

POWDER VALLEY BOYS BASKETBALL

Badgers nip Umatilla at buzzer

Top-ranked Powder Valley boys improve to 13-1

BAKER CITY HERALD

The top-ranked Powder Valley boys basketball team ran its season record to 13-1 on Thursday, Jan. 13, but it took a miraculous final second at Umatilla.

Well, not an entire second.

Or even half of one, come to that.

With just four-tenths of a second on the clock and the score tied at 44, the Badgers, who had trailed most of the game, had possession under their own basket.

Powder's Reece Dixon made the inbounds pass.

It was a lob, intended as an alley-oop attempt for fellow senior Kaden Krieger. Four-tenths of a second isn't enough time for a player to actually catch the ball and shoot.

Krieger, though, couldn't get to the ball before it hit the floor near the free throw line.

But none of the Viking defenders touched the ball, either, so the clock didn't start.

Krieger adjusted, scooped the ball off the bounce in one motion to the hoop, where it rolled around the rim and slipped through the net.

And with that, the Class 1A Badgers walked off the court with a 46-44 win, their second victory this season over a Class 3A opponent, following a 57-35 win over Burns on Dec. 28 in the Baker holiday tournament.

"It was a good game for us against a really fast team," Powder head coach Kyle Dixon said. "We just play hard. We're ready to go."

The game got off to a slow start as both offenses looked to get in rhythm. Umatilla held a 14-3 lead after the first quarter, but Powder Valley managed to cut the lead to 20-16 at halftime. It was a balanced scoring effort for the Badgers throughout the game, with Clay Martin scoring five points in each half. Martin and Kaiden



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Powder Valley's Kaden Krieger, seen here against Burns on Dec. 28, 2021, had the game-winning basket at the buzzer as the Badgers beat Umatilla 46-44 on Thursday, Jan. 13, at Umatilla.

Dalke both led the team with 10 points each.

The Vikings snapped back into form in the third quarter and extended their narrow lead to 34-26 heading into the final frame. Krieger was strong in the fourth quarter, scoring six of his nine points in the last eight minutes.

Other than an 80-75 loss to Adrian on Dec. 27, the Badgers have been perfect on the year.

Powder Valley has two more games scheduled against larger

schools, this time a pair of contests at Class 4A La Grande on Jan. 18, and at Baker on Feb. 5.

A previously scheduled matchup at Griswold on Jan. 15 was canceled due to COVID-19 precautions, so the Badgers will have four days off before facing the Tigers. Tip-off at La Grande High School is set for 7:30 p.m.

— Davis Carbaugh of *The (La Grande) Observer* contributed to this story.

OREGON DUCKS NEW FOOTBALL COACH

Fresh off national title, Lanning hits ground running at Oregon

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

Dan Lanning was all-in as Oregon's new head coach the moment he stepped off the field from celebrating Georgia's national championship.

Lanning was hired by the Ducks last month, but first he finished out his run as defensive coordinator for the Bulldogs, who on Monday, Jan. 10, beat Alabama 33-18 for the national title.

"Walking off the field in the tunnel, after winning the national championship, I was on FaceTime with a guy that can enhance our program and make us better," Lanning said. "So yeah, absolutely, at that moment I was a Duck."

Lanning arrived on campus in Eugene on Tuesday, Jan. 11, and set about touring the campus, meeting players and prepping to hit the recruiting trail.

Lanning, 35, replaces Mario Cristobal, who left the Ducks after four seasons to become the head coach at Miami.

Oregon finished 10-4 this past season, falling 47-32 to Oklahoma in the Alamo Bowl. The Ducks had high hopes after an upset of Ohio State put the team in the early playoff picture. But it was short-lived, and Oregon lost regular season games to Stanford and Utah to fall out of the running.

Oregon ended the season ranked No. 22.

There's already a little intrigue heading into the coming season: The Ducks will face Georgia in the opener on Sept. 3 in Atlanta.

Lanning has been busy behind the scenes assembling a staff, which includes offensive coordinator Kenny Dillingham, who spent the last two seasons in the same position at Florida State, and defensive coordinator Tosh Lupoi, who comes to the Ducks from the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars.

Oregon defensive end Kayvon Thibodeaux is off to the draft, where he's expected to be one of the top picks, but Auburn quarterback Bo Nix announced last month that he'll play for Oregon after entering the transfer portal.

Nix, a former five-star recruit and three-year starter for the Tigers, injured his ankle late in the season. Before he was hurt, Nix completed 197 of 323 passes for 2,294 yards with 11 touchdowns and three interceptions. He also ran for four touchdowns.

"What I know about Bo, he's an ultimate competitor, I know how hard he works," Lanning said on Thursday. "We were really clear with Bo. 'Hey, you come in here, there's certainly an opportunity to compete.' But we're really excited about the guys we have on our roster as well and excited to see those guys come in and compete and go to work."

Barton scores 21, Nuggets beat depleted Blazers 140-108

BY PAT GRAHAM

Associated Press

DENVER — Will Barton had 21 points before leaving late in the third quarter with a strained neck, Nikola Jokic added 20 and the Denver Nuggets beat the depleted Portland Trail Blazers 140-108 on Thursday night, Jan. 13.

The Nuggets built their lead to 26 points in the third quarter — and this time didn't let it slip away.

Two nights ago, Denver blew a 25-point lead in Los Angeles against the Clippers. The loss of big leads has become an alarming trend for the Nuggets.

But not this time. Although, it did take the Nuggets nearly three minutes into the third quarter before scoring their first basket — a dunk by Jeff Green, who finished with 19 points.

That got them rolling again.

"I think everybody who's a Nuggets fan was probably wondering when we got up big when the collapse was going to happen," coach Michael Malone said. "Give our guys credit."

Facundo Campazzo had 18 points and 12 assists for Denver. Jokic, who didn't play in the fourth quarter, also had eight rebounds and seven assists. It was a rare game in which he didn't have a double-double.

Ben McLemore had 18 points as all five Portland starters scored in double digits to begin a six-game trip. The Blazers were without their top four scorers in Damian Lillard (abdominal tendinopathy), CJ McCollum (right lung pneumothorax), Norman Powell (health & safety protocols) and Anfernee Simons (personal reasons).

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