



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Dalleo Jo Bingham (15) looks to pass at Powder Valley High School on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, during a loss to visiting Jordan Valley. The Badgers are coming off a 9-6 record in the spring season.

PREP

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27. In another hard-fought matchup, Adrian came away with an identical outcome — a narrow victory.

The two teams battled through a high-scoring game, with the Antelopes coming away with a 80-75 win. The Badgers built up an early 20-7 lead after the first quarter and led 41-25 at halftime, but a huge second half from Adrian tipped the scales in favor of the Antelopes.

All season long, Powder Valley has leaned on a balanced scoring effort from its large group of upperclassmen. Senior Clay Martin scored a team-high 19 points, hitting a trio of three-pointers in the second quarter.

The loss was the first of the year for Powder Valley, who came into the matchup 9-0 and ranked No. 1 in the OSAA 1A standings. Adrian is off to an 8-1 start on the year and has looked like a top 1A team in the early stages of the winter basketball season. Junior Carter Bayes has been a standout for the Antelopes, which was evident in his 25-point performance in the win over Powder Valley.

After a thrilling 1A football state championship game in which the Antelopes pulled off a last-minute 46-38 victory, the two teams find each other near the start of conference play in the ensuing basketball season. Both teams rely on a similar group from the football teams, with quarterbacks Reece Dixon and Conley Martin anchoring their squads at the point guard position.

Through the early stages of the year, the Badgers and Antelopes are establishing themselves as powerhouses on the basketball court as well as the football field. If the stars align, Powder Valley could find itself with another chance to face Adrian in a state title game when the basketball playoffs approach.

Powder girls are heating up

NORTH POWDER — After a tough start to the year, the Powder Valley girls basketball team is finding a rhythm.

The Badgers began the season 0-6, but a recent three-game winning streak and a close loss to 3A Burns at the end of

2021 have Powder Valley trending up. The team's roster is composed of four upperclassmen and nine underclassmen, a major change from last year's team that was carried by three key seniors.

"We just knew with our youth that it would take some time," head coach Allen Bingham said. "They're putting some things together. I think we're on an uptick."

Powder Valley took advantage of its presence at two recent holiday tournaments, going 2-1 at the Union Bobcat Classic and 1-1 at the Baker Holiday Classic. The Badgers lost a narrow 43-40 contest to Enterprise on Day 1 of the Bobcat Classic on Dec. 16, but bounced back with wins over Imbler and Elgin on the following two days. The Badgers defeated the Panthers 42-18 and cruised past the Huskies 44-11. Powder Valley kept the momentum going in Baker City on Dec. 27 with a 62-30 dismantling of Adrian — then came within 10 during a 41-31 loss to a strong Burns team.

During the Badgers' recent surge, junior Dalleo Jo Bingham led the way with 16 points in the win over Adrian. Sophomores Ayla Bingham and Abby Cox have been strong contributors, with each adding 11 points in the team's most recent victory. Dalleo Jo Bingham has also helped the Badgers in the paint, grabbing a game-high eight rebounds against Burns — Powder Valley managed to out rebound the Hilanders in the loss.

Allen Bingham was pleased by the effort in the loss to Burns, noting that the offensive effort against an aggressive Burns defense was a promising sign.

"Burns is a really good team and very aggressive," the coach said. "I thought that was the best we've played against an aggressive defense."

The Badgers have caught steam at the right time, with league action set to start up in the early phase of 2022. Powder Valley gained victories over Old Oregon League competitors Elgin and Imbler in non-league competition play. League play for the Badgers begins on Jan. 4 with a matchup at Cove. Tip-off is 6 p.m. at Cove High School.

LOCAL STANDINGS

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cascade Collegiate Conference

Team	League	Overall
Oregon Tech	5-0	8-5
College of Idaho	5-1	11-3
LC State	4-1	11-2
Warner Pacific	4-1	8-5
Multnomah	4-2	8-6
Northwest	2-3	5-5
Southern Oregon	2-3	5-8
Corban	2-4	7-7
Bushnell	2-4	4-9
Evergreen	1-4	1-8
Eastern Oregon	1-5	7-7
Walla Walla	1-5	2-11

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Cascade Collegiate Conference

Team	League	Overall
Southern Oregon	5-0	12-1
Eastern Oregon	5-1	8-6
LC State	4-1	10-1
Northwest	4-1	10-2
Warner Pacific	4-1	6-4
Bushnell	4-2	7-7
Multnomah	3-3	3-10
College of Idaho	3-4	9-6
Oregon Tech	1-4	8-4
Evergreen	1-4	2-6

Walla Walla	0-6	1-12
Corban	0-7	1-13

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

4A Greater Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Baker	0-0	6-3
La Grande	0-0	5-1
McLoughlin	0-0	1-5
Ontario	0-0	0-5

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	0-0	8-2
Weston-McEwen	0-0	6-4
Union	0-0	6-5
Stanfield	0-0	5-6
Pilot Rock	0-0	3-8
Enterprise	0-0	2-8
Grant Union	0-0	1-8

1A Old Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Powder Valley	0-0	9-1
Nixyaawii	0-0	8-2
Pine Eagle	0-0	3-5
Cove	0-0	2-5
Joseph	0-0	2-6
Wallowa	0-0	2-8
Imbler	0-0	2-9
Griswold	0-0	1-8
Elgin	0-0	0-5

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

4A Greater Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Baker	0-0	7-3
La Grande	0-0	5-4
McLoughlin	0-0	4-3
Ontario	0-0	0-6

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Union	0-0	9-2
Stanfield	0-0	9-2
Weston-McEwen	0-0	7-5
Heppner	0-0	5-4
Enterprise	0-0	5-6
Pilot Rock	0-0	4-8
Grant Union	0-0	3-5

1A Old Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Nixyaawii	0-0	7-2
Wallowa	0-0	6-4
Joseph	0-0	3-6
Griswold	0-0	3-6
Powder Valley	0-0	3-7
Elgin	0-0	3-7
Imbler	0-0	2-9
Pine Eagle	0-0	1-6
Cove	0-0	1-6

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia ARE YOU AT RISK?

According to a new study by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging, men and women with hearing loss are much more likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's disease. People with severe hearing loss, the study reports, were 5 times more likely to develop dementia than those with normal hearing.

Have you noticed a change in your ability to remember?

"The more hearing loss you have, the greater the likelihood of developing dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Hearing aids could delay or prevent dementia by improving the patient's hearing."

-2011 Study by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging

IS IT TIME FOR A HEARING TEST?

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ON THE SLATE
Tuesday, Jan. 4

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Imbler at Elgin, 5:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 5:30 p.m.
Joseph at Wallowa, 6:30 p.m.
Grant Union at Union, 7:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Cove, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Imbler at Elgin, 3:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 4 p.m.
Joseph at Wallowa, 5 p.m.
Grant Union at Union, 6 p.m.
Powder Valley at Cove, 6 p.m.
Pendleton at La Grande, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 7

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
La Grande at Crook County, 7 p.m.
Union at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.
Wallowa at Elgin, 7:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Pine Eagle, 7:30 p.m.
Griswold at Cove, 7:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Imbler, 7:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Grant Union, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
La Grande at Crook County, 5 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Imbler, 6 p.m.
Union at Heppner, 6 p.m.
Wallowa at Elgin, 6 p.m.
Powder Valley at Pine Eagle, 6 p.m.
Griswold at Cove, 6 p.m.
Enterprise at Grant Union, 6 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
La Grande at Mountain View Invite, Meridian, Idaho, TBA
Imbler, Elgin, Enterprise, Union/Cove at JoHi Invitational, Joseph High School, noon

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Warner Pacific at Eastern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Warner Pacific at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S WRESTLING
Eastern Oregon at Arizona Christian, 4 p.m.