

WESTERN OREGON BASKETBALL

WOU men's hoops win

By Mark Schwartz
For the Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Ninth-ranked Western Oregon University Wolves men's basketball team beat the Northwest Nazarene Nighthawks 82-64 in a Great Northwest Athletic Conference contest at home on Saturday night.

The Wolves won their 10th straight game to bring their record to 17-1, 9-1 GNAC. The Nighthawks fell to 9-5, 5-5 GNAC.

The Nighthawks came into Saturday's game off a 69-64 road win against Concordia in Portland on Jan. 18. On this night, however, the Nighthawks' united nations couldn't overcome the precision of a Wolves team that forged ahead after five minutes and never looked back.

The game was tied at five after two and a half minutes and then the Wolves started out-hustling and outscoring the Nighthawks. The score at halftime was 41-28, and the Wolves were on their way to a hard-fought victory which wasn't reflected in the final score.

Senior forward JJ Chirside lead the balanced scoring for Western Oregon with 18 points in 21 minutes, his second consecutive game with 18 career-high points. Wolves players hitting double figures included senior guard Ali Faruq-Bey (13 points on 4 of 14 shooting from the field, 3 of 9 from the three-point line, and 2 of 4 free throws in 24 minutes); senior guard Dustin Triano (12 points on 4 of 6 shooting from the field, 3 of 5 three-pointers, and 1-1 for free throws in 22 minutes off the bench); senior guard Malik Morgan (11 points in 24 minutes); and senior forward Tanner Omlid (10 points in 26 minutes).

The Nighthawks were led by Megwa with 22 points (8/21 from the field and 0-2 on three-pointers) and 5 re-



Darius Lubom lays up against Montana State University, Billings.

Chris Oertel/for the Itemizer-Observer

bounds in his 28 minutes. As a team, the Nighthawks shot 35 percent from the field.

The Wolves' next game will be on the road on Thursday 25 in Fairbanks against the Huskies. The Wolves next home game will be on Jan. 30 when they face Concordia University. The Wolves haven't lost since Dec. 2 at Western Washington.

WOLVES WIN THURSDAY: Overcoming a slow start, WOU

men's basketball defeated Central Washington 89-70 victory on Thursday. Shooting 8-of-12 from the field and reaching 20 points for the second straight game, WOU's Tanner Omlid led all scorers with 21 points. JJ. Chirside scored a career-best 18 points. WOMEN WIN ONE, LOSE ONE: Western Oregon women's basketball team outscored Concordia 25-11, in the final quarter of the Jan. 16 home game to earn the victory. Sa-

vannah Heugly and Sydney Azorr each scored 15 points to share game-high honors. Azorr helped seal the game with three makes at the line after being fouled from beyond the arc with just under two minutes to play. Montana State University Billings used a 12-2 run to start the fourth en route to a 65-56 win at Western Oregon University on Thursday evening. The Wolves are now 8-8, 4-6 GNAC.

Dallas

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Central, both ranked in the top five in the state.

The Dragons (7-6 overall, 1-3 MWC) stayed close early, trailing Lebanon 14-10 after the first quarter, but saw the Warriors take over in the second quarter to go into half time with a 32-14 lead. Ehlers said Lebanon took advantage of Dallas' lack of length.

"They have a 6'1 post who is pretty solid," Ehlers said. "It's hard when you are 5'8 and 5'9 to really front that girl!"

Dallas came out for the second half ready to play and used hustle and a three-point shooting run to draw within 11 in the third quarter but couldn't get closer.

Ehlers said his team played well in stretches, especially in the first and third quarters. Dippel led the team in scoring with 15, and Emma Classen put in 10. He added the Dragons committed too many turnovers with 24 in the game. Lebanon also outrounded Dallas 38 to 20.

"In the third quarter, we had a little three-point barrage, but eventually that little faucet gets turned off because you can't

make them all night long," Ehlers said.

He said the team, which is missing two rotation players to injury, needs to prevent teams from racing to a lead early in games.

"It been our biggest downfall in our losses is that we've gotten behind quickly, and we are having to fight to get back in the game. You are working twice as hard all night long just to get back in the game," he said. "We just have to get back, focus, work hard. The girls did really well for two quarters. I think they understood that if we play those two quarters for four quarters then wins will come."

The schedule doesn't get easier. Wednesday, Dallas plays Central (13-1 overall, 4-0 MWC) at home. The Panthers only loss this season was at Stayton. Ehlers said that, like Lebanon, Central's lineup features tall post players.

"We need to figure out how to get up in the game and make the other team have to work harder to get back in the game," Ehlers said. "They only play about seven deep, but those seven are really good. There's really no let off."

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Dallas swimmers place at Taft meet

Itemizer-Observer staff report

TAFT — The Dallas High School swim team had several placers in the Taft Invitational on Thursday, leading the team to a third-place finish at the meet.

The boys 200 and 400 free-

style relays (Hans Garrison, Isaiah Dressel Jakob Lloyd and Gabe Applegate) both took third place.

Applegate took third in the 200 freestyle in two minutes, 43.29 seconds. Dressel took second in the 50 freestyle in 30.19 seconds, and Lloyd placed third in the 50 freestyle in 30.82 seconds.

[SEE MORE ROUNDUPS, PAGE A8]

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