

BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bulldogs hold off La Grande, take sole lead in GOL

Baker also routs Vale for fifth straight win

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Baker girls basketball coach Jason Ramos knew La Grande would rally.

And the Tigers, on their home court and with the support of their fans, did.

But the Bulldogs responded to every challenge in the key Greater Oregon League game Friday night, Jan. 28.

A 5-0 run in the fourth quarter kept the Tigers at bay and led Baker to a 51-43 win that puts Baker in command, at this point, in the race for the GOL championship.

The Bulldogs are alone in first place at 3-0.

La Grande dropped to 2-1 and second place.

Baker, which followed the win at La Grande with a much less tense 53-24 rout of Vale on the Vikings' home court on Saturday, Jan. 29, improved to 14-4 overall and moved up to third in the Class 4A rankings.

"We feel like we're playing the way we want to play," Ramos said.

On Friday at La Grande, Baker raced to an 18-7 lead in the first quarter as Macey Moore had both of her 3-pointers and eight of her 10 points.



Baker junior Jozie Ramos, in white, goes up for a shot against Homedale's Cheyenne Kelly (No. 32) during Baker's 66-36 season-opening win over the Trojans Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, in the Baker gym.

Baker maintained a lead of between seven and 10 points for much of the second and third quarters, leading 25-18 at halftime and 38-29 after three quarters.

"We had a great start to the

game, and our kids were excited and energetic," Ramos said. "We had some defensive miscues that kept us from extending the lead, but we maintained it."

Ramos said he told the Bull-

BAKER (51)

Elms 4 4-7 12, Flanagan 1 0-0 2, Gyllenberg 0 1-2 1, Pierce 1 3-4 6, Ramos 4 8-10 17, Roy 0 0-0 0, Jaca 2 0-0 4, Moore 3 2-2 10. Totals 15 18-25 51.

LA GRANDE (43)

Shorts 3 4-7 11, Collman 1 2-2 5, Strand 1 2-4 5, Jensen 1 0-0 2, Kump 0 1-2 1, Wilcox 4 1-4 9, Neer 4 0-0 10, Dunlap 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 10-19 43.

Baker 18 7 13 13—51

La Grande 10 8 11 14—43

BAKER (53)

Elms 5 6-8 16, Flanagan 0 1-4 1, Wilde 1 0-0 2, Gyllenberg 0 0-0 0, Pierce 0 0-1 0, Ramos 5 9-9 20, Roy 1 1-2 3, Jaca 0 1-2 1, Robb 0 0-0 0, Moore 3 2-2 10. Totals 15 20-28 53.

VALE (24)

Messenger 0 0-0 0, B. Johnson 0 0-0 0, Cleaver 0 4-7 4, Peterson 3 2-6 8, Giacomo 0 0-0 0, R. Johnson 1 1-2 3, McCourty 3 3-4 9, Jacobs 0 0-3 0. Totals 7 10-22 24.

Baker 7 18 20 8—53

Vale 5 7 7 5—24

dogs during the break between the third and fourth quarters that the Tigers would rally.

Grace Neer made a three-pointer to cut Baker's lead to 41-36 with 4:40 left in the game.

Isabelle Kump's free throw made the score 41-37 with 4:09 left — the closest the Tigers had been since the first quarter.

But even as the La Grande fans boosted the decibel level, Baker didn't flinch.

Moore made two free throws to push the lead to 43-37 with 3:43 left.

Jozie Ramos made one of two free throws, and Brooklyn Jaca swished an 18-footer to give Baker a 46-37 lead with 2:15 left.

Neer made another three-pointer to cut the lead to 46-

40, but Baker had another 5-0 run to put the game away in the final two minutes.

Rylee Elms started the decisive stretch with a 15-foot jumper, and Sydnee Pierce made three of four free throws in the final minute.

"We knew there was a possibility they would make a run, which they did, but our girls did a nice job of stemming that with some big shots and key free throws," Jason Ramos said. "We knew La Grande was going to be a test. It was a great game for our kids to battle through."

Jozie Ramos led Baker with a game-high 17 points, including 8 for 10 from the free throw line. Elms had 12 points, Moore 10 and Pierce six.

Baker had one of its better

performances from the free throw line, making 18 of 25.

La Grande was 10 for 19 in a game with a total of 35 fouls — 18 for the Tigers, 17 for the Bulldogs.

Dominating win over Vale

With the tipoff at Vale about 19 hours after the final buzzer sounded at La Grande, Baker started sluggishly, leading just 7-5 after the first quarter.

But the Bulldogs dominated the middle of the game, outscoring the Vikings 38-14.

"We struggled in the first quarter, but once we got our momentum going it kind of played out as expected," Jason Ramos said.

Jozie Ramos, who picked up two early fouls and had to sit for several minutes, had a game-high 20 points. She was 9 for 9 from the free throw line, finishing the weekend 17 for 19.

Baker had another solid outing from the line, making 20 of 28.

Elms had 16 points and Moore added 10.

Baker has won five straight games and now travels to Nyssa on Tuesday, Feb. 1, for a 5 p.m. PST tipoff against the Class 3A Bulldogs, who are 16-2.

"It's going to be a tough one," Jason Ramos said. "But we expect to win out and get ready for the postseason."

OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ducks dominate Beavers, 78-56

STEVE MIMS

Associated Press

EUGENE — Jacob Young scored 17 points as Oregon defeated Oregon State 78-56 Saturday night, Jan. 29.

Will Richardson added 15 points while Eric Williams Jr. and De'Vion Harmon each scored 14 points as Oregon (13-7, 6-3 Pac-12) swept the season series against its in-state rival for the first time since 2016-17. The Ducks shot 55.4% from the field while outrebounding Oregon State 40-37.

"It feels good going into February," Young said. "We are ready to get back into the lab, we are not done yet. We still have to win a lot more games. This is just the beginning."

Roman Silva scored 17 points and Jarod Lucas added 12 for the Beavers (3-15, 1-7), who shot 20-for-66 from the field.

"I thought our energy level was good and our bigs set the tone inside, not allowing them to get to the rim," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "That's why their shooting percentage was not good and we outscored them 40-18 in the

paint, that was a big difference."

Oregon shot 54.5% from the field in the first half to take a 44-25 halftime lead after Williams beat the buzzer with a 60-foot shot.

Oregon State led 17-16 after Maurice Calloo hit a 3-pointer, but Young followed with five straight points before Williams scored to put the Ducks ahead 23-17.

"I was trying to raise the tempo and energy of my team," Young said. "We had a nice crowd that got us going so I was trying to pick up the energy for my teammates to get them going and get the outcome we got tonight."

Young scored again and Harmon hit a 3-pointer to cap a run of 11 straight points that put Oregon up 28-17.

Young pushed the lead to 37-22 on a 3-pointer before the Ducks closed out the half with seven straight points, including five from Williams, who led OU with 12 points in the half.

Harmon scored the first seven points of the second half to push Oregon ahead 51-32 before the Ducks went up 57-36 on a layup by Rivaldo Soares.

POWDER VALLEY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Nixyaawii runs past Badgers

BY DAVIS CARBAUGH

The (La Grande) Observer

NORTH POWDER —

The Nixyaawii girls basketball team built an early lead against Powder Valley and never looked back, winning 67-42 on Saturday, Jan. 29.

The Golden Eagles built a 21-8 lead by the end of the first quarter, utilizing a full-court press to limit Powder Valley's scoring.

The Badgers settled in offensively as the game went on, but couldn't stop a strong performance from Nixyaawii's Mersayus Hart. The junior scored 19 points, 12 of which came in the first half — Nixyaawii built up a 37-18 lead at the half.

The Badgers put together a strong fourth quarter effort, but ultimately found themselves too far behind to come back. Jodi Bingham led the team

with 11 points on the night.

Nixyaawii held on to take the 25-point victory and improve to 15-3 on the year and 7-0 in league play. The Golden Eagles will be back in action at 6 p.m. on Feb. 1 at McLoughlin.

Powder Valley fell to 8-9 on the season and 5-2 in league play. The Badgers will be looking to bounce back on the road against Wallowa on Feb. 1 — tip-off is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Pine Eagle girls lose two

The Pine Eagle girls basketball team lost a pair of games last weekend.

The Spartans lost 32-16 at Powder Valley on Friday, Jan. 28, and lost 52-29 to Wallowa on Saturday, Jan. 29, at Halfway.

Pine Eagle is 1-14 on the season and 0-7 in the Old Oregon League.

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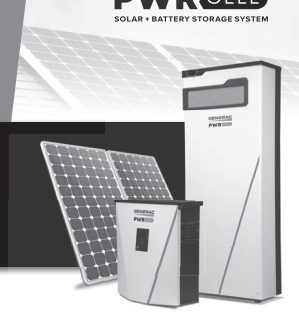
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