

POWDER VALLEY BOYS BASKETBALL

Badgers clinch state tourney berth with thriller

BY JEFF BUDLONG
For EO Media Group

NORTH POWDER — Despite trailing most of the game, and being down five points with three minutes to go Friday night, Feb. 25, Powder Valley showed its veteran poise and used a late charge to secure victory and clinch a berth in this week's Class 1A state tournament at Baker High School.

The second-seeded Powder Valley boys rallied for a 68-63 win over Trinity Lutheran in a second-round playoff game in the North Powder gym.

After Kaden Krieger made a pair of free throws with 14.5 seconds left to give Powder Valley a 64-63 lead, teammate Reece Dixon took a charge from Trinity Lutheran's Scooty Gilbert with 7.8 seconds left.

After Krieger missed two free throws with 6.4 seconds left, Trinity Lutheran had one last chance.

Again, Gilbert drove in for a potential game-winning lay-in. And again, Dixon took a charge. This episode was even more crucial, as Gilbert's shot, unlike the previous one, actually went in, the points negated by the foul.

"It was a one-point game with eight seconds and Reece Dixon took a charge that kind of sealed the deal," Powder Valley coach Kyle Dixon said. "Then their coach got a technical and we were able to hit the free throws."



Alex Wittwer/The (La Grande) Observer
Cole Martin (23) battles for possession of the ball after a rebound during a match between Powder Valley and Condon at Powder Valley High School on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. Powder plays at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, in the state tournament.

Reece Dixon was fouled after drawing the final charge, and Trinity Lutheran coach Kyle Gilbert was called for a technical foul. Dixon made four straight free throws with less than a second left for the final margin.

Dixon led the way for the Badgers with 17 points, Kaden



Alex Wittwer/The (La Grande) Observer
Reece Dixon (13) sinks a fast break layup during a match between Powder Valley and Condon at Powder Valley High School on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. The Powder Valley Badgers clinched a berth in the Class 1A state tournament with a 68-63 win over Trinity Lutheran Feb. 25.

Krieger added 13, Kaiden Dalke chipped in 12 and Clay Martin had 11. All four players are seniors.

Powder Valley hit just two

three-pointers in the game, but did go 14 of 19 at the free throw line.

"We didn't play great and we missed shots, but we were

Class 1A state girls and boys basketball tournaments this week at Baker High School

The OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union Class 1A state girls and boys basketball tournaments are set this week at Baker High School. The schedule for the quarterfinal round:

BOYS QUARTERFINALS

Wednesday, March 2

North Douglas vs. Crane, 1:30 p.m.
Riddle vs. Crosshill Christian, 3:15 p.m.
Rogue Valley Adventist Academy vs. South Wasco County, 6:30 p.m.

Nixyaawii vs. Powder Valley, 8:15 p.m.

BOYS SEMIFINALS

Friday, March 4

1:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, March 5

6:30 p.m.

GIRLS QUARTERFINALS

Thursday, March 3

Jordan Valley vs. Crane, 1:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. Country Christian, 3:15 p.m.
Trout Lake vs. Damascus Christian, 6:30 p.m.
Echo vs. North Douglas, 8:15 p.m.

GIRLS SEMIFINALS

Friday, March 4

6:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, March 5

8:45 p.m.

able to hit some shots at the end," Kyle Dixon said. "We just couldn't get our run game going really."

The Badgers (23-2) will open play at the state tournament with a rematch against league rival Nixyaawii on Wednesday, March 2, at 8:15 p.m. in a quarterfinal game.

"We are thrilled with the win," coach Dixon said. "I think the loss to Nixyaawii late in the year helped us. It was an eye-opener that we can be beat."

Nixyaawii beat Powder Val-

ley 59-51 in the Old Oregon League district tournament on Feb. 19 to earn the league's top seed and force Powder Valley to win two games to reach the state tournament.

Nixyaawii advanced to the state tournament with a 68-54 win over Ione/Arlington on Saturday, Feb. 26.

During the regular season, Powder Valley beat Nixyaawii 76-64 on Jan. 29, at North Powder.

Jayson Jacoby contributed to this story.

OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 12 UCLA routs Oregon State, 94-55

BY GARY HOROWITZ
Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Tyger Campbell scored a game-high 20 points to lead No. 12 UCLA to a 94-55 rout Saturday, Feb. 26, at Oregon State.

Despite the absence of leading scorer Johnny Juzang, who missed the game with an ankle injury, the Bruins (21-6, 13-5 Pac-12) had plenty of firepower on offense and intensity on the defensive end.

"You have to play the game with passion," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said. "You have to play for your teammates."

Campbell was 8 of 10 from the field, made four 3-pointers, and had five assists.

Jaime Jaquez Jr. scored 14 of his 17 points in the first half, Jules Bernard had 16 points, and Cody Riley added 13.

After reaching the Final Four last year, UCLA has dealt with heightened expectations this season.

"It's a long season. We've just got to remind ourselves why we play basketball," Jaquez said. "Honestly, for the love of the game and the want to compete, and to win with a group of guys that you're so bought in with. It's easy to forget that through a long season."

Oregon State (3-24, 1-16 Pac-12) has lost 14 games in a row since beating Utah on

Dec. 30. Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle was especially disappointed in Saturday's performance because it came on Senior Day at Gill Coliseum.

"Shame on us. Very, very disheartening," Tinkle said. "And give (UCLA) a ton of credit. They played with a lot of fire and togetherness and selflessness, and we didn't."

Oregon State guard Dashawn Davis, who scored a career-high 31 points in Thursday's double-overtime loss to No. 16 USC, managed just six points against the Bruins.

Maurice Calloo led the Beavers with 13 points in their most lopsided defeat of the season. Glenn Taylor Jr. and Roman Silva scored 10 points apiece.

After making just 4 of 24 3-pointers in Thursday's loss at Oregon, the Bruins were much improved from behind the arc, converting 13 of 20 (65%). Cronin said being able to establish an inside presence was a factor in UCLA's excellent long-range shooting.

"We've got to shoot the ball well for us to be an elite team," Cronin said. "It's just the way it works. It's the way we're configured as a team. We're not one of the biggest, strongest, most powerful

teams in the country."

Campbell's 3-pointer culminated a 10-0 run and extended the Bruins lead to 41-24 late in the first half.

UCLA shot 57.1% from the field in the opening half and led 43-28 at the break.

Oregon State closed to within 11 points early in the second half, but the Bruins dominated the rest of the way.

Bernard's four-point play

was part of a 22-0 run that extended the lead to 75-39 midway through the second half.

UCLA made 58.6% of its field goal attempts and dominated the boards with a 36-18 advantage.

Big picture

UCLA: Juzang suffered a sprained ankle in the first half of Thursday's loss at Oregon and did not return. Cronin

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