

## BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL

# Bulldogs roll past Estacada, Molalla

## Baker improves to 4-2 after road trip

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Jebron Jones concedes he didn't quite know what to expect from his Baker boys basketball team after two straight losses followed by a 300-mile bus ride.

He was excited about what he saw.

The Bulldogs put on an offensive show in beating Estacada 77-66 on Friday night, Dec. 10, and, little more than half a day later, rolling past Molalla 85-68 on Saturday.

"I was pleased with the road trip," Jones said. "I didn't know how they would respond after two consecutive losses."

Baker improved to 4-2 on the season.

Jones said he was especially impressed with how well the Bulldogs executed on offense.

After failing to score 60 points in a 60-58 loss at Fruitland on Dec. 7 and a 57-52 loss to Homedale on Thursday, Dec. 9, the Bulldogs were much more efficient during the road trip.

That's particularly so from long range — Baker had 10 3-pointers against Estacada, and nine more against Molalla.

Baker had six 3's in the loss to Homedale.

Jones said the 3-point barrage against Estacada and Molalla resulted largely from the Bulldogs playing unselfishly.

"Those 3's came from us getting to the key, drawing an extra defender, and then kicking the ball out," Jones said. "I'll take those shots all game long. We have multiple guys who can shoot it."

He was also happy to see the Bulldogs play at the frenetic pace that he prefers, despite playing four games in five days, including three games in three days, with a cross-state trip thrown in.

"I told the guys before Friday's game that I don't want to have any excuses about playing three games in three nights," Jones said. "They came out and played hard."

So did Estacada on Friday night.

Playing on their home court, the Rangers took a 10-point lead in the first quarter and led 21-16 after the first eight minutes.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Grant Gambleton, seen here against Homedale, Idaho, on Dec. 9, scored 13 points in wins over Estacada and Molalla last weekend.

But Jones said he wasn't worried.

He said that based on Baker's performance in the first quarter, and in particular the good shots they were taking, he felt it was "just a matter of time before we start making those open looks."

It didn't take long.

Baker dominated the second quarter, outscoring Estacada 27-13 to lead 43-34 at halftime.

The Rangers had several short rallies in the second half, but Baker generally maintained a lead between six and a dozen points.

Isaiah Jones had 11 of his game-high 23 points in the second half.

Hudson Spike added 16 points, Jaxon Logsdon 13, Jaron Long 12 and Paul Hobson and Grant Gambleton had eight points each.

Logsdon had three 3-point-

ers, and Isaiah Jones, Spike and Hobson had two each.

Jebron Jones said the balanced scoring reflects the unselfish play that led to open shots.

"It doesn't matter who scores, it only matters that we score," he said. "It's just more fun to play in that style."

Any concerns that Jones had about Baker being fatigued after its marathon week were quickly dispelled Saturday afternoon at Molalla.

Eight Bulldogs scored in the first quarter as Baker raced to a 28-13 lead.

Baker scored 28 more points in the second quarter to lead 56-38 at halftime, the 56 points the most the Bulldogs have scored in a half this season.

"We had a great pregame talk about finishing the road trip strong," Jones said.

Baker continued to share the ball, with players who had a decent shot looking to make one extra pass that gives a teammate a wide open shot.

And as was the case the previous evening against Estacada, Baker distributed the scoring.

Ten Bulldogs got on the board, led by Long with 17, Isaiah Jones with 16, and Spike with 15.

"When we are balanced in scoring we're kind of tough to guard," Jebron Jones said. "If they key on one person, then somebody else is going to have an opportunity to succeed."

He was also pleased to see Baker draw 25 fouls, and make 20 of 29 free throws.

"We attacked the rim, which I challenged the kids to do," Jones said. "Free throws were a big part of the whole game."

Baker outscored Molalla 20-10 at the foul line.

The Bulldogs now will prepare for their second long trip in as many weekends, as Baker travels to Klamath Falls for a game Friday, Dec. 17 against Mazama at 7 p.m., and against Klamath Union on Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

Jones said he looks at the long bus rides as an opportunity for team unity.

"They are a fun group to be around, on and off the court," he said. "That's where memories are made. I'm proud of how hard they're working. They're getting better."

## BAKER WRESTLING

## Bulldogs 7th at Calhoun Classic

Baker City Herald

NYSSA — With defending state champion Gauge Bloomer leading the way with a first-place finish at 195 pounds, the Baker wrestling team placed seventh out of 21 teams at the Calhoun Classic Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11.

The Baker girls varsity team placed 12th out of 22 teams, and the Baker boys JV was also 12th among 22 teams.

Bloomer won all three of his matches, winning by technical fall over Homedale's Willy Haun in the championship match.

"Just as Gauge Bloomer ran through everyone on the football field, he ran through everyone on the wrestling mat, pinning his way to the finals," Baker coach Brandon Young said.

Another senior, Jaden Martin, also advanced to the finals at 285 pounds by winning his first two matches.

In the championship match against Miguel Perez of Caldwell, Martin "was in position a couple of times, but unable to capitalize and finished with second place," Young said. Perez won the match by fall.

Senior Alex Ritter, at 220 pounds, won his first two matches, lost in the semifinals, then won two more matches to claim third place, beating Brody Holaday of Fruitland 3-1 in the third-place match.

"Alex has really stepped up since his sophomore season," Young said. "When he steps out there he has the confidence it takes to be successful."



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Baker's Samuel Nelson, shown here during the Enterprise Kickoff tournament on Dec. 3, won two of his four matches during the Calhoun Classic Dec. 10-11 at Nyssa.

Three Baker girls competed, led by senior Sarah Plummer, who won three of four matches and finished third at 155 pounds.

"Sarah started wrestling last year and has put in a ton of extra time to get to where she is right now," Young said. "She has always kept such a positive attitude and does not let any outside influences affect her wrestling. She is one of a kind."

Other Baker girls results:

- Lilly Collins, freshman, 1-2, 135 pounds

- Sheylin Karolski, freshman, 0-2, 155

Other Baker boys varsity results:

- Marcus Chamberlain, sophomore, 1-2, 106

- Joey Duncan, sophomore, 0-2, 113

- River Clark, junior, 1-2, 120

- Aldo Duran, freshman, 1-2, 120

- Sage Darlington, sophomore, 0-2, 126

- Riley Martin, sophomore, 0-2, 132

- Cole Hester, sophomore, 0-2, 138

- Gavin Stone, senior, 1-2, 160

- Paul Still, senior, 0-2, 160

- Graison Stone, sophomore, 0-2, 170

- Cody Eskew, junior, 1-2, 182

- Adrian Allen, senior, 1-2, 182

- Jayden Clark, junior, 0-2, 220

- Russell Walden, sophomore, 0-2, 285

Baker JV boys results:

- Ryan Brown, junior, 3-1, second place, 170

- Connor Jensen, senior, 2-2, fourth place, 182

- Michael Endersby, freshman, 0-2, 126

- Samuel Nelson, freshman, 2-2, 132

- Ben Coburn, sophomore, 1-2, 160

- Tristan Mulkey, freshman, 0-2, 182

- Ethan Morgan, freshman, 1-2, 182

- Billy Kargianis, senior, 0-2, 220

## Oregon hires Georgia DC Dan Lanning as head coach

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

Oregon hired Georgia defensive coordinator Dan Lanning as head coach Saturday, Dec. 11, completing a search for Mario Cristobal's replacement that took less than a week.

Cristobal was hired away from Oregon by Miami on Dec. 6. Five days later, the Ducks landed on the 35-year-old Lanning, who will be a first-time head coach after spending the last four years at Georgia, the previous three leading one of the best defenses in the country.

"We are staged for success and I look forward to building on the strong foundation that currently exists in Eugene," Lanning said in a statement. "Our goal is to win championships and develop our players both on and off the field."

No. 3 Georgia (12-1) has the top-ranked defense in the country this season and will play No. 2 Michigan in the College Football Playoff at the Orange Bowl on Dec. 31.

Georgia coach Kirby Smart said in a statement that Lanning would stay with the team through its playoff run. Inside linebackers coach Glenn

Schumann and special teams coordinator Will Muschamp will be co-defensive coordinators for Georgia after Lanning moves on.

"We are so happy for Dan and his family," Smart said. "He and (wife) Sauphia have been an important part of our Bulldog family for the last four years, and we thank them for all they did for Georgia Football and the Athens community."

"Opportunities like this

are a testament to a successful program."

Cristobal returned to his alma mater and hometown following four full seasons in Eugene as head coach. The Ducks went 35-13 under Cristobal, reaching the Pac-12 title game each of the last three seasons.

No. 15 Oregon (10-3) lost the Pac-12 title game against Utah last week and will play No. 14 Oklahoma in the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 29.

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