

## BAKER WRESTLING

# Baker wins Pendleton tourney

**Baker City Herald**

PENDLETON — Baker's boys wrestling team gave itself a nice early Christmas present by finishing first out of 15 teams at the Rollin Schimmel Memorial tournament on Dec. 22.

Baker had four individual champions, and one of those, senior Jaden Martin at 285 pounds, was named the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

"We feel like we have just woken a sleeping giant," Baker coach Brandon Young said of the Bulldogs' performance. "Now we just have to believe it and keep pushing forward."

Baker amassed 252 points to easily outdistance second-place Burns, with 184.

Young emphasized the team effort that brought Baker first place in the team standings.

The Bulldogs had one wrestler in the top four in 10 weight classes.

"This was also the first tournament we were allowed to have two scorers per weight class and the extra depth that our team has this year really added to the team points," Young said.

In addition to Martin, Baker's other individual champions were fellow seniors Gavin Stone at 152 pounds, Alex Ritter at 220 and Gauge Bloomer at 195.

Young said Stone competed in one of the toughest classes at the tournament.

"Gavin had to work for it every match," Young said.

Stone defeated Wyatt Maffey of Sisters 7-5 in the championship match, gaining a measure of revenge for a couple of losses to Maffey last year.

"It was nice to see Gavin go out there with intensity and wrestle his match, rather than worry about what the other guy might do," Young said.

Bloomer, a defending state



Brandon Young/Contributed Photo

Baker's individual champions at the Rollin Schimmel Memorial wrestling tournament Dec. 22 in Pendleton. From left, Gavin Stone, Alex Ritter, Gauge Bloomer and Jaden Martin. Baker finished first in the team standings.

champion, continued to dominate most of his opponents, Young said.

Bloomer pinned Nyssa's Alec Carey in the final match.

Ritter wrestled three Ontario opponents out of his four

matches, including two state qualifiers from last season. He defeated Ontario's Manny Ramirez in the finals.

"Alex is wrestling really tough right now," Young said. Martin pinned Pendleton's

Jacob Griffin, one of the top Class 5A wrestlers in the state, in the championship match.

"It's not often that you will see a heavyweight get voted outstanding wrestler of the tournament, but that is exactly what Jaden Martin did as he pinned all of his opponents," Young said.

Another Baker senior, Adrian Allen, finished fourth at 182 pounds, losing by fall to Madras' Reece White in the finals.

Baker's other wrestlers at 182 pounds also had great tournaments, Young said, with Cody Eskew placing third, Connor Jensen fourth, Ethan Morgan fifth and Jacob Mills seventh.

Other Baker individual results:

- Marcus Chamberlain, sophomore, 2-1, third, 106 pounds.

- Aldo Duran, freshman, 2-1, third, 120

- Riley Martin, sophomore, 2-1, third, 132

- Joey Duncan, sophomore, 2-2, fourth, 113

- River Clark, junior, 0-2, fourth, 120

- Cole Hester, sophomore, 2-2, fourth, 138

- Sage Darlington, sophomore, 2-2, 126

- Michael Endersby, freshman, 1-3, 126

- Samuel Nelson, freshman, 1-2, 132

- Ben Coburn, sophomore, 2-2, 160

- Ryan Brown, junior, 2-2, 170

- Billy Kargianis, senior, 0-03, 220

- Russell Walden, sophomore, 2-2, 220

After Christmas, Baker headed south to the Sierra Nevada Classic in Reno, Nevada, today and Wednesday, Dec. 29.

The varsity girls and JV boys will compete Dec. 30 at Boardman.

## COVID outbreaks scuttle Fenway, Military bowls

**By JIMMY GOLEN**

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Fenway Bowl and Military Bowl were both canceled due to the pandemic on Sunday, Dec. 26 as coronavirus outbreaks at Virginia and Boston College forced them to call off their postseason plans.

The game scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 29 at Fenway Park was to pit the Cavaliers against SMU. The Military Bowl scheduled for Monday, Dec. 27 at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland, between Boston College and East Carolina was canceled because of positive COVID-19 tests at BC.

Also Sunday, Miami said it would not play in the Sun Bowl, which was scheduled for Friday, Dec. 31 against Washington State. The Hurricanes have been dealing with a virus outbreak for several days.

"This is not the way we wanted to see this season

come to an end," Eagles coach Jeff Hafley said. "We just do not have enough players to safely play a game. My heart goes out to our seniors who will not have one final opportunity to wear a BC jersey and I can't thank them enough for all the contributions they made to our program."

The Fenway Bowl was supposed to bring a college football postseason game to the century-old home of the Boston Red Sox, but those plans have been stymied twice by the pandemic. It was to be the last game for Virginia coach Bronco Mendenhall, who announced his resignation after the Cavaliers concluded a 6-6 regular season.

But leading up to the team's planned departure on Christmas Day, players began showing symptoms of COVID-19 and tested positive. The full team was tested in the morning, and additional positive results came back on Sunday.

"Playing this game was something our team very much looked forward to and it is unfortunate Coach Mendenhall will not have one last opportunity to coach this group," Virginia athletic director Carla Williams said. "We appreciate all of the hard work by our team and coaching staff. They earned this bowl invitation, and it is unfortunate they will not be able to compete in the game to complete the season."

It's the second year in a row that the pandemic has spoiled bowl bids for Boston College and SMU.

"I'm disappointed for our fans, and even more disappointed for our players, that we will be unable to play in a bowl game for the second straight season," Mustangs AD Rick Hart said. "We are, however, sympathetic to Virginia's situation, having had to withdraw from our bowl last season due to COVID. We hope those impacted get well soon."

The BC players voted not

to go to a postseason game last year because of the emotional toll the pandemic season had taken. This year's team went 6-6 (2-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) to gain bowl eligibility and had already traveled to the Washington, D.C., area for Monday's game.

But athletic director Pat Kraft said more than 40 players were unavailable due to COVID-19, injuries, opt-outs and transfers.

"We just do not have enough players to field a team," he said. "We are disappointed not to be able to finish the season together as a team, but the health and safety of our program is our

highest priority."

Washington State arrived in El Paso, Texas on Sunday for the Sun Bowl. Miami was hoping to try to get there later this week.

"But due to the number of COVID-19 cases impacting our roster we do not have enough student-athletes to safely compete, and the health and safety of our student-athletes will always be our top priority," Miami deputy athletic director Jennifer Strawley said.

The Hawaii Bowl was canceled earlier after Hawaii withdrew from its game against Memphis on the eve of Thursday's contest because of COVID-19,

season-ending injuries and transfers.

And Rutgers will replace Texas A&M in the Gator Bowl against Wake Forest on New Year's Eve after the Aggies pulled out because of a lack of available players.

The UConn women's basketball game against Marquette on Dec. 29 was also canceled on Sunday because of coronavirus issues within the Marquette program. Maryland's men announced that they will face Lehigh on Tuesday night after a previously scheduled game against in-state opponent Loyola was called off because of COVID-19 protocols within the Loyola program.



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