

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DEC. 14

Boys basketball: Abby's Pizza Holiday Classic (at North Marion): Central vs. Banks, 6:30 p.m. C.S. Lewis at Falls City, 7 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian at Perrydale, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Abby's Pizza Holiday Classic (at North Marion): Central vs. Molalla, 8 p.m. C.S. Lewis at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.
Men's basketball: Pern Oregon, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

Boys basketball: Abby's Pizza Holiday Classic (at North Marion): Central vs. TBA, TBA. Dallas at Hillsboro, 7:15 p.m. Ranger Tournament (at Dufur): Perrydale vs. Klickitat (Wash.), 4:30 p.m.
Girls basketball: Abby's Pizza Holiday Classic (at North Marion): Central vs. TBA, 7 p.m. Dallas at Hillsboro, 5:45 p.m. Ranger Tournament (at Dufur): Perrydale vs. Klickitat (Wash.), 3 p.m.
Wrestling: Central at Panther Invitational, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

Boys basketball: Abby's Pizza Holiday Classic (at North Marion): Central vs. TBA, TBA. Ranger Tournament (at Dufur): Perrydale vs. TBA, TBA.
Girls basketball: Abby's Pizza Holiday Classic (at North Marion): Central vs. TBA, 8 a.m. Ranger Tournament (at Dufur): Perrydale vs. TBA, TBA.
Wrestling: Dallas at Liberty Tournament, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 17

Men's basketball: Alaska Anchorage at Western Oregon, 5 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 18

Boys basketball: Central at Cascade, 7 p.m. Triangle Lake at Falls City, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Triangle Lake at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

Boys basketball: Country Christian at Perrydale, 7:30 p.m.
Girls basketball: McKay at Dallas, 7 p.m. Country Christian at Perrydale, 6 p.m.
Men's basketball: Alaska Fairbanks at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.
Women's basketball: Western Oregon at Central Washington, 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

Girls basketball: Central at Stayton, 7 p.m.
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Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Perrydale girls ranked eighth

PERRYDALE — Perrydale's girls basketball team is ranked eighth in the 1A coaches poll released on Monday.
The Pirates received 47 votes.
Nixyaawii was ranked in the top spot.

WOU softball signs seven

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon softball coach Lonny Sargeant announced the signing of seven student-athletes to National Letters of Intent on Thursday.
The signed players are Madeline Brandner (Kennewick, Wash.), Alexi Brehaut (Pendleton), Macy Christianson (Kennewick), Madison Mayer (Milwaukie), Nalani Muranaka (Salem), Zoie Recolan (Ewa Beach, Hawaii), and Katherine Tidwell (Marana, Ariz.).
Players will be eligible to play beginning the fall of 2018.
Western Oregon finished the 2017 season with a 29-24 record overall and a 14-14 mark in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play. WOU advanced to the title round of the GNAC Championship before falling to Western Washington.

CENTRAL ATHLETICS

Panthers announce hiring of three coaches

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

INDEPENDENCE — Central High School's athletic department announced the hiring of three new coaches for spring sports.
Joel Everett will coach the golf team; Patty Nevue will coach the girls tennis squad;

and Tom Roberts will coach the baseball team.
"Tom is highly organized and has a great passion for the game of baseball and managing student-athletes," athletic director Shane Hedrick said. "Joel too brings a great passion to the sport of golf. Patty is well-connected to the Independence-Mon-

mouth communities as a volunteer to many organizations. She will be a great asset to the tennis program."
Everett served as an assistant coach for the golf squad last spring and has been a football coach at Central for the past seven seasons.
"After being an assistant coach in the program, I de-

cided I was ready to apply for the head job and continue the growth that the program has been having," Everett said. "We had a great season last year for both boys and girls. Our goal is to send our teams to the regional tournament in May."
Nevue has coached women's tennis at Oregon

State University and given tennis lessons in Oregon, Alaska, Mexico and Maryland.
She was also a two-time Oregon high school doubles champion and played tennis at OSU. She has also served as an assistant at Central for three years.
See COACHES, Page 14A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER file

Devon Alexander will get a chance to play for the Vancouver Knights.

A second chance

WOU alumni to play basketball for a Canadian basketball squad

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

MONMOUTH — From the moment he finished his senior season at Western Oregon in 2016, Devon Alexander has had his sight set on playing professional basketball — no matter where in the world it would take him.
He'll get his chance later this month in Canada.
Alexander is headed across the border to start training camp on Dec. 27 after signing with the Vancouver Knights, part of the North American Premier Basketball league.
"All 17 years of playing basketball was supposed to be towards this," he said. "The fact that it's finally happening is amazing."
It's been far from easy.
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When Alexander started this process, he was realistic, but hopeful.
He took part in numerous camps and combines in the U.S., Germany and Canada, kept up on his personal

training and patiently waited for his opportunity.
It appeared he was beginning to gather serious interest to play overseas, Alexander said, when a left wrist injury last fall put his playing future in question.
There were positives. Alexander earned his bachelor's degree, began working for a sports marketing company and started training young basketball players.
But Alexander began to wonder if his playing days were over.
"Doubt creeps into your mind," Alexander said. "You're out for two months, you get out of shape quick and you start to question whether it's worth it to keep going."
The commissioner of the NAPB, which has eight teams, invited Devon to a combine in September.
By this point, Alexander had established himself with a client base that he enjoyed training.
Ultimately, the allure of chasing his dream one more time was too much to ignore.
See DEVON, Page 14A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER file

Former Western Oregon men's basketball player Devon Alexander will travel to play basketball in Canada later this month.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Dragons look to toughen up



Caleb Kiner drives to the hoop against Churchill on Friday night. The Dragons lost 65-40 to fall to 0-5 overall on the season.
LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

DALLAS — Dallas' boys basketball coach Trent Schwartz had one message for his players: It's time to get tough.
"We were a little soft in our first four games," Schwartz said. "We have to be a tough basketball team and (on Friday), I thought we played tough at times. We were outsized, but we put a butt on people and took two charges. We have to get a little nasty."
The Dragons lost to Churchill 65-40, but Dallas showed flashes of the toughness Schwartz is looking for. The Dragons trailed 23-13 at the half before rallying within seven. The Lancers answered and

Basketball

- Dallas' boys basketball team lost to Churchill 65-40 on Friday.
- The Dragons played Glencoe Tuesday after press time and travel to face Hillsboro on Friday.

pulled away.
"I saw a lot of intensity," senior Jack Anderson said. "We were really playing as a team for stretches and getting after it."
Dalton Woolner and Anderson helped spark a Dallas rally in the second half, thanks to some long distance shots. But the Dragons couldn't make them with enough consistency to sustain the rally.
See DALLAS, Page 14A