

Sports

CLASS 4A PLAY-IN FOOTBALL: BAKER AT ASTORIA

Bulldogs hook Fishermen 17-10

By Gerry Steele
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Longtime Baker football fans will remember several years where the Bulldogs were labeled "Road Warriors" for their ability to travel and come home with a victory. "That term was used last night," said Baker coach Dave Johnson Saturday morning following Baker's 17-10 win Friday at Astoria in a Class 4A state play-in game.

The Bulldogs now will travel back across the Cascades for a 4A first-round game against top-ranked Banks Friday at 6 p.m.

"The Astoria game reminded us of some of the old days where we went on the road and weren't expected to win, but came home with the win," Johnson said. "We're very proud of these kids."

Baker trailed 10-0 late in the second quarter before scoring twice in seven seconds to knot the game at 10-10 at halftime.

Trailing 10-0 with 52 seconds left in the half, Mahonri Rushton booted a 30-yard field goal — his first of the season — to pull Baker to within 10-3.

The Bulldogs then recovered an Astoria fumble on the ensuing kickoff, taking over on the Fishermen 21.

Quarterback Gabe Gambleton then connected with Riley Flanagan in the end zone for the touchdown. Rushton added the conver-



Colin Murphy/Daily Astorian

Baker's Riley Flanagan, left, catches the first of his two touchdowns against Astoria Friday evening.

sion kick for the tie.

"We scored 10 points in about two minutes," Johnson said.

"To respond the way we did was great. The kids just never gave up.

"This was a special win," Johnson said. "To get a win on the road against a quality opponent is special."

Neither team scored in the third period.

Baker then took its first lead on the first play of the final quarter.

Again it was Gambleton and Flanagan making the connection. This time it went for 86 yards and the TD.

"It was a simple out route," Johnson said. "Riley caught the ball, made a move and

hit the jets. It was down our sideline, so we got to see the play develop.

"We weren't trying for an 86-yard score. We were just trying to move the sticks a bit. The O line did a nice job providing some pass pro, and Gabe threw the ball well. The rest is history."

Johnson had special praise for Baker's defense as well.

Astoria drove inside the Baker 20 three times in the first half, but managed just 10 points.

"Kudos to those kids. They played their hearts out. To show that kind of mental toughness. The guys just never gave up," Johnson said.

The Baker coach noted

that the Bulldog defense had 29 plays where Astoria gained 3 yards or less.

"We've been fairly consistent with that in recent games," Johnson said.

"Three quarters of shutout ball. Kudos for one of our best performances of the season."

Baker 0 10 0 7 - 17
Astoria 0 10 0 0 - 10

A — Palmberg 21 FG
A — Olson 18 pass from Williams (Palmberg kick)
B — Rushton 30 FG
B — Flanagan 21 pass from Gambleton (Rushton kick)
B — Flanagan 86 pass from Gambleton (Rushton kick)

Individual statistics

Rushing — Baker: Gambleton 16-102, Bloomer 5-13, Shirtcliff 1-3, Hammans 4-2, Astoria: Caruana 21-100, Stutznegger 14-53, Ville 14-2, Williams 8-4-13.

Passing — Baker: Gambleton 3-9-111, Astoria: Williams 14-23-2-133.

Receiving — Baker: Flanagan 3-111, Astoria: Hunt 5-46, Ville 4-49, Long 2-24, Olson 2-16.

Broncos defeat Air Force

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — Just as Brett Rypien released his fourth touchdown pass of the night late in the second quarter, the Boise State quarterback took a shot to the chin from a defender, opening a cut that required stitches to close.

Sewn up at halftime, Rypien didn't miss a beat, finishing with five touchdown passes — three to John Hightower — and Boise State pulled away in the late going to beat Air Force 48-38 on Saturday night.

"I don't like the getting hit part, and I think that comes a little bit with the situation," said Boise State coach Bryan Harsin. "He got his chin taken care of. That's not what you want from your quarterback but at the same time he's standing in there and delivering the ball.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Chiefs complete sweep of Denver

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes had another 300-yard passing day with four touchdowns. Kareem Hunt had another hurdling, tackle-breaking touchdown that gave the Chiefs a lead they'd never surrender.

Travis Kelce and Sammy Watkins produced huge games, too, as the high-powered Kansas City offense once again made the incredible look downright casual in a 30-23 victory over Denver on Sunday that finished off a season sweep of the Broncos.

"When we're clicking and spreading the all around," Mahomes said, "we're really tough to stop."

You could make a case for nearly impossible. The only team to beat the Chiefs (7-1) so far has been New England, and it took the Patriots scoring 43 points at home to win by a field goal.

The Broncos (3-5) never came that close Sunday.

Mahomes finished with 303 yards passing for his franchise-record seventh consecutive 300-yard performance.

Eagles top Jaguars, improve to 4-4

LONDON (AP) — Carson Wentz threw three touchdown passes to different players as the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars 24-18 at Wembley Stadium on Sunday.

Tight end Dallas Goedert caught one of the touchdown passes in the first half, and running back Wendell Smallwood and tight end Zach Ertz scored theirs in the second half for

the Eagles (4-4), making their first appearance in England.

Blake Bortles, restored as the starter despite being pulled in a loss to the Houston Texans a week earlier, completed 24 of 41 passes for 286 yards for the slumping Jaguars (3-5), who lost their fourth consecutive game.

The record crowd of 85,870 formed a decidedly pro-Eagles crowd.

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BAKER CROSS COUNTRY

Baker runners headed to state

By Gerry Steele
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Baker will send both its boys and girls cross country teams to the Class 4A state meet Saturday at Lane Community College in Eugene.

The Baker boys advance after defending their Greater Oregon League district championship Friday by edging La Grande 34-35 at Ontario.

The Baker girls advance for the second consecutive year as the GOL second-place team. The Bulldogs trailed only La Grande, 23-41, at district.

Baker's Kale Cassidy repeated as the boys individual champion, finishing in a time of 16:31.54.

Other Baker boys finishers were Lucas Stearns, sixth (17:49.64); Jake Cuzick, eighth (18:01.35); Alex Gross, ninth (18:11.86); Hayden Younger, 10th (18:18.97); Gavin Stone, 14th (19:06.26); and Shane Cunningham, 15th (19:08.66).

Baker's Corah Downing placed fourth in the girls

race for the second straight year in a time of 21:00.92.

Other Baker girls finishers were Sydney Keller, fifth (21:10.35); Salena Bott, eighth (21:59.69); Jayden Rice, 11th (23:42.55); Lacey Jones, 13th (23:59.48); Kaitlyn Waters, 14th (24:02.28); and Payton Jones, 15th (24:24.13).

John Niehaus won the boys JV race in a time of 18:41.6.

Other Baker finishers were Joseph Daugherty, second (19:14.89); Eithen Hatfield, third (20:13.39); Ian Jesenko, fifth (21:19.31); Connor Jensen, sixth (22:55.61); Caleb Shaw, eighth (24:04.39); Tyler Hester, ninth (24:04.55); and Zane Bishop, 10th (29:33.86).

Rebekah Shaw won the girls JV race in a time of 24:29.21.

Other Baker finishers were Maria Granhus, second (25:05.23); Hollie Mays, fifth (25:49.14); and Filippa Krarup, sixth (25:57.42).

College of Idaho defeats Mounties

NAMPA — Four defensive takeaways led the College of Idaho Yotes (4-5, 4-4 Frontier Conference) to a 48-24 victory over the No. 18 Eastern Oregon Mountaineers (5-3, 5-3) at Simplot Stadium in Caldwell, Idaho on Saturday.

Darius-James Peterson passed for a career-high 360 yards and four

touchdowns as the Yotes piled up 612 yards of total offense, snapping the Mountaineers four-game win streak.

Eastern Oregon was led by quarterback Kai Quinn, who threw for 451 yards on 21-of-46 passing, but three interceptions and a strip sack recovered by the Yotes were key for the College of Idaho.

Linfield clinches winning season

MCMINNVILLE — The No. 24 Linfield Wildcats (5-2, 3-1 Northwest Conference) clinched their 63rd consecutive winning season as they cruised past the visiting Pacific Lutheran Lutes (3-4, 2-3) 41-7 on Saturday afternoon at Maxwell Field in McMinnville. Linfield's streak of winning seasons began in 1956 and is the longest in college football

history. The second-longest active streak is Florida State's 41 seasons starting in 1977.

Junior running back Chidubem Nnoli rushed for 104 yards and two touchdowns, helping Linfield win its fourth game in a row. The Wildcats limited the Lutes to 171 yards total offense and 0-for-13 on third-down conversions.

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