

BAKER VOLLEYBALL

Baker routs Pioneers

■ Bulldogs have won 9 straight matches

By JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The only moment of suspense during Baker's sweep of Mac-Hi in a league volleyball match Thursday evening, Sept. 30 in the Baker gym was in the first rally.

A Pioneer player bumped the ball into the rafters.

Where, as players and spectators below craned their necks waiting for the ball to fall, it remained.

Fortunately for the Bulldogs, ranked fourth in the state, there were plenty of other volleyballs available.

And with a combination of pinpoint serving and pounding spikes, Baker ran its winning streak to nine matches and improved to 11-2 on the season.

"I feel like we executed well yesterday," Baker coach Ali Abrego said on Friday morning, Oct. 1.

The Bulldogs lost only once during September — a 3-0 sweep by Weiser in the Baker gym on Sept. 8.

On Thursday evening the Bulldogs, notwithstanding the brief delay when the ball lodged high above, dominated almost from the start.

Mac-Hi took a 2-1 lead but with freshman Sofia Hanson serving, the Bulldogs scored four straight points to lead 5-2.

The Pioneers trimmed Baker's lead to 10-7, but then, after a Baker side out, junior Rylee Elms had the serve.

And she kept serving, for 15 straight points as Baker won the first set 25-7.

Fellow junior Jozie Ramos had two powerful spikes during the run that Mac-Hi didn't touch.

The second set followed a similar pattern.

Mac-Hi forged an early tie at 4, but Ramos served six



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker junior Rylee Elms, back, and freshman Taylor Churchfield combine to set up a block against Mac-Hi on Thursday, Sept. 30 in the Baker gym. The Bulldogs swept the Pioneers for their ninth straight win.

straight points.

After Mac-Hi got within 10-5, Hanson served 10 straight points and Baker led 20-5.

The Bulldogs closed out the set, again winning 25-7.

The final set was slightly more competitive, as the Pioneers led 4-3.

Elms served four straight Baker points — including two aces — to give the Bulldogs an 8-4 lead.

Senior Lacy Churchfield had two kills as Baker jumped to an 18-7 lead, a stretch that included Hanson serving eight straight points.

Churchfield served an ace to get to match point at 24-12, and her final serve led to a Mac-Hi passing error that ended the match.

Although Mac-Hi didn't pose as much of a challenge as some teams Baker has played, Abrego said she was pleased with the Bulldogs' ability to maintain their focus, and use

the match as a chance to hone their game.

"It was a really good opportunity for us to work on maintaining our tempo, and I thought the girls did a really good job of avoiding errors," Abrego said.

She also was happy to have a chance to get playing time for the entire roster.

"When you're building a program it's great to get younger kids exposure at the varsity level," Abrego said.

Baker will enter October trying to keep its winning streak intact when it plays host to Ontario Monday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Baker swept the Tigers on Sept. 28, but Abrego said that's no reason for the Bulldogs to take any opponent lightly.

She said Baker also needs to stay focused as it prepares for its first match against rival La Grande, on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Baker gym.

BAKER GIRLS SOCCER

Ontario tops Baker, 4-1

By JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The Baker girls soccer team unveiled a new offensive formation Thursday, Sept. 30 against Ontario at the Sports Complex, and it yielded the first goal of the season for Jaycee Gray.

That wasn't enough to overcome the Tigers in a 4-1 loss.

But Baker assistant coach Christine Teegarden said the new diamond formation, which also helped the Bulldogs get several more shots on goal, could be a key for the rest of the season.

"I think this new formation is going to get our offensive dialed in," Teegarden said.

The match was close most of the way, with Ontario leading 2-1 until the Tigers scored two goals late.

"The final score doesn't reflect how they played most of the game," Teegarden said of the Bulldogs.

Ontario scored first.

But later in the first half, Baker used a series of passes from the new diamond formation to get the ball to Gray on a breakaway. She took advantage by net-

MORE COVERAGE

The Baker boys soccer team lost 3-0 at Ontario on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

The loss dropped the Bulldogs' record to 1-5.

ting her first goal. Makea Robb had the assist.

Baker had several other shots, including three or four from Sydnee Pierce, but none found the net.

Teegarden said a couple of Pierce's shots were just outside the net.

Teegarden said she and head coach Eric Layton were pleased with how well the Bulldogs executed the new formation.

They were also proud of how Baker handled a physical Ontario team that was called for several fouls.

"Our girls continued to play clean," Teegarden said.

Baker (2-6) returned to nonleague play this morning, Oct. 2, at Payette, Idaho. The Bulldogs resume their Greater Oregon League schedule on Tuesday, Oct. 5 when they travel to Milton-Freewater to play Mac-Hi at 5 p.m.

Beavers ride momentum into game against Washington

By ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

CORVALLIS — As the Oregon State Beavers celebrated their big win at USC, coach Jonathan Smith proclaimed in the locker room: "We ain't done yet."

The Beavers (3-1, 1-0 Pac-12) are back at home Saturday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. against Washington (2-2, 1-0) on a mission to prove that their 45-27 thumping of the Trojans last week wasn't a fluke, but part of an upward trajectory.

Oregon State is currently second in the Pac-12 North standings behind undefeated Oregon. Washington is third.

Smith was asked if this season's early success validates what he's been building toward in his fourth season at the helm.

"This is another step in the direction. It's always good when you go win on the road against good teams. We were able

to physically win at the line of scrimmage both offensively and defensively," Smith said. "I think it shows growth, overcoming some adversity, knowing that the game was long and there were moments where they couldn't let them back in the game, we didn't."

Now the Beavers are leery of a let-down against the Huskies.

Washington has won two straight and is coming off a 31-24 overtime victory over California. The team opened the season with a discouraging 13-7 loss to Montana.

Coach Jimmy Lake said the Huskies keep improving.

"All they've done is gotten back to work all season long and we are still continuing to grow and develop," Lake said. "It's been really cool to watch guys take their game to another level. We have seen improvement across the board."

You can't get to hunting camp on wimpy tires

Tires LES SCHWAB

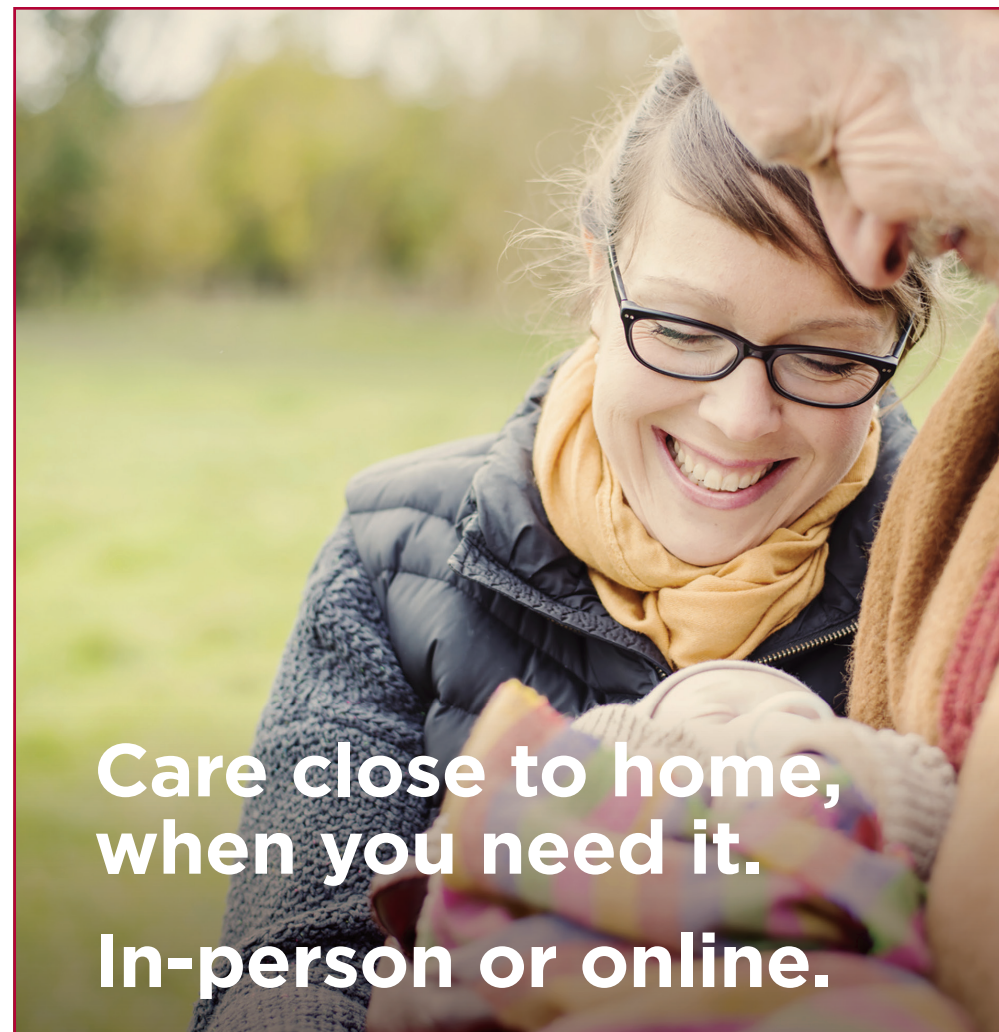


We've got what you need to track your buck in any terrain.

Come see our full line of traction tires
#huntingredneck #gokilladeer #didiyougetyourtags

LEW BROTHERS LES SCHWAB
210 Bridge Street, Baker City
541-523-3679

Walk-ins Welcome



Care close to home, when you need it.
In-person or online.

Now more than ever, your health and well-being are important. That means being proactive with health screenings and managing existing illnesses better. And knowing you have care nearby, in-person or online, so you have peace of mind to focus on what matters most. Because at Saint Alphonsus, **our calling is you.**

Family Medicine | Telehealth Video Visits | Flu Shots

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS.

Schedule online at

[SaintAlphonsus.InQuicker.com](https://www.saintalphonsus.org/InQuicker)

or call (541) 524-8000

3325 Pochontas Road
Baker City, Oregon 97814



Saint Alphonsus
A Member of Trinity Health