

## BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Bulldogs roll past Ontario

## Bulldogs improve to 2-0 in league play

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Ontario's Xiomara Ortega made a 3-pointer from the top of the key less than a minute into the Tigers' girls basketball game against Baker in the Bulldogs' gym.

Ontario led 3-0.

And that was about the only surprising thing to happen Friday evening, Jan. 21.

Baker scored the next 16 points and went on to a rather predictable 69-16 rout of the winless Tigers.

The Bulldogs, now 2-0 in the Greater Oregon League, improved to 12-4 overall. Baker is ranked fifth in the state in the Class 4A division.

Baker led 26-8 after the first quarter and 48-13 at halftime.

Although the Bulldogs slowed down their offense in the second half — partly on purpose — Baker's defense was even more smothering, holding Ontario to just three points in the second half, including a scoreless third quarter.

Baker coach Jason Ramos said he talked with his players before the game about the need to stay focused even against an opponent that was likely to be overmatched.

"We talked about trying to maintain a high level of basketball continuity, and I think that's what we saw in the first half," Ramos said.

He was also pleased with Baker's success at another point of emphasis in the game — avoiding what he called "silly" fouls.

The Bulldogs committed a season-low seven fouls, including only one in the second half.

Ontario shot just six free throws.

With a 35-point lead at halftime, Ramos said he sought to use the second half to work on running offensive sets, inevitably a more relevant situation than a practice.

"The girls were still playing at our level, and we had a chance to get into our sets and run our halfcourt offense," he said.

Baker junior Rylee Elms, who scored six of Baker's first eight points and finished with 10, said that although it can be difficult to maintain focus in a game when the outcome isn't in doubt after the first quarter, she thinks the Bulldogs did well.

Elms said Ramos talked before the game about taking advantage of the chance to fine-tune the Bulldogs' offense.

"I feel like we definitely executed, and we ran a couple of new plays," Elms said.

She said Baker, which has won six of its past seven games, is "really starting to communicate and play as a team."

Baker had five players in double figures,

## ONTARIO (16)

Dester 2 1-1 5, Wilson 1 1-1 5, Eidson 0 0-0 0, Ortega 2 1-2 6, Evans 0 0-0 0, Campbell 0 0-0 0, Womack 0 0-0 0, Esquivel 0 0-2 0. Totals 6 3-6 16.

## BAKER (69)

Elms 5 0-0 10, Flanagan 1 0-0 2, Wilde 0 0-0 0, Gyllenberg 4 0-0 10, Pierce 5 0-2 10, Ramos 10 4-5 25, Roy 0 2-4 2, Jaca 0 1-2 1, Robb 0 0-0 0, Moore 3 3-3 9. Totals 28 10-16 69.

Ontario	8	5	0	3—16
Baker	26	22	15	6—69

led by Elms' fellow junior, Jozie Ramos, who scored in every quarter and finished with a game-high 25 points.

Two other juniors, Sydnee Pierce and Taylor Gyllenberg, joined Elms in double figures with 10 points each.

Another junior, Macey Moore, added nine points.

After playing three games in eight days, Baker has most of this week off to prepare for a game that could help decide the GOL title.

The Bulldogs travel to La Grande on Friday, Jan. 28, for a 6 p.m. game against the Tigers, who are 9-5 overall and sit atop the league standings with Baker at 2-0.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Sydnee Pierce elevates on the way to a layin against Ontario on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, in the Baker gym.

## BAKER WRESTLING

## Bulldogs pin Mac-Hi

BAKER CITY HERALD

The Baker wrestling team continued to round into shape as it prepares for the regional tournament by beating Mac-Hi 65-12 in a dual on Thursday, Jan. 20, at Milton-Freewater.

It was Baker's second dual win in as many days.

The Bulldogs topped Nysa 52-23 on the Baker mats on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Baker finished a hectic week by competing in a large tournament on Friday, Jan. 21, at John Day.

Complete results weren't available by press time, but three Baker wrestlers went undefeated in the tournament — Jaden Martin, Gauge Bloomer and Sheylin Karolski.

"There was some great competition there from all of the surrounding schools in our area throughout Eastern Oregon," Baker coach Brandon Young said.

## Mac-Hi dual

Young said one of the highlights from Baker's win was the performance of Cole Hester, who moved up from his usual 132 pounds to 138 to take on regional champion Cooper Yensen.

Yensen defeated Hester in the regionals last year.

"A summer of hard work and weight training paid off for Cole as this time around it was all Cole," Young said.

Hester won by technical fall, meaning he was 15 points ahead of Yensen.

"Cole capitalized on several takedowns and put Yensen on his back a few times," Young said.

"That is a huge jump for Cole and puts him in a great position heading into regionals."

At 160 pounds, Baker's



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Gavin Stone wrestles on Jan. 19, 2022, in the Baker gym.

Ryan Brown had a tough match with Mac-Hi's Wyatt Koch but he battled and eventually won by fall.

Ben Coburn won by forfeit and then wrestled Koch in an extra match, pinning the Mac-Hi wrestler.

Other Baker results:

- Aldo Duran, 113 pounds, won by forfeit.
- Sage Darlington, 126, won by forfeit.
- Samuel Nelson, 132, won by forfeit.
- Gavin Stone, 145, won by forfeit.

- Adrian Allen, 182, defeated Rocky McClellan by fall.
- Gauge Bloomer, 195, defeated Brian Day by fall.
- Jayden Clark, 220, lost to Tanner Wells by fall. Wells is ranked second in the state.
- Russell Walden, 285, defeated Francisco De La Rose by fall.

"Russell has really improved a ton this season," Young said

of the sophomore. "He has a great work ethic, and a bunch of tough wrestling partners."

In extra matches:

- Mac-Hi's Cooper Yensen, 132 pounds, defeated Samuel Nelson by fall.
- Mac-Hi's Aysia Quigg, 160, defeated Sheylin Karolski by fall.

- Jacob Mills, 182, defeated Rocky McClellan by fall.
- Mac-Hi's Brian Day, 195, defeated Connor Jensen by fall.
- Jayden Clark, 285, defeated Francisco De La Rosa by fall.

Baker returns to its home mats today, Jan. 25, hosting rival La Grande in a dual. Baker's senior wrestlers will be recognized at 5 p.m., followed by JV and girls matches, and varsity boys at 6 p.m.

On Thursday, Jan. 27, Baker will host a JV and girls tournament (times to be announced), and a home middle school tournament is set for Friday, Jan. 28 in the BHS main gym.

## OREGON MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Ducks rout Huskies for 5th straight win

STEVE MIMS

Associated Press

EUGENE — Will Richardson scored 21 points as Oregon won its sixth straight game with an 84-56 victory over Washington on Sunday night, Jan. 23.

Jacob Young and Quincy Guerrier each added 12 points as the Ducks (12-6) moved up to fourth place in the Pac-12 at 5-2. Franck Kepnang and De'Vion Harmon each scored nine points for Oregon.

Terrell Brown Jr. scored 14 points and Emmitt Matthews Jr. added 12 points to pace the Huskies (9-8, 4-3).

Oregon shot 65.5% from the field in the first half, including 8 for 12 from 3-point range, to take a 48-13 lead at the break.

"We knew that was a good Washington team that had won four of its last five so we had a sense of urgency," Guer-

rier said. "We played really well on defense in the first half... Sharing the ball is a major key to be successful against their zone so we were sharing the ball and ready to shoot it."

Oregon took a 13-4 lead on a 3-pointer by Richardson before Nate Roberts scored for Washington.

The Ducks followed with 11 straight points, including two dunks from Kepnang, to take a 24-6 lead midway through the first half.

After Daejon Davis made two free throws for Washington, Oregon answered with 16 straight points beginning with a 3-pointer from Eric Williams Jr. Richardson added a jumper and a 3-pointer before Guerrier made a 3-pointer to push the Ducks ahead 37-8.

"We were ready to play," Oregon coach Dana Altman said "I thought in the first half, our defensive activity was

really good. We forced a lot of turnovers."

Oregon finished 32 for 59 from the field, 9 of 18 from behind the arc. The Ducks had 16 assists while forcing Washington into 23 turnovers.

"It was one of those nights," Altman said. "We had a good first half, 8-for-12 on 3-pointers, so things were clicking for us especially in the first half."



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