

BAKER CROSS-COUNTRY

Baker boys, girls 9th in state meet

By JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker's young and inexperienced cross-country teams ran like veterans at the biggest meet of the year, with both the Bulldog boys and girls finishing ninth in the team standings at the Class 4A state meet on Saturday, Nov. 6 at Lane Community College.

"I thought the kids did an excellent job," Baker coach Suzy Cole said. "I felt like the kids really stepped up."

On the boys side, Baker junior Thaddeus Pepera paced the Bulldogs, finishing 26th overall in a time of 18:05.80.

"I thought Thaddeus ran really well," Cole said.

She was impressed with Pepera's ability to adjust to the large number of runners in the state meet, a much different experience than most of Baker's events during the regular season.

Freshman Daniel Brown was

Baker's second runner across the line, placing 38th in a time of 18:38.90.

Cole said Brown, as most runners tend to do at the state meet, started out faster than usual.

"It's hard not to," Cole said.

She said Brown recovered well from his unusually fast start and kept a good pace into the second mile.

"You never know how freshmen are going to do," Cole said.

In the girls race, Baker's two seniors, Emma Baeth and Sydney Lamb, were close as usual, with Baeth, despite dealing with health issues, taking the top spot for Baker, finishing 36th overall in 21:31.80.

Lamb was 40th in a time of 21:55.50.

Between the two seniors was freshman Sofia Kaaen, who placed 37th overall in 21:34.90.

Cole said she wasn't surprised that the trio finished so close together,

as they have had similar placings throughout the year.

With most of the boys and girls runners set to return next year, Cole said she's excited about the prospects for a team that will have the invaluable experience of competing at the state meet.

"It's super exciting," she said.

Cole said this year's team was an easy one to coach due to their dedication.

"We have optional practices Saturdays, and a majority of this group runs on Saturdays too," Cole said. "They make it really easy when you have that kind of passion for each other as teammates and for the sport."

Other individual results for Baker boys:

- Jordan Mills, junior, 58th, 19:23.10
- Seth Mastrude, junior, 68th, 19:46
- River Clark, junior, 78th, 20:18

• Peyton Waters, freshman, 20:29.90

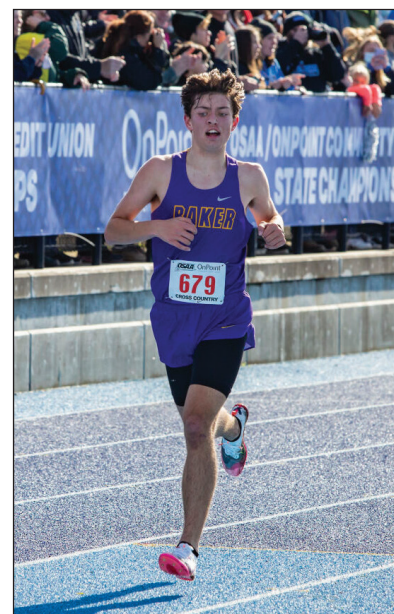
• Reeve Damschen, sophomore, 82nd, 20:34.60.

Other Baker girls individual results:

- Katie Spaugh, sophomore, 56th, 23:12
- Emma Timm, sophomore, 60th, 23:54.50
- Anastasia Johnson, freshman, 62nd, 23:41.50
- Paige Marlia, sophomore, 71st, 24:20.10

The Bulldogs who traveled home on the team bus had to spend Saturday night in a Pendleton motel after Interstate 84 was closed due to weather and crashes in the Blue Mountains.

Cole said she and her husband, Brian, were in a separate vehicle not far ahead of the bus and they were able to get through before the freeway closed. Assistant coach Ethan Wolston stayed with the team.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Baker's Thaddeus Pepera sprints to the finish line of the OSAA Class 4A boys cross country championship, Saturday Nov. 6, 2021, at Lane Community College in Eugene.

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL

Badgers pound Perrydale, advance in Class 1A playoffs

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The (La Grande) Observer

NORTH POWDER — It was business as usual for the Powder Valley High School football team in round one of the Class 1A state playoffs as the Badgers cruised past Perrydale, 70-34 on Friday, Nov. 5.

The Badgers scored early and often, building an insurmountable lead in the first half. The game shifted to a running clock in the second half as the outcome of the game was all but settled in the first two quarters.

The Badgers will have another home playoff game,

this Friday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. against Myrtle Point in the quarterfinal round.

Against Perrydale, Powder Valley senior quarterback Reece Dixon was in top form, throwing for 317 yards and five touchdowns in the first half alone. Senior wide receiver Kaden Krieger hauled in big chunks of yardage early on and scored a 15-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter.

Freshman running back Tucker Martin scored two long rushing touchdowns, finding the end zone from 56 and 59 yards. Senior Clay

Martin found similar success on the ground, rushing for a five-yard touchdown run to open the game's scoring.

Junior Cole Martin and senior Case Olson both scored on Dixon passes, with Martin taking a deep ball 75 yards and Olson converting from eight yards out.

The Badgers' offense was a well-oiled machine, as it has been all season, but head coach Josh Cobb emphasized that the team used the game to work on its defensive efforts.

"They had a pretty good offense, I was impressed with

their blocking scheme," Cobb said of Perrydale.

Moving forward into the matchup with No. 7 Myrtle Point (9-2), defense will be the key element at practice this week for Powder Valley.

"They've got very athletic, strong kids," he said. "We feel that they have as many straight-up athletes as us."

The Bobcats are averaging 44.6 points per game and have won their last six matchups.

"We are expecting them to throw the ball a lot and we're going to spend a fair amount of time working on pass coverage this week," Cobb said.




Alex Wittwer/The (La Grande) Observer, File

Powder Valley's Reece Dixon scores a touchdown against Elgin during the Badgers' 42-14 win on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Your calling was to serve.

Our calling is you.

Happy Veterans Day

 **Saint Alphonus**
A Member of Trinity Health

SNOW TIRES
are cheaper
than a wreck

DOING THE RIGHT THING SINCE 1952.®
Come and see us or call to schedule an appointment

Lew Brothers Tire Service
541-523-3679
210 Bridge St. Baker City, OR