

Sports

BAKER WRESTLING



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Baker's Ian Feldmeier is moments away from his win by decision over La Grande's Brody MacMillan.

La Grande hands Baker GOL mat loss

By Gerry Steele
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La Grande just seems to have Baker's number on the wrestling mats.

The Tigers defeated Baker for the second time in four days Tuesday on the Baker mats.

La Grande had topped the Bulldogs 45-24 at the Oregon Classic in Redmond on Saturday. Tuesday, the Tigers handed Baker a 46-21 loss in a Greater Oregon League dual match.

Baker jumped out to a 9-0 lead after two matches.

Galvin Stone (106 pounds) won his match by first-round pin.

Isael Duran followed that with a 7-1 win at 113 pounds.

But La Grande then outscored the Bulldogs 46-12 the rest of the evening. Baker won three more matches.

Colton Anderson earned a 6-4 decision at 132. Ian Feldmeier won 9-6 at 145 pounds. And Hon Rushton gained a second-round pin at 182.

Baker continues with a busy week, hosting Nyssa in a nonleague match Thursday, then traveling to Grant

Union Friday.

La Grande 46, Baker 21
106 — Stone (B) pinned Gulzow. 113 — I. Duran (B) dec. Hibbert, 7-1. 120 — McIntosh (L) dec. Niehaus, 6-0. 126 — Carson (L) dec. A. Duran, 4-0. 132 — Anderson (B) dec. Kehr, 6-4. 138 — McCall (L) pinned Davila. 145 — Feldmeier (B) dec. MacMillan, 9-6. 152 — Oswald (L) dec. J. Duran, 12-3. 160 — Robinson (L) pinned Eskew. 170 — Livingston (L) pinned Bloomer. 182 — Rushton (B) pinned Gerst. 195 — Woodworth (L) pinned Ritter. 220 — Clark (L) pinned Yervasi. 285 — Shukle (L) pinned Gonzalez.

JV matches

Moore (L) pinned Bishop; Moore (L) pinned Kong; Raitt (L) pinned Jensen; Kincaide (L) dec. S. Rushton, 10-8 (OT); Lind (B) pinned Kincaide; Goltzow (L) pinned Zhang; Stubblefield (L) pinned Hung; Bzenilas (L) dec. S. Rushton, 5-4.

Thunder tops turnover-prone Blazers

By Murray Evans
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A renewed focus on defense has the Oklahoma City Thunder on another winning streak.

Paul George had 36 points, eight rebounds and five steals, Russell Westbrook had a triple-double of 29 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds and the Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 123-114 on Tuesday night.

Steven Adams and Terrence Ferguson each added 14 points for Oklahoma City, which snapped a three-game losing streak to Portland at Chesapeake Energy Arena. After a stretch of losing five of six games, during which they gave up 154, 142 and 138 points in defeats, the Thunder have won three straight and moved back into third place in the fluid Western Conference standings.

Damian Lillard had 34 points and eight assists, and C.J. McCollum scored 31 for Portland, which committed

Lillard, Nurkic lead Blazers past Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY — Jusuf Nurkic had heard enough. Rudy Gobert chirped after blocking his shot and Jae Crowder got in his face. But in the third quarter, Nurkic tuned out all that noise and put the Portland Trail Blazers in position to beat the Utah Jazz 109-104 on Monday night.

"They started talking a little bit too much," Nurkic said. "But I'm too busy to have all those conversations."

Damian Lillard scored 26 points and hit key shots down the stretch, but Nurkic's 17-point, four-block third quarter was the talk of the Portland locker room after the game.

"He was huge. They blocked a few of his shots but we just kept giving it to him in the paint and he figured it out. He got his timing down and getting into Rudy's body. He started rolling," Lillard said.

— Matthew Coles, Associated Press

19 turnovers — five more than its average — and had a three-game winning streak snapped. Jusuf Nurkic had 23 points and 15 rebounds.

Sixteen of those Portland turnovers came on Thunder steals. George — who ranks second in the NBA (behind Westbrook) in steals at 2.33 per game — led the way, and Ferguson added four steals,

many of which led to points at the other end for Oklahoma City.

"That's what we lean on — our size, our length, our ability to be able to make it tough for 48 minutes," Westbrook said. "Eventually we wear out teams."

Except for McCollum, who went 7 of 12 from 3-point range, the Blazers struggled from behind the arc, going 10 for 36. Oklahoma City hit 11 of 23 3-point attempts.

"They've been shooting the three well in recent games," Portland coach Terry Stotts

said of the Thunder. "That made the difference, but I thought the biggest difference in the game was our turnovers that they created. The two quarters that we lost, we had six turnovers in each of those quarters and that just fueled their runs."

McCollum's seventh 3-pointer, with 5:07 left, pulled Portland within 109-106, but George keyed a game-sealing run by the Thunder, hitting four free throws and then stealing a pass intended for Nurkic and going for a layup to extend Oklahoma City's lead to 117-108 with 2:17 left. Westbrook capped the win with a pair of ferocious dunks in the final 1:24.

Oklahoma City led almost all the way — trailing for less than 30 seconds — but Portland never let the Thunder become comfortable. Through three quarters, only once did the Thunder push their lead to double digits, and that was 11 points late in the second quarter.

The Thunder hit 8 of 14 3-point attempts in the first two periods on the way to a 62-55 halftime lead. George was 3 of 5 from long range and had 20 points.

BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL

Bulldogs fall at Fruitland, 72-55

By Gerry Steele
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Baker had only one bad quarter Tuesday, but it was bad enough to cost the Bulldogs the game.

Fruitland outscored the Bulldogs 25-13 in the second quarter on the way to defeating Baker 72-55 in the non-league boys basketball game at Fruitland.

Fruitland avenged a 73-65 loss to Baker on Jan. 4 at the BHS gym.

The Grizzlies' big quarter Tuesday increased their 19-17 edge to 44-30 at halftime.

Kaden Sand led Baker with 25 points. Gabe Gambleton added 14 points and Caden Long 11.

Baker returns to Greater Oregon League action Saturday when the Bulldogs travel to Mac-Hi. Baker is 3-0 in league play.

BAKER (55)

Sand 11 0-0 25, Gambleton 4 4-4 14, Flanagan 0 1-2 1, Hill, Mastrude, Schwin, Long 4 3-4 11, Smith, Van Arsdell 1 2-2 4. Totals 20 10-12 55.

FRUITLAND (72)

Joe Henggmeier 4 3-6 14, Weatherall 2 0-0 5, Stice 5 0-0 14, Josh Henggmeier, Wallace, Nelson 1 0-0 2, Eiguren 4 0-1 10, O'Neil 1 2-2 5, M. Stampfli 5 3-3 13, Capps, Precado 1 0-0 2, D. Stampfli 2 3-4 7. Totals 25 11-16 72.

Baker

17 13 16 9 — 55

Fruitland

19 2 16 13 — 72

Three-point baskets — Sand 3, Gambleton 2, Joe Henggmeier 2, Weatherall, Stice 4, Eiguren 2. Fouled out — none. Total fouls — Baker 11, Fruitland 12. Technicals — none.

Burns beats Baker girls

Burns defeated Baker 44-15 Friday in a seventh-grade girls basketball

game at Baker. Ryann Paulsen led Baker with nine points.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Edgar Martinez elected to Hall in final chance

By Tim Booth
AP Sports Writer

When Edgar Martinez had the most famous swing of his career — "The Double" as it's known by in the Pacific Northwest — he was already 32 years old.

His career had a late start. So waiting all 10 years on baseball's Hall of Fame ballot before his election to Cooperstown was just another chapter in the arc of his life.

"I think the wait, I think I'm more mature right now. I think I've enjoyed it more at this point with my family, the way my kids are older now and it just has a lot of meaning, even more meaning now," Martinez said. "The wait, actually it worked out well for me."

In his final year on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot, Martinez was

elected on Tuesday with 85.4 percent of the vote. His election marked a remarkable turnaround, climbing in his final five years of eligibility from an afterthought to on the ballot to an inductee.

It was a collective effort, from the Mariners organization constantly publicizing his worthiness, to die-hard fans who believed in the beloved Martinez, to voters taking a new look at the importance of a player who was primarily a designated hitter.

"I think it was really big part of why I've been elected," Martinez said of the Mariners' efforts. "They have done an amazing job sharing information about my career for the last seven years or so. And the effort and the work they have done definitely is one of the big reasons why I am talking to you today."

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS

Serena has four match points but loses in 3 sets

By Howard Fendrich
APTennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Four times, Serena Williams was only one point — a single point — from closing out a victory in the Australian Open quarterfinals.

On the first such chance, at 5-1, 40-30 in the third set, she turned her left ankle awkwardly. The owner of the best serve in the sport would lose every point she served the rest of the way.

And so it was that a startling reversal and result would follow Wednesday at Melbourne Park, with Williams dropping the last six games of a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 loss to No. 7-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic.

"I can't say that I choked on those match points," Williams said. "She literally played her best tennis ever on those shots."

The 37-year-old American didn't call for a trainer during the match and later wouldn't blame the ankle for the way everything changed down the stretch, saying afterward that it "seems to be fine."

But instead of Williams moving closer to an eighth championship at the Australian Open and record-tying 24th Grand Slam title overall, it is Pliskova who will continue the pursuit of her first major trophy.

"I was almost in the locker room," Pliskova told the Rod Laver Arena crowd, "but now I'm standing here as the winner."

In Thursday's semifinals, Pliskova will face No. 4-seeded Naomi Osaka, who advanced by beating No. 6 Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-1.

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