

Sports

BAKER BOYS SOCCER WINS CLASS 4A PLAYIN GAME OVER MARSHFIELD

Baker pillages Pirates, take on top-ranked Marist next

By Jayson Jacoby
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Victor Benites had a sense Saturday afternoon that his Baker boys soccer team had an advantage over Marshfield in a Class 4A play-in game at the Sports Complex.

Then the Bulldogs went out and made their coach's assessment, based on watching pre-match warmups, seem prescient.

Baker took an early 1-0 lead on sophomore Isael Duran's goal, and the Bulldogs were dominant in a 5-1 rout over the Pirates.

"We took control early in the game," Benites said. "We just played our game."

And in doing so the Bulldogs earned what's likely to be their biggest challenge of the season.

Baker (6-5-2) will travel to Eugene on Wednesday to play top-ranked Marist Catholic (12-0-1) at 6:30 p.m.

Benites said he was surprised Baker was given a home match in the play-in round. The Bulldogs took advantage, as Jamisun Reguiero scored to give Baker a 2-0 lead at halftime.

Baker added three more goals in the second half — Duran's second goal, followed by his brother Jorge Duran's score on a penalty kick, and Alex Davila's goal.

Meanwhile Baker keeper Silas Carter was thwarting all but one of Marshfield's shot, a late, largely meaningless goal.

Wednesday's first-round



Baker's Wyatt Hawkins, right, defends against Marshfield's Pedro Casas Saturday.

playoff match at Marist will be just Baker's second this season played on artificial turf.

"That's a lot different from playing on grass," Benites said. "It's a much faster game."

He hopes Baker will arrive in Eugene early enough Wednesday for the Bulldogs to practice briefly on the turf.

The only blemish on Marist's record this year is a 1-1 draw against North Valley in the Spartans' season-opening match Sept. 3. Since then Marist has won 12 straight matches by a combined score of 69-5.

Although Benites has video of only one Marist match — a 5-0 win over Baker's Greater

Oregon League foe Mac-Hi on Sept. 26 — the Bulldogs and Spartans also have Marshfield as a common opponent.

Marist won both of its matches against the Pirates this year, 2-1 on Sept. 30 and 6-1 on Oct. 17.

"It should be a good game," Benites said of Wednesday's playoff contest.

BAKER VOLLEYBALL

Bulldogs fall in 4 sets in playoffs

JUNCTION CITY — For one set, Baker's volleyball team showed Saturday that it was capable of beating Junction City in a Class 4A playoff match.

The three other sets were a different matter.

Baker struggled early and then couldn't maintain the momentum from its dominating third set in suffering a season-ending loss to Junction City, 25-14, 25-16, 16-25, 25-13.

"We couldn't keep it going for that fourth set," Baker coach Chelsea Hurliman said. "It was kind of a disappointing way to end the season."

Hurliman said that although Junction City is a solid team, Baker's miscues contributed much to their losing the first two sets.

"We had a ton of unforced errors," she said. "We've kind of been our own worst enemy at times this season."

The Bulldogs had no such problems in the third set. "They played better together, I think was the biggest thing," Hurliman said.

She said Lauren Benson, Hailey Zikmund and Emma Baeth all played well.

Baker finished the season with an 8-12 record.

POWDER VALLEY VOLLEYBALL

Badgers return to state tourney

The top-ranked Powder Valley Badgers are headed to the 1A state tournament for a second year in a row and for the third time in five years.

The Badgers swept their second-round home match Saturday against Jordan Valley to reach the tournament, 25-13, 25-10, 25-18.

Powder Valley, which enters the state tournament with a 1A-best record of 32-1, will meet Damascus Christian in the quarterfinals Friday morning at Ridgeway High School in Redmond.

Blazers lose on buzzer-beating 3

PORTLAND (AP) — Philadelphia's Furkan Korkmaz was just as stunned as anyone by his game-winning 3-pointer against the Portland Trail Blazers.

Korkmaz hit his 3 with just 0.4 seconds left and the unbeaten 76ers rallied for their fifth straight victory, 129-128 on Saturday night.

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