

Bulldogs drop season opener

By COREY KIRK

ckirk@bakercityherald.com

Baker's girls soccer team opened its season with an 8-2 loss to the Weiser Wolverines Thursday afternoon, Aug. 26, at the Baker Sports Complex.

"We are proud of them and their effort (and) we see more success for them in their future than what they showed today," Baker head coach Eric Layton said. "The score does not reflect our abilities, I think we have a lot more potential."

With the Bulldogs playing their first match in nearly half a year, Layton said he "literally had no expectations."

"I asked the players to do a couple of things, which was like try hard, and work on what we had worked on," he said. "We knew it was going to be rough, we were all very rusty, we had a lot of rust to knock off."

Although Weiser kept Baker off balance early in the first half, Baker assistant coach Christine Teegarden said she was impressed with the Bulldogs' effort.

"For most of the game, we were seeing pretty high effort across the board," Teegarden said.

The Wolverines led 2-0 early, but around the 30th minute Baker got on the board for the first time with a goal by sophomore Skye Smith.

Teegarden said Smith's goal boosted the Bulldogs' confidence.

"I used that moment to talk with the people on the bench at the time to make note on how the dynamic changed at that time changed on the field immediately after (Smith's goal)," Teegarden said. "The opposing team became a little bit flustered, we became confident, it suddenly changed how things were looking. That's a mentality issue, you didn't have the confidence before, and then we scored, and now you're playing like a different team. You have to play like that before the scoreboard represents it."

Baker couldn't build momentum after Smith's goal, as Weiser went on to score six straight goals.

The Bulldogs narrowed the final gap on a goal in the closing minutes by senior Maya Smith (Skye's sister).

Layton said he told his team after the match that they need to continue working hard.



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald
Baker junior captain Anna Belding in action against Weiser, Idaho, on Thursday, Aug. 26 at the Baker Sports Complex.

"We make mistakes, we move on and we keep moving forward," Layton said. "So I am hoping they are going to forget this. It's going

to sting for a while but I felt like the two goals are very encouraging. We can score. We just need to defend better."

Weiser blanks Baker boys

WEISER, Idaho — The Baker boys soccer team struggled on offense in a 3-0 loss at Weiser in the Bulldogs' first match of the season.

Baker senior goalkeeper Silas Carter had 17 saves, a performance Baker coach Victor Benites touted.

"I'm happy with the outcome even though I hate losing," Benites said. "We had some good chances of scoring."

Looking ahead, Benites is excited to watch his team grow.

"We played well, there are a few things we need to work on, but we'll get there," Benites said.

Baker will play its first home match Saturday, Aug. 28 against McCall-Donnelly at the Baker Sports Complex. Kickoff is set for noon.

— Corey Kirk

Baker returns to the Sports Complex this Saturday afternoon, Aug. 28, for a 2 p.m. match against another Idaho squad, the McCall-Donnelly Vandals.

Pick Six: Who wins college football's biggest prizes in '21?

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

The last three Heisman Trophy winners include the first receiver to win the award in nearly three decades, a quarterback who was the 52nd-rated passer in the country the season before and a first-year starting QB.

The days of the Heisman winner being a well-established star and/or preseason favorite are long gone.

Heisman voters embrace the breakout player more than ever before, and in 2021 there is a good chance the winner will again be someone

who enters the season without much of track record.

The only player to finish in the top 10 of last season's Heisman voting to return to college football in '21 is Iowa State's Breece Hall. Considering recent Heisman trends, the seventh-ranked Cyclones' running back isn't even the favorite on his team. That would be quarterback Brock Purdy.

No. 1 Alabama, No. 3 Clemson and No. 4 Ohio State all have new starting quarterbacks, with experience ranging from a couple of impressive starts (D.J. Uiag-

alelei of Clemson) to some mop-up work (Bryce Young of Alabama) to not one single college pass (C.J. Stroud of Ohio State).

Even with that, some Heisman predictions have those three among the top seven favorites, led by Oklahoma's returning starter, Spencer Rattler. Makes sense. The last three starting quarterbacks for coach Lincoln Riley's Sooners have been Heisman finalists and two — Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray — have won it.

HEISMAN TROPHY (most outstanding player)

Top contenders (in alphabetical order): JT Daniels, QB, Georgia; Spencer Rattler, QB, Oklahoma; Desmond Ridder, QB, Cincinnati; Kayvon Thibodeaux, DE, Oregon; D.J. Uiagalelei, QB, Clemson.

And the winner is ... Uiagalelei. Trevor Lawrence's predecessor becomes the first Clemson player to win the Heisman.

BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY (defensive player of the year)

Top contenders: Will Anderson Jr., OLB, Alabama; Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU; Kayvon Thibodeaux, DE, Oregon.

And the winner is ... Thibodeaux. The sack masters tend to win this award. The Ducks' junior is primed to follow recent winners Chase Young of Ohio State, Josh Allen of Kentucky and Bradley Chubb of North Carolina State.

OUTLAND TROPHY (best interior lineman)

Top contenders: Bryan Bresee, DT, Clemson; Evan Neal, OT, Alabama; Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa.

And the winner is ... Neal. Alabama has dominated this award during the Nick Saban era with five winners,

including three since 2016. Neal makes it two Crimson Tide offensive tackles in a row after Alex Leatherwood last season.

DOAK WALKER AWARD (best running back)

Top contenders: Breece Hall, Iowa State; Bijan Robinson, Texas; Zamir White, Georgia.

And the winner is ... Robinson. New Longhorns coach Steve Sarkisian will build the offense around the talented tailback, providing him plenty of opportunities in the running and passing game.

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