

Triano: Senior plays key role

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Dustin saw firsthand the travel schedules, the time commitment and the dedication it took to play basketball at the highest level.

"Ever since I picked up a basketball, I've wanted to play for as long as I could," Dustin said. "I remember wanting to play in the NBA and keep going as far as I could take it."

Dustin has carved out his own path. Prior to transferring to Western Oregon, Dustin was at Gonzaga during its run to the NCAA Mens

Basketball National Championship game last season.

He was looking for a chance to go to a program where he could find more playing time and a place that had a winning tradition.

"It came down to when I was at Gonzaga, we won a lot while I was there," Dustin said. "When I met with coach Shaw and met the guys, I had the sense that these guys wanted to win and compete. That's what I like. I think basketball is more fun while you're winning and competing

every day."

Dustin has appeared in all eight of Western's games, averaging 5.9 points and 1.9 rebounds per game in 17.9 minutes per game of action.

"Whether it's on the court, in the classroom, or on campus, the first thing that stands out about Dustin is his maturity," WOU coach Jim Shaw said. "As a player, in addition to being an elite-level shooter, Dustin always brings a great attitude and understanding of the game to any situation."

Jay has supported

Dustin's decision to transfer.

"I just want him to have fun and enjoy the game," Jay said. "He's been so fortunate to be in a Sweet Sixteen, Elite Eight and a Final Four. Now he gets a chance to play and contribute while working on his masters. These are times he will never forget."

As Dustin works to carve out his role with the Wolves, he's loving every moment.

"It's just fun," Dustin said. "On game days, you just want to compete and win."

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Men's basketball drops first game

Itemizer-Observer staff report

BELLINGHAM, Wash. — Western Oregon University's men's basketball team lost for the first time this season, falling to Western Washington 85-58 on Saturday.

The Vikings went on an 18-3 run to gain separation from the Wolves during the first half. Western Oregon trailed 46-30 at the break.

Ali Faruq-Bey led WOU with 16 points.

The Wolves defeated Simon Fraser 96-71 on Thursday.

Darius Lubom scored a team-high 19 points against the Clan. J.J. Chirnside and Demetrius Trammell each scored 16 points.

Western Oregon (7-1 over-

all, 1-1 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) hosts Portland Bible College Thursday at 7 p.m. before playing at Tarleton State Tuesday at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WIN STREAK SNAPPED: Western Oregon University's women's basketball team defeated Saint Martin's 72-66 on Thursday before losing to Seattle Pacific 87-52 on Saturday.

Shelby Snook had 18 points and nine rebounds to lead the Wolves against the Clan. Sydney Azorr and Savannah Heugly each scored 10 points against Seattle Pacific.

Western Oregon (5-1 overall, 1-1 GNAC) plays at Oregon Tech Monday at 6 p.m. and at Southern Oregon Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Girls basketball splits opening games

Itemizer-Observer staff report

LOWELL — Perrydale's girls basketball team defeated Gilchrist 51-20 on Friday before losing to North Douglas 41-39 on Saturday.

"Against Gilchrist, we're one of those teams that if you're not real quick, we're a bad matchup," coach Terry Newton said. "Gilchrist was in over their heads a little bit."

Against North Douglas on Saturday, the Pirates lost

a close battle.

"The girls played a heck of a game," Newton said. "It was physical. With 50 seconds left, we had a four-point lead, but had some things go against us. We know what we are and who we are, but we still have to learn the lessons. We have to respect the process and that's what we're doing."

The Pirates host Yoncalla Wednesday (today) at 5:30 p.m. and play at Living-

stone Adventist Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL DEFEATS GILCHRIST: Perrydale's boys basketball team defeated Gilchrist 61-34 on Friday before falling to North Douglas 68-53 on Saturday.

"It's a learning process," coach Brian Domes said. "They showed some good things and some things that have to get better. ... I think we saw that we're not the team we were last year. We can't just show up and expect to win.

Everyone has to be together and on the same page."

One change will be a variety of defensive schemes will be used.

"I can't rely on man-to-man all the time like I did last year," Domes said. "I have to look at other ways to be more successful."

The Pirates played Delphian Tuesday after press tie. Perrydale host Yoncalla Wednesday (today) at 7 p.m. before playing at Livingstone Adventist Tuesday at 7 p.m.

FALLS CITY ROUNDUP

Boys basketball wins two

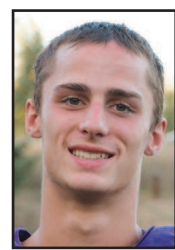
Itemizer-Observer staff report

FALLS CITY — Falls City's boys basketball team opened its season with a pair of victories.

The Mountaineers defeated McKenzie 57-25 on Thursday and Southwest Christian 54-28 on Friday.

Austin Burgess scored a game-high 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds against McKenzie. J.R. Lafayette added 11 points and nine rebounds.

Against Southwest Chris-



Burgess

tian, J.R. Lafayette scored a team-high 13 points, while grabbing 15 rebounds. Jared

Lafayette recorded 12 points, and Burgess added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

"We played great team defense and held their leading scorer to two points

through three quarters," coach Micke Kidd said.

Falls City played McKenzie Tuesday after press time. The Mountaineers travel to Triangle Lake Wednesday (today) at 6 p.m. before hosting Oregon School for the Deaf Tuesday at 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL DROPS TWO: Falls City's girls basketball team lost to McKenzie 49-41 on Thursday and Southwest Christian 40-19 on Friday.

Amara Houghtaling scored

23 points against McKenzie.

"With an 18-point second quarter, we had a halftime lead and stretched the lead to eight early in the third," Kidd said. "But we fell down by eight by the end of the third and had trouble recovering."

The Mountaineers played McKenzie Tuesday after press time. Falls City faces Triangle Lake Wednesday (today) at 5:30 p.m. and hosts Oregon School for the Deaf Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Lucy

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"I think it's hard (to ask for help) in general," Wakem said. "They didn't want to put their burden on someone else. But, this is a three-year long process to fight leukemia. I told them as much as they wanted to do it on their own, they really need the help."

The Walkers agreed, and the community responded.

The fundraising page's goal is \$25,000. As of Monday, more than \$20,000 had been raised.

"I've been amazing at how the community has

come together," Wakem said. "I think it's meant a lot to the Walkers that they have a whole community behind them, that they have other people in their lives who support them."

Whether it's a gift card for a coffee, money to help cover medical costs or a letter to express support, Wakem said it all means a lot to the Walkers.

"They are overwhelmed with gratitude," Wakem said. "There's not a word in the dictionary that expresses how truly grateful they are."

Griffin named Player of the Year

PERRYDALE — Perrydale senior Kieleey Griffin was named the 3A/2A/1A Special District 3 Player of the Year. Griffin helped Western Mennonite/Perrydale's girls soccer team reach the first round of the state playoffs.

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