

BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL FINISHES SEASON WITH 8-3 RECORD

Bulldogs top Vale in finale

By **Corey Kirk**
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Senior Gabe Gambleton capped his Baker High School basketball career by scoring 32 points and leading the Bulldogs past Vale, 79-62, on Thursday evening, June 17 in the BHS gym.

Baker finished its season with an 8-3 record.

"If you are a great player you can miss a couple of shots, you just have to keep a good mindset, a fast memory, you miss a shot you just have to move on and get to the next one," said Gambleton, who topped 30 points for the second time this season.

He scored 35 points against La Grande on June 8.

On Thursday, Gambleton scored 14 points in the first quarter as Baker took a 21-15 lead.

The Bulldogs extended



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Gabe Gambleton scored 32 points in his final high school game on Thursday, June 17.

the advantage to 44-36 at halftime.

Tanner Steele, with a team-high 21 points, and Diesel Johnson, who scored 19, kept Vale relatively

close until late in the fourth quarter.

"I knew they would play hard no matter what the score was, they hit shots," Baker coach Jebron Jones

said of Vale, which finished its season with a 5-3 record.

Although Gambleton has graduated, Thursday's win also gave Baker fans a glimpse of what's to come next winter when the Bulldogs will return to the court for what's expected to be a normal season.

The rest of Baker's points were scored by freshmen, sophomores or juniors.

Freshmen Paul Hobson (16 points) and Hudson Spike (14) combined for 30 points, while junior Kaiden Dalke had 13 points.

"Next year is going to be a lot different, there's some younger kids coming up, they are going to be a little bit hungry, and I challenge them to work in the offseason to get better, and we will see if they'd be willing to do that," Jones said.

BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL

Baker girls roll past Vikings, improve to 8-3

By **Corey Kirk**
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The Baker girls basketball team won its second straight game, and fourth in the past five, with a 50-16 romp over Vale on Thursday at Vale.

Baker improved to 8-3 on the season.

Sophomore Jozie Ramos led Baker in scoring with 16 points. Sophomore Macey Moore added nine points, sophomores Rylee Elms and Makenzie Flanagan had six each, and senior Sydney Keller scored six points as well.

Baker coach Mat Sand said he was proud of his team's efforts at both ends of the court, and in particular on defense, as the Bulldogs held Vale to 11 fewer points than the Vikings scored in Baker's 51-27 win the Baker gym on June 1.

"It was a good team effort on our part," Sand said. "You got to be able to contribute no matter what is going on through the night, so when you see the contributions across the board with scoring, and contributing defensively, so when I saw that last night I was very pleased."

Baker wrapped up its season on Friday against rival La Grande at La Grande. The Tigers entered the game 9-0, including a 51-32 win over Baker on June 8.

See the Tuesday, June 22 issue of the Baker City Herald for a story about the Baker-La Grande game.

Locals make junior high rodeo finals

Three Baker City rodeo competitors qualified for the National Junior High Finals Rodeo June 20-26 at Des Moines, Iowa.

Ashlyn Dalton, Krece Moore and Reagan Martin qualified by the national event with fourth-place finishes at the Oregon state

finals in Burns May 22-23.

The Baker trio will be competing for a variety of prizes and scholarships at Des Moines. Results and other information is available at <https://www.catchdesmoines.com/event/national-junior-high-finals-rodeo/27398/>

TOURNEY

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Baker will host games throughout all four days of the tournament, including the championship matchups. Powder Valley will hold contests through the semifinals, with some games running simultaneously in the school's secondary and main gymnasiums.

"Everything is coming together really well and I've been impressed by everyone's efforts so far," said Powder Valley Athletic Director Brad Dunten.

The 1A boys and girls teams will each compete in a 16-team, double elimination bracket. The tournament will not be an official 1A state tournament, according to the

Oregon School Activities Association, but the Baker and Powder Valley athletics directors are aiming to conduct the tournament like any other season.

"We're just trying to do the best that we possibly can to make it as close to what the original would have been like and honor their efforts and celebrate the kids," Gonzales said.

The brackets are slated to include the two top teams from each Class 1A conference, but opt-outs and summer commitments play a role in which teams can attend. The Crane girls basketball team is the reigning champion on the girls side, while Damascus Christian won in 2020 on the boys side.

Powder Valley will compete on the

girls side as the No. 3 seed, while the boys team is still waiting on end-of-season results. Allen Bingham's girls squad will tip-off against Elkton at 7 p.m. June 21 at Baker High School.

June 21 games will entail a mix of boys and girls games across the three available courts. Boys teams will then play games at Baker on June 22 and at Powder Valley on June 23. Likewise, girls teams will play at Powder Valley on June 22 and at Baker on June 23.

The championship games on June 24 will be at Baker High School with the girls set for 5:30 p.m. and the boys tip-off scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Both schools will hold attendance to 50% capacity for the games in order to comply with state and county guidelines for indoor events. Masks

will be required for spectators in attendance unless vaccinated for COVID-19.

"You've just got to stay organized and follow the guidance with all the regulations," Gonzales said. "Then, we try to clearly communicate that."

Baker County Tournaments is hosting the 2021 1A state tournament, as they have in years past. The organization will be in charge of tickets, score-keeping, announcing, trophies and other matters related to the tournament.

Adults can purchase four-day passes for \$45 or pay \$8 for single-session tickets. Student tickets are available at \$35 for four-day passes and \$6 per single-session.

With so many teams traveling for the tournament, Gonzales antici-

pates coaches and athletes lodging across Baker and Union counties. Due to the influx of travel during the summer, several teams have informed Gonzales that they will be camping or staying in RVs for the duration of the tournament.

Each team will compete in three games regardless of results of the first round, with losing teams playing for a chance at redemption in the consolation bracket. Nixyaawii (11-1) enters the 1A tournament as the top seed on the boys side, while Crane (8-0) is the top-seeded girls team.

"Athletics were my world at that age and I wouldn't be what I am without that," Dunten said. "It's a great opportunity for some closure at the end of the season."

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