb, who finished in 16.45.

Ellie Osborn took second in the discus with a throw of 87 feet, 1 inch.

Jacob Ronco led the boys with a first-place finish in the javelin with a mark of 140-8.

Dallas will compete at the Viking Relays at North Salem High School Friday at 4 p.m.

## CENTRAL ROUNDUP

# Baseball earns a pair of victories over Silverton

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

INDEPENDENCE — Central's baseball team defeated Silverton 5-2 on April 4 and 4-3 on April 5 before falling to Corvallis 4-2 on Monday.

The Panthers played Dallas Tuesday after press time. Central hosts Dallas Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before hosting Cres-

cent Valley Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

**SOFTBALL DROPS TWO:** Central's softball team lost to Lebanon 12-6 on April 4 and Dallas 2-1 on April 5.

Central held a 1-0 lead over the Dragons headed into the seventh inning, but Dallas scored a pair of runs to earn the win. Central hosts Silverton Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before playing at South

Albany on Thursday and Friday.

**GIRLS TENNIS FALLS TO CORVALLIS, CV:** Central's girls tennis team lost to Crescent Valley 8-0 on April 4 and Corvallis 8-0 on Thursday.

The boys team lost to Crescent Valley 8-0 and Corvallis 7-1.

Jorge Hernandez-Soto earned the Panthers' lone victory.

Central's girls will play at Lebanon on Thursday before hosting Dallas Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The boys host Lebanon Thursday at 4 p.m. before playing at Dallas on Tuesday.

**BOYS GOLF FINISHES SIXTH:** Central's boys golf team tied for sixth at Spring Hill in Albany on Monday.

Andrew Love scored a team-low 93. Girls results were not

available as of press time.

The boys will compete at Tukwila Monday at 10 a.m.

**BOYS TRACK FINISHES THIRD AT SANDY:** Central's boys track and field team took third at the Sandy Invitational on Saturday.

Sterling Hutchinson won the 200-meter run in 23.29 seconds. Isaac Burgett took first in the 400 in 51.44.

Josh Dickson won the 300

hurdles in 42.83 and the 4 x 400 relay team of Hutchinson, Zach Meyer, Jose Herrera and Burgett and the 4 x 800 relay team of Aaron Padilla, Matt Raines, Jonathan Brown and Meyer also took first.

Bethanie Altamirano led the girls with a first-place finish in the 400 in 1:00.58.

Central will compete at the Viking Relays Friday at 4 p.m. at North Salem High School.

# Rec: Co-ed volleyball league begins on Tuesday

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"People told us they want this to continue," Bready said. "We thought, we have enough experience and know-how and desire to keep adult rec going on in the city."

It's been a whirlwind since then, but DORI is ready to make its debut with co-ed volleyball this month.

The group will hold an open gym Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at LaCreole Middle School.

"This will let people come in and hit the ball and talk to and meet us," Bready said. "We're looking for people to come out and get a glimpse that adult rec isn't going anywhere."

Registration for co-ed vol-

leyball is open with matches beginning on Tuesday. Cost is \$25 per person or \$200 for a team.

Leagues are only open to those 18 and older because of insurance reasons.

"The cost was one of the surprising parts," Bready said. "We know how much it would cost to rent a gym,

but the cost of liability insur-

ance and filing the right documentation was hard. Until we're running well and collecting fees, all the costs will be coming out of our own pockets. ... We'd need a different form of insurance to cover everyone, but we do hope to broaden our reach to encompass everybody."

For those involved, the out-of-pocket cost is an ex-

pense that is well worth it.

"The end goal is for all of the profits, after we pay expenses, to be put back into the community," Bready said. "That will mean supporting all the club and youth sports. We've all had kids go through programs, and we believe sports is a great way to grow our young people in our town."

After volleyball finishes, a co-ed softball league will follow this summer.

Bready said volleyball and softball are just the beginning. The group has plans to get involved with the Glow Run, basketball and other projects.

"We want Dallas to be a place that everyone wants to live," Bready said.