

Baker football, volleyball players earn all-state honors

Baker City Herald

Four Baker High School athletes were named to all-state teams recently, two from the Bulldog football team and two from the volleyball squad, both of which advanced to the Class 4A state playoffs.

Volleyball

Baker junior Jozie Ramos was named to the second team. Ramos was honored as the player of the year for the Greater Oregon League in helping lead the Bulldogs to the league title.

Baker's lone senior, Lacy Churchfield, was an honorable mention all-state pick. She was a first-team all-league selection for the Greater Oregon League.

Football

Senior Gauge Bloomer was named to the honorable mention team as a linebacker. Bloomer also was one of the top running backs in the league.

Fellow senior Alex Ritter was an honorable mention all-state pick as an offensive lineman.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker senior Gauge Bloomer carries the ball against La Grande during the Bulldogs' Homecoming game Friday, Oct. 29.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker junior Jozie Ramos tips the ball during a match against Ontario on Oct. 4, 2021, in the Baker gym.

Bears' late rally stuns Seahawks

By TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Nearly a year after he last took a snap in a game, Nick Foles showed he still has some of that Super Bowl MVP talent in his right arm.

Jimmy Graham caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Foles with 1:01 remaining, Damiere Byrd made an acrobatic reception for the 2-point conversion, and the Chicago Bears beat the Seattle Seahawks 25-24 on Sunday, Dec. 26.

"The last couple years haven't been the easiest, but at the end of the day you can still find joy in little things each and every day," Foles said. "So going to work and being in a locker room with the guys that care for one another, that's what I look at and that's what I'm grateful for."

Making his first start since last season, Foles led the Bears 80 yards in the closing minutes, capping the drive with his TD toss to Graham, who spent three seasons with the Seahawks. Graham posted up a pair of smaller defensive backs to make the catch in the corner of the end zone, his third TD of the season.

On the 2-point attempt, Foles threw late, but Byrd got his knee down in the end zone with multiple Seattle defenders trying to push him over the back line.

Foles started seven games for Chicago last season before a hip injury suffered in Week 10. His only other action came in a Week 16 blowout win over Jacksonville on Dec. 27, when he was in for a handful of snaps and threw one pass.

Foles started against the Seahawks after rookie Justin Fields was ruled with an ankle injury.

"I'm happy for Nick that he got an opportunity today," Bears coach Matt Nagy said. "Not happy for how it happened with Justin and Andy (Dalton), but Nick's always going to be prepared and for him to be able to come into this moment, he's been there, done that a lot of different ways."

Foles finished 24 of 35 for 250 yards, and David Montgomery and Khalil Herbert each had rushing touchdowns. Montgomery had 21 carries for 45 yards and seven receptions for 61 yards. The Bears (5-10) had lost three straight and seven of their previous eight.



Armando L. Sanchez-TNS

Chicago Bears wide receiver Damiere Byrd (No. 10) celebrates after scoring a two-point conversion during the fourth quarter against the Seattle Seahawks at Lumen Field on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021, in Seattle.

"I don't really care what the record looks like. It is what it is. But to get a win with the guys in there knowing the kind of character they've got feels amazing," Montgomery said.

It was a stunning conclusion to a rare snow game in Seattle that eliminated the Seahawks (5-10) from the NFC playoff picture. Seattle was already assured of a losing season, and coach Pete Carroll reached double-digit losses for the first time in his tenure.

Russell Wilson was 16 of 27 for 181 yards and two touchdowns, including the first TD for DK Metcalf since Oct. 31, a 41-yarder in the first quarter. Gerald Everett caught a 24-yard TD late in the third quarter that gave Seattle a 24-14 lead.

Rashaad Penny rushed for 135 yards and a score for the Seahawks, who lost for the second time in five days. Last Tuesday's game at the Rams was pushed back two days because of Los Angeles' COVID-19 issues.

"That was about as disappointing a loss as we've had," Carroll said. "We were in control in so many ways in that game to go win it and put it away and we just never did, and

let them stay alive. They found a way to make their plays."

Seattle entered with a mathematical shot at reaching the playoffs but couldn't hold on to a 17-7 halftime lead. Jason Myers missed a 39-yard field goal try midway through the fourth quarter that would have given Seattle a 10-point lead. That came after Wilson was sacked by Robert Quinn with Seattle inside the Chicago 10 on third down.

Given the chance to rally, Foles came through. The Bears took over at their own 20 with 2:56 left. Foles hit Darnell Mooney for 30 yards, and a roughing-the-passer penalty moved Chicago to the Seattle 35 in one play. Foles connected with Montgomery on consecutive plays and Chicago was at the Seattle 11 with 2 minutes remaining.

After a strip-sack by Carlos Dunlap that Chicago recovered, Foles hit Graham on third-and-14 and Nagy didn't hesitate to go for 2.

"We locked eyes and he ended up throwing it and I just knew I had to go up and get it," Byrd said.

Snow bowl

Seattle played its third home game with snow since Lumen Field opened in 2002. The storm hit the Seattle metro area in the early hours of Sunday morning and dropped a few inches of snow throughout the Puget Sound region. Roads were difficult to traverse and the stadium was as empty as it's been in recent memory for a Seahawks game.

Most of the snow stopped falling by halftime, but a small layer covered most of the field throughout. Seattle also played snow games in December 2008 and November 2006.

Wagner's record

Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner set a franchise record when he recorded his 168th tackle of the season late in the third quarter. Wagner entered the week leading the NFL in tackles and had 12, giving him 170 for the season.

Sack attack

Quinn has 17 sacks, tied for the second most in Bears history behind Richard Dent's 17½ in 1984. Quinn has 15 career sacks against Seattle.

BMS intramural hoops teams finish season

Baker City Herald

The Baker Middle School boys intramural basketball season ended with a pair of games on Dec. 16.

In game one, coach Bryan Dalke's team beat coach Jimmy Howerton's team 46-40 in a game that was close to the end.

Dalke's team led 24-22 at halftime. Logan Crawford from Howerton's team made three of five 3-point tries in the second half to keep his team close.

Dalke's team was led by Tyler Wirth with 16 points and William Spriet with 14 points. Tristan Klecker had six points, Colton Shank scored four points, Johndale Buniag had three points, and Isaac Berry scored two points.

Howerton's team was led by Logan Crawford with his game-high 19 points. Dallin Stocks had 11 points, Damien Knie had eight points and Connor Norton had two points.

In game 2, Howerton's team came away with the 32-30 victory. A last-second shot to tie the game by team

Dalke's Dominic Redman was long as time expired.

Howerton's team had a 14-8 lead at halftime and Dalke's team came within two, but that was a close as they would get.

Howerton's team was led by Isaac Berry with 10 points. Dallin Stocks scored eight points, Dean Jobs had six, Anthony Mack had four, and Taylor Lee and Parker Philippi both scored two points.

Dalke's high scorer was Braydon Anderson with 11 points. Caedmon Myers scored six points, Karson Karolski and Caden Ballou had four points, Dominic Redman and Alex Nicholson both scored two points.

It was a great year for the intramural teams, Dalke said.

"It was a great bunch of boys and both teams improved so much," he said. "It was fun seeing the boys root each other on, even the boys on the opposing teams. They were really a fun group and it was a great experience watching them improve throughout the season."

COVID-19 means teams battle two opponents weekly

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

Josh Johnson joined the Ravens 10 days ago, and the well-traveled quarterback started his first game in the AFC North on the line Sunday, Dec. 26 at Cincinnati.

The Chargers didn't have outside linebacker Joey Bosa, running back Austin Ekeler, receiver Mike Williams and center Corey Linsley when they faced the Texans. The Vikings were missing running back Dalvin Cook for their matchup against the Rams.

Blame COVID-19.

Several other teams also were missing key players on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

As the NFL's regular season winds down, expect more teams to play important

games without some of their starters because players continue to test positive despite the league's revised protocols requiring less testing.

Baltimore, already missing 2019 NFL MVP Lamar Jackson and 10 other players due to injuries, lost backup quarterback Tyler Huntley and four others to the COVID-19 list, forcing Johnson to start against the Bengals.

The Ravens had no chance, even though Johnson was 28 of 40 for 304 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. They lost 41-21 to the Bengals and fell to 8-7, decreasing their playoff odds.

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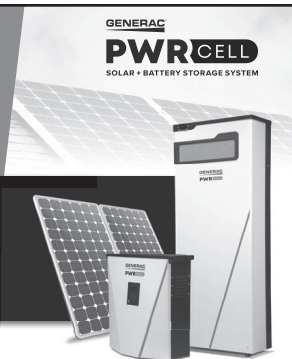
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