

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20
Girls basketball: Central at Stayton, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21
Boys basketball: Siletz Valley at Falls City, 7 p.m.
 Perrydale at Days Creek, 6:30 p.m.
Girls basketball: Siletz Valley at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.
 Perrydale at Days Creek, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22
Boys basketball: Hermiston at Dallas, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27
Girls basketball: Alsea at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Men's basketball named GNAC team of the week

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University's men's basketball team was named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference's Team of the Week on Monday.

The Wolves improved to 10-1 overall after defeating Tarleton State 80-72 on Dec. 12 and Alaska Anchorage 82-50 on Sunday.

Against the Seawolves, 10 players scored five or more points.

Blue Dolphins compete at Canby

CANBY — The Blue Dolphins Swim Team competed at Canby on Saturday.

Kaylie Bliven finished sixth in the girls 400-yard individual medley (15 and older) in 5 minutes, 25.48 seconds. Bliven also placed sixth in the 200 butterfly (15 and older) in 2:39.69 and the 1,000 freestyle (15 and older) in 12:26.22.

Taylor Hagedorn placed ninth in the girls 200 butterfly (13-14) with a time of 3:03.13 and ninth in the 1,000 freestyle (13-14) in 12:59.32.

The Blue Dolphins also competed at Sheldon Dec. 8-10.

Highlights included a first-place finish from Sydney Alamein in the girls 200 butterfly (11-12) in 2:44.79, a first-place finish from Lonny Stork in the 100 individual medley (11-12) with a time of 1:13:04 and six first-place finishes from Gentry Hagedorn.

Hagedorn won the 200 individual medley (10 and younger) in 2:51.29, the 50 freestyle (10 and younger) in 31.04, the 100 butterfly (10 and younger) in 1:20.48, the 100 individual medley (9-10) in 1:20.88, the 50 butterfly (10 and younger) in 35.71 and the 100 freestyle (9-10) in 1:10.40.

Perrydale ranked eighth in poll

PERRYDALE — Perrydale's girls basketball team is ranked eighth in the 1A coach's poll.

The Pirates received 50 points.

Nixyaawii was ranked first.

Perrydale defeated Willamette Valley Christian 46-30 on Thursday, Klickitat 49-26 on Friday and Dufur 51-34 on Saturday to improve to 6-1 overall.

The Pirates played Country Christian Tuesday after press time and play at Days Creek Thursday at 5 p.m.

STAT SHEET

5 The number of times Central's boys basketball team has scored 55 or more points this season. The Panthers are averaging 51.6 points per game and won two of three games at the Abby's Pizza Holiday Classic at North Marion.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

Central's Noah Worthington placed second at the Central Invitational on Friday afternoon.

PREP WRESTLING

Panthers shine at home

Central wins Friday's invitational

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

INDEPENDENCE — With a rare chance to compete at home, Central's wrestling team looked forward to entertaining fans on Friday.

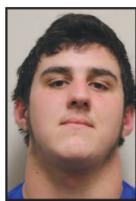
"You get to wrestle in front of family and friends. You get to rest a little more and you don't have to get up quite as early to travel," Caleb Sedlacek said. "It's an amazing experience."

The Panthers put on a show, placing first at the Panther Invitational.

Ty Pearson (132 pounds), Alan Vargas (145), Brock Pierce (152), and Caleb Sedlacek (285) finished first.

"All our wrestlers battle well," coach Van Holstad said. "It is pretty apparent that we are learning a lot from week to week, especially the younger, less experienced wrestlers. It was good to see Ty, Brock and Alan win after a couple of tough losses for each in the last few tournaments."

Gabriel Padilla (220), Corbin Sedlacek (195), Xan-



Sedlacek

der Hall (182), Manuel Martinez (126), Luis Martinez (120) and Noah Worthington (113) placed second.

"What I took away is to not wrestle nervous and just to wrestle my matches and good things will happen," Worthington said. "If I wrestle scared, I will only mess up."

Angel Perez placed third (132) and Damian Negrete (120), Nicholas Kunkle (138), and Nathan Bliss (170) finished fourth.

It was the third-straight strong result for Central, which took second at both the Springfield and Tillamook invitational.

"Yeah, we're happy but we can always do better," Sedlacek said. "Like with me, I can get off my knees, take a better shot, and be a better teammate. You have to keep working. That's what it is all about. You're never perfect and you're never the best."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

The Panthers saw nine wrestlers reach the championship round during the Central Invitational.

Sedlacek is driven to end his high school career on a high note.

As a junior, he placed second at the Mid-Willamette Conference district championships and advanced to the state semifinals, but a loss in the semifinals, followed by more losses in the next two rounds, sent him to a sixth-place finish.

"Making it to the semifinals at state and got beat,

and I didn't wrestle like I should have," Sedlacek said. "... I beat myself up at state and ended up getting my butt kicked when I felt like I was the better wrestler. It motivated me. It taught me that the focus always has to be on the next match. I'm not saying I'll win or lose, but whomever I face will know they've been in a battle."

Sedlacek has yet to drop a match this season. See PANTHERS, Page 13A

PREP WRESTLING

Dragons take first at Liberty Invitational

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

HILLSBORO — Dallas' wrestling team won the Liberty Invitational on Saturday.

Cael Morrison (106 pounds), Hayden Millard (113), Treve Earhart (182), and Ashton Brecht (285) finished first to lead the Dragons.

Brecht defeated Liberty's Dylan Thygersen in his first match of the tournament. Thygersen entered Saturday



Earhart

ranked first in 6A by the Oregon Wrestling Foundation.

"I was very happy with the team's overall performance at the Liberty Tournament," coach Tony Olliff said. "Of course, the finalists all had a great tournament and performed well."

See DRAGONS, Page 13A



Cael Morrison finished first in the 106-pound weight class at the Liberty Invitational on Saturday. Dallas' wrestling team placed first in the team standings.

WALT MARKEE/for the Itemizer-ObsERVER

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Pirates overcome injuries during wins



Kenzy Lawrence drives against a Willamette Valley Christian defender on Thursday. Perrydale defeated WVC 46-30. The Pirates also beat Klickitat 49-26 on Friday and Dufur 51-34 on Saturday to win the Ranger Tournament.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

PERRYDALE — Girls basketball coach Terry Newton has a new name for the Pirates.

"We're not Perrydale, we're Pressdale," he said.

The Pirates have committed to the press, and the results have been encouraging.

Perrydale's press forced Willamette Valley Christian into numerous turnovers during the Pirates' 46-30 win on Thursday. Perrydale, which also defeated



S. Lawrence

Klickitat 49-26 on Friday and Dufur 51-34 on Saturday to win the Ranger Tournament, has held opponents to 27.7 points per game through seven games.

"When you get after it as hard as we do, you're going to give up a few baskets, but we're not going to change," Newton said. "Generally, our reward-to-

risk was a lot better." Perrydale's victories were made more impressive because of who wasn't on the court.

Vanessa Miller and Amity Deters both missed all three games due to injuries.

"Everything changed for us," Newton said. "We had eight or nine solid rotation players, now we're playing players who weren't expected to be on the floor, so to beat (WVC) by 16 like we did, we're happy."

Players have stepped up in a big way.

See PIRATES, Page 13A