

Sports

BAKER FOOTBALL TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON COAST TO TAKE ON PE-ELL/WILLAPA VALLEY

Bulldogs overcome long trip to win, 30-14

Why The Long Trip?

Baker scheduled Friday's game this summer after Mac-Hi decided not to play a Greater Oregon League football schedule, leaving the Bulldogs with an open date.

Pe Ell is near Willapa Bay, on the Washington coast between Aberdeen and Long Beach, about a 7-hour bus trip from Baker City.

By Gerry Steele

gsteele@bakercityherald.com

Baker's football team traveled almost to the Washington coast Friday for a nonleague game with Pe Ell/Willapa Valley.

After a slow start, Baker stopped the Titans 30-14 to improve its season record to 4-2.

"After a 7-hour bus ride we did what we needed to do to win," said Baker coach Jason Ramos. "We weren't really happy with the way we played. But it was a win."

Ramos said Pe Ell, which has an enrollment of about 100, marched down the field on its opening drive to open the scoring.

"They moved the ball well," he said. "Then we made some defensive adjustments."

Baker also answered with a drive of its own, ending in a 5-yard Spencer Smith-to-Riley Flanagan touchdown pass.

"We marched down the field, mostly on the ground," Ramos said.

The first quarter ended tied



Gage Bloomer runs for some of his 78 yards Friday in Baker's 30-14 victory.

Photo by Robert Hilson

7-7.

In the second quarter it was more of the same for the Bulldogs.

Smith, who finished with two passing TDs and two rushing touchdowns, scored on a 3-yard run. The play was

set by a 34-yard Flanagan reception to the 1-yard line.

That was the only score in the quarter, which ended with Baker leading 14-7 at halftime.

"We told the kids at half-time that we needed to get

things going, only leading 14-7," Ramos said.

The Bulldogs answered the challenge by scoring twice in the third quarter. Smith again connected with Flanagan from 24 yards, and added another 12-yard rushing

touchdown to build Baker's lead to 27-7.

Mahonri Rushton added a 25-yard field goal in the fourth quarter to complete the scoring.

Smith finished 7-of-18 passing for 113 yards. Gauge

Bloomer led Baker's ground game with 78 yards on 19 carries. Flanagan caught four passes for 65 yards.

Baker hosts Ontario Friday at 7 p.m. in Baker's Homecoming game at Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

BAKER BOYS SOCCER



Kathy Orr / Baker City Herald

Baker's Zach Morrison knocks down a kicked ball against La Grande Saturday.

Baker shuts out Tigers 1-0 for first Greater Oregon win

■ Baker's Jorge Duran scores match's only goal Saturday

By Gerry Steele

gsteele@bakercityherald.com

Jorge Duran scored just 10 minutes into the match Saturday, and Baker made the goal stand up for a 1-0 Greater Oregon League boys soccer win over La Grande at the Baker Sports Complex.

The win was Baker's first in GOL play. The Bulldogs are 1-3 in the league. The loss dropped La Grande to 2-2 in the GOL.

Baker coach Victor Benites said he wasn't sure how Duran scored from outside the penalty area.

"He kicked the ball with his left foot. I looked away and when I looked back he had scored," Benites said.

La Grande actually had the first opportunity to score shortly after the opening kickoff.

A La Grande shot caromed off the Baker crossbar. Baker keeper Silas Carter knocked down the rebound, but La Grande had another try at a second rebound. Carter quickly wrapped his arms around the ball to end the threat.

Baker controlled the tempo

most of the rest of the match. That is until late in the second half.

La Grande made several runs at Carter in an attempt to tie the match. But Baker's defense kept the Tigers out of the net.

Carter put the exclamation point on the win when he made a diving save of one final La Grande shot at the final whistle.

Baker has two remaining GOL home matches, Saturday at 2 p.m. against Ontario and Oct. 26 against Mac-Hi, also at 2 p.m.

BAKER GIRLS SOCCER

La Grande stops Baker, 5-0

By Gerry Steele

gsteele@bakercityherald.com

Baker's Greater Oregon League girls soccer match against La Grande Saturday was like two matches in one.

La Grande dominated the first half, scoring four goals. Baker's defense then tightened, allowing just one more score after halftime but eventually losing the match 5-0.

"The girls played a better second half," said Baker coach Kristen Rushton. "I told the girls at halftime that we play soccer because it makes us happy, and no one can take your happiness away."

La Grande scored in bunches in the first half.

The Tigers' first goal came with 21:15 left in the half. La Grande's second goal came just 17 seconds later.

La Grande nearly equalled that later in the half when the Tigers scored two more goals just 50 seconds apart.

Despite the loss Rushton



Kathy Orr / Baker City Herald

Baker's Brooklyn Jaca, 5, and Maya Smith, 6, look to control the ball against La Grande Saturday.

said she was proud of the Bulldogs.

"I'm just super proud of this team," she said. "They played them much better than the first time. We're just getting better every

game."

Baker has two more home GOL matches in the regular season. The Bulldogs host Ontario Saturday, and Mac-Hi Oct. 26. Both matches start at noon.

EOU BASEBALL

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Baseball, Insko said, will play its home game at Optimist Field inside Pioneer Park, the home of the La Grande baseball team. He said the school will also look at options to play home games in Baker City.

In the long term, though, EOU will look to build a new baseball field on campus. With the university's new fieldhouse set to soon break ground at Snowflake Field — the Mountaineers' old baseball facility — Weissenfluh said the hope is for a baseball park to be built adjacent to Eastern's softball field.

"(We are) hoping to make it a joint complex, that way they can share amenities," she said, noting it would be where the current practice fields for soccer are.

Once the sports are in place, it will give the athletic department 15 sports. Baseball will be the seventh men's sport, joining football, basketball, wrestling, cross country, track and field and soccer. Eight women's sports will now be available, as lacrosse joins softball, basketball, wrestling, cross country, track and field, soccer and volleyball.

EOU most recently added men's and women's wrestling, bringing them on in 2016. Men's soccer was added in 2015.