

## BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Bulldogs split two games on road trip

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The Baker girls basketball team seemed poised to do something that only one other Oregon team has accomplished this season.

Beat Crook County.

The Bulldogs were leading 24-19 in the third quarter on Saturday, Jan. 8 at Prineville.

Crook County, a Class 5A school (Baker is Class 4A), came into the game ranked second in the state with an 11-1 record, its only loss to Philomath, 38-31 on Dec. 18.

But it wasn't to be.

Crook County rallied with a 16-2 run that extended into the fourth quarter, and the Cowgirls then held off Baker's comeback bid that saw the Bulldogs get within five points late before falling 42-35.

Baker coach Jason Ramos credited Crook County coach Bob Boback for employing a defensive strategy that had one player assigned to Jozie Ramos, the Bulldogs' leading scorer, and the four others playing zone defense.

"That kind of took us out of our game, and we struggled the whole game offensively," said Jason Ramos, who is also Jozie's dad.

He blamed himself for failing to make adjustments in the second half to counter Crook County's tactics.

"I wanted to make a couple other adjustments and I just didn't do that," Ramos said. "I need to coach better in those situations."

Crook County held Jozie Ramos to a season-low three points.

Baker rallied after trailing by as many as 11 points, but the Bulldogs' struggles at the free throw line in the fourth quarter were costly.

Baker was 7 for 14 from the line in the final quarter — the seven missed points equalling the final margin.

"We missed too many free throws down the stretch," Jason Ramos said.

That was disappointing not only because the misses thwarted the Baker rally, but because the Bulldogs otherwise did what he asked them to do — continue to play aggressively on offense and draw fouls.

A team trying to rally in the fourth quarter always wants to get free throws — it's the only way to score points without time ticking away.

"Credit to the girls to get the chances; they attacked the basket," Ramos said.

He described the loss as "a missed opportunity" to not only hand Crook County a rare loss, but to extend Baker's win streak to four games with the Greater Oregon League season starting tonight, Jan. 11.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

**Baker's Taylor Gyllenberg in action earlier this season.**

er's win streak to four games with the Greater Oregon League season starting tonight, Jan. 11.

"They're having a really good season," Ramos said of Crook County.

"We kind of knew what the matchup was going to be like."

He said the disappointment after the game was similar to that for each of the Bulldogs' three previous losses — two by a single point, and the third by three points.

The game at Crook County was close most of the way.

Baker led 12-11 after the first quarter, with Taylor Gyllenberg scoring 10 of Baker's 12 points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

"Taylor had a great first quarter shooting the ball," Ramos said.

Baker led 20-19 at halftime and extended the lead to 24-19 before Crook County took over.

Gyllenberg was the only Bulldog in double figures, with 10. Rylee Elms and Macey Moore had eight points each.

The previous evening, Jan. 7, at Madras, Baker struggled early but dominated much of the final three quarters to beat the White Buffalos 59-43.

"We were a little sluggish out of the gate but once we got it going, things really started to click," Ramos said.

Baker trailed 12-8 after the first quarter but then outscored Madras

**BAKER (59)**

Elms 4 0-1 8, Flanagan 3 1-1 7, Wilde 0 0-0 0, Gyllenberg 1 0-0 2, Pierce 1 1-2 3, Ramos 6 0-0 13, Roy 1 0-0 2, Jaca 4 0-0 9, Moore 7 0-0 15. Totals 27 2-4 59.

**MADRAS (43)**

Wapshel 2 0-0 5, Martinez 1 0-0 2, Tanewasha 0 0-0 0, Harry 2 0-0 4, Poland 3 0-0 6, Buck 0 0-0 0, Davis 6 6-9 20, Ramirez 2 2-2 6. Totals 16 8-11 43.

**BAKER (35)**

Elms 3 2-4 8, Flanagan 1 0-0 2, Wilde 0 0-0 0, Gyllenberg 4 0-0 10, Pierce 0 1-6 1, Ramos 0 3-4 3, Roy 0 0-0 0, Jaca 0 1-2 3, Moore 3 2-5 8. Totals 12 9-21 35.

**CROOK COUNTY (42)**

Woodward 2 2-4 7, Weaver 5 7-13 17, Kasberger 1 0-0 2, Jonas 1 0-2 3, Bakes 4 4-6 12, Brooks 0 1-2 1. Totals 12 14-27 42.

Baker	12	8	6	9	— 35
Crook	11	8	8	15	— 42

14-4 in the second. Baker extended the lead to 40-29 after three quarters.

Ramos said the Bulldogs thrived on the pressure defense and transition offense, often spurred by steals, that is a hallmark of Baker basketball.

"That's how we like to play all the time," he said.

Moore led Baker with 15 points. Ramos added 13, Brooklyn Jaca had nine, Elms had eight and Makenzie Flanagan had seven.

Baker, 9-4 on the season and ranked ninth in Class 4A, now prepares to start the Greater Oregon League schedule by playing host to La Grande tonight at 6 p.m. in the Baker gym.

La Grande also made the trip to Central Oregon last weekend, and like Baker, the Tigers went 1-1, beating Madras, 55-50, and losing to Crook County, 43-41.

Jason Ramos said the comparison between Baker's and La Grande's results against the same two teams is interesting, but ultimately not terribly relevant to tonight's league match up.

"La Grande keeps getting better as the season goes on, and it's going to be a good test for us," he said. "We're going to have to play really well."

## BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL

# Bulldogs top Madras and Crook County

## Baker improves to 9-3 on the season

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker boys basketball coach Jebron Jones had a couple reasons to worry as the Bulldogs took the court against Crook County early in the afternoon on Saturday, Jan. 8 at Prineville.

Baker was playing its third game in less than three days — and its second in less than 20 hours.

And Jones knew the Cowboys, who had a height advantage, would be a tough foe.

"I knew they would battle," Jones said.

His trepidation seemed reasonable early on, as Crook County led 18-17 after the first quarter.

But the Bulldogs' defense toughened in the second quarter, and Baker led 35-28 at halftime.

Both teams scored 15 points in the third quarter, but the Bulldogs, showing no signs of fatigue, dominated the final quarter 20-10 to roll to a 70-53 win.

"Three games in three days is tough, especially on a road trip," Jones said. "They did a great job of staying focused."

Although balanced scoring was a trademark of most of Baker's previous eight wins, two Bulldogs, both freshmen, accounted for the bulk of the points against Crook County.

Isaiah Jones led all scorers with 31 points, and Jaron Long had 23.

Jebron Jones, who is also Isaiah's dad, said having two players put up most of Baker's points resulted not from any strategy, but because both freshmen had multiple layins, most coming off steals or outlet passes.

"That's just the way the game played out," Jebron Jones said. "They were both running the floor and got some easy baskets."

Hayden Younger and Diego Quintela added six points each.

Jones said he was pleased with Baker's free throw shooting, as the Bulldogs made 13 of 15. It was a major improvement over Baker's 8 for 18 shooting in the 72-68 win at Madras on Friday, Jan. 7.

"I'm not a genius but I know 8 for 18 isn't very good," Jones said with a chuckle. "Free throws can cost you games. We shoot a lot of free throws in practice when the boys are tired to approximate game situations. They did much better against Crook County."

In the win over Madras, Baker demonstrated its versatility and its ability to distribute points across the roster.

Seven Bulldogs scored during the decisive second quarter, when Baker extended its 18-16 lead to a 41-26 advantage at halftime.

The Bulldogs still led by 15 points entering the fourth quarter, but the White Buffalos rallied, hitting five 3-pointers to trim the final margin to just four points.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

**Baker's Jaron Long goes up for a shot against Fruitland on Jan. 6, 2022, in the Baker gym. Long had 23 points and his teammate and fellow freshman Isaiah Jones (far right) had 31 points to lead the Bulldogs to a 70-53 win at Crook County on Jan. 8.**

**BAKER (72)**

Logsdon 1 0-0 2, Harper 1 0-0 2, Gambleton 1 1-2 3, Quintela 1 0-0 2, Younger 0 0-0 0, Spike 5 0-1 10, Molina 1 0-0 2, Jones 9 2-5 23, Long 3 2-4 8, Hobson 8 3-6 22. Totals 30 8-18 72.

**MADRAS (68)**

Ball 9 3-4 24, Strong 0 0-0 0, Main 0 0-0 0, Wallulatum 0 0-0 0, Poland 0 0-0 0, Simmelink 2 1-4 5, Meither 0 0-0 0, Harry 6 0-0 18, Boyle 0 3-3 3, Smith 6 2-3 18. Totals 23 10-18 68.

Baker 18 23 17 14 — 72  
Madras 16 10 17 25 — 68

**BAKER (70)**

Logsdon 0 0-0 0, Gambleton 0 0-0 0, Quintela 2 0-0 6, Younger 2 2-2 6, Molina 0 0-0 0, Spike 0 2-2 2, Jones 12 5-6 31, Long 9 4-4 23, Hobson 1 0-0 2. Totals 28 13-15 70.

**CROOK COUNTY (53)**

Teasdale 1 0-0 2, Mathews 4 0-2 9, West 3 2-3 7, Teskey 1 0-0 3, Freauf 7 2-4 16, Carr 1 0-1 2, Ossenkop 2 0-0 4, Levesque 1 0-2 2, Martinez 2 0-0 6. Totals 22 4-11 53.

Baker 17 18 15 20 — 70  
Crook 18 10 15 10 — 53

"That was us being lackadaisical in the fourth quarter and taking the game for granted," Jones said. "I'll take responsibility for that. That won't happen again. It was a learning situation for sure."

Madras didn't rely on the 3-point shot only to make the game competitive in the final quarter.

The White Buffalos had 12 total 3-pointers, to Baker's four.

But even that 21-point advantage wasn't enough to overcome Baker's domination in 2-point baskets — 26 to 11.

See, **Bulldogs**/Page A6

# Baker wrestlers compete at Rollie Lane

BAKER CITY HERALD

NAMPA, Idaho — Baker wrestlers competed at one of the bigger tournaments of the year, the Rollie Lane Invitational, on Friday, Jan. 7, and Saturday, Jan. 8.

The Baker boys amassed 38 points to place 47th out of about 80 teams.

The Baker girls placed 36th out of 50 teams with 13 team points.

The two-day event attracted teams from Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana.

"The Rollie Lane was as tough as I have ever seen it," Baker coach Brandon Young said. "The first round was a tough one for us, and after that we seemed to compete better, but we had some tough draws and wrestled a lot of the top kids in the first two rounds of the tournament. I think we were a little nervous going into a big tournament and a big venue at the Nampa Idaho Center."

In the boys event, Gavin Stone, Gauge Bloomer and Jaden Martin all earned points for Baker, and all came close to placing, Young said.

Martin wrestled Miguel Perez of Caldwell, Idaho. They had wrestled earlier in the season, with Perez winning by fall. At Rollie Lane, the two were tied at 1 going into the final round, and Perez won with a takedown in the final seconds.

Aldo Duran lost 4-3 in an exciting match to Cole Currin of Kuna, Idaho, the number two seed in the tournament.

"Aldo just has a couple little things we need to fix and he is going to make a run at a state title as a freshman," Young said.

Baker had three girls compete, and all went 1-2.

Sarah Plummer was close to pinning her opponent, Zoe Fries of Kuna, but Fries was able to roll Plummer to her back and get the pin. Fries placed third.

"Sarah was wrestling at a very high level in only her second season of wrestling," Young said.

He said the Rollie Lane tournament will help prepare the Bulldogs for the rest of the season.

"It's good for us to wrestle kids at the highest level as it points out little things that each individual on the team needs to work on," Young said. "This was our largest and toughest match of the year. Hopefully we can take the intensity from Rollie Lane to practice and the Oregon Classic this weekend."

The Baker boys will compete in the Oregon Classic, the state dual tournament in Redmond, on Friday, Jan. 14, and Saturday, Jan. 15.

The Baker girls will compete in the Jaybird Invitational on Friday, Jan. 14, at Columbia High School in Nampa.

**Baker boys individual results**

- Joey Duncan, 106

- Marcus Chamberlain, 106, 2-2, 4 points
- Aldo Duran, 113, 2-2, 3 points
- River Clark, 120, 0-2
- Samuel Nelson, 126, 0-2
- Sage Darlington, 126, 0-2
- Riley Martin, 132, 0-2
- Cole Hester, 132, 1-2
- Gavin Stone, 145, 3-2, 7 points
- Ben Coburn, 152, 0-2
- Ryan Brown, 160, 0-2
- Adrian Allen, 182, 2-2, 3 points
- Gauge Bloomer, 195, 5-2, 13 points
- Russell Walden, 220, 2-2
- Jaden Martin, 285, 3-2, 8 points

**Baker girls individual results**

- Lilly Collins, 132, 1-2, 3 points
- Sarah Plummer, 145, 1-2, 6 points
- Sheylin Karolski, 160, 1-2, 4 points



**Come and see us for all of your vision needs**

- A great selection of frames to choose to get the look you want.
- We carry both regular and prescription sunglasses.
- In house repairs and special packages starting at \$99

# EAGLE OPTICAL

3705 Midway Drive • Baker City

541.523.2020

**Wayne Dalton**

**GARAGE DOORS**

Custom wood, Stained finish, 16 Lite Arched windows

With Thermospan™ doors, you have your choice of styles, colors and customizing options.

**NE-HI ENTERPRISES** CCB#155399

2122 10th • Baker City • 541-523-6008