

Sports

BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Hayden Younger goes to the basket against Powder Valley on Wednesday, June 2.

Baker dominates Badgers, 75-47

By Corey Kirk
ckirk@bakercityherald.com

In the middle of playing three games in three days, the Baker boys basketball team fought off fatigue, and a feisty Powder Valley squad, to stop the Badgers, 75-47, on Wednesday, June 2 in the Baker gym.

Baker coach Jebron Jones said he encouraged the Bulldogs to focus on unselfish team play.

“We need to make the extra pass, and I think they did a good job doing that, and we got easy buckets,” Jones said.

The fast pace of the game was challenging for Baker, coming off a tough 73-66 win at Vale the previous evening. But the Bulldogs adjusted, taking a 21-13 lead over the Badgers after one quarter.

“They’re (Powder Valley) scrappy, we all know those kids, living 20 minutes down the road,” Jones said. “We knew they were going to play hard, so I had to do something to try and get them out of their comfort zone, and the kids did a good job tonight.”

Baker extended its lead to 40-27 at halftime, but Jones said he emphasized to the Bulldogs a few areas they could improve on in the second half.

“They beat us with every loose ball, they beat us on the boards, and they still did that in the second half, but we created more turnovers, which led to easy layups,” Jones said.

See **Baker** / Page 6A

BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Baker Dawgs wrap up hoops season

The Baker Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade boys basketball teams played a Grant Union team on May 26 that combined seventh- and eighth-graders.

While the mixed Grant Union team played throughout, the Baker seventh-graders played the first half, and the eighth-graders the second half.

Baker ended up rallying behind the eighth-graders in the second half to win, 42-39.

In the first half, Tyler Wirth had four points, Kale Dalke three, and Hunter Coleman and Chase Roy two points each as Grant Union took a 28-11 lead.

In the third quarter, with the Baker eighth-graders on the floor, the Dawgs outscored Grant Union 20-5, cutting the lead to 33-31 entering the final quarter.

Baker took the lead early in the fourth quarter and held on for the win.

Eli Long led Baker with 11 points. Grant Gambleton had six, Daniel Brown five and Palmer Chandler four.

Baker sweeps La Grande

On May 27 Baker played their last games of the season, against La Grande, with the seventh-graders winning a close one, 27-24, while the eighth-graders routed the Tigers, 49-12.

See **Dawgs** / Page 6A

BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bulldogs roll past Powder

By Corey Kirk
ckirk@bakercityherald.com

In front of a sizable crowd in the Baker High gymnasium, the Bulldogs dominated Powder Valley, 48-27, on Wednesday, June 2.

It was a rare matchup between the Class 4A Bulldogs and Class 1A Badgers.

The teams also played, at North Powder, on Jan. 28, 2020, with Baker winning by a nearly identical score, 49-27.

Before Wednesday’s game at BHS, Baker coach Mat Sand said he emphasized the importance of communication with his team, which has had limited practice time during this shortened season.

“You have to learn how to let the game come to you, because if you try to force it and do more than it’s allowing you to do it’s going to be a trainwreck,” Sand said.

Baker was tested immediately when point guard Sydney Keller, the team’s sole senior and veteran from the Bulldogs 2019 state championship team, picked up two early fouls.

Sophomore Sydnee Pierce came off the bench and had an early basket.

Sand was excited to see how the experience boosted Pierce’s confidence.

“To see her come out and have the game that she had, that’s her building that confidence, and her understanding her role for this team,” Sand said.

Pierce ended up with nine points.

Baker built a 14-5 lead after one quarter and extended the advantage to 27-14 at halftime.

Despite the lead, Sand said he told his team in the locker room that they couldn’t relax against the Badgers, a perennial Class 1A power.

He said he wrote three words on the blackboard — rebounds, execute, defense.

“Rebounds are a huge thing for us, I’m a firm believer that rebounds and free throws win games,” Sand said. “The second thing was execute. Being patient with your execution, wait for it to come to you, and play good solid defense, which we did.”



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Sophomore Sydnee Pierce had a strong outing off the bench Wednesday, June 2 against Powder Valley.



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Sophomore Taylor Dalton lines up a shot against Powder Valley on Wednesday, June 2.

Baker held the Badgers to just four points in the third quarter, while the Bulldogs scored 17 points — five by Pierce — to extend the lead to 44-18 entering the final quarter.

Sophomore Jozie Ramos scored eight of her game-high 20 points in the third period,

despite facing double teams much of the time.

“I thought it was awesome, she came out and let the game come to her, and she made shots that she was missing before,” Sand said of Ramos. “That’s the type of player she is, she is so wise with her approach to the game.”

Baker romps over Ontario

Baker improved to 3-1 on the season, traveling to Ontario on Thursday, June 3 and dominating the Tigers, 80-15.

Jozie Ramos scored 19 points to lead four Bulldogs in double figures. Fellow sophomore Macey Moore had 17 points, sophomore Sydnee Pierce added 13, and senior captain Sydney Keller had 12.

Baker will go for its fourth straight win, after a season-opening loss to Nyssa, when it travels to Powder Valley on Monday, June 7 for a 6 p.m. tipoff against the Badgers, who are 2-2 on the season.

Sand said he was pleased with Baker’s overall performance.

“I was really happy with the whole team effort, it’s not just one individual,” he said.

Seniors Belle Blair and McKenzie Leggett led the Badgers with six points each, and senior Keanna Bingham had five.

Rylee Elms and Keller had six points each for Baker. Macey Moore had four points.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

POWDERVALLEY (27)
Blair 3 0-0 6, DJ Bingham 1 0-0 2, K. Leggett 0 3-6 3, Wallace 0 0-0 0, K. Bingham 2 1-2 5, J. Bingham 1 0-0 2, M. Leggett 0 6-8 6, A. Bingham 1 1-2 3. Totals 8 11-14 27

BAKER (48)
Elms 3 0-0 6, Flanagan 0 0-0 0, Jaca 1 1-2 3, Wide 0 0-0 0, Keller 2 2-4 6, Pierce 4 0-0 9, Dalton 0 0-0 0, Roy 0 0-0 0, Paulsen 0 0-0 0, Ramos 7 6-9 20, Robb 0 0-0 0, Campbell 0 0-0 0, Moore 2 0-0 4. Totals 18 9-15 48.

Powder Valley 5 9 4 9 — 27
Baker 14 13 17 4 — 48
Three-point baskets — Pierce. Total fouls — Powder Valley 11, Baker 16.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

BAKER (80)
Elms 2 0-0 4, Flanagan 4 0-0 8, Jaca 3 0-0 6, Wide 0 0-0 0, Keller 6 0-0 12, Pierce 6 0-0 13, Dalton 0 0-0 0, Roy 0 0-0 0, Paulsen 0 0-0 0, Ramos 9 1-2 19, Robb 0 0-0 0, Moore 8 0-0 17. Totals 38 1-4 80.

ONTARIO (15)
Hernandez 1 0-0 2, Esquivel 0 0-0 0, Cester 1 0-0 2, Ortega 2 0-0 5, Pearson 2 0-0 4, Wilson 1 0-0 2, Evans 0 0-0 0, Campbell 0 0-0 0. Totals 7 0-0 15.

Baker 18 14 25 23 — 80
Ontario 4 2 2 7 — 15
Three-point baskets — Pierce, Moore, Ortega. Total fouls — Baker 8, Ontario 8.

Nuggets eliminate Trail Blazers

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — The Denver Nuggets were undaunted, even when down 14 points in the third quarter and facing an antagonistic Portland crowd.

Nikola Jokic had 36 points and the Nuggets eliminated the Portland Trail Blazers in six games with a 126-115 victory Thursday night, June 3.

“Nobody can take the fight out of us,” Jokic said. “We will just go out there and fight and that’s what we have been doing. We’re never going to quit. Quit is not in our vocabulary.”

Michael Porter Jr. added 26 points,

including 22 in the opening quarter, for the third-seeded Nuggets. Denver will take on Phoenix, which eliminated the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 6, 113-100. Game 1 in the series is Monday, June 7 in Phoenix.

Denver advanced to the Western Conference semifinals for the third straight season.

Damian Lillard finished with 28 points and 13 assists for the sixth-seeded Blazers. They led by 14 points in the third quarter but couldn’t stave off elimination.

Monte Morris hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to close Denver to 101-98 heading into the last period. Jokic hit a

3-pointer to put Denver ahead 108-106 and the Nuggets stretched it to 117-108 on Austin Rivers’ 3 with 3:52 left.

Portland tried to catch up, pulling to 121-115 on CJ McCollum’s layup, but Aaron Gordon hit a corner 3-pointer that all but sealed it for Denver with less than a minute to go.

Portland crumbled in the final quarter, outscored 28-14.

“We didn’t do what was necessary to win the series,” Lillard said. “We’ve got to keep fighting, keep working and keep coming back to battle. Regardless of how it ended, we are always going to have our heads held high, have class.”

2021

EASTERN OREGON PHOTO CONTEST



Official Rules:
Photo Contest open now and closes at 11:59 pm Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People’s Choice from 12:01 am Monday, June 21 through 11:59 pm Thursday, June 30.

Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies.

Only photographers from Oregon may participate.

The contest subject matter is wide open but we’re looking for images that capture life in Eastern Oregon.

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn’t represent what’s actually before the camera.

The winners will appear in the July 8th edition of Go Magazine; the top 25 will appear online.

Gift cards to a restaurant of your choice will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Submit all photos online at: bakercityherald.com/photocontest