

BAKER TENNIS AT SUBREGIONALS

Four Bulldogs qualify for regionals

Baker players will have a chance to advance to state tournament

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com
Two singles players and one doubles team from the Baker High School tennis squad have qualified for the regional tournament Friday and Saturday, May 13-14, at the Ash Grove courts near BHS, with berths in the state tournament at stake.

Singles players Sarah Plummer and Danny Cunningham, along with the girls doubles team of Maya Smith and Olivia Jacoby, each advanced by placing in the top four at the subregional tournament on May 6-7 at Ontario.

Cunningham placed second, while Plummer, along with Smith and Jacoby, finished third. The top four singles players and doubles teams qualified for the regional tournament at BHS.

The subregional tournament included Baker, Four Rivers, La Grande, Nyssa, Ontario and Vale.

The regional event at BHS is for special district 4, which includes 16 schools from two regions, spanning the Class 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A ranks.

Schools in the other sub-region are Arlington, Condon, Ione/Heppner, Irrigon, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Sherman, Stanfield/Echo, Umatilla and Weston-McEwen/Griswold.

The regional tournament will include eight boys and eight girls singles players, and eight girls and boys doubles teams, from special district 4.

The top four boys and girls singles players, and top four girls and boys doubles teams, will advance to the state tournament May 20-21 at Corvallis.

Subregional at Ontario Friday, May 6

Boys

Cunningham won both of his matches on Friday, May 6, to advance to matches the next day and ensure a berth in the regional tournament.

Cunningham beat Brady Cooper of Nyssa, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, then beat Henry Garret of Ontario, 6-2, 6-2.

In other boys singles matches, Baker's Ashton Le-Tourneau won the first set against Ontario's Martin Benites but couldn't finish off the match, losing 2-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Baker's Caleb Hills lost his opening match to Jorge Martinez of Four Rivers, 6-4, 6-2.

In boys doubles, Baker's



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Sarah Plummer returns a shot against La Grande's Laura Mingrone on Monday, April 25, 2022, at the Ash Grove courts in Baker City. Plummer qualified for the regional tournament May 13-14, 2022, in Baker City.

Jayden Yencopal and Ethan Hills won their opening match in straight sets over Humberto Gonzalez and John Paul Barrio of Ontario, 6-2, 6-3. But Yencopal and Hills were eliminated by Four Rivers' Koda Alvarez and Marcus Grimaldo, 6-1, 6-2.

Baker's Weston Downing

and Noah Lien rallied to win the second set but ending up falling to Ontario's Bryan Alejandro and Pablo Ponce, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

Anthony Christopher and Diego Jones-Bedolla lost their opening match to Ontario's Jared Halley and Eduardo Navarro, 6-1, 6-0.

Girls

In girls singles, Plummer won both matches in straight sets. She beat Mia Clayton of Four Rivers, 6-1, 6-0, then beat Nyssa's Brenna Kelsner, 6-3, 6-2.

Isabel Cunningham opened by beating Alexandria Juarez, 6-2, 6-2, but then lost in the second round to Nyssa's Mary

Esplin, 6-2, 6-3.

Baker's Campbell Vanderwiele lost her opening set to Erin Hawker of Four Rivers, 6-3, 6-0.

In girls doubles, Smith and Jacoby won their opening match in straight sets over La Grande's Shanti Langidrik and Vega Merino Sampedro, 6-0, 6-1, and then had to rally in the second round against Belle Wagstaff and London Hartley of Nyssa, winning 6-1, 6-7 (7-5), 6-1.

Saturday, May 7

Boys

Cunningham won a back-and-forth match against Ontario's Dallan Berg to advance to the championship match against Nyssa's Dawson Richards.

Richards prevailed, 6-3, 6-3.

Girls

Plummer lost her first match to Mary Esplin of Nyssa, 7-6, 6-4, but rebounded to beat Erin Hawker of Four Rivers in the third-place match, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

In doubles, Smith and Jacoby lost their first match to Vale's Brenda Ramirez and Elise Seals, 7-6, 6-4, but then won the third-place match against Emily Wilson and Collette Larvik of La Grande, 6-1, 6-3.

Alex Ritter signs letter to play football at Pacific Lutheran

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com
Former Baker football lineman Alex Ritter, who will graduate next month, recently signed a four-year commitment letter to play at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

Ritter was joined by his parents, Rick and Mysti Ritter, siblings Reagan and Sam, friends, teammates, and BHS coaches on April 21 in the Baker gym. Many, including Ritter, were wearing Lutes apparel as he signed the letter of intent.

"I played for Baker for four

years, and I decided I wanted to play college football," said Ritter, a standout on both the offensive and defensive lines. "I got five offers. I went on visits, and decided this (Pacific Lutheran) was the best school."

Ritter, who is an alternate on the East squad for the East-West Shrine All Star Football game this August at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium, said the commitment he made to Pacific Lutheran is a significant one.

"It's definitely more involved, I'll have practice daily from 5:45 (a.m.) to 7 (a.m.), and

then again from 5:15 to 9:30," he said.

In addition to the six hours of physical work, Ritter will have a full classload as he intends to study pre-law. He said he would be the first member of his family to pursue a career in law.

During his signing ceremony, Ritter thanked his many coaches, teammates and fans from Baker City.

"Especially for the amazing energy they brought on Friday nights," he said.

Classes at PLU start on Sept. 7.



Buell Gonzales Jr./Contributed Photo
The Ritters, (left to right) Reagan, Mysti, Sam and Rick join Alex wearing some their new team colors as Alex signs his letter of intent to play football at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

Then & NOW

2022 Graduates

Tell your favorite graduate how proud you are of them with a special ad!

Only **\$49**

Includes full color. Three line maximum message.

Baker City Herald

PUBLISHES
June 2

Jennifer Smith

High School Name
*Congratulations Jen!
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom & Dad*

2x3 example size

Name of graduate: _____
School: _____
Message: _____

**Call Julie 541-406-5275 or email
jferdig@bakercityherald.com**

LIFE IS SHORT BUY THE TIRES TAKE THE TRIP

**Call or go online
for an
appointment,
or drop in and
see us!**

FREE PRE-TRIP SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Tires
- ✓ Suspension

LEW BROS TIRE

(541) 523-3679
210 Bridge St., Baker City, OR 97814