

BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL



Baker's Brooklyn Jaca shoots against La Grande on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in the Baker gym.



Baker's Rylee Elms, center, is surrounded by La Grande's Grace Neer, left, and Makenna Shorts during the Bulldogs' 43-25 win on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in the Baker gym.



Baker's Brooklyn Jaca, background, and Macey Moore during the Bulldogs' 43-25 win over La Grande on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in the Baker gym.

WINTER OLYMPICS

After a fall, Shaun White stomps his way into Winter Olympic final

BY EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — Shaun White let up just the tiniest bit as he jerked his body around for a trick — his signature trick, and a trick he's landed without a hitch hundreds of times before.

The next thing he knew, he said, "I'm ... thinking, 'Wow, I only have one more chance to get this done.'"

After an untimely fall in the first round of qualifying, the most-successful halfpipe rider in history turned the drama up to "11" on Wednesday, Feb. 9, coming through huge in a land-or-go-home run that put him into the medal round at his fifth and final Olympics.

"It was not," White said, "a position I like to be in a lot."

White found himself there when he eased up ever

so slightly and wound up off-balance for the landing of "The Tomahawk" — a trick he invented more than a decade ago that involves a frontside takeoff and then 1260 degrees of spin at a diagonal, off-axis angle.

He most famously stuck that trick to cap off the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, in a "victory run" after his gold medal had already been sealed and he was simply showing off for the crowd.

At 35 and with one more contest left in his storied career, White doesn't have that luxury anymore. Still, he wasn't alone in assuming he'd be in a fight to the finish come Friday, where two-time silver medalist Ayumu Hirano and 2018 bronze medalist Scotty James are among those who will be waiting to take his title.

Bulldogs shrug off slow start, roll past La Grande

Baker clinches regular season Greater Oregon League title

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Baker girls basketball coach Jason Ramos was only able to interrupt La Grande's momentum early in the game Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Baker gym.

Then his players went out and seized that momentum.

The Bulldogs spotted La Grande a 7-0 lead, but after a key run late in the first half Baker dominated en route to a 43-25 win that clinched the Greater Oregon League regular season title.

Baker, ranked third in the Class 4A standings, improved to 16-5 overall and remained perfect, at 5-0, in the GOL with one league game remaining.

La Grande, in second place, dropped to 3-2, and 10-8 overall.

Ramos called the timeout with 4:14 left in the first quarter after La Grande's Addy Dunlap scored inside to give the Tigers a 7-0 lead.

Baker, which won the first game between the rivals, 51-43 on Jan. 28, at La Grande, struggled from the opening tip Tuesday.

The Bulldogs had multiple turnovers, including a five-second call when they couldn't inbound the ball.

Ramos said he told his players during the timeout to "just settle down" and "take care of the basketball."

The brief break served its purpose.

Baker got its first points just 16 seconds after the timeout when Macey Moore whipped a pass to Brooklyn Jaca for an inside basket.

Moore, who had five points and two assists in the first quarter, followed that with a 3-pointer to cut La Grande's lead to 7-5 with 2:07 left in the first quarter.

After La Grande's Kayle Collman made a free throw to give the Tigers a 10-9 lead, Baker senior Katie Wilde swished a 3-pointer from the corner at the buzzer to give the Bulldogs their first lead, 12-10. Baker never trailed again.

Which is not to say the Bulldogs took control immediately. The second quarter was sometimes sloppy, with neither team able to establish a rhythm on offense. Both teams missed the front end of consecutive one-and-one free throw opportunities. There were multiple turnovers.

The key stretch was the final 38 seconds of the half.

After La Grande's Grace Neer made a 16-footer to cut Baker's lead to 18-16, the Bulldogs scored six points in the last 38 seconds. Jozie Ramos had two of the baskets. She also rebounded her own missed free throw and passed to Moore for an inside basket.

"That was a great spurt at the end of the first half to get (the lead) to eight," Jason Ramos said.



Baker's Jozie Ramos led all scorers with 14 points in the Bulldogs' 43-25 win over La Grande on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in the Baker gym.

Baker extended the lead to 34-20 after three quarters, and the Bulldogs cruised from there.

Although Baker's offense sputtered at times, Jason Ramos said he was pleased throughout the game with the Bulldogs' defense.

That was a point of emphasis during recent practices, he said.

During Baker's 51-43 win at La Grande, the Bulldogs

were never able to pull away from the Tigers, due largely to defensive lapses that led to easy baskets.

Such miscues were rare during Tuesday's game, as Baker held La Grande to 18 fewer points.

The Bulldogs had at least eight blocked shots, including six in the first half, two by Rylee Elms.

"It was a great defensive effort," Ramos said.

LA GRANDE (25)

Shorts 4 5-6 13, Collman 1 1-3 4, Strand 0 0-0 0, Jensen 0 0-0 0, Kump 0 0-0 0, Wilson 0 0-0 0, Wilcox 1 0-2 2, Neer 1 0-1 2, Smith 0 0-0 0, A. Dunlap 2 0-0 4. Totals 9 6-12 25.

BAKER (43)

Elms 1 0-1 2, Flanagan 1 0-0 2, Wilde 1 0-0 3, Gyllenberg 0 0-1 0, Pierce 2 3-4 7, Ramos 5 4-5 14, Roy 0 0-0 0, Jaca 1 0-0 2, Moore 4 3-4 13. Totals 15 10-15 43.

La Grande 10 6 4 5 — 25
Baker 12 12 10 9 — 43

Makenzie Flanagan, who had one of Baker's blocked shots, said that after the first-quarter timeout following La Grande's 7-0 start, the Bulldogs settled down and started "playing like we want to."

As for Baker's ability to swat away so many La Grande shots, Flanagan said that although she sometimes looks for chances to block a shot, in most cases "it just happens" as part of playing defense.

Fittingly, Elms capped the barrage of blocks by knocking away a shot with 15 seconds left.

Jozie Ramos had a game-high 14 points, and Moore added 13. Sydnee Pierce had seven points.

Makenna Shorts scored 13 of La Grande's 25 points. No other Tiger had more than four.

Baker can wrap up an unbeaten league schedule Friday, Feb. 11, when the Bulldogs travel to Ontario to play the winless Tigers at 4 p.m. PST.

Win or lose, Baker will host the GOL playoff game on Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. La Grande is the most likely opponent. The Tigers can clinch the berth by beating Mac-Hi on Friday, Feb. 11.

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