

Sports

BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL

Baker withstands Weiser's early flurry to post 71-61 win

■ Wolverines make their first 7 shots, but the Bulldogs take over behind Gabe Gambleton's career-high 32, and senior leaders Caden Long and Riley Flanagan

By Jayson Jacoby
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Weiser was perfect for most of the first quarter but Baker was better over the last three Thursday in a nonleague boys basketball game in the Baker gym.

After spotting the hot-shooting Wolverines an early 21-12 lead, the Bulldogs clamped down defensively and executed as efficiently on offense as they have all season in running away with a 71-61 win in the first of three home games in as many nights.

Baker endured an offensive onslaught from the opening tip as Weiser made its first seven shots, including four three-pointers.

When Justin Estes converted a steal into a layin, the Wolverines led 21-12.

Weiser's first missed field goal, Ande Jensen's three-pointer, came with 1:58 left in the first quarter.

Gabe Gambleton, who scored a career-high 32 points, had Baker's last four points of the quarter as the Bulldogs closed the gap to 24-18.

Baker coach Jebron Jones needed a single adjective to describe Baker's first-quarter defense.

"Horrible."
"They were getting wide open looks," Jones said.

Weiser made 5 of 8 three-pointers in the first quarter.

The Wolverines made two more in the second quarter — but they only had one other field goal as Baker held Weiser to just 8 points.

Baker, meanwhile, matched its first-quarter output of 18 points — 10 by Gambleton — and the Bulldogs led 36-32 at halftime.

Gambleton said the Bulldogs played defense with greater intensity after struggling in the first quarter.

"It was a great team effort from everybody," he said.

Jones said he pointed out to his team that Weiser was on pace to score 96 points — not the sort of number the Bulldogs want to see on the scoreboard in their first home game since Dec. 10.

"I think they just got tired of being embarrassed," Jones said. "They challenged themselves, and they did better the last three quarters."

Baker turned a tight game into a near rout with a flurry of baskets in the last 3 minutes of the third quarter.

Leading 42-37, the Bulldogs finished the quarter on a 14-4 run, including 10-2 in the final 2 minutes.

Two of Baker's seniors took



Kathy Orr/ Baker City Herald

Baker's Riley Flanagan goes to the basket against the defense of Weiser's Ande Jensen, left, and Tim Reed. Flanagan scored 12 points to help the Bulldogs win 71-61.

"The only reason I got open looks was that my teammates were unselfish moving the ball around — that made it happen."

— Baker point guard Gabe Gambleton, who scored a career-high 32 points in a 71-61 win over Weiser Thursday

turns leading the charge.

Caden Long scored 5 of his 21 points, and Riley Flanagan had the last two baskets, the second an acrobatic layin that boosted Baker's lead to 56-41. Flanagan added 14 points.

Gambleton then took over early in the fourth, scoring 7 straight points, including his fifth three-pointer, to give Baker its largest lead at 63-44.

He credited his teammates. "The only reason I got open looks was that my teammates were unselfish moving the ball around," the junior point guard said.

Gambleton said Jones exhorted the Bulldogs during practice this week to make the extra pass that often leads to an open shot.

"We really shared the basketball, which is what we were working on all week in practice," Gambleton said. "And we got layins."

Jones said his players translated that practice emphasis into performance against Weiser.

"The guys were consistently unselfish," he said. "That was a point of emphasis this week, and they did a great job of doing that tonight. It was one of our highest assist totals of the season."

Jones said he was also pleased with Baker's rebounding, especially on the offensive end, where it led to extra shots and a couple of easy baskets.

Gambleton took a knee to the thigh about midway

through the final period, leaving him wincing in pain and limping. He stayed in the game, though, and he said afterward that although his thigh was sore he was fine otherwise.

Gambleton said it was fun to play in front of the Baker crowd for the first time in almost a month.

"I love playing at home," he said. "It's a great atmosphere, with a great crowd and student section."

Baker (7-5) won its third straight. The Bulldogs play host to Fruitland tonight at 7 o'clock and Vale Saturday at 6:30 p.m. (rescheduled from 4 p.m.).

WEISER (61)				
Magana 0 1-2 1, Spencer 5 2-5 15, Harris 1 0-0 2, Reed 4 1-2 12, Estes 2 0-0 5, Jensen 8 0-0 19, York 1 0-0 3, Lattin 2 0-2 4. Totals 23 4-11 61.				
BAKER (71)				
Younger 0 0-0 0, Gambleton 11 5-9 32, Flanagan 7 0-1 14, Robb 0 0-0 0, Rigueiro 0 0-0 0, Wright 1 1-3 3, Shirtcliff 0 0-1 0, Long 8 4-9 21, Smith 0 1-2 1, Van Arsdall 0 0-2 0. Totals 26 11-27 71.				
Weiser	24	8	9	20 — 61
Baker	18	18	20	15 — 71
Three-point baskets — Gambleton 5, Long, Spencer 3, Harris, Reed 3, Estes, Jensen 3, York.				
Total fouls — Weiser 18, Baker 14.				

SCOREBOARD

NFL PLAYOFFS

Wild-card Playoffs			
Saturday, Jan. 4			
All Times PST			
Buffalo at Houston, 1:35 p.m. (ABC/ESPN)			
Tennessee at New England, 5:15 p.m. (CBS)			
Sunday, Jan. 5			
Minnesota at New Orleans, 10:05 a.m. (FOX)			
Seattle at Philadelphia, 1:40 p.m. (NBC)			
Divisional Playoffs			
Saturday, Jan. 11			
Philadelphia, Seattle or Minnesota at San Francisco, 1:35 p.m. (NBC)			
Houston, Buffalo or Tennessee at Baltimore, 5:15 p.m (CBS)			
Sunday, Jan. 12			
New England, Houston or Buffalo at Kansas City, 12:05 p.m. (CBS)			
New Orleans, Philadelphia or Seattle at Green Bay, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)			

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston	23	8	.742	—
Toronto	23	12	.657	2

Philadelphia	23	13	.639	2½
Brooklyn	16	17	.485	8
New York	10	24	.294	14½
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	25	9	.735	—
Orlando	15	19	.441	10
Charlotte	14	23	.378	12½
Washington	10	23	.303	14½
Cleveland	7	27	.206	18
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	31	5	.861	—
Indiana	22	13	.629	8½
Chicago	13	22	.371	17½
Detroit	12	23	.343	18½
Cleveland	10	24	.294	20
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	23	11	.676	—
Dallas	22	12	.647	1
San Antonio	14	19	.424	8½
Memphis	13	22	.371	10½
New Orleans	11	23	.324	12
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Denver	24	10	.706	—
Utah	22	12	.647	2
Oklahoma City	19	15	.559	5
Portland	14	21	.400	10½
Minnesota	13	21	.382	11

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
L.A. Lakers	27	7	.794	—
L.A. Clippers	25	11	.694	3
Phoenix	13	21	.382	14
Sacramento	13	22	.371	14½
Golden State	9	27	.250	19
Thursday's Games				
Charlotte 109, Cleveland 106				
Denver 124, Indiana 116				
Miami 84, Toronto 76				
Minnesota 99, Golden State 84				
Utah 102, Chicago 98				
Dallas 123, Brooklyn 111				
Oklahoma City 109, San Antonio 103				
Sacramento 128, Memphis 123				
L.A. Clippers 126, Detroit 112				
Today's Games				
All Times PST				
Atlanta at Boston, 4 p.m.				
Miami at Orlando, 4 p.m.				
Portland at Washington, 4 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Houston, 5 p.m.				
New York at Phoenix, 6 p.m.				
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
All Times PST				
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 12:30 p.m.				
Toronto at Brooklyn, 3 p.m.				
Utah at Orlando, 4 p.m.				
Indiana at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.				

Boston at Chicago, 5 p.m.				
Denver at Washington, 5 p.m.				
Charlotte at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.				
Detroit at Golden State, 5:30 p.m.				
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.				
New Orleans at Sacramento, 7 p.m.				
Sunday's Games				
New York at L.A. Clippers, 12:30 p.m.				
Portland at Miami, 3 p.m.				
Minnesota at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.				
Memphis at Phoenix, 5 p.m.				
Detroit at L.A. Lakers, 7 p.m.				

PREP BASKETBALL				
Thursday's Games				
BOYS				
Baker 71, Weiser, Idaho 61				
Bandon 49, Days Creek 38				
Falls City 67, Livingstone 57				
Joseph 72, Crane 39				
Regis 55, Vernonia 41				
Toledo 81, Union 36				
Desert Oasis, Nev. 57, Benson 45				
South Eugene 61, Miramonte, Calif. 57				
Mt. Spokane, Wash. 89, Sandy 54				
Pacific Christian OC, Calif. 69, Sherwood 54				
Sunset 78, De La Salle 67				
Tigard 85, Western Christian High School 78				
Brookings-Harbor 79, Douglas 59				
North Valley 61, South Umpqua 54				

Amity 56, Nyssa 51				
Blanchet Catholic 47, Horizon Christian				
Tualatin 40				
Burns 57, Gold Beach 38				
Cascade Christian 52, Oregon Episcopal 44				
Catlin Gabel 78, Clatskanie 48				
Columbia Christian 61, Santiam 42				
Dayton 47, Umatilla 33				
Kennedy 80, St. Paul 33				
North Marion 71, Portland Adventist 51				
Salem Academy 68, Portland Christian 49				
Sutherlin 63, Monroe 59				
North Salem 55, Molalla 43				
Stayton 79, Ontario 26				
Valley Catholic 49, Ridgeview 30				
Woodburn 62, Gladstone 58				
Harrisburg 54, Neah-Kah-Nie 27				
Knappa 84, Illinois Valley 38				
Waldport 56, Central Linn 55				
GIRLS				
Bandon 44, Bonanza 22				
Crane 54, Joseph 30				
Dallas 48, Taft 44				
Livingstone 51, Falls City 24				
Mountain View 52, Redmond 33				
Rogue Valley Adventist 50, Gilchrist 29				
St. Helens 56, South Albany 37				
Weiser, Idaho 62, Ontario 36				
Wilsonville 47, Corvallis 44				
Banks 53, McLoughlin 21				
Clatskanie 69, Molalla 49				
La Grande 56, Yamhill-Carlton 32				

Madras 58, Cascade 46				
Astoria 66, Kotzebue, Alaska 39				
South Umpqua 47, North Valley 34				
Burns 48, Western Christian High School 18				
Gervais 56, Amity 38				
Kennedy 42, Nyssa 24				
North Marion 60, Cascade Christian 33				
Salem Academy 44, Umatilla 29				
St. Paul 47, Catlin Gabel 13				
Sutherlin 58, Monroe 42				
COLLEGE FOOTBALL				
Wednesday's Games				
Citrus Bowl				
Alabama 35, Michigan 16				
Outback Bowl				
Minnesota 31, Auburn 24				
Rose Bowl				
Oregon 28, Wisconsin 27				
Sugar Bowl				
Georgia 26, Baylor 14				
Thursday's Games				
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl				
Cincinnati 38, Boston College 6				
Gator Bowl				
Tennessee 23, Indiana 22				
Today's Game				
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl				
All Times PST				
Ohio (6-6) vs. Nevada (7-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)				