

## BAKER WRESTLING

# Bulldogs dominate Ontario to wrap up dual season

## BAKER CITY HERALD

The Baker High School wrestling team continued its preparations for the regional and state tournaments by traveling east on two straight days earlier this week, winning two of three duals.

On Thursday, Feb. 3, Baker headed to Ontario and won eight of 12 matches to beat the Tigers, 49-18.

The Bulldogs concluded their dual season with a 15-5 record, and finished second in the Greater Oregon League.

The previous day, Wednesday, Feb. 2, the Bulldogs traveled to Idaho to take on Homedale and Weiser in separate duals.

## Ontario

Baker had a few close matches, including Cole Hester, who went to triple overtime in beating Jamis Gonzalez in the 132-pound match.

"In the final overtime the wrestler that scored first in the match gets to choose which position they would like to wrestle from, either top or bottom," Baker coach Brandon Young said. "If the bottom wrestler can get away, they win, if the top person can hold them down for 30 seconds then the top wrestler wins. Ontario chose down and Cole was able to ride him out for the 30 seconds which gave him the win."

At 138 pounds, Baker's Riley Martin wore down Marcos Rodriguez to earn a 3-1 decision.

"Riley is really coming along mentally and physically," Young said. "If Riley can wrestle with that intensity at regionals he will be a definite contender."

Baker's Gavin Stone moved up from 145 pounds to 152 to take on Ontario's top wrestler, Ruben Hernandez.

The match was close throughout.

Stone couldn't quite finish multiple takedowns, and Hernandez won 5-2.

"Gavin took on the challenge — he knows he needs it to push him to the next level,"



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

**Baker's Jaden Martin, on top, shown here against La Grande's Cole Jorgensen on Jan. 25, 2022, in the Baker gym, won two matches earlier this week.**

Young said. "Gavin is very driven."

The 160-pound match pitting Baker's Ben Coburn against Martin Benites was another close one, with Coburn trailing most of the match.

But he secured a takedown and turned Benites at the end to earn a 5-2 decision.

"Ben has really come a long way this season," Young said. "He has a great attitude and he really got the team and the fans fired up."

In other matches against Ontario:

- 106: Baker's Joey Duncan defeated Nick Sandberg by fall.
- 113: Baker's Marcus Chamberlain defeated Nathan Marcelino by fall.
- 120: Baker's Aldo Duran defeated Ethan Calderon in a major decision, 9-0.
- 126: Baker's Sage Darlington won by forfeit.
- 145: Baker's Jimmy Sullivan defeated Ethan Rangel by fall.
- 170: Baker's Cody Eskew defeated Julian Fischer by fall.
- 182: Ontario's Leonardo Becerra defeated Jacob Mills, 6-3.
- 195: Ontario's Alexander Sigrah defeated Billy Kargianis by fall.

- 222: Ontario's Tommy Ishida defeated Alex Ritter by fall.
- 285: Baker's Jaden Martin won by forfeit.

There were also several extra matches after the dual.

- 126: Ontario's Ethan Calderon defeated Michael Endersby by major decision, 11-0.
- 138: Ontario's Marcos Rodriguez defeated Samuel Nelson by fall.
- 152: Ontario's Aiden Rocha defeated Julian Garcia by fall.
- 152: Baker's Jimmy Sullivan defeated Aiden Rocha by fall.
- 160: Baker's Ryan Brown defeated Martin Benites by fall.
- 220: Ontario's Nicholas Sigrah defeated Jayden Clark, 11-5.
- 220: Baker's Jayden Clark defeated Raul Macias by fall.
- 285: Baker's Russell Walden defeated Alan Romero, 1-0.
- 285: Baker's Russell Walden defeated Jorge Ortiz by fall.

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In the four contested matches, Baker won three by fall — Aldo Duran at 113 pounds, over Wyatt Stewart; Gavin Stone at 145 pounds by technical fall over Andrew Marston; and Alex Ritter at 220 pounds over Brodie White.

Willie Haun had Homedale's lone win, by fall over Adrian Allen at 195 pounds.

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Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

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

Baker won by forfeit at 145 points, and then Stone, at 152 pounds, had one of the most exciting matches of the night against Weiser's Clayton Beesley.

"Beesley was able to use his length to prevent Gavin from scoring on his takedowns and then ride Gavin out in the third period," Young said.

"Gavin was close to scoring on his feet several times but unable to finish. We liked his effort, he just kept working the entire match. That what he does all the time, he's a workhorse."

Weiser extended its lead at 160 pounds with Maddox Stevens winning by fall over Ben Coburn.

At 170 pounds, Baker's Cody Eskew dominated with a 10-1 major decision over Willie Sudderth.

Weiser won the next three matches, all by fall.

At 182 pounds, Malachi Hoobery pinned Jacob Mills, at 195 pounds Kaleb Grove beat Adrian Allen, and at 220 Rylee Willet pinned Alex Ritter.

In the 285-pound match, Baker's top-ranked Jaden Martin had a rematch against

Jesse Lockett, who has finished second and third in Idaho's state meet.

It was their third match this year, with Martin winning by fall both times.

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, Martin built a large lead and then pinned Lockett in the third period.

That wasn't enough to overcome Weiser's lead, as the Wolverines won the dual, 51-34.

"We wrestled pretty well against Weiser," Young said. "Right now the focus is keeping everyone healthy going into regionals and putting the best lineup we can out there with who we have available. We were proud of our effort."

Gauge Bloomer, a defending state champion at 195 pounds, missed the three duals to get healthy for regionals, Young said.

The Baker girls traveled to Redmond on Saturday, Feb. 5, for their regional tournament, with the top three wrestlers in each weight class qualifying for the state championships in Culver.

The boys varsity and JV wrestlers traveled to Hepner on Saturday, Feb. 5, for a shootout against Culver.

## WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES BEGIN

## A hug, a wave, a big win for American mixed doubles curlers

## BY BERNIE WILSON

Associated Press

BEIJING — American mixed doubles curlers Vicky Persinger and Chris Plys survived an extra end against Sweden for a much-needed victory in the Olympics on Friday, Feb. 4, quickly hugged and then found two friendly faces to wave to in a far corner of the eerily quiet and mostly empty Ice Cube.

Masked faces, of course, but definitely friendly faces. Persinger and Plys were pretty sure they were waving at team psychologist Carly Anderson and dietician Kaela Colvard, who were among the few spectators who saw the Americans take an 8-7 victory in the round-robin competition to even their record at 2-2.

"It's hard to tell with the masks on. I think it was our sports psychologist and our dietician who were in the stands," Persinger said. "They've kind of been our team around our team and were cheering us on especially coming back after a two-loss day."

Every little bit helps in these Games, which are being conducted in a bubble environment because of COVID-19. That means family can't attend. With few spectators allowed in, it's a far different atmosphere than at the 2008 Summer Olympics, when raucous crowds watched Michael Phelps win a record eight swimming gold medals in the same venue, which was then called the Water Cube.

"We can't even say enough good things about Carly our sports psychologist and Kaela and our whole team," Plys said. "It's been hard on everybody. It's been hard on them, but they've taken a back seat to the way they're feeling and really made sure that we're taken care of and in a good spot to keep playing."

The victory moved the Americans into a tie for fifth with China and the Czech Republic in the 10-team



Sebastian Bozon/AFP/Getty Images-TNS

**USA's Christopher Plys, left, and Victoria Persinger compete during a mixed doubles round robin session against Australia in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games' curling competition at the National Aquatics Centre in Beijing on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022.**

field. After the round robin, the top four teams move into the semifinals.

It also put Plys and Persinger in a great mood heading into the opening ceremony a few hours later, when they would follow men's skip and defending gold medalist John Shuster, the first curler voted to carry the American flag, into the Bird's Nest.

"Hell yeah, man, it's going to be awesome," said Plys, a two-time Olympian who is also on the men's team. "Before we left for this trip, being able to walk in the ceremonies was already going to be a highlight. Getting to do that with my teammate holding a flag, it's going to be a night to remember. I'll probably have the phone strapped to my chest just so I can still soak it all in and be there and enjoy

that experience with all of our teammates."

The Sweden-U.S. game was the last of Friday's four games to end. The teams swapped leads through the eight ends, including Sweden jumping ahead after a three-ender to go up 5-4 in the sixth and the United States coming back with a three-ender of its own in the seventh for a 7-5 lead. Sweden tied it in the eighth and the Americans won it in the ninth. Plys had a huge shot that cleared two Swedish stones out of the house.

"It's as exciting for us as it is for the people back home," Plys said. "I over-swept Vicky to give them a shot for three, but I went right down to the other end and it was just like, 'Let's get it right back.' That's mixed doubles curling. You don't see that as much in

men's or women's, but mixed doubles, man, it's volatile and the swings are crazy and a lot of times it's which team can manage their emotions through those swings better."

The Americans lost twice on Thursday, Feb. 3.

"We lightened up a little bit," Plys said. "We had a talk before in the locker room, had some good jams going and just decided that we were going to forget about all the pressure and everything that happened yesterday and play for each other and play for our families and just have as much fun as we can out there."

Italy moved to 4-0 with a 10-2 victory against the Czech Republic. Australia, making its first appearance in Olympic curling, remained winless after losing 9-8 to Britain in an extra end.

## OREGON MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Young scores 21 to power Oregon past Colorado 66-51

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Jacob Young tossed in 21 points and Oregon beat Colorado on the road for the first time, 66-51, on Thursday night, Feb. 3.

Young knocked down 8 of 17 shots from the floor with two 3-pointers for the Ducks (14-7, 7-3 Pac-12 Conference), who came in 0-10 all-time on the Buffaloes' home floor. Will Richardson added 13 points and Quincy Guerrier scored nine with nine rebounds.

Colorado (13-9, 5-7) led 34-29 after a layup by Nique Clifford with 2:24 remaining in the first half, but Young scored all seven points in a 7-1 run by Oregon and his 3-pointer with a second left sent the Ducks to intermission with a 36-35 lead.

Oregon's De'vion Harmon sank a 3-pointer to open the

second-half scoring and it was all Ducks from there. Guerrier and Richardson had back-to-back buckets as Oregon pulled away from a 40-all tie, outscoring Colorado 26-11 over the final 17:14.

Keeshawn Barthelemy topped the Buffaloes with 16 points. Jabari Walker finished with 11 points and 12 rebounds for his Pac-12 leading 10th double-double of the season. Evan Battey scored 10. Colorado has lost five of its last six games.

Oregon has won 8 of 9 with its last loss coming to Colorado 82-78 on Jan. 25 in Eugene. Prior to this season the home team had won 13 straight in a series the Buffs lead 14-11.

Oregon travels to play Utah on Saturday, Feb. 5. Colorado will host Oregon State that day.

## OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL