

BAKER FOOTBALL

Baker romps past Burns in second half

By COREY KIRK
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On a cold and rainy night in the high desert, the Baker football team broke out after a sluggish first half to run past the Burns Hilanders 27-6 Friday, Oct. 22 at Burns.

The win — Baker's second straight and fourth in its past five — boosted the Bulldogs' record to 4-4 as they prepare for the regular season finale, the Homecoming contest this Friday, Oct. 29 against La Grande at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

With both teams at 1-0 in Greater Oregon League play, Friday's game will determine the league champion and affect playoff seeding.

Baker has already clinched a berth in the Class 4A playoffs, which start Nov. 5.

If Baker beats La Grande, the Bulldogs will have a home playoff game either Nov. 5 or Nov. 6.

If Baker loses, it likely will have to travel for a first-round playoff game.

Against Burns, neither team scored in the first half on a field dampened by heavy rain earlier in the day.

"We just struggled to get the offense going in the first half similar to the week before," Baker coach Jason Ramos said. "A couple penalties that kind of set us back and we just missed passes that we should probably connect on."

During halftime, Ramos said he hardly needed to remind the Bulldogs about their performance.

"They knew that they should have been executing better at that point and the reason why we were in that situation was because we weren't executing well on offense," Ramos said. "We just talked about what we needed to do to clean things up and how we were going to get the run game going and start completing some passes, making sure we were focused on what we were doing."

Baker's defense had no such issues, having held the Hilanders scoreless over the first 24 minutes.

Baker started strong in the second half, finally getting on the scoreboard when sophomore quarterback Paul Hobson used his legs rather than his arm, finding an open lane and running

16 yards for the game's first touchdown.

"Paul had kind of a breakout game at quarterback in terms of his running, he used his legs pretty good," Ramos said.

Hobson had four carries for 31 yards and the touchdown.

On the ensuing series, Baker sophomore Hudson Spike intercepted a Burns pass.

Then Spike made another catch — this one a pass from Hobson in the back of the end zone that gave Baker a 13-0 lead.

"We talked at that point about how we needed to get a stop, we felt like we were getting some momentum at that point on offense, and to go in and try to get a third score," Ramos said.

But Baker's momentum didn't last.

The Hilanders, aided by a few Baker penalties, mounted their first, and only, scoring drive. The Burns touchdown late in the third quarter cut Baker's lead to 13-6.

Baker then dominated the fourth quarter.

Senior running back Gauge Bloomer, who led the Bulldogs with 97 yards on 18 carries, had a scoring run to boost Baker's lead to 20-6.

Then senior Dylan Freeman returned a Burns fumble for the final margin of 27-6.

Hobson completed 14 of 28 passes for 144 yards and the touchdown to Spike, along with one interception.

Spike had five catches for 95 yards, sophomore Malaki Myer had six catches for 37 yards and sophomore Dash Bloomer had one catch for 11 yards.

Junior Tate Powell had four carries for 27 yards, and Freeman had two rushes for 18 yards.

With rival La Grande next on the schedule, Ramos said his task this week is to prepare the Bulldogs for the challenge of the 5-1 Tigers.

"Obviously with Homecoming week we got to stay focused," Ramos said. "There are going to be distractions this week as there always are, but we're focused on the game obviously. Defense has been playing pretty good but we are going to have to take another step forward on that side of the ball, because La Grande is big, physical and fast."

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL

Top-ranked Badgers to host playoff game

Baker City Herald

The top-ranked Powder Valley football team capped a 7-1 regular season by beating No. 6 Crane 36-20 on Friday, Oct. 22 in North Powder.

The Badgers now prepare to take on Ione/Arlington in a Class 1A playoff game on Friday, Oct. 29 at 1 p.m. at Community Stadium in La Grande.

The game is part of a

quadrupleheader of Class 1A playoff games that day at the stadium on the Eastern Oregon University campus.

Elgin will play Lyle at 10 a.m., Crane will take on Imbler at 1 p.m., and Adrian

and Dufur cap the schedule with a 7:30 p.m. game.

Adrian, which is ranked 2nd despite its 8-0 record, is the only team to beat Powder Valley this season, a 38-0 win on Oct. 1 at Adrian.

Dye, Brown lead No. 10 Oregon past UCLA, 34-31

By JOE REEDY

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Anthony Brown and No. 10 Oregon aren't garnering style points, but in a season where the College Football Playoff picture remains murky at best, they keep on getting key victories. Brown had a season-high 381 yards of offense and Travis Dye became the first player in Football Bowl Subdivision history to score touchdowns on four consecutive carries as the Ducks held on for a 34-31 victory over UCLA on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Despite remaining the Pac-12's highest-ranked team, coach Mario Cristobal said the only thing the Ducks are focused on is what happens each week.

"I think we're over that stuff. I'm being 100% transparent. They understand it is about today and the next item on the agenda. When we get away from that process, we create our own issues," said Cristobal after the Ducks improved to 6-1 overall and 3-1 in the conference. "All in all, a great team victory against a really good football team."

Of Oregon's six wins, four are by seven points or less. It appeared like that wasn't going to be the case early in the fourth quarter when Brown's 43-yard TD run on a quarterback draw extended its lead to 34-17 before the Bruins rallied.

Brown bounced back after hearing boos at home during last Friday's 24-17 win over Cal. He had a season-high 296 yards, completing 29 of 39 passes, along with six carries for 85 yards. The graduate transfer said

he did reach out to people after last week's struggles, which helped him get back on track.

"I should have been playing like this for a while, but the fact that it came in a big moment was important," said Brown, who completed passes to 11 players.

Dye — who finished with 35 yards on 14 carries — also became the seventh Oregon running back since 2000 with at least four rushing touchdowns in a game. Before Dye's record day, six players shared the mark with TDs on three consecutive carries.

Oregon fell behind 14-0 during the first quarter before scoring on five of its next six drives.

Dye had 5 yards on four carries in the first quarter before scoring on runs of 1 and 4 yards to tie it at 14. The Ducks trailed 17-14 at halftime, but Dye would score from 1 and 5 yards in the third quarter to give Oregon a 27-17 advantage.

Dorian Thompson-Robinson's 2-yard keeper early in the fourth quarter got UCLA within 34-24. After Jordan Genmark Heath's interception on Oregon's ensuing possession, Brittain Brown scored on the middle from a yard out.

UCLA (5-3, 3-2) had a chance to at least tie and send it into overtime after Jay Shaw picked off Anthony Brown's pass in the



Luis Sinco/Los Angeles Times-TNS

UCLA quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson (1) loses control of the ball as he is sacked by Oregon linebacker Kaydon Thibodeaux in the second quarter at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021.

end zone with 3 minutes remaining. The Bruins drove to the Oregon 39, but Ethan Garbers, who came in when Thompson-Robinson was injured earlier in the drive, had a pass intercepted by DJ James with 48 seconds remaining to preserve the win.

"I needed to just trust in my instinct. I know we needed a play and I put it on the line," said James, who also had an interception in the first quarter.

Thompson-Robinson was 22 of 41 for 216 yards and a TD, along with 35 rushing yards and a score. Brown added 45 yards and 13 carries and two touchdowns.

"I've known this group for a long time. They're an unbelievably resilient bunch. It's 34-17, you know, think the game's over, but

our players don't," said UCLA coach Chip Kelly, who fell to 0-3 against the school he led for four seasons. "That was a game in itself during the fourth quarter. We just came up a little bit short."

UCLA took the opening kickoff and scored on Brittain Brown's 1-yard run. After Martell Irby blocked Tom Snee's punt and recovered it at the Oregon 30, the Bruins extended their lead to two touchdowns four plays later when Thompson-Robinson connected with Kazmeir Allen on a 5-yard pass.

Costly penalties

UCLA had interceptions by Quentin Lake and Devin Kirkwood nullified due to offsides penalties. Oregon would take advantage by scoring on both drives.



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