



Contributed Photo, 2019

Brianna Stadler, top, shown here in a 2019 meet, won two events at the La Grande Invitational on Dec. 11. Stadler, a Baker High School senior, is a four-time state champion.

BAKER SWIMMING

# Stadler wins two events at swim meet

**Baker City Herald**

LA GRANDE — Baker senior swimmer Brianna Stadler won two races to lead the Bulldog girls to a fourth-place finish in the five-team La Grande Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The Baker boys placed fifth. Stadler, a four-time state champion, won the 100-meter freestyle and 100-meter backstroke.

In the freestyle race, Stadler finished just more than nine seconds ahead of runner-up Chloe Lynch, a La Grande junior.

Stadler's senior teammate, Caitlin Lien, finished fifth.

In the 100 backstroke, Stadler touched the

wall 12 seconds ahead of second-place Kennedy Abbas, a junior from The Dalles.

Other Baker results:

**Girls**

- 50 freestyle: Lien, fifth; Addy Macy, freshman, 23rd
- 50 backstroke, JV: Macy, first

**Boys**

- 50 freestyle: Gabriel Bott, junior, third; Silas Carter, senior, fourth
- 100 butterfly: Angel De Arcos, junior, 4th
- 100 freestyle: Gabriel Bott, fifth
- 100 backstroke, Angel De Arcos, fourth
- 50 backstroke, JV: Silas Carter, first

# BMS boys hoops season continues

The Baker Middle School intramural boys basketball team continued their season this month, including a trip to Milton-Freewater.

On Dec. 1, coach Bryan Dalke's team finally beat coach Jimmy Howerton's team in a game that was close throughout.

Logan Crawford made three 3-pointers for Howerton's team in the fourth quarter to narrow the lead to one point at 32-31, but Dalke's team held on for the win by that score.

William Spriet led Dalke's team with 16 points. Tyler Wirth had 14 points and Colton Shank had two.

Howerton's team was led by Logan Crawford with 11 points. Braiden Whitebread had 10 points, Damien Knie six, and Connor Norton and Cade Hearne two points each.

In the second game, Howerton's team won 18-15, with Dallin Stocks leading the way

with eight points, followed by Anthony Mack with six points and Kyran Payne with two.

Dalke's team was led by Colton Shank with six points. Tristan Klecker had three points, and Caden Ballou, Cadedemon Myers and Johndale Buniag each had two points.

On Dec. 7 the intramural teams traveled to Milton-Freewater and beat Central Middle School, 27-0.

Every Baker player had at least one point.

William Spriet had six points, Logan Crawford, Tyler Wirth and Isaac Berry each had four, Johndale Buniag had three, Danny Maldonado and Dallin Stocks two each, and Nolan Briels and Parker Phillippi each had one point.

On Dec. 10 the intramural and BMS traveling teams played three games.

In the first, the seventh-grade traveling team played the intramural team. The traveling team won by more

than 10 points, but no individual statistics were available.

In the second game, the Baker intramural team beat the Burns B team, 35-28.

Baker led 10-4 after one quarter, but Burns rallied to cut the lead to 18-17 at halftime. Baker had a strong second half, outscoring Burns 17-9. Baker was led by Kyran Payne with 10 points. Connor Norton had eight points, Brayden Anderson five, Dean Jobs and Carson Karolski four each, and Cade Hearne and Lane Wever each had two points.

In the final game, the Baker eighth-grade traveling team beat the Burns A team, 62-46. Baker controlled the game from the beginning.

Rasean Jones led Baker with 29 points. Eli Long had 18 points, Jake McClaughry had two 3-pointers and eight points total, Jack Joseph had three points and Connor Martin had two points.

# Ayton returns to pace Suns in 111-107 win over Blazers in OT

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Deandre Ayton had 28 points and 13 rebounds in his return from a non-COVID-19 illness, and the Phoenix Suns held off the Portland Trail Blazers 111-107 in overtime Tuesday night, Dec. 14.

Chris Paul, who made the jumper that forced overtime, added 24 points and 14 assists for a Phoenix team still missing leading scorer Devin Booker because of a hamstring injury.

"That's a big-time win for us. We've got a lot of guys down. Deandre Ayton being back in the lineup was huge for us," Paul said.

Damian Lillard had 31 points and 10 assists for the Blazers, who lost their sixth straight.

The Suns have just five losses this season, but one of them came the night before against the Los Angeles Clippers. Phoenix had lost two of four before

facing the struggling Blazers.

Cam Johnson's deep 3-pointer gave the Suns a 107-104 lead in overtime, but Norman Powell's long jumper got Portland within one. Ayton's basket kept the Suns in front 109-106.

Lillard missed the first of two free throws with 11.9 seconds left and the Blazers couldn't catch up.

"I told the guys it was a lot of character and integrity to be able to play on a back-to-back with that kind of energy against a team that was sitting there waiting for us," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

After trailing by 14 in the first half, Portland rallied to go up 86-81 on Tony Snell's 3-pointer in the fourth quarter.

It was tight the rest of the way. Cameron Payne's 3-pointer briefly gave Phoenix a 94-93 lead with 2:30 left, but Lillard answered with a 3 of his own.

The Suns tied it at 100 with 40.5 seconds left after

Payne and Chris Powell each made a basket. Jusuf Nurkic missed the second of two free throws for the Blazers.

After a jump ball, a call that was challenged by the Suns, leaving them with no timeouts, Paul fouled Powell, who missed his first free throw but hit the second to make it 102-100.

Paul's jumper tied it at 102 with 8.2 seconds to go in regulation.

"Nobody likes losing. I don't like losing. Nobody in the locker room likes losing, so obviously, nobody's happy," Blazers first-year coach Chauncey Billups said. "However, we're in this thing together. We know that. We've talked about that. And just like we dug ourselves into this hole, no one person can do it and bring us out. We've got to just stick together and keep scrapping."

Injuries have plagued Portland in recent weeks, and starting guard CJ McCollum remained out with a punctured lung.

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