

Sports

BAKER FOOTBALL PLAYS ITS SECOND STRAIGHT GAME AT HOME

Bulldogs blow out Ontario on Senior Night

By Corey Kirk
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Playing at home for the second straight Friday, the Baker Bulldogs dismantled Ontario 41-8 on Senior Night March 26 at chilly Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

Baker improved to 2-2 on the abbreviated season. Ontario fell to 1-3.

Wide receiver Carlos Delarosa was among the Baker seniors playing for the final time at home. He celebrated with a big night, catching five passes for 91 yards and two touchdowns.

"It felt great. We had a lot of energy and I am just happy to be out here," Delarosa said.

Coming off a big win in overtime March 19 against Nyssa, Baker coach Jason Ramos said he emphasized the need to maintain momentum.

"Now that we've gotten into a place where we've gotten some things going, now we are getting better with high energy, and it's showing and we are making those improvements," Ramos said.

It didn't take long for the Bulldogs to show the improvements against Ontario.

Just 15 seconds into the game, Baker senior quarterback Gabe Gambleton ran 55



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Baker's Kaden Myer, No. 15, hauls in a pass from quarterback Gabe Gambleton, No. 3 in background. Offensive lineman Alex Ritter, No. 55, is at left.

yards for a touchdown.

Ontario responded almost as quickly. On the Tigers' first possession they took an 8-6 lead on a 20-yard touchdown pass and two-point conversion.

Ontario's first, and last, lead didn't last long.

The Bulldogs retaliated soon after with a pair of Gambleton touchdown passes, the first, of 30 yards, to senior Kaden Myer, the second going again

to Delarosa from 13 yards.

Ramos said he was pleased with his wide receivers.

"They're getting better, they're running good routes, and catching the ball and they're doing exactly what we are asking them to do," he said.

To finish the half, Gambleton got to the end zone again, scoring on a one-yard run to push Baker's halftime lead to 27-8.

Gambleton finished with 89 yards on seven carries to lead all Baker rushers, to go along with 169 passing yards.

Having a versatile quarterback is a boon to Baker's offense, said Delarosa, who accounted for 91 of Gambleton's passing yards.

"It's great because he was able to run, he's able to do everything," Delarosa said.

Going into halftime with a

"It felt great. We had a lot of energy."

— Carlos Delarosa, Baker senior wide receiver

commanding lead, Ramos said he didn't need to make any major changes, just a bit of tinkering on defense.

"There were a couple of things on defense, how we needed to attack certain things they were doing," Ramos said.

After a quiet third quarter in which neither team scored, Baker struck again early in the final period as Gambleton again found Delarosa, from six yards out.

"Just trusting our quarterback, trusting the reads, and holding out blocks," Delarosa said. "It was great, felt awesome to score a touchdown."

Meanwhile the Baker defense, thanks in part to recovering three fumbles, kept Ontario off the scoreboard.

"It was awesome, we did a great job capitalizing," Delarosa said.

Junior Dylon Freeman capped the scoring with a 21-yard touchdown run.

Ramos said he was proud of the 14 seniors who were honored before kickoff, which was

about 45 minutes late due to a delay in the officials arriving.

"Disappointed obviously that their senior year is what it is. I want it to be better, we had high expectations coming back from last year with all those kids coming back," Ramos said. "We are beyond that now, we are just trying to finish strong and give them a positive experience going forward and we've done that. Our two games at home were good games for our seniors to have that experience and hopefully we can get a couple more."

Baker travels to Pendleton this Friday, April 2, to play Pendleton/Nixyaawi (3-1) at 7 p.m. Ramos hopes to schedule a final game for the following week.

Ontario	8	0	0	0	—	8
Baker	13	14	0	14	—	41
B —	Gabe Gambleton 55 run (kick fails)					
O —	20 pass (two-point conversion)					
B —	Kaden Myer 30 pass from Gambleton (Zellars kick)					
B —	Carlos Delarosa 13 pass from Gambleton (Zellars kick)					
B —	Gambleton 1 run (Zellars kick)					
B —	Delarosa 6 pass from Gambleton (Zellars kick)					
B —	Dylon Freeman 21 run (Zellars kick)					

Individual statistics (Baker only)
Rushing — Gambleton 7-89; G. Bloomer 13-50; Freeman 4-32; D. Bloomer 3-22; Delarosa 1-5.

Passing — Gambleton 9-18-169; Hobson 1-2-25.
Receiving — Delarosa 5-91; Myer 3-90; Spike 1-4.

Baker volleyball sweeps Ontario

By Corey Kirk
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Baker's volleyball team won its second straight match on Saturday, March 27, sweeping the Ontario Tigers in the Baker gym to improve to 3-5 on the season.

Baker won 25-16, 25-22 and 25-16. "I am super proud of them. We had some absences with spring break

and the girls adapted very well and played composed and strong," coach Ali Abrego said.

Abrego said the consecutive wins — Baker swept Nyssa on March 15 — gives the Bulldogs a confidence boost as they prepare for a busy week with four matches in five days. "Oh, it was crucial. A good momentum shift going into this loaded

week," Abrego said.

She hopes the final stretch of this pandemic-shortened season will be beneficial for her players.

"I hope that they can gain a sense of working as a cohesive unit, and really find value out of a weird season," Abrego said.

Baker's schedule this week includes:

- Tonight at La Grande, 6 p.m.
 - Wednesday, against unbeaten Powder Valley in the Baker gym, 6:30 p.m.
 - Friday, April 2, against Vale in the Baker gym, 6 p.m.
 - Saturday, April 3, at Nyssa, 1 p.m. PDT.
- Baker finishes its season on April 5 at Burns.

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