

BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL

Baker opens GOL play with 2 wins

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The Baker boys basketball team were missing a familiar face, and voice, on the sidelines last weekend but the Bulldogs were no less dominating on the court.

With head coach Jebron Jones in COVID-19 protocol, Baker opened its twice-delayed Greater Oregon League schedule with a pair of routs on consecutive nights.

The Bulldogs pummeled Ontario 70-21 on Friday, Jan. 21, in the Baker gym, then traveled to Milton-Freewater on Saturday, Jan. 22, and breezed past the Pioneers, 67-33.

The wins gave assistant coach Roland Hobson, who filled in for Jones, a perfect 2-0 record as head coach.

Baker has won seven straight games, its last defeat at Pendleton on Dec. 21. The Bulldogs, ranked eighth in the state in Class 4A, are 12-3 overall and 2-0 in conference play.

Jones had to quarantine for at least five days after possibly being exposed to the virus while coaching the Baker JV team at Vale on Jan. 18, Baker School District athletic director Buell Gonzales Jr. said.

Jones will be back on the Baker bench when the Bulldogs travel to La Grande on Friday, Jan. 28, for a key GOL match up against the Tigers at 7:30 p.m. La Grande is ranked seventh in the state, one spot ahead of Baker, with a 10-1 overall record, 1-0 in the GOL.

Hobson said that although he didn't expect to take over temporarily as head coach, the transition went smoothly.

Besides being Jones' assistant, Hobson said he has been coaching most of the players, including his son, sophomore Paul Hobson, since they were third-graders.

"I know them all," Roland Hobson said.

After the Bulldogs had dispatched winless Ontario, scoring the first 13 points and leading 44-11 at halftime, Hobson said he was "very happy" with Baker's performance.

He said he told the players before tipoff that the game might not be competitive, but that they needed to play with focus and enthusiasm regardless of the score.

Hobson said Baker accomplished that goal despite taking control just a few minutes into the game.

"They were having a blast, getting a lot of energy from the bench, playing defense and



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Baker's Hudson Spike soars in for a layin against Ontario on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, in the Baker gym.

sharing the basketball," Hobson said. "It was really fun."

Baker didn't get complacent. With a 40-point lead starting the final quarter, the Bulldogs held the Tigers scoreless in the final eight minutes, which was played with a running clock as Baker's lead exceeded 35 points.

Isaiah Jones got things started fast after the opening tipoff with an inside basket and then a layin off a steal to give Baker a 4-0 lead in the first 30 seconds.

Hudson Spike had a layin and a 3-pointer sandwiched around Jaron Long's two free throws, and when Paul Hobson hit a 12-foot jumper midway through the first quarter, Baker's lead was 13-0 and Ontario coach Kevin Attila called timeout.

The Tigers' first notable play didn't even yield any points.

Senior Tysen Roldan leaped to dislodge the net after it got stuck on Long's made free throw with 2:26 left in the first quarter.

Roldan finally got the Tigers on the scoreboard 50 seconds later with a 3-pointer. He had a rebound basket at the end of the quarter, but Baker still led 19-5 after the first quarter.

The Bulldogs then opened the second quarter with a 13-2 run, led by Jones' nine points.

Hobson's 8-footer on a no-look pass from Spike boosted Baker's lead to 32-7 midway through the quarter.

Hobson led Baker with 19 points, and Jones scored 17. Diego Quintela added nine points, Spike had seven, and Jaron Long and Jaxon Logsdon had six points each.

Bulldogs dominate Mac-Hi

Less than a day later, a similar scenario played out at Milton-Freewater.

Paul Hobson scored 10 points and Isaiah Jones added eight as Baker ran to a 24-4 lead after the first quarter, and



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Baker's Diego Quintela beats Ontario's Tyce Helmick to the basket on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, in the Baker gym.

Pine Eagle boys get league win

The Pine Eagle boys basketball team got its first Old Oregon League win of the year with a 77-16 rout over Griswold on Friday, Jan. 21, in Halfway.

The Spartans improved to 1-2 in the league, and 4-7 overall. Pine Eagle is slated to play host to Imbler on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 5:30 p.m., then travel to Powder Valley on Friday, Jan. 28, for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

BAKER (67)

Logsdon 2 0-2 5, Harper 1 0-0 3, Quintela 4 0-0 9, Younger 2 0-0 5, Molina 1 0-0 2, Spike 1 0-0 2, Jones 5 0-0 10, Long 3 0-0 7, Hobson 8 0-0 20, Charbonneau 0 1-1 2, Mitchell 0 0-0 0. Totals 27 1-1 67.

MAC-HI (33)

Setzer 3 0-0 8, Siagh 2 0-0 4, Earls 3 0-0 8, Garcia-Meza 0 0-0 0, Sandoval 1 3-6 5, Doherty 0 0-0 0, Corona Ibarra 1 0-0 3, Badillo 2 0-0 4. 12 3-6 32.

Baker 24 16 24 3 — 67
Mac-Hi 4 11 11 7 — 33

ONTARIO (21)

Romayor 3 0-0 6, Hall 0 0-0 0, Mendoza 0 0-0 0, Rodriguez 1 0-0 2, Belze 0 0-0 0, Roldan 4 0-4 9, Helmick 2 0-0 4. Totals 10 0-4 21.

BAKER (70)

Logsdon 3 0-0 6, Harper 0 0-0 0, Quintela 4 0-0 9, Younger 2 0-0 4, Molina 0 0-0 0, Spike 3 0-0 7, Jones 8 1-2 17, Long 1 4-6 6, Hobson 8 1-2 19, Charbonneau 0 0-0 0, Mitchell 1 0-0 2. Totals 30 6-10 70.

Ontario 5 6 10 0 — 21
Baker 19 25 1 9 — 70

the Pioneers never threatened after that.

Hobson scored the other half of his game-high 20 points in the third quarter as the Bulldogs extended their lead to 64-26 after three quarters. Hobson had four 3-pointers in the game.

Ten Baker players scored. Jones added 10 points and Quintela had nine.

BAKER SWIMMING



Contributed Photo
Baker's senior swimmers were honored before the Baker home meet on Saturday, Jan. 22, at Sam-O Swim Center. From left, Caitlin Lien, Silas Carter and Brianna Stadler.

Bulldogs host home meet

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The Baker girls swimming team finished third, and the boys fourth in the BHS January Invitational meet on Saturday, Jan. 22, at Sam-O Swim Center.

Baker coach Randy Stadler said it was gratifying for the Bulldogs to be able to host a meet.

Although Baker has only about half a dozen swimmers this year, and thus a smaller than usual pool of parent volunteers, several people helped with logistics for the meet, Stadler said.

Julie Huntington, a member of the Baker School Board, helped Buell Gonzales Jr., the Baker School District's athletic director.

Stadler said officials from La Grande and Cove high schools, which also competed in the meet, were also instrumental in putting on the event.

Baker honored its three senior swimmers — Silas Carter, Caitlin Lien and Brianna Stadler — prior to the meet.

Stadler, a four-time state champion, won two events, the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard butterfly.

In the butterfly, Stadler finished in 59.14 seconds, four seconds ahead of runner-up Sarah Koza of Cove.

Stadler won the 100 backstroke in 1:00.64. Koza was again second, in 1:02.83.

Randy Stadler, who is Brianna's father, said her time in the butterfly was less than one second slower than her

58.99-second time in winning the event at the 2020 state meet as a sophomore.

"She's feeling really good," Randy Stadler said of Brianna.

He said Kate Johnson of Baker City, who was a swimmer at Oregon State University, has been helping Brianna and Baker's other swimmers as an assistant coach.

"She helps the kids a lot," Randy Stadler said.

Carter, who Randy Stadler said is newcomer to swimming, placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and sixth in the 100 freestyle on Saturday, Jan. 22.

"He's really taking off," Randy Stadler said.

Lien placed fifth in the 50 freestyle in her final home meet.

Gabriel Bott placed second in the 100-yard butterfly, and sixth in the 50 freestyle, just behind Carter.

In team scores, Pendleton won the girls meet with 140 points. La Grande was second with 103, Baker third with 18, and Cove fourth with 10 points.

On the boys side, La Grande won with 104 points. Pendleton was second with 60 points, Cove third with 40, and Baker fourth with nine points.

Baker is scheduled to compete in a meet Saturday, Jan. 29, at Madras.

Randy Stadler said this year's state meet, set for Feb. 18-19 in Beaverton, will be different from previous years, with only final races and no preliminaries.



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