

BAKER WRESTLING

Baker handles Nyssa, 52-23

BAKER CITY HERALD

Baker wrestling coach Brandon Young wasn't going to underestimate Nyssa.

Not even when the other Bulldog squad was coming into a dual on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in the Baker gym with a depleted team.

"We knew their lineup was down tonight, and we warned our pack, 'What does a wild animal do when it's wounded? It fights, it gets mean.' And that is exactly what the Nyssa Bulldogs brought tonight," Young said. "Our guys did not underestimate them and got the job done."

With Nyssa forced to forfeit at 106, 113 120 and 195 pounds, Baker won 52-23.

Young said he had hoped to have the matches during a school assembly starting at 2 p.m., but with the COVID-19 situation that wasn't possible.

Wrestling started at 5 p.m. "Next year we get to go to their house, hopefully we get to do it during their assembly like we had planned here," Young said.

Russell Walden got Baker started at 220 pounds facing off against Nyssa's Jesse Aragon, one of the team's top wrestlers.

"Russell canceled a decent shot from Aragon and after that Aragon was able to get the takedown and the pin," Young said.

Jaden Martin gave Baker its first points with a first-round pin of Kody Van Meter in the heavyweight match.

At 126 pounds, Cole Hester

Baker pins Mac-Hi, 65-12

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Bulldogs, facing duals on back-to-back nights, were up to the task, romping over Mac-Hi, 65-12, on Thursday, Jan. 20, at Milton-Freewater.

Complete results weren't available by press time on Friday, Jan. 21, but will be published later. Baker was back on the mats for a third straight day, in the Grant Union tournament, on Friday, Jan. 21.

defeated Gabriel Ortega, 12-4, and then Samuel Nelson won by fall over Benjamin Mardock in a match that Young described as a "real slugfest."

Young said Riley Martin, wrestling at 138 pounds, "took on the challenge head on" and "was relentless in his pursuit" in his 6-2 decision over Martin Mendez.

"Our young guys from 126 to 138 kept working hard and came away with some wins where the matches were pretty close," Young said.

At 145 pounds, Baker senior Gavin Stone pinned Porter Carlton in the first round.

"He is really starting to look like a wrestling machine," Young said of Stone. "He is so dedicated and continues to fine tune his skills."

At 152 pounds, Baker's Ben Coburn took on Ashton Wilson.

"He refused to give up and was able to avoid being pinned, which ended up in a



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Gauge Bloomer didn't have an opponent at his usual 195 pounds, so he wrestled an exhibition match against Nyssa's Jesse Aragon on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, in the Baker gym. Bloomer won by fall.

technical fall, worth five team points for Nyssa, and saved us one team point," Young said. "Ben has such a great work ethic, he never stops trying."

Christian Mardock pinned Baker's Ryan Brown at 160 pounds.

At 170, Baker's Cody Eskew was tied at 0 with Orlando Perfecto going into the third period, but Eskew got an escape and then a takedown to win 3-0.

In the 182-pound match, Baker's Adrian Allen wrestled Alec Carey, whom Young described as "one of the biggest 182-pounders we have seen. Adrian fought hard, but Carey earned the fall."

Gauge Bloomer won by forfeit at 195 pounds, but he wrestled an exhibition against Aragon, Nyssa's 220-pounder.

"Bloomer got the first takedown in the first period and then Aragon got an escape,"

Younger said. "Aragon chose down in the second period and Bloomer was able to ride him out and really wear him down. Bloomer hit an explosive standup and earned his one-point escape, then earned a takedown to a fall."

There were several other exhibition matches for some of Baker's less-experienced wrestlers, both boys and girls, including:

- Michael Endersby, 126 pounds, def. Ian Esplin, 10-6.
- Sage Darlington, 126 pounds, lost to William Savage, 10-6.
- River Clark, 126 pounds, lost to William Savage, 2-0.
- Lilly Collins, 138 pounds, lost by fall to Hailie Ballou.
- Sarah Plummer, 145 pounds, lost by fall to Hailie Ballou.
- Julian Garcia, 145 pounds, lost by fall to Glen Hartley.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Gavin Stone, top, pinned Nyssa's Porter Carlton in the first round of their match on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, in the Baker gym.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Sarah Plummer, bottom, wrestled two exhibition matches during a dual against Nyssa on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, in the Baker gym.

- Sarah Plummer, 145 pounds, won by fall over Abigail Mardock.
- Ethan Morgan, 182 pounds, lost to Orlando Perfecto, 10-1.

Baker's busy week contin-

ued on Thursday, Jan. 20, when the Bulldogs traveled to Milton-Freewater for a dual with Mac-Hi.

Baker returned to the road on Friday, Jan. 21, for a tournament in John Day.

COVID complicates sports scheduling

Baker boys basketball coach Jebron Jones to miss 2 games

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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The record-setting surge in COVID-19 cases has the potential to keep Baker students off the court as well as out of the classroom.

And coaches face the same potential issues as teachers do.

"It's a challenge," Baker School District Athletic Director Buell Gonzales Jr. said on Friday morning, Jan. 21.

A complicating factor when it comes to sports is that Baker teams can be, and have been, affected by what's happening in other places.

The Bulldog boys and girls varsity basketball teams, for

instance, were scheduled to open Greater Oregon League play on Jan. 11 by playing host to La Grande.

But the Tigers, due to COVID-19 issues with both teams, couldn't play that day. The games have been rescheduled for Feb. 8.

The Bulldog boys also had their Jan. 14 game at Mac-Hi rescheduled to Jan. 22 due to COVID-19 problems with the Pioneers.

The effects don't all stem from outside the Baker School District, however.

The Bulldog boys varsity team, 10-3 and ranked eighth in the state Class 4A standings, didn't have head coach Jebron Jones on the bench for the Friday, Jan. 21, game at home against Ontario, or for the rescheduled matchup at Mac-Hi set for the next day.

Gonzales said Jones, who stepped in to coach the Baker JV team on Jan. 18 at Vale, was potentially exposed to the virus, as four members of the Baker JV team are quarantining for at least five days.

Coaches and players who are exposed to someone who tested positive have to quarantine, Gonzales said.

They can return after five days if they have no symptoms; they're not required to be tested.

The exception to the quarantine requirement is for coaches and players who are up to date on their vaccinations, Gonzales said.

A coach or player who tests positive, however, is required to quarantine regardless of vaccination status.



Gonzales

Despite having four boys quarantining this week, Baker has been able to continue fielding both a JV and a JV2 team because the two teams didn't have games on the same day, and there were enough players to make up a roster for each of those teams for their games, Gonzales said.

The situation became more challenging starting Monday, Jan. 17, he said.

Prior to that date, the county was still able to do contact tracing after someone tested positive, and that had the potential to limit the number of people who were potentially exposed and thus had to quarantine.

But now, with case numbers at record highs, contact tracing is limited, he said.

Now, if a player or coach tests positive, everyone on that team who was present at

a practice or game with the person who tested positive is required to quarantine, again with the exception of those who are fully vaccinated, Gonzales said.

The bottom line, he said, is that a single positive test can sideline all or most members of a team, including coaches. "That's what's shutting teams down right now," Gonzales said.

As of Friday morning, Jan. 21, Baker teams weren't among those.

But Gonzales said there are no guarantees. "It could change tomorrow," he said.

Baker Middle School girls split with La Grande

The Baker Middle School seventh-grade girls basketball team beat La Grande 52-9 on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

La Grande won the eighth-grade game, 29-24.

Jaxson Ramos was the leading scorer for the seventh-graders with 15 points. Colbi Bachman had 13 points and Lily Logsdon 11.

In the eighth-grade game, Kayla Coley led Baker with seven points.

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Brown scores 27, Washington defeats Oregon State, 82-72

CORVALLIS (AP) — Terrell Brown Jr. scored 27 points and Washington turned back Oregon State 82-72 on Thursday night, Jan. 20, despite being without head coach Mike Hopkins.

With Hopkins in COVID-19 protocol, assistant Will Conroy stepped in as head coach. And the Huskies (9-7, 4-2 Pac-12 Conference) stepped up to win their third straight game.

There were 14 lead changes in a first half that finished with the Beavers up 38-36. OSU put together a 6-0 run — back-to-back 3-point plays by Glenn Taylor Jr., and Dexter Akanno 15 seconds apart — for a 34-29 lead. It was the largest spurt and biggest lead of the first half that saw both teams shoot at least 50%.

Washington continued the sharp play after the break, shooting 58% despite going 3 of 11 from 3-point range and made only three turnovers. Meanwhile the Beavers missed all nine of their 3-pointers — finishing 3 of 19 — and shot 39%.

Brown, the leading scorer in the league at 21 points a game, scored 18 after the break on 8-of-12 shooting.

Emmitt Matthews Jr. scored

16 points for Washington with PJ Fuller adding 11 points and Jamal Bey 10.

Dashawn Davis scored 17 points, 15 in the second half, to lead Oregon State (3-14, 1-6), which has lost four straight. Roman Silva added 13 points and Glenn Taylor Jr., 10.

Brown tied the game with a layup in the opening seconds of the second half and another layup, which started a 6-0 surge, put the Huskies up for good 44-43. His layup capped a 10-2 run for a 52-45 lead.

Another Brown finish at the rim started a 7-0 string capped by Bey's 3-pointer for a 60-50 lead. The Beavers could get no closer than five after that and Brown's final bucket, with eight seconds to go, produced the biggest lead at 82-70.

The Huskies had a string, beginning with Brown's go-head basket, when they made 10 of 12 shots.

Washington plays at Oregon on Sunday night, Jan. 23, but Oregon State's home game against Washington State has been postponed because of the Cougars' COVID-19 concerns. The next scheduled game for the Beavers is Jan. 29 at Oregon.

Juzang, No. 9 UCLA hold off skidding Utah, 63-58

BY MATTHEW COLES

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — It didn't take Johnny Juzang long to realize it was going to be his night.

"I knew pretty early," Juzang said. "My teammates found me early and that got me going."

Good thing for No. 9 UCLA, because he didn't get much help on offense.

Juzang scored a season-high 28 points and the Bruins outlasted Utah 63-58 on Thursday, Jan. 20.

"He knew he could score so we were trying to get him in as much space as we could. I probably should have got some more opportunities, but they were really trying to take it away from us," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said.

Jules Bernard added 14 points for the Bruins (12-2, 4-1 Pac-12), who had a difficult time shaking the last-place Utes even after a brilliant start.

Lazar Stefanovic scored a career-high 18 points but missed an open jumper from the top of the key that could have tied the game late. Both Gach had 11 points for Utah (8-11, 1-8), which has lost seven straight.

"I'm unbelievably proud of our kids. Gave ourselves every opportunity to win. Played a complete game on both ends ... and really showed a lot of tenacity," Utah coach Craig Smith said.

Trailing 54-51, the Bruins went on a 7-0 run capped by Juzang's drive. The Utes had a couple of chances to tie it in the final 30 seconds, but Jaime Jaquez Jr. drew an offensive foul on Gach and the Utes missed two 3-pointers.

"I know Gach likes to go hard in transition ... and once I saw him put his head down, I just slid over and took it. I was scared since the ref took a while to call it," Jaquez said.

Utah kept the game tight by trapping on defense in the post and staying attached to perimeter shooters. After committing only three turnovers in the first half, the Bruins lost the ball four times in a 3:36 span and Utah regained the lead.

Midway through the second half, Tyger Campbell went down hard after driving for a contested layup and writhed in pain as Stefanovic hit a 3-pointer on the other end for a 46-42 Utah advantage.