

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

WOU to host NCAA Division II West Regional in 2019

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon will host the NCAA Division II West Regional in cross-country in 2019 and 2021.

The races will be held at the Ash Creek Preserve.

“We are thrilled to be awarded the 2019 and 2021 West Regional Cross-Country Championships,” WOU Director of Compliance Randi Lydum said. “We have an amazing course and look forward to bringing the best runners in the west region to Monmouth for these events.”

WOU also hosted the

2015 west regional.

The NCAA received more than 3,000 bid submissions vying to host predetermined rounds for 84 of the NCAA’s 90 championships. A total of 613 sites were awarded for this cycle.

“Over the past several years, Ash Creek Preserve has brought thousands of cross-country athletes and their supporters, who would have otherwise not had the opportunity to visit our beautiful campus,” Western Oregon cross-country coach Mike Johnson said. “The participants range from middle school to profession-

al athletes. The unique characteristics of our course allow us to host races that meet the needs of all levels of the cross-country population.”

SOFTBALL SPLITS SIX GAMES: Western Oregon’s softball team split six games over the weekend.

The Wolves lost to Western Washington 13-1 before winning 6-1 on Friday, and lost 6-5 and won 1-0 on Saturday. WOU lost to Simon Fraser 4-0 before defeating the Clan 8-7 on Sunday.

Pitcher Haley Fabian threw a complete game in the second game on Friday, throwing six strikeouts over seven innings



Fabian

Cheyenne Rimer, Jenna Kelly and Mercedes Green each hit one as WOU built up an 8-0 lead before holding on for the one-run victory.

Western Oregon entered the week with a 24-19 record overall and an 11-11 mark in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play, good for fifth place. The

while allowing only three hits.

The Wolves saw three players hit home runs during their victory over Simon Fraser.

Wolves close out the regular season at Saint Martin’s Wednesday (today) before hosting Saint Martin’s for a doubleheader Saturday at 11 a.m. and Central Washington Sunday at noon. The top four teams in the conference advance to the softball championships.

BASEBALL WINS TWO AGAINST CONCORDIA: Western Oregon’s baseball team earned a split against Concordia. The Wolves lost to Concordia 9-2 and 5-3 on Friday before winning 5-1 and 6-0 on Saturday.

WOU’s pitchers combined to throw 10 strikeouts during the first game on Saturday and



Smith

including a triple, and drove in two runs.

The Wolves entered the week in first place in the GNAC. WOU played Saint Martin’s Tuesday after press time. The Wolves play at Central Washington for a pair of doubleheaders Friday and Saturday at noon.

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Lux takes first at Sheridan

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SHERIDAN — Perrydale’s girls track and field team placed fifth at Sheridan on Thursday. The boys finished seventh.

Alyssa Lux won the girls high jump with a mark of 4 feet, 6½ inches. She also finished fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 29-11.

Amity Deters took second in the 300-meter hurdles

with a time of 53.85 seconds, and Jessica Cruickshank took third in the 200 (29.05).

Jacob Pope took fifth in the boys javelin with a throw of 132-11. Joshua Crawford finished seventh in the long jump (15-10¾) and the triple jump (33-6).

Perrydale will compete at the Portland Christian Invitational Saturday at 11 a.m.

BASEBALL FALLS TO ST.

PAUL: Perrydale’s baseball team lost a shoot out to St. Paul, falling 14-13 on Saturday.

The Pirates fell to 1-4 overall and 1-3 in Special District 2 play.

Perrydale played Regis Tuesday after press time. The Pirates host Santiam Christian Thursday at 4:30 p.m.; Kennedy Friday at 4:30 p.m.; and Western Menonite Saturday at 1 p.m. Perrydale plays at Country Christian Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Track: Girls squad takes second at Sheridan

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“It’s very difficult to balance, as kids have driver’s ed, roller coaster physics, work, etc.,” Simmons said. “We should be further progressed in our events if it weren’t for all the other things going on, but I am not trying to take away from those other things by

any means.”

Despite the schedule challenges, Simmons expects the Mountaineers to send a large contingent to state.

Prior to the season Simmons made a bet that if Falls City sent four or more kids to Eugene, they would get to shave his head.

Labrado said they’re confident that bet is a lock. Simmons also likes their chances.

“Any of the kids have a great chance (to make it to state),” Simmons said. “I have been telling them I don’t want your best now. I want your best at districts and state.”

Dallas: Dragons enter week on seven-game win streak

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On defense, pitcher Kaelynn Simmons threw eight strikeouts while giving up one hit over five innings.

“We’re being consistent,” Jackson said. “We’re working hard day in and day out and focusing on the little things and the mental side of the game. At this level, they all have the physical ability. The

mental side is the difficult part to understand at this age, so we try and put them in different situations in practice so when it’s in a game, the pressure is off a little bit.”

Dallas also defeated Silverton 9-2 on April 19.

The Dragons improved to 8-0 in Mid-Willamette Conference play and have outscored league oppo-

nents by an 84-17 margin. They have a three-game lead over Silverton for first place.

“I think we’ve seen that we are always going to be able to compete with any team out there,” Wallace said. “There’s no team that can beat us when we’re playing our game. We understand that we have a target on our backs.”

But players are ready to handle the challenge, Jackson said.

“We don’t really focus on the other team,” she said. “We focus on us. We’ve been pretty successful doing that so far. We just show up and work.”

Dallas, which played a nonleague game against Woodburn Tuesday after press time, enters a chal-

lenging part of its schedule.

The Dragons play at South Albany on Wednesday (today) before hosting Lebanon Thursday at 5 p.m. and Friday at 4 p.m., and Corvallis Saturday at noon. Dallas also plays Crescent Valley Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. and at Corvallis on May 3.

“We might be tired, but we have to be able to bounce back with the same

amount of energy each time,” Wallace said.

Players know their hot start means other teams will be gunning to knock them off.

“We know teams are scared to play us because we’re 8-0,” Nelson said. “We know we have to pounce on that. We have to play our game and bring that focus every time.”

Polanco: Senior uses tennis to honor family

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As Polanco got settled, it was clear he found a place he could call home.

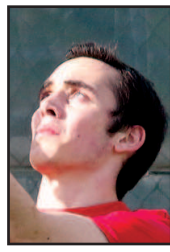
“I’m still in the foster care system, I just decided that I’d like to stay with this family because I really like them and the community,” he said. “I really didn’t want to move again and leave a perfect family.”

Both of his parents are Central High graduates, and when Polanco entered high school, they wanted him to find an athletic outlet.

“Chris was new here and his mother, my daughter, said he needed to be in a sport his freshman year,” Youngren said. “I was asked to coach tennis that year so (tennis) was an easy pick.”

Since that moment, Youngren has helped Polanco grow by leaps and bounds on the tennis court.

“The hardest thing to learn is serving,” Polanco said. “It’s very hard to get a precise serve every single time. With her help, I’ve gotten to the point where I



Polanco

more aggressive in ending points.

“Chris reads the ball well and he is quick to get to the shot and get it back,” Youngren said. “He is becoming more consistent, and he is learning to place the ball more offensively.”

One of Polanco’s biggest strengths may be his ability to not get rattled. No matter what is happening on the court, he can adapt. That is, in part, due to adapting on the fly in the foster care system.

“It has helped me deal with adversity better,” Polanco said.

The senior also has watched matches on Youtube to study players like Raphael Nadal.

As Polanco has im-

feel competent at that.”

Polanco has also developed good anticipation and has become

proved, he’s become a regular part of the Panthers’ varsity lineup — but he knows earning a trip to state will be difficult given the talent on other teams.

“I see myself sort of in the middle right now, but having something to prove,” he said. “There are a lot of points in every match that can go either way.”

This season has also been special because of playing for Youngren. Though her time is split among all the athletes, Polanco likely never would have picked up a tennis racket if Youngren didn’t suggest it.

That’s something he’ll be forever grateful for.

Polanco has high hopes for his senior season — but it’s not personal glory that he is chasing, instead it’s a way to show gratitude for Youngren and all she has done for him.

“I started playing tennis because of her,” Polanco said. “I’ve enjoyed it and ever since, I’ve played for her.”

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Boys track and field takes first

Itemizer-Observer staff report

FLORENCE — Dallas’ boys track and field team took first at the Central Coast Invitational on Friday. The girls finished second.

Cody Webb won the boys 100-meter run in 11.30 seconds and the 110 hurdles (15.66). Jacob Deming took first in the 200 (23.07) and the triple jump (43 feet, 6 1/2 inches); Trevor Cross placed first in the 1,500 (4:11.99); Jack Anderson won the high jump (5-6); and Jacob Collins took first in the long jump (19-9) and tied for first in the pole vault (14-0).

Hailey Van Well won the girls high jump (4-6) and triple jump (33-11 1/2).

Dallas will compete at Central Wednesday (today) at 3:45 p.m. and at the Rob Allen Twilight Invitational Friday at 4:30 p.m.

BASEBALL SWEEPS SOUTH ALBANY: Dallas’ baseball team won three games against South Albany last week. The Dragons won 8-7 on April 18 and 4-1 and 7-4 on Friday.

Dallas also defeated Central 1-0 in a make up game on Sat-

urday afternoon.

The wins improved the Dragons’ record to 12-5 overall and 9-3 in Mid-Willamette Conference play, good for third place.

Dallas played Silverton Tuesday after press time. The Dragons host Silverton Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before playing at Silverton on Friday. Dallas will host Crescent Valley Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

CURTIS PLACES FOURTH: Dallas senior Kailee Curtis finished fourth overall to lead Dallas’ girls golf team at Tukwila on Monday. The Dragons finished fourth in the team standings. Dallas will compete at the Astoria Invitational Thursday at noon and the Emerald Valley Invite Monday at 10 a.m.

BOYS GOLF TAKES SIXTH: Dallas’ boys golf team placed fifth at Mallard Creek on Monday. The Dragons finished the regular season tied for sixth with Central in the team standings and will not advance to regionals. David Jones shot a team-low 92 over 18 holes.

GIRLS TENNIS DEFEATS CENTRAL, LEBANON: Dallas’ girls tennis team defeated Central 6-2 on April 18 and Lebanon 7-1 on Friday.

Addie Gillette and Molly Peffley earned singles victories. Lynn Gumpinger and Julia Del Olmo, Megan Ronco and Amanda Schafer, Kloe Totten and Makayli Laizure, and Morgan Bateman and Peyton Fast won doubles matches against Central.

Gillette, Kinzi Boer and Carlotta Sulzbach won singles matches against Lebanon.

Gumpinger and Del Olmo, Ronco and Totten, Bateman and Fast, and Maddie Kennedy and Rebekah Rocak won doubles matches.

Dallas played Corvallis Tuesday after press time. The Dragons play at Silverton Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before hosting South Albany Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Dallas’ boys tennis team defeated Central 6-2 on April 18. Caedmon Blair and Michael Davison won singles matches. Josh Dudley and Zac Price, Ryan Bibler and Michael Friesen, Trenton Ensz and Caleb Jones, and EK Koons and Boe Bray won in doubles.

Crescent Valley defeated Dallas 8-0 on Thursday.

The Dragons host Silverton Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. in the team’s final home match of the season. The Dragons play at South Albany Tuesday at 4 p.m.

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Softball wins three of four league games

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Central’s softball team defeated Crescent Valley 22-1 on April 18 and Silverton 6-4 on Thursday before falling to Dallas 13-0 on Friday. The Panthers also beat Lebanon 8-7 on Monday.

Stats were not available as of press time.

Central played Corvallis Tuesday after press time. The Panthers host Silverton Friday at 4 p.m. and South Albany Tuesday at 4 p.m.

BASEBALL DROPS FOUR: Central’s baseball team lost to Crescent Valley 6-0 on April 18

and 6-1 and 8-2 on Friday. The Panthers also lost to Dallas 1-0 on Saturday. Central played Woodburn Tuesday after press time. The Panthers play at Woodburn Wednesday (today) and Friday at 3:30 p.m. Central hosts South Albany Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS DEFEATS WOODBURN: Central’s girls tennis team defeated Woodburn 8-0 and 6-2 on Thursday. Diana Huerta, Julia Hamar, Ana Martinez and Kylie Smith swept the singles matches.

Lauran Martinez and Olivia Teague, Lexy Barba and Reann Kelley, Annika Riddell and Katelyn Trevino, and Mattie Barry and Dalila Negrete won dou-

bles matches in the first match. Central lost to Dallas 6-2 on April 18. Central played South Albany Tuesday after press time. The Panthers play at Crescent Valley on Thursday and at Corvallis on Tuesday.

BOYS GOLF FINISHES FOURTH: Central’s boys golf team placed fourth at Mallard Creek on Monday. Andrew Love shot a team-low 87 over 18 holes. The Panthers finished the season tied for sixth. Love advanced and will compete at regionals May 3-4 at Quail Valley in Banks.

The girls golf team placed sixth at Tukwila. Abby Lovrien shot a team-low 155 over 18 holes.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central outfielder Jori Kerr dives to catch a fly ball against Dallas on Friday.