

## BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Bulldogs avenge December loss to Fruitland

**Baker, which lost by one point to the Grizzlies Dec. 15, prevail in close game**

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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The Baker girls basketball team's rematch with Fruitland, Idaho, on Tuesday, Jan. 4, at Fruitland was about as dramatic as the teams' first game on Dec. 15 in the Baker gym.

But the second chapter in the rivalry, unlike the first, had a happy ending for the Bulldogs.

After the Grizzlies rallied from an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter to tie the score at 32, Baker scored four straight points and held on for a 37-35 win.

The Bulldogs improved to 8-3 on the season. They are ranked sixth in the state at the Class 4A level.

"Any time you can go on the road and beat a quality team, it's a good thing," Baker coach Jason Ramos said. "There's a lot of positives to take away from this."

Ramos said he was excited to see the team prevail in a game when the outcome was in question almost to the final seconds.

Baker's three losses, to Pendleton, Fruitland and Crane, were by a combined five points, with the Pendleton and Fruitland losses both by a single point.

"It was a great finish for us to be able to come out with a win in that situation," Ramos said.

He said he reminded his players, during a fourth quarter timeout, that in similar cases the Bulldogs had fallen just short.

"We talked about finishing the right way this time, and the girls were able to do that," Ramos said.

Baker made key free throws in the fourth quarter, scoring four of their eight points at the line.

Sydnee Pierce had two free throws in the final period, and Macey Moore and Rylee Elms one each.

Ramos said Elms shrugged off two early fouls to have one of her best games, scoring a team-high 13 points.

Jozie Ramos and Moore had eight points each.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Rylee Elms, shown here against Burns on Dec. 29, 2021, scored a team-high 13 points on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, as the Bulldogs beat Fruitland, Idaho, 37-35. Jozie Ramos (background), added eight points.

The rematch at Fruitland played out much like the earlier game in Baker — partic-

ularly the fourth quarter. In both games the teams were tied at 32.

## BAKER (37)

Elms 5 3-5 13, Wilde 0 0-0 0, Gyllenberg 1 0-2 2, Pierce 1 1-2 3, Ramos 3 2-3 8, Roy 0 0-0 0, Jaca 1 0-0 2, Moore 3 1-2 8. Totals 14 7-14 37.

## FRUITLAND (35)

Barnes 0 0-0 0, Roubidoux 2 0-0 4, Drollinger 1 0-0 2, Hardy 0 0-0 0, Gibb 0 0-0 0, Hart 0 0-0 0, Phillips 1 0-0 2, Jerman 5 0-0 10, Huff 6 1-3 13, Fritts 1 2-6 4. Totals 16 3-9 35.

Baker 9 10 10 8—37

Fruitland 8 10 6 11—35

In the Dec. 15 game at Baker, the Bulldogs' rally fell just short after Fruitland led 40-36.

At Fruitland, by contrast, the Grizzlies had to play from behind.

Jason Ramos said Baker switched to a zone defense late in the game after Fruitland, taking advantage of openings in the lane, had battled back to tie the score at 32.

That shift led to a couple of key defensive stops that kept the Grizzlies at bay, he said. "And we capitalized at the

other end," Ramos said.

The game was close throughout.

Baker led 9-8 after one quarter, and the margin remained a single point, 19-18, at halftime.

The Bulldogs extended the lead to 29-24 after three quarters, and took their largest lead, 32-24, early in the fourth before the Grizzlies rallied.

Baker won the JV game, 36-35. Kaydenne Thomas and Makea Robb each scored eight points for Baker, Tiyana Stevens had seven, and Ashlyn Dalton and Aiyana Radford four each.

The Bulldogs are slated to return to the road for their third long trip of the season.

Baker is scheduled to play at Madras on Friday, Jan. 7 at 5:30 p.m., and then take on Crook County at Prineville on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 11 a.m.

The Baker boys varsity team, which is slated to play host to Fruitland on Thursday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m., will also make the trip to Central Oregon. The boys are scheduled to play Madras on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m., and Crook County the next day at 12:30 p.m.



Carmen Mandato/Getty Images-TNS

Kansas State's Malik Knowles (No. 4) celebrates a first-half touchdown with Skylar Thompson (No. 7) against LSU during the TaxAct Texas Bowl at NRG Stadium on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, in Houston.

## Kansas State dominates short-handed LSU 42-20 in Texas Bowl

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Deuce Vaughn and the Kansas State Wildcats finished a streaky season on a positive note Tuesday night, Jan. 4 with a dominant 42-20 win over short-handed LSU in the Texas Bowl.

Vaughn, a sophomore running back and first-team All-American as an all-purpose player, rushed for 146 yards on 21 carries. He scored four touchdowns — three rushing and one receiving.

"The aggressiveness of our play calling opened up the running game," Vaughn said. "Everybody was making plays, and our O-line stayed committed to the fight against a really good defense."

Kansas State (8-5) also got a strong performance from quarterback Skylar Thompson, who returned to make his final collegiate start after missing the regular-season finale with an ankle injury.

"For him to be on point like he was and throwing strikes, he was phenomenal," Kansas State coach Chris Klieman said. "To see him go out like that was huge. He wanted to play well in this moment and he did."

Thompson completed 21 of 28 passes for 259 yards and three touchdowns and was chosen Texas Bowl MVP. Malik Knowles had two touchdown catches and 42 yards receiving.

"It flew by, but it was a special way to end it, for sure," Thompson said. "Holy smokes, I couldn't have drawn up a better way to finish it than tonight."

While LSU (6-7) had a tough time slowing Vaughn and Thompson, the Tigers had another uphill battle on offense.

With starting quarterback Max Johnson having transferred to Texas A&M, backup Myles Brennan recovering from surgery and a third-string freshman that would have had to burn his redshirt to play, LSU entered the game with a big question mark under center.

The Tigers turned to senior receiver Jontre Kirklín, who hadn't played quarterback since high school in 2016. Kirklín had only played in 25 games over five seasons, including his first two years as a cornerback.

The Tigers didn't get a first down until late in the second quarter. By that time, Kansas State already had 12 first downs and a 21-0 lead. LSU later scored on that drive, though, a 23-yard touchdown catch by Jaray Jenkins.

Kirklín was 7-of-11 passing for 138 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions while also rushing for 61 yards on 11 carries. He delivered an 81-yard touchdown pass to Chris Hilton Jr. as time expired.

The Tigers were led by interim coach Brad Davis, the offensive line coach who was filling in during the transition from Ed Orgeron to for-

mer Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly. LSU announced in December that Davis would be returning on Kelly's staff as the offensive line coach.

Davis said LSU had just 38 scholarship players available for the game, but backing out was never an option.

"We don't stand back from a challenge," Davis said. "There was never a thought in our mind about not playing this game. We fully expected to win."

Kansas State appeared to have a slight edge in the makeup of the crowd, despite Baton Rouge, Louisiana, being nearly 500 miles closer to Houston than Manhattan, Kansas.

The Wildcats led 21-7 at halftime.

Kansas State enjoyed its most lopsided win over an SEC opponent in school history, improving to 5-17 against the conference.

## Look for Norway to top medal table again at Winter Olympics

BY STEPHEN WADE

Associated Press

The Winter Olympics open in 30 days, and Norway is expected to head the medal standings for the second straight time, even topping its record haul of 39 medals in 2018 in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

This is the prediction of U.S.-based Gracenote Sports, which released its medal table forecast on Wednesday, Jan. 5 with the Beijing Winter Games opening on Feb. 4.

Nielsen-Gracenote supplies statistical analysis to sports league around the world. Its Olympic numbers are based

off computer models that analyze the most recent results in major competitions — and smaller ones — in the run-up to Beijing.

Norway is predicted to win 22 gold medals and 45 overall. More than half of Norway's medals are predicted to come in cross country skiing and biathlon.

Second place, if total medals is used for the ranking order, will be the Russian Olympic Committee with 11 gold and 32 overall. The team in Beijing, as in Tokyo, will be known as the ROC, or the Russian Olympic Committee. The ROC must compete

without its national flag or anthem, fallout from a state-backed doping program dating from the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Many critics say the punishment is negligible since athletes still compete in national colors.

Under the IOC guidelines, the athletes will represent not their country, but the ROC.

Germany is picked to finish third with 12 gold and 25 overall. After this, the next seven countries are closely grouped. They are: United States (7 gold, 22 overall), Canada (6-22), Sweden (7-21), Switzerland (5-21), Netherlands (6-20), Austria (5-18), and France (2-18).

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