

Weiser rolls past Bulldogs

By COREY KIRK

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Under the bright lights of Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium Friday night, Sept. 17, Baker was unable to keep up with the undefeated Weiser Wolverines.

Weiser (4-0) raced to a 21-0 lead after one quarter and rolled to a 48-12 win over the Bulldogs.

Baker, whose three opponents have a combined record of 11-0, fell to 0-3 after a season-opening loss to Cascade and a loss at Homedale, Idaho, on Sept. 11.

Baker coach Jason Ramos said he had confidence going into Friday's game, as the team had a strong week of practice.

"We just felt like we needed to achieve a new level of physicality, we challenged our guys to bring it more in practice," Ramos said. "We had two really good practices at the end of the week this week, Wednesday and Thursday."

Ramos said Baker's inability to get its running game going was a glaring problem in the first quarter as Weiser scored three times and forced Baker to punt on each of its possessions.

The Bulldogs finished with 112 rushing yards.

"We are just struggling inside with that, we were a little outmatched with that," Ramos said. "We have to do better up front, we got to get Gauge (Bloomer) going."

The Bulldogs have struggled to open holes for Bloomer, Baker's top running back and a senior leader.

Baker's defense tightened in the second quarter, holding Weiser to a late field goal.

On offense, meanwhile, the Bulldogs had their best scoring chance after sophomore Malaki Myer returned a punt for more than 30



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

A host of Bulldogs combine to bring down a Weiser ball carrier on Friday, Sept. 17 at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

yards. Baker then marched inside the 10, but were unable to get into the end zone.

Weiser led 24-0 at half-time.

"We knew we were getting the ball back in the second half, so we were saying, let's come out and put it together like we did, let's get a score on the board and let's get a stop," Ramos said.

But it was Weiser that struck first in the third quarter, scoring in the first two minutes to extend its lead to 31-0.

Baker then got on the scoreboard.

Myer intercepted a Weiser pass, and later caught the first of his two touchdown passes from fellow sophomore Paul Hobson. Myer finished with eight catches for 140 yards.

"We know what Malaki can do, he's a great athlete

and he can get behind guys and we can just get him the ball so he can make plays, so that's what we were trying to do," Ramos said.

Hobson also had a stronger second half. He ended up 13 for 24 passing for 168 yards, with the two scoring tosses to Myer, and a pair of interceptions.

Ramos said his younger quarterback continues to improve.

"We know he has potential, we just have to work with that," Ramos said.

"Both (Myer and Hobson) are sophomores, are still growing and learning as a part of their process," Ramos said.

Although Baker was able to prevent the shutout, the Wolverines had a strong fourth quarter with a pair of touchdowns and a field goal for the final margin.

Baker girls, boys 3rd at Wallowa meet

By COREY KIRK

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Baker's girls and boys cross-country teams both finished third in the team standings at the Wallowa County Invitational on Friday, Sept. 17 at Wallowa Lake State Park.

The Baker girls, led by seniors Sydney Lamb (fifth overall) and Emma Baeth (seventh) were 10 points behind runner-up Union, and 21 points behind first-place La Grande. Freshman Sofia Kaaen also was among the top 10 finishers, placing ninth.

Junior Thaddeus Pepera finished 16th, and freshman Daniel Brown 17th, to lead the Baker boys to third place behind Union and Enterprise.

"It was a beautiful course," Baker coach Suzy Cole said. "It was really fun to run at. I think that our numbers are really strong, and our kids and effort are really strong. Varsity, it was not one of their better races collectively, but that is why we have races throughout the season, to kind of know where we are and how we are feeling. They trained hard, they prepared well and they were race ready, it's just not every race is ideal."

Pine Eagle senior Caleb Brown was fourth overall, with a time of 18:13.1. His Spartan teammate, junior Cooper Gover, placed 18th in 19:56.

Baker boys

16th, Thaddeus Pepera, 19:38.6; 17th, Daniel Brown, 19:55.7; 21st, Seth Mastrude, 20:06.6; 28th, Jordan Mills, 21:20.9; 29th, Payton Waters, 21:36.9; 34th, Tanner Lucas, 22:12.5

Baker girls

5th, Sydney Lamb, 22:25.7; 7th, Emma Baeth, 22:57.6; 9th, Sofia Kaaen, 23:11.7; 24th, Paige Marlia, 27:27.2; 27th, Katie Spaugh, 28:43.4

Baker also had several runners compete in the junior varsity and junior high races.

Baker finished second in the boys standings at the junior high level, and the girls were fourth.

Junior varsity boys

9th, Reeve Damschen, 22:57; 25th, Seth Holden, 29:02.2; 27th, Karsten Cikanek, 30:58.9

Junior varsity girls

1st, Anastasia Johnson, 28:47.2; 5th, Lilly Collins, 30:31.1; 6th, Avery Collier, 30:31.3

Junior high girls

(2,500-meter course)
31st, Sage Cuzick, 13:17.3; 34th, Ruby Heriza, 13:27.0; 45th, Gwen Rasmussen, 14:21.8; 52nd, Meren Jensenko, 15:15.6; 63rd, Jurnee Bliss, 16:23.8

Junior high boys

(2,500-meter course)
4th, Kane Hellburg, 10:03.4; 15th, Jack Joseph, 11:23.5; 28th, Robert (Tyler) Wirth, 12:01.6; 33rd, Lance Downing, 12:07.1; 36th, Engstrom Richard, 12:21.5; 37th, Kegan Bott, 12:22.4; 44th, Roman Zickgraf, 12:40.8; 54th, Theodore Pepera, 13:24.3; 60th, Harris Gaslin, 14:18.5

The BHS cross-country teams will compete Thursday, Sept. 23 at the Stanfield Fun Country event starting at 4 p.m.

The BMS teams will compete Saturday, Sept. 25 at the John Hascal Memorial 3K at Pilot Rock starting at noon.



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Baker's Dash Bloomer (middle) and Drake Harper (No. 16) tackle a Weiser Wolverine on Friday evening, Sept. 17 at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.



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