

Baker 7th grade hoops team 2nd at state

Team wins 4 of 5 games

Baker City Herald

A team of seventh grade boys from Baker Middle School finished second at the state basketball tournament in Central Oregon last weekend.

The Baker Black team finished the invitation-only tournament with a 4-1 record, losing 43-36 to Happy Valley of Clackamas in the championship game on Sunday, March 13, at Ridgeview High School in Redmond.

Baker qualified for the tournament by finishing second at The Dalles Winter Classic in February.

At the state tournament, which was played at several gyms in

Central Oregon, Baker opened Friday, March 11, against a different Happy Valley team. After trailing 27-23 at halftime, Baker rallied in the second half to win 67-46, at Crook County High School in Prineville.

"A great second half," Baker head coach Colt Nudd said.

In the second round on Saturday, March 12, Baker led the entire game in beating Tigard 62-28 at Elton Gregory Middle School in Redmond.

On Saturday evening, Baker beat Trinity Lutheran of Bend 64-59 to advance to the semifinal round on Sunday morning, March 13, at Crook County Middle School.

The semifinal game against Tualatin, at Crook County High School, was a thriller.

Baker's Gavin Scott made a 3-pointer from NBA range with 5 seconds left to give Baker a 38-37 win.

The championship game was close but Baker ended up placing second.

"I've had these boys together for the last four seasons," Nudd said. "We travel quite a bit every year to tournaments around the Northwest."

Other team members are: Kane Hellberg, Ezaiah Suarez, Tristan Klecker (unable to attend the state tournament), Jake Christensen, Jace Whitford, Brayden Whitebread, Quin Wellman, Ryder Nimmo, Gabe Schwartz, Hayden Churchfield, Ben Nudd, Colton Shank.

Coaches are Nudd and assistant coach Mitch Osborn.



Laurel Nimmo/Contributed Photo

The Baker Black seventh grade basketball team finished second at the Oregon Middle School state tournament March 11-13 in Central Oregon. Front row, left to right: Colton Shank, Jace Whitford, Kane Hellberg, Gavin Scott, Ezaiah Suarez, Jake Christensen, Gabe Schwartz. Top row, left to right: assistant coach Mitch Osborn, Hayden Churchfield, Benjamin Nudd, Ryder Nimmo, Quin Wellman, head coach Colt Nudd, Brayden Whitebread.

OREGON MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ducks to play Utah State in NIT

BY JAMES CREPEA
oregonlive.com

EUGENE — The Oregon Ducks are headed to the men's National Invitation Tournament.

Oregon (19-14) will play at No. 4 seed Utah State (18-15) in the first round at Dee

Glen Smith Spectrum on Tuesday, March 15 at 6 p.m. in Logan, Utah. The game will be televised on ESPN.

The winner will face the winner of No. 1 seed Texas A&M and Alcorn State in the second round.

It will be the sixth meeting between the teams and first since 1965. Oregon leads the all-time series 3-2.

The last time Utah State hosted a Power Five opponent in the Spectrum was during the 2013-14 season, when it defeated

Mississippi State, and it also last hosted a Pac-12 team that same season in a win over USC.

Oregon is 14-12 all-time in the NIT, last appearing in 2018, and has reached the NIT Final Four in New York three times: 1975, 1999 and 2004.

Utah State last appeared in the NIT in 2008 and will be hosting an NIT game for the first time since 2004 and fifth time in school history, with an 0-4 record in those prior home games. USU's last win in the NIT was in 1960.

OREGON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Oregon Ducks 5th seed in women's NCAA tourney

BY JAMES CREPEA
oregonlive.com

EUGENE — The Oregon Ducks are a No. 5 seed in the women's NCAA Tournament.

Oregon (20-11) is the No. 5 seed in the Wichita regional and will open against No. 12 seed Belmont (22-7) in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday, March 19, at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville, Tenn.

It's the first ever meeting of the Ducks and Bruins, who won the Ohio Valley

conference tournament regular season and conference tournament titles.

"I've been doing this for a long time and even though we've known we were going to be in the tournament there's always something magical about seeing your name come up," said head coach Kelly Graves. "We're thrilled that we have a chance to compete in the NCAA Tournament. ... We're excited to be playing and we hope to go down and compete and play our best."

If Oregon wins, it will face the winner of the No. 4 seed Tennessee and 13th-seeded Buffalo on Monday. Louisville is the top seed in the region. UO's only prior trip to Knoxville was against the Lady Vols in the second round of the 1997 NCAA Tournament.

Graves coached a game at Thompson-Boling Arena once before when he was at Gonzaga.

"We're going to what really could be the home of

women's basketball," Graves said. "I told (the players) that when they were little girls the college women's basketball world revolved around Knoxville. That was the program. It's the home of the women's basketball Hall of Fame; we'll make sure that we have a chance to go there."

"I am certainly familiar with the fact that before UConn made their ascension, Tennessee, the Lady Vols, were the standard by which every program was judged.

They're still to this day the most storied program. Kellie Harper has come back and really revived the program and they're certainly formidable. But we're not even thinking Lady Vols, we're thinking all about Belmont Bruins and they're going to give us everything we can handle. That's going to be a heck of a game."

Oregon, which is 17-16 all-time in the NCAA Tournament, was a No. 6 seed and made it to the Sweet 16 of last year's NCAA Tournament.

BMS wrestlers 12th at state

Baker City Herald

The Baker Middle School wrestling team placed 12th out of 127 teams at the state tournament March 11-12 in Woodburn.

Eight Baker wrestlers qualified: Madi Myer, Neva Lunch, Taryn Niday, Daniel Maldonado, Clay Stevens, Connor Norton, Xander Rexroad and Henry Hester.

At the state tournament, Myer and Hester finished fourth, Stevens was fifth and Niday placed sixth.



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