

Sports

POWDER VALLEY VOLLEYBALL

Badger spikers remain unbeaten

By Gerry Steele
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Powder Valley's volleyball team ran its season record to 17-0 last weekend.

"What a long week and a lot of volleyball played," said coach Marji Lind.

On Thursday Powder Valley traveled to Imbler.

"Heading into the match, we were kind of going in blind, as we had not met up with them or seen them at any other event this year," Lind said.

"We knew this would be a very important league match, and one we had to be very disciplined in, as Imbler is always fundamentally spectacular. Our plan of preparation paid off, and we were able to defeat Imbler in 3 straight sets, 25-21, 25-19 and 25-21."

Powder's JV also won in three straight sets.

On Friday Powder's JV turned around and played a 4-way, round robin style tournament.

Lind said the Lady Badgers went undefeated for the day playing the Baker freshmen, Pilot Rock and Pine-Eagle.

Following the JV Round Robin, the Powder varsity played a league match against Pine-Eagle, defeating the Spartans, 25-11, 25-4 and 25-7.

"The scores of this match do not reflect the great moments of play experienced throughout the match on both sides," Lind said.

On Saturday Powder Valley hosted a tournament that consisted of 8 teams:

Powder Valley, Pine-Eagle, Wallowa, Crane, Adrian, Prairie City and Enterprise.

The morning started out with pool play consisting of one game up to 25 minutes. Powder first defeated Enterprise 25-10, then beat Pine-Eagle 25-14, and Adrian 25-20.

The afternoon consisted of a single-elimination bracket play, with the best 2 of 3.

Powder's first game was against Prairie City, defeating them 25-17, 25-19. In the semifinals Powder Valley beat Wallowa 25-21, 25-10.

The final championship match was against Adrian.

"To end a long day — started at 8 a.m. and the final match started at 6:45 p.m. — we began the match. As the matches began, you could tell that the long day had taken its toll on both teams," Lind said.

Powder won the first game 25-20. Adrian rallied, while the Badgers struggled to find any rhythm and lost Game 2, 25-16.

But the third game, to 15, was a marvel, Lind said.

"Between games, the girls huddled, recommitted to simple things like communication and trust in the system, they went out to the court, dug deep for energy and left it all out there."

Powder won, 15-11, to claim the title.

This week Powder faces off against Joseph on Tuesday night in North Powder and then travels to Elgin on Friday night.

BAKER GIRLS SOCCER



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Sydney Younger, 12, assisted on Baker's goal against La Grande Saturday.

No. 1 Tigers slip past Bulldogs, 2-1

By Gerry Steele
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Baker gave Class 4A top-ranked La Grande all it could handle Saturday before falling 2-1 in a Greater Oregon League girls soccer match at the Baker Sports Complex.

La Grande scored the game-winning goal with about 5 minutes left in the match.

"Our defense was amazing," said Baker coach Kristen Rushton.

Baker keeper Emily Black stopped 30 of 32 La Grande shots.

"Natalie and Kaitlyn Nelson, along with Addie Flanagan, were instrumental in our defensive effort, working hard together," Rushton said.

The Baker coach said Mary Rushton had the job of marking La Grande's best player.

"She shut her down," Coach Rushton said.

La Grande took a 1-0 lead with 2:38

left in the first half when a Baker defender was called for a handball in the penalty area.

La Grande converted on the penalty kick for a 1-0 halftime lead.

Baker evened the score at 1-1 midway through the second half when Shayna Ruby arched a kick over the Tiger keeper after a pass from Sydney Younger.

Baker hosts Weiser in a 5 p.m. non-league match today at the Complex.

OREGON STATE FOOTBALL

Beavers lose on missed FG at buzzer

By Emerson Marcus
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Jordan Choukair lined up for a 33-yard field goal with four seconds left against Nevada on Saturday night with a chance to cap a 23-point Oregon State comeback.

But when the ball passed the goal post, it was Nevada's sideline that erupted as the Wolf Pack held on for a 37-35 victory and grabbed a rare program win against a Power Five school.

"Tonight, we had a whole bunch of guys pouring their heart and soul into that game," Nevada coach Jay Norvell said. "For the coaches, it was like four hours of root canal."

Nevada (2-1) led 30-7 lead with 10:16 left in the

second quarter after Asauni Rufus forced Conor Blount to fumble the ball, and Malik Reed picked it up and ran 48 yards for a touchdown. Nevada scored on its first four possessions and the defensive touchdown gave the Wolf Pack a 23-point lead.

After the fumble, Oregon State (1-2) replaced Blount at quarterback with Jake Luton, who left the season opener two weeks ago with a concussion against No. 4 Ohio State.

Oregon State outscored Nevada 28-7 the rest of the way.

Luton finished 23 of 35 for 284 yards passing with one touchdown and one interception. His key target throughout the game, Isaiah Hodgins, caught 14 recep-

tions for 200 yards, both career highs.

"We had a chance," said first-year Beavers coach Jonathan Smith, who was the starting quarterback at Oregon State last time it played Nevada in 1999. "That's a good football team and that's a good offense. We had our chance and we just couldn't take advantage of it."

Nevada's Ty Gangi was 17-of-35 passing for 195 yards and threw two touchdown passes. Toa Taua rushed for 81 yards and one touchdown on 12 carries.

The Beavers dominated Nevada through the air, passing for 459 yards compared to Nevada's 201. But the Wolf Pack's defensive front frustrated the Beavers' offense. Nevada recorded five sacks to Oregon State's one and held the Beavers to two yards rushing per carry.

"I couldn't tell you one stat from this game," Norvell said. "I don't really care. The only thing I care about is the score."

Luton was sidelined with an ankle injury halfway through the fourth quarter, Smith said. Blount re-entered at quarterback and led the final drive of the game to the Nevada 16-yard line before Choukair pulled the last second field goal attempt wide left. Blount finished the game 12-of-20 passing with one touchdown and one interception.

Oregon State's Jermar Jefferson led all rushers with 106 yards on 25 carries.

PAC-12 FOOTBALL

Washington shuts down Utah, 21-7

SALT LAKE CITY — Washington's defense is as strong as advertised once again.

The No. 10 Huskies smothered Utah for the better part of four quarters on the way to a 21-7 victory on Saturday.

Nothing the Utes did on offense had a real impact as the game progressed, and

Washington pounded and bruised Utah.

Three turnovers and a trio of fourth-quarter, fourth-down stops offered proof of Washington's defensive strength.

"Turnovers come in bunches," Washington coach Chris Petersen said. "For whatever reason, we've been

slow to start there. We have a really good defense, and a really good defense creates turnovers. We don't count on the offense just giving us the ball."

The wave of turnovers started with Jordan Miller intercepting Tyler Huntley with nine seconds left before halftime. Miller prevented

Utah from scoring after it had driven into field goal range.

It continued into the third quarter. Utah's first two second-half drives ended in a costly fumbles.

Washington extended its lead to 21-7 on a 6-yard scoring catch by Ty Jones midway through the third quarter.

WASHINGTON STATE FOOTBALL

Wazzu routs EWU

By Nicholas K. Geranios
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Graduate transfer quarterback Gardner Minshew didn't start playing with his Washington State teammates until fall drills, but you wouldn't know it from his production.

Minshew threw for 470 yards and two touchdowns as Washington State beat Eastern Washington 59-24 on Saturday night to avenge a 2016 loss to its FCS neighbor.

"We have a bunch of new receivers and a new quarterback," Washington State coach Mike Leach said. "All of it is tuning into one another."

"Those guys are getting tuned in together," Leach said.

Tay Martin caught 13 passes for 149 yards for

Washington State (3-0), which piled up 565 yards of offense.

Gage Gubrud threw three touchdown passes but was intercepted three times for Eastern Washington (2-1), which upset the Cougars 45-42 in Pullman in 2016.

Eastern Washington came in leading the FCS with an average of 623 yards per game, but was limited to 372 yards.

Minshew, who played for East Carolina last year, completed 45 of 57 passes, two for touchdowns, and was not intercepted.

"It's awesome," Minshew said of throwing 57 times. "It's so much fun."

"We are getting better as an offense each week," Minshew said.

James Williams rushed for three Washington State touchdowns.

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