

District basketball tournament starts Thursday at Baker High

Baker City Herald
The Old Oregon League district girls and boys basketball tournaments start Thursday afternoon, Feb. 18, at Baker High School.

The top three girls and boys teams will advance to the Class 1A state playoffs, which begin Feb. 22.

The state tournament, with eight boys and eight girls teams, will start March 2 at Baker High School with the boys quarterfinals. The girls quarterfinals are set for March 3.

For this week's district tournament, both the Powder Valley and Nixyaawii girls and boys teams earned byes and automatically advance to the semifinal round on Friday, Feb. 19.

On the girls side, Nixyaawii was 11-0 in Old Oregon League regular season, and 21-4 overall. Powder Valley finished second at 9-3 (13-10 overall).

For the boys, Powder Valley was 9-0 in league play and is 20-1 overall. Nixyaawii finished second at 9-2 (20-6 overall).

The Pine Eagle boys advanced to the district tournament by routing Wallowa 66-28 in a playoff game on Tuesday, Feb. 15. Caleb Brown had a game-high 29 points to lead the

Spartans to the win. Pine Eagle had 10 3-pointers in the game.

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

Girls
• Imbler vs. Joseph, 2 p.m.
• Wallowa vs. Elgin, 6 p.m.

Boys
• Joseph vs. Imbler, 3:30 p.m.
• Cove vs. Pine Eagle, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

Girls
• Wallowa/Elgin winner vs. Powder Valley, 2 p.m.
• Imbler/Joseph winner vs. Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.

Boys
• Cove/Pine Eagle winner vs. Nixyaawii, 3:30 p.m.
• Joseph/Imbler winner vs. Powder Valley, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Girls
• 3rd/4th place (losers of Friday's games), 9 a.m.
• Championship game (winners of Friday's games), 1 p.m.

Boys
• 3rd/4th place (losers of Friday's games), 10:30 a.m.
• Championship game (winners of Friday's games), 2:30 p.m.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Powder Valley senior Kaden Krieger led all scorers with 30 points in the Badgers' 69-68 win over Baker on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, in the Baker gym. Powder Valley is the top seed in the district tournament, which starts Thursday, Feb. 18, in the Baker gym.

OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Buffaloes romp past Beavers

CORVALLIS (AP) — Jabari Walker tied a career-high 24 points and grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds and Colorado won its third straight, beating Oregon State 90-64 on Tuesday night, Feb. 15.

The Buffaloes (16-9, 8-7 Pac-12) started their three-game streak with an 86-63 win against the Beavers in Boulder, Colorado on Feb. 5. Meanwhile, the sopho-

more Walker now has a double-double streak that has reached four-straight games and has 13 on the year. It's the third time in his career he's reached 24 points.

Colorado went to intermission on a 14-2 run in the final 3:31, led 44-32 and were largely in control the rest of the way.

Dashawn Davis' three-point play with 15:54 re-

maining brought the Beavers within 48-44, but Colorado pushed the lead back to double digits for good when sophomore reserve Luke O'Brien sank a 3-pointer more than four minutes later.

Nique Clifford's 3-pointer with 5:59 left gave Colorado its first 20-point margin at 79-59.

O'Brien scored a career-high 14 points on

5-for-6 shooting including 3 for 4 from 3-point range. Tristan da Silva added 15 points and Clifford 14 for Colorado, which distributed a season-high 20 assists on 31-made shots.

Davis led Oregon State (3-20, 1-12) with 22 points.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Slovakia stuns U.S. men's hockey team

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

BEIJING — Minutes after failing to score in the shootout as the Americans' last chance to stay alive at the Olympics, captain Andy Miele took off his gloves to wipe the tears coming out of his eyes.

"I'm just sad it's over," he said.

With one bad bounce in the final minute of regulation that became the tying goal and an unsuccessful shootout, the United States is out of the men's hockey tournament at the Beijing Games after a shocking 3-2 loss to Slovakia in the quarterfinals Wednesday, Feb. 16. The previously unbeaten U.S. that earned the top seed in the knockout round and looked poised for a deep run instead was dealt the same result as the 2018 group in the last Olympics without NHL players.

"This one's going to sting for a little bit," veteran defenseman Steven Kampfer said. "I thought we were the better team for a majority of the game. You come up a little bit short."

Eight years after T.J. Oshie earned the "T.J. Sochi" nickname for his shootout heroics against Russia, there was no such magic this time around. Brendan Brisson, Sean Farrell, Matt Knies, Nathan Smith and Miele all came up empty in the shootout.

The U.S. also went 0 for 5 in the shootout loss to the Czech Republic in Pyeongchang four years ago.

"It's a tough situation with the game riding on you," Miele said. "I wanted to score, I didn't and it stinks. I don't know what else to say."

Strauss Mann allowed only one goal on five shots by Slovakia, with Peter Cehlarik beating him with a move he practiced in warmup and expected to catch the goaltender by surprise. On the bench during the shootout, 17-year-old Slovakia forward Juraj Slafkovsky told

Cehlarik he believed he would score when it was his turn.

"Don't worry," Cehlarik told him in Slovak. "Backhand, forehand and I will score."

After goalie Patrik Rybar denied Miele for his final save of the 38 he made in regulation, overtime and the shootout, assistant Jan Pardavy embraced Slovakia coach Craig Ramsay and Slovakia celebrated its first trip to the Olympic semifinals since 2010 in Vancouver.

"It's a thrill," said Ramsay, who played 14 NHL seasons and spent more than two decades in the league as an assistant. "Even when it went in, when Cehlarik scored and Pardo almost broke me in half, I still said: 'Did we win? Have we won this thing?' Because you lose track at five shootouts. It was so exciting. I know what they're feeling and I'm feeling it."

The Americans felt a mix of sadness, regret and acceptance at the random bounces that can decide a hockey game. They were the only team to win all three group stage games in regulation, trailed for just 11 minutes the entire tournament and still saw their medal dreams dashed.

"We were actually joking we still haven't lost a game, really — we lost a shootout," coach David Quinn said. "That's the frustrating part."

International rules call for 10 minutes of 3-on-3 OT followed by a five-player shootout, even in the knockout round. While lamenting the cruelty of getting eliminated in a 1-on-1 skills competition, Quinn and his players pointed out that the game never should have gotten to that point.

After Nick Abruzzese tied the score in the final minute of the first period and Sam Hentges put the U.S. up midway through the second, there were plenty of chances to build on the lead and get some extra breathing room.

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