

Baker cross-country teams qualify for state

Baker City Herald

Baker will be sending both boys and girls cross-country teams to the state championship meet Nov. 6 at Lane Community College in Eugene.

Led by junior Thaddeus Pepera's first-place overall performance, the Baker boys won the team title at the district meet on Friday, Oct. 29 at Milton-Freewater.

The Baker girls, paced by freshman Sofia Kaaen, who finished fifth overall,

took second place behind La Grande.

The top two teams qualify for the state meet.

"On the girls' side we went out and we ran really tough," Baker coach Suzy Cole said. "We were hoping to break up La Grande's runners, but La Grande ran incredibly tough today. I am very happy with the way that the girls competed, and their effort. I am not disappointed whatsoever."

"On the boys' side, the boys came out

and did exactly what they were hoping to do, they ran well as a group," Cole said. "I think Daniel (Brown) was second and Jordan (Mills) was fourth. So they stuck together and ran really well. They were pretty happy with their times, they felt really good about their races."

Other Baker results, including official times, were not available by press time Friday afternoon.

Complete results will be published in the Nov. 2 issue of the Baker City Herald.

Packers beat Cardinals 24-21 after Murray throws late INT

By DAVID BRANDT

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Rasul Douglas was living the life of an NFL journeyman just a few weeks ago, bouncing between camps and practice squads in a frustrating process that is football's version of purgatory.

Finally, the Green Bay Packers liked what they saw.

Now he's a Thursday night hero for the league's hottest team — at one of his former team's expense.

Douglas corralled an interception with 12 seconds left in the fourth quarter that helped the Packers knock off the previously unbeaten Arizona Cardinals 24-21 in a thriller Thursday, Oct. 28 that featured two of the NFL's top quarterbacks.

"Blessed," Douglas said. "You're in a crazy mental state being in the league for five years, never been on the practice squad before. You feel like you are working for nothing kind of. Then you get a call and you are somewhere else and you're playing."

The Cardinals looked like they were going to rally to win their eighth straight game but Kyler Murray threw the stunning interception on second-and-goal as the home crowd groaned in disbelief. A.J. Green didn't expect the pass to come his way, never turned around and Douglas was there to snatch the ball in the corner of the end zone.

"We weren't on the same page," Murray said. "And it cost us."

It was a big night for some lesser-known Packers players. Douglas was added to the active roster just three weeks ago when the team needed help in the secondary. He was signed off the Cardinals practice squad, where he spent a few weeks earlier this year.

"This is why I love this squad," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "The guy that made the pick was with them (pointing to Cards sideline) for four weeks. He was on the street. We brought him in. He's starting for us. He's a great dude. He's really meshed well with our team. To come up with a play like that with 15 seconds left is incredible."

Randall Cobb's clutch night was much needed since Green Bay was playing without their two top receivers. Davante Adams and Allen Lazard were put on the reserve/COVID-19 list earlier in the week, but the 31-year-old Cobb responded with two touchdowns that were both tough catches in traffic.

"It was tough in the passing game at times, but Cobby came up with a couple of big touchdown catches," Rodgers said.

Cobb's 6-yard touchdown catch on the first play of the fourth quarter put the Packers up 24-14. He was once one of the NFL's top receivers — making the Pro Bowl in 2014 with 1,287 yards receiving and 14 touchdowns — but has settled into more a secondary role late in his career.

Cal's defense in for tough test vs. Oregon St.

By JOSH DUBOW

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — After an uncharacteristic poor start to the season on defense for California, coach Justin Wilcox's squad is rounding into form in recent weeks.

Cal is coming off its best defensive performance in years when the Bears beat Colorado last week for their first conference win of the season.

But the task gets much tougher for the Golden Bears (2-5, 1-3 Pac-12) when they host Oregon State (5-2, 3-1) on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 4 p.m.

"It is a different challenge," Wilcox said. "Our guys understand that. It'll take a really good week of preparation because they're a talented outfit and they have really good scheme."

The Beavers are one of the biggest surprises in the Pac-12 this season and come into the game leading the conference in scoring (35.1 points per game) and ranking seventh nationally on the ground (245 yards per game) led by B.J. Baylor and an experienced offensive line.

Baylor is sixth in the nation at 118.6 yards per game and has topped the 100-yard mark in four straight and five of the past six games. Baylor ran for 152 yards in last week's win over Utah.

"He's a very talented guy," Wilcox said. "Runs downhill, one cut. He can run through arm tackles and if he gets out in the open field he can go. He creates explosive plays."

Cal is doing a much better job limiting those of late. After allowing 448.3 yards per game and 28.7 points per game through its first three games of the season, Cal's defense has toughened up.

The Bears held Oregon to 24 points and completely shut down Colorado,

recording six sacks and allowing only 104 yards of offense in the 26-3 win last week.

"They play to their strength, in regards to quality football on both sides," Beavers coach Jonathan Smith said. "They're not trying to get into a track meet and they don't need to because they're so good on defense year in and year out."

A win would make the Beavers bowl eligible for the first time since 2013, the longest active drought in the Pac-12. Oregon State had gone to 11 bowl games in 15 seasons before hitting this rut.

While the Beavers have aspirations of going to the Rose Bowl for the first time since the 1964 season, the focus right now is on Cal.

"We're not overlooking them in any way," Smith said. "Each year is different... Yeah, we beat these guys last year, but we beat the Ducks last year, too, and I guarantee we won't be overlooking them."

Streaking

Oregon State has rushed for at least 200 yards in six straight games. That's the longest streak for the Beavers since the 1993 team did that in the final seven games.

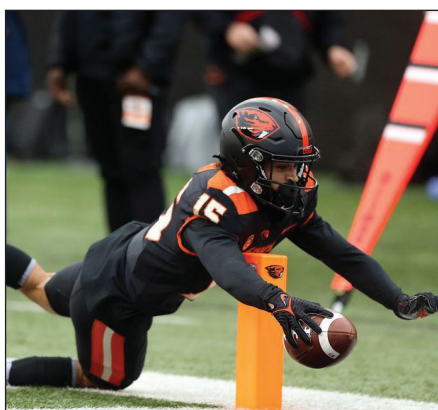
But Oregon State has gotten there this year with much more balance as the 1993 team failed to complete a pass in two of those seven games.

Do it all

Bears safety Elijah Hicks was all over the field last week. He had six tackles, one sack, an interception and 2½ tackles for loss to lead the defense.

OSU injuries

At his Monday press conference, Smith revealed safety Alton Julian would likely miss the rest of the season because



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian-TNS

Oregon State wide receiver Anthony Gould (No. 15) dives for a touchdown as the Beavers face the Utah Utes in a college football game at Reser Stadium in Corvallis, Oregon on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021.

of a knee injury. Julian was injured in the Beavers' victory over Utah. Smith's absence will likely impact the game planning for Saturday because defensive back Jaydon Grant will miss the first half because of targeting.

But the Beavers could see the return of starting left guard Jake Levensgood who was injured against Washington State and didn't play against the Utes. Smith said he's "hopeful" Levensgood will play in Berkeley.

QB runs

Cal quarterback Chase Garbers provided a big boost to the running game last week, rushing for a career-high 96 yards. Garbers also became Cal's career leader in rushing yards by a quarterback with 1,025, passing Joe Kapp's total of 931. Garbers also tied the school record for most career TD runs by a QB with his ninth.



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