

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL

# Badgers brace for rematch with St. Paul

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The (La Grande) Observer  
NORTH POWDER — The pursuit of a state title is still in full swing in North Powder.

The Powder Valley football team handled business in a 36-0 victory over Myrtle Point on Friday, Nov. 12, setting up a rematch with St. Paul in the 2021 OSAA Class 1A state semifinals. The Badgers' dominant season continues with a championship matchup against top-seeded Adrian looking more likely.

The matchup between St. Paul and Powder Valley is slated for 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Caldera High School in Bend. The Badgers are just two games away from potentially bringing home a state title for the first time since 2003.



Alex Wittwer/The (La Grande) Observer

Senior running back Clay Martin dives for a first down during Powder Valley's 46-14 victory over Elgin on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

While a showdown with the Antelopes seems almost inevitable, the Badgers are taking things one week at a time. First and foremost, Powder Valley will need to

overcome a St. Paul team that the Badgers previously knocked off 50-40 on Sept. 17. "We can't get to the next week without this week," head coach Josh Cobb said. "That's

all we're focused on and all we've been talking about." Powder Valley's explosive offense was consistent in the win over Myrtle Point, revolving around senior quarterback Reece Dixon. The versatile quarterback got things started with a five-yard keeper to give the Badgers the first points of the game.

The Badgers slowly broke down the Bobcats' defense and exploited mismatches to build a 22-0 lead by half-time. While Myrtle Point still had a glimmer of hope for a comeback in the final two quarters, Powder Valley put away any doubts with a strong showing in the second half.

Dixon utilized his legs again midway through the third quarter, rushing for a

63-yard run deep into Myrtle Point territory. The senior finished the drive himself with a seven-yard touchdown run to give Powder Valley a commanding 30-0 lead.

Thanks to a dominant defensive effort and a 22-yard touchdown run from senior Case Olsen, the Badgers were able to ride off with a dominant victory in the quarterfinals. The win is a confidence boost for Powder Valley, knocking off a Myrtle Point team that came into the game with a 9-2 record and ranked No. 7 in the state. For the Badgers defense, a shutout against a team averaging 44.6 points per game this year is a great sign moving forward.

The first time that Powder Valley and St. Paul

met, the Badgers overcame an early deficit and ran its offense efficiently through Dixon and receiver Kaden Krieger. The duo connected on several deep balls and was able to go over the top on St. Paul's secondary.

The Buckaroos come into this matchup averaging 59.7 points per game, winning their last eight games. St. Paul's only blemish during a 10-1 season was the loss in North Powder.

"Their offense is very good," Cobb said. "They can run the ball down the field just like we can. It's going to be a battle of wills."

"We're playing better ball than when we played St. Paul the first time, but so is St. Paul," Cobb said. "It's going to be a good game."

BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## BMS boys basketball season begins

Baker City Herald

The Baker Middle School boys basketball teams had their first intrasquad games on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

In the first game, Coach Jimmy Howerton's purple team beat Bryan Dalke's white team, 28-24.

Braiden Whitebread of the purple team led all scorers with eight points. Teammates Kyran Payne added six, Nolan Briels five, and Anthony Mack two points.

Gabe Simmons led the white team with seven points. Karson Karolski and Caedmon Myers had six

points each, and Isaac Berry scored three.

In the second game, the purple team beat the white team, 35-20.

Damien Knie had a game-high 11 points to lead the purple team. Mason Martin added 10 points, Logan Crawford had five points and Rylan Jaensch two.

The white team was led by William Spriet with seven points. Johndel Buniag and Cade Hearne each scored four points, Colton Shank had three points, and Tristan Klecker had two points.

## McCollum scores 29 as Blazers beat Raptors, 118-113

By ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press  
PORTLAND — If only the Trail Blazers could figure out why they're successful at home but struggle on the road.

CJ McCollum had 29 points and Damian Lillard added 24 to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 118-113 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Monday night, Nov. 15.

The Blazers, who were playing the second of a back-to-back, improved to 6-1 at home. That's in stark contrast to the road, where Portland is 1-7.

"When we play at home, it's a different team than when we play on the road. That's just the truth. And I'm not sure what it is," Lillard said. "I think when you're at home there's just a level of comfort and support that you feel from the fans. But at the same time, we're NBA players. We play on the road a lot."

OG Anunoby had 27 points for the Raptors, who have lost five of six. Pascal Siakam added 20.

"They made tough shots," Anunoby said. "We were playing hard. They're making

tough shots, but we were playing hard. That's how it goes sometimes. They have good players on their team."

It was a streaky fourth quarter for both teams. Larry Nance Jr.'s alley-oop dunk

gave Portland a 99-89 lead before McCollum's 3-pointer pushed it to 105-92.

The Raptors rallied with a 9-0 run, pulling to 105-101 on Fred VanVleet's 3-pointer with 5:34 left.

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