

Sports

BAKER CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW

Baker looks to return to state

By Gerry Steele
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Baker cross country coach Suzy Cole has high hopes for the Bulldogs this season.

"I am super excited about this season," Cole said. "We have many returning runners mixed with a great group of new runners. The chemistry from this group is awesome."

Seven boys return from last season's GOL championship team.

Kale Cassidy returns as district champion. He placed ninth at the Class 4A state meet.

Lucas Stearns placed fifth at district, and Alex Gross seventh.

The other returning runners are Jake Cuzick, Kyler Hester, Ian Jesenko and Eithen Hatfield.

Joe Couch and Joseph Daugherty also return after sitting out last season.

Newcomers on the boys squad are John Niehaus, Hayden Younger, Gavin Stone, Shane Cunningham, Kadin Dalke and Conner Jensen.

"These new kids are running hard and are very competitive kids," Cole said.

"I expect them to push our returners and just make us that much stronger. On the boys team obviously we are working hard to defend our district title but La Grande will be strong once again as well."

Baker's district runner-up girls team returns everyone from a year ago, but still has just one senior. That senior is exchange student Maria Granhus.

Returning runners are Corah Downing, fourth at district; Sydney Keller, seventh at district; Salena Bott, ninth at district; Jayden Rice, Payton and Lacy Jones, Kaitlyn Waters, Hollie Mays, Rebekah Shaw and Zoe Carlson-Morrow.

"Some of the girls have been running over the summer and are looking in much better shape than last year.

"Both groups have been working hard and enjoy being with one another."

BAKER GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Addie Flanagan makes a play for the ball against Riverside.

Bulldogs hope to combine veterans and newcomers

By Gerry Steele
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Fifteen of the 19 players listed on the Baker girls soccer roster are either seniors or freshman.

"We have a lot of new players. And, this is the first group of seniors to go through the program since I became coach," said Baker coach Kristen Rushton.

"It's fun to see the seasoned players help the younger players."

Rushton also noted the versatility of the veteran players.

"The seasoned players can play anywhere on the field," she said. "That says a lot about them."

One of the returning seniors is goalkeeper Emily Black.

"Emily is fun to watch. She has spent so much time off the field working on her

Baker under the lights

Baker will play its first soccer action under the new lights at the Baker Sports Complex Wednesday, Sept. 5.

Baker girls coach Kristen Rushton said the match will begin at 7 p.m. Spectators and competitors are asked to be there by 6:30 p.m.

"We're inviting all of our past alumni to come out and play," Rushton said.

Rushton said the donors who contributed for the new lights also will be honored Wednesday evening.

— Gerry Steele

game," Rushton said.

The other seniors on the squad are Natalie and Kaitlyn Nelson, Alayna Callaway, Addie Flanagan, Mary Rushton, Rose Gwillim, Maya Smith and Sincerey Shoemaker.

The incoming freshmen are Phoebe Wise, Jasmine Martin, Novalee Shoemaker, Viri Rodriguez and Sydney Lamb.

The other players on the roster are juniors Sydney Younger, Shayna Ruby and Rebecca Daniels and sophomore Tiffany Niehaus.

"The character on this team is great," Rushton said.

"I'm super proud of all the girls as a team.

"I think we've built a strong team that wants to get better every day," Rushton said.

BAKER BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW

Baker returns many veterans

By Gerry Steele
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Baker boys soccer coach Victor Benites recently welcomed one of his biggest turnouts since he has been coach.

The Baker coach lists 31 players on his roster, including a dozen returning players.

"I'd like to keep about 14 or 15 on the varsity roster," Benites said.

Returning for the Bulldogs are Omar Benites, Jorge Duran, Alex Davila, Alex Duran, Jamisun Rigueiro, Brogan Lewis, Brylan Robb, Justin Eskew, Colton Anderson, Isaac Nemece, Eli Lien and Quinn Coomer.

"We did pretty good last year," Benites said. "Our goal is to do better this year. We just have to take one game at a time."

Benites said the team has been looking good in practice.

"We just have to see who wants to step up and play," he said.

Burnt River football opener date changed

UNITY — Burnt River's return to varsity football will be delayed one day from Sept. 7 to Sept. 8.

The Bulls will travel to Joseph for their opening six-man contest. Kickoff will be at 1 p.m.

BRIEFING

Powder Valley volleyball off to 7-0 start

NORTH POWDER — The Powder Valley volleyball team is off to a 7-0 start after the first week of high school action.

The Class 1A 12th-ranked Lady Badgers swept six matches at the Class 1A Season Preview tournament last weekend at Country Christian High School.

Friday, Powder defeated North Clackamas Christian 25-19, 25-11; North Douglas 25-23, 25-15; and Days Creek 25-21, 25-20. Saturday, Powder topped Alsea 18-25, 25-21, 15-8; McKenzie 25-18, 26-24; and Country Christian 27-25, 25-18, 25-17, 25-20.

The Lady Badgers will play in the Dufur Classic today and Saturday.

Baker volleyball players omitted

Four Baker volleyball players were left off the list provided by Coach Warren Wilson for the Baker preview.

Emma Baeth, Lexie Harrell, Katrina Fast and Layne Bennett also are listed on the Baker roster.

Baker volleyball with Mac-Hi switched

Due to a scheduling conflict, Baker's Greater Oregon League volleyball matches with Mac-Hi have been switched.

Baker now will host Mac-Hi on Sept. 25, and travel to Milton-Freewater Oct. 16.

Baker volleyball loses at Fruitland

FRUITLAND — Baker lost a nonleague volleyball match to Fruitland Thursday.

Fruitland won the match 25-22, 25-7, 25-23. No statistics were available.

Baker's next action is against Pendleton at BHS Sept. 4.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Utes start slow, end up routing Weber St, 41-10

By Matthew Coles

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah players found themselves down 10-0 and saw its in-state underdog opponents celebrating on the other sideline.

Zack Moss and the Utes turned the tables in a hurry.

"We weren't nervous. We knew adversity would come at some point," Utah wide receiver Britain Covey said after his first game since 2015. "We know what we're capable of."

After the initial hiccup, Moss rushed for 150 yards and a touchdown and added a receiving score to power Utah to a 41-10 win over Weber State on Thursday night.

"The O-line started getting into a rhythm and I was just being patient ... knowing we'd make a play sooner or later," Moss said.

The big plays suddenly came easy and often as the Utes responded with 587 yards and Moss claimed the fourth-longest run from scrimmage in school history when he ran untouched for an 86-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

Utah's Tyler Huntley overcame an early pick to throw for 253 yards and four touchdowns. The Utes showcased a balanced offense of 294 yards on the ground and 293 through the air.

"Our mindset was that we weren't going to lose," Huntley said. "Nobody was nervous."

The Wildcats stunned Utah with two quick scores, capitalizing on a muffed punt and an interception. The Wildcats players danced and hooted as Utah's 52nd consecutive sellout crowd went quiet.

"We couldn't get out of our own way at the start," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "It was a comedy of errors."

But Weber State couldn't generate anything after that and Utah scored 41 straight points and yielded just 61 yards of total offense, the third lowest mark of all-time. The Wildcats' longest play from scrimmage was 10 yards.

Eventually the Wildcat defense wore down and everything Utah tried — from jet sweeps to fly patterns to runs up the middle — looked effortless as the Utes pulled away and allowed second- and third-team players plenty of action.

"I thought we were playing dang good defense there for a while and then we went a little haywire there," Weber State coach Jay Hill said.

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We can still be reached at 541-523-3673

Adoptable Pet Of The Week

Oakley

Oakley is a one year old male Brittany Spaniel. He is a healthy, active dog who requires daily exercise to achieve the level of activity he seeks. He is midway in his training program at Powder River Correctional Facility and shows his desire to learn and please those who work with him. He does well with other dogs, and with all people. He also shows the instincts to hunt via pointing birds, using his nose and retrieving. He is neutered, and current on shots.

Contact New Hope for Eastern Oregon Animals at 541-403-2710

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