

BAKER BOYS BASKETBALL



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Baker senior Nick Mitchell battles for a rebound against Mac-Hi's Gilberto Badillo-Parra on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in the Baker gym.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Baker senior Lane Molina in action on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in the Baker gym.

Baker Bulldogs honor seniors, rout Mac-Hi

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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With its five seniors leading the way from the opening tipoff, the Baker boys basketball team solidified its spot atop the Greater Oregon League with a convincing 56-36 win over Mac-Hi on Friday night, Feb. 4, in the Baker gym.

Before the game, fans honored the five Bulldog seniors — Maddox Charbonneau, Drake Harper, Nick Mitchell, Lane Molina and Hayden Younger.

Molina had Baker's first basket, and Harper added a free throw to give the Bulldogs an early 3-2 lead.

Later in the quarter Baker's younger players got involved. Sophomore Paul Hobson hit a pair of 3-pointers, and freshman Isaiah Jones made an-

other long ball at the buzzer to boost Baker's lead to 14-6.

The Bulldogs continued the momentum into the second quarter, as their stifling halfcourt trap forced multiple turnovers leading to layins from Jones (assisted by Grant Gambleton), Hudson Spike (assisted by Mitchell), Hobson and Younger. The 9-0 run gave Baker a 22-6 lead and the Pioneers never got closer than 11 points after that.

Spike had 9 of his 13 points in the second quarter as Baker led 31-15 at halftime.

Nine Bulldogs got on the scoreboard. Hobson led the way with 18 points, and Jones had 14.

Baker coach Jebron Jones said he was impressed by Baker's ability to make the extra pass to give a teammate an easy shot.

"The kids did a great job of being unselfish," Jones said.

"They made the defense move. He was equally pleased with Baker's defensive execution.

"Overall the kids did a good job of communication," he said. "We gave up 36 points — I'm happy with that."

Jones said the players had a few lapses, particularly on defense.

"There's always room for improvement," he said with a smile. "We haven't played a perfect game yet. That might never happen, but it's every coach's dream."

Baker can clinch a home game for the GOL championship on Feb. 19 by beating La Grande Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Baker gym. Tipoff is set for about 7:30 p.m. Baker beat the Tigers 67-41 on Jan. 28, at La Grande.

MAC-HI (36)

Rodriguez 1 0-0 2, Setzer 4 0-1 10, Earls 4 0-1 9, Lewis 4 3-3 12, G. Sandoval 0 1-2 1, Garcia 0 0-0 0, A. Sandoval 1 0-2 2, Badillo 0 0-2 0. Totals 14-4-11 36.

BAKER (56)

Logsdon 1 0-0 2, Harper 0 1-2 1, Gambleton 0 0-0 0, Quintela 1 0-0 2, Younger 1 0-0 2, Molina 1 0-0 2, Spike 6 1-2 13, Jones 6 0-0 14, Hobson 7 0-0 18, Charbonneau 0 0-0 0, Mitchell 1 0-2 2. Totals 24 2-6 56.

Mac-Hi 6 9 11 10 — 36
Baker 14 17 14 11 — 56

If Baker wins the GOL title it would have a home game in the first round of the playoffs on March 5.



Contributed Photo
Baker wrestler Sheylin Karolski, center, won the title at the regional tournament on Feb. 5, 2022, in Redmond to qualify for the state tournament Feb. 24 in Culver.

Wrestling

Continued from A2

After getting a first-round bye, Allen pinned Union's Ryan Jackson-Nelson early in the second period, pinned Irrigon's Austin Wells in 26 seconds in the semifinal match, then beat Heppner/Ione's Cade Cunningham 9-3 in the championship match.

220 pounds

Baker's Alex Ritter received two byes to advance to the semifinal round, where he pinned Enterprise's Gunnar McDowell in the third period.

In the championship match he faced Adrian's Toby Clow, one of the top wrestlers in the 2A division. Clow won by fall in the second period.

"Ritter is just starting to get back into his rhythm just in time as we approach regionals," Younger said.

Also at 220, Baker's Jayden Clark beat Grant Union's Zack Ostberg in the quarterfinals, then lost to Clow by fall in the semifinals.

In the third-place match, McDowell pinned Clark late in the first period.

285 pounds

Baker's top-ranked Jaden Martin continued his dominance, winning four straight matches to claim the district title at 285 pounds.

Martin pinned Grant Union's Rolando Moreno in the first round, Trey Charlton of Enterprise in the quarterfinals, and Union's Michael Day in the semifinals.

In the championship match Martin faced Culver's Wylie Johnson, who is ranked No. 1 in the 2A division. After a scoreless first and second periods, Martin chose the down position in the third period and quickly earned an escape and take-down, pinning Johnson 31 seconds into the final period.

"That is the second number one guy that Jaden had pinned this week," Younger said. "He has his heart set on a state championship this season."

Also at 285, Baker's Russell Walden had a first-round bye, then lost by fall to Johnson in the quarterfinals.

Walden then pinned Grant Union's Rolando Moreno and Francisco De La Rose of Mac-Hi/Weston-McEwen in the consolation semifinals. Walden pinned Echo/Stanfield's Gino Gallegos to claim fifth place.

Baker will prepare this week for the regional tournament on Saturday, Feb. 12, at Sisters.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the state tournament Feb. 26 at Cascade High School in Turner, near Salem.



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