

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

September 19, 1972

HUNTINGTON — “When you are through with the remorse and shock, what are you going to do with it?”

The words sounded strange coming from Huntington coach Don Cosgrove as he spoke of a four-year rarity in the Locomotive camp: how to pick up the pieces after a loss. But it wasn't just a loss last week at Meadows Valley. The 16-12 setback had destroyed the longest win streak ever in Oregon prep football: 46 consecutive triumphs.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

September 19, 1997

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest may pay a contractor to cut and remove low-value timber from Baker City's watershed.

The forest would recoup some of the cost by selling more valuable green trees and any trees the contractor doesn't want, said Chuck Ernst, Baker District ranger.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

September 19, 2012

A company that specializes in selling advertising space on billboards is interested in renting space at the Baker City Municipal Airport.

Meadow Outdoor Advertising sent a representative to speak to the city's Airport Commission earlier this month.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

September 21, 2021

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employees, firing from a helicopter, shot and killed three wolves from the Look-out Mountain pack in eastern Baker County Friday morning, Sept. 17, including the pack's breeding male.

In addition to the breeding male, ODFW employees killed a yearling male, born in the spring of 2020, and a five-month-old pup from the pack's spring 2021 litter of seven.

The wolves were killed the day after ODFW announced that the agency intended to kill up to four wolves from the pack, which has killed at least six head of cattle, and injured two others, since mid July.

According to a press release from ODFW, agency employees saw six wolves during the Friday helicopter flight.

The three wolves that were killed were near a dead calf, and on private land.

ODFW biologists examined the carcass and determined that wolves had killed the 450-pound calf, which was in the Daly Creek area. Biologists estimated the calf died late on Sept. 16.

Biologists found more than 30 pre-mortem parallel tooth scrapes on the outside and back of the calf's left hind leg above the hock, and tooth scrapes of a similar size on the right hind leg.

“The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes and severity of tissue trauma is consistent with wolf attack injuries on calves,” according to the ODFW report.

ODFW announced on Thursday, Sept. 16 that agency workers intended to kill up to four wolves from pack, including the breeding male. ODFW is not targeting the pack's breeding female. In addition, four ranchers who have lost cattle to the pack are authorized to kill up to two other wolves total.

ODFW estimates the pack consisted of nine wolves, a count prior to Friday's killing of three wolves.

ODFW employees killed two other pups from the 2021 litter on Aug. 1.

By targeting the breeding male, ODFW hopes to still allow the breeding female to raise any remaining juveniles. Reducing the number of juveniles the breeding female will need to feed increases the likelihood that some will survive, according to a press release from the agency.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, SEPT. 17

3 - 14 - 20 - 22 - 33 - 44

Next jackpot: \$6.2 million

POWERBALL, SEPT. 17

5 - 25 - 36 - 51 - 61 PB 2

Next jackpot: \$238 million

MEGA MILLIONS, SEPT. 16

15 - 30 - 35 - 38 - 66

Mega 22

Next jackpot: \$277 million

WIN FOR LIFE, SEPT. 17

9 - 13 - 67 - 76

PICK 4, SEPT. 18

• 1 p.m.: 3 - 3 - 6 - 2

• 4 p.m.: 0 - 2 - 9 - 2

• 7 p.m.: 7 - 7 - 3 - 0

• 10 p.m.: 9 - 1 - 1 - 8

LUCKY LINES, SEPT. 18

1-5-9-13-18-21-25-32

Next jackpot: \$48,000

SENIOR MENUS

WEDNESDAY (Sept. 21): Taco salad, salsa, sour cream, chips, fruit, pudding

THURSDAY (Sept. 22): Beef stroganoff fettuccine, rolls, green salad, bread pudding

FRIDAY (Sept. 23): Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, rolls, carrots, ambrosia, apple crisp

MONDAY (Sept. 26): Hamburgers with tomatoes, pickles and onions, tater tots, cottage cheese and Jell-O, salad, ice cream

TUESDAY (Sept. 27): Chicken broccoli fettuccine, garlic bread, carrots, ambrosia, cookies

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

CONTACT THE HERALD

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Game

Continued from A1

The game was much closer, though, than many of the pundits had predicted.

Baker actually led for much of the game, and by as many as 7 points twice in the third quarter.

The Bulldogs' last lead, 50-49, came with less than 4 minutes left in the game.

Yet it wasn't just the surprisingly competitive contest that made that Saturday night, inside what was then Oregon's biggest arena, so memorable.

A combination of other factors, some hinted at in the title of Kaza's book, gives that 32-minute game the powerful legacy that lingers, in the memories of those who were on the court and in the stands.

And it's a game that retains a fascination even for some who weren't there.

Kaza, for instance.

The author, now 63, was 12 then. And although he was a rabid sports fan — he attended all the games during the 1969 state tournament — he didn't make it to the epochal 1972 championship.

But he said he came to understand, even as a boy, that the Baker-Jefferson game was extraordinary.

The main title of his book is a succinct explanation — “High Contrast.”

There were in fact many contrasts.

It is all but impossible to depict the differences without resorting to cliché, but they're no less true.

Baker was rural and small town and white.

When you watched coach Gary Hammond's players you might be forgiven for wondering if the 1960s had ever happened.

The Bulldogs' crew cuts were as solidly 1950s as tailfins and Sputnik.

And Hammond's basketball style was as traditional as his tonsorial requirements. Baker played a methodical, precise game, one that relied on crisp passing to get open shots.

Jefferson was urban and metropolitan and all the players were Black.

Some of the Democrats sported Afros.

And they played at a frenetic pace.

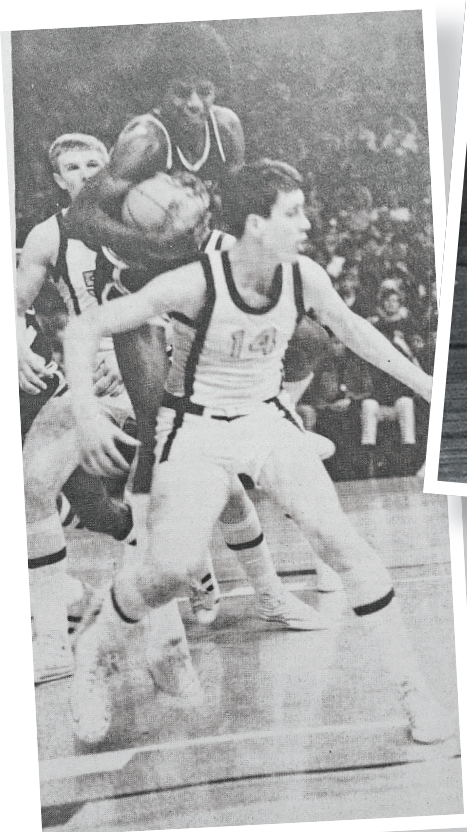
This collision of disparate styles no doubt contributed to the unprecedented interest in the championship game.

A total of 13,395 people crammed into the Coliseum — 729 more than the listed capacity for the arena where the Portland Trail Blazers, the city's year-old NBA franchise, played.

It was the largest crowd to watch a high school basketball game in Oregon.

And never had so many people watched a Baker team play.

Both those records remain unchanged half a century later.



Left: In this photo from the March 27, 1972, issue of the Baker Democrat-Herald, Baker's Craig Erickson, front, and Daryl Ross surround a Jefferson player.

Above: Senior post Daryl Ross, 6-foot-7, was the leading scorer on Baker's 1972 state runner-up team. Ross went on to play basketball at Montana State University.

Photo courtesy of Ann Ross

Kaza, in a phone interview about his book on Friday, Sept. 16, said he understood the allure of high school sports.

His dad was a teacher in Portland schools for 25 years, and he also was a band and orchestra leader, taking student musicians to perform at games.

“As a kid I got to tag along to a lot of football and basketball games,” Kaza said.

In his book he explores the popularity of high school sports in 1972 — a level of interest that is difficult to imagine today.

The Blazers, Kaza points out, were a new franchise, and had not yet become the Oregon institution they would be five years later when they won their only NBA title.

The Oregon and Oregon State football and men's basketball teams were not national contenders — and in any case college sports weren't yet the nationwide ratings behemoths we're accustomed to.

“High school sports was just the top of the pile,” Kaza said.

And so the 1972 championship game, with its myriad contrasts, was all but irresistible.

“The whole state was captivated by that state tournament,” Kaza said.

A context beyond sports

Although the basketball game is the centerpiece of “High Contrast,” Kaza said he sought to put sports into context with society, both in Oregon and in the nation, in 1972.

“It was a different era,” he said.

Americans were still fighting in Vietnam.

Richard Nixon was running for his second term.

The game featuring Baker's “farm boys” and Jefferson's more flamboyant team illustrated a term that Kaza said

has only in more recent times become something of a cliché itself — “the urban-rural divide.”

“And here we have it on the basketball court,” Kaza said.

But he notes, too, that unlike Oregon's political divide, which tends to separate people into groups that have little to do with each other except for social media squabbling, the 1972 championship game brought people together, even if for only one night.

Kaza said he tells a comprehensive story in his book, including Oregon's sometimes sordid racial history, most notably the state serving as fertile recruiting ground for the Ku Klux Klan.

Kaza's own experience had also given him a perspective for race relations.

As a fifth grader living in Beaverton, he was part of group of white students who joined a voluntary program to attend Martin Luther King Elementary School in Portland, where 97% of the students were Black. Kaza was one of two white students in his class.

“That experience forever impacted his world view of prejudice and discrimination,” according to his author biography on the Nestucca Spit Press website.

Research during a pandemic

Kaza, who worked as a sportswriter for the Valley Times newspaper in Beaverton from 1974 to 1982 before, as he puts it, “leaving journalism behind,” said he initially decided to embark on a book project in the spring of 2020.

“I started realizing this was a story I could weave together,” he said.

After living in England for about 25 years, he returned to the U.S. in 2016. He and his wife, Yee Cheng, bought a four-screen movie theater in Sisters.

Of course something else happened in the spring of 2020.

COVID-19.

Kaza said the pandemic both helped and hindered his work on “High Contrast.”

Although he certainly wouldn't describe this as a positive, because his theater was closed for 431 days — a number, he notes with a rueful chuckle, he will always recall with precision — Kaza had more time than he would have had otherwise for research.

But the situation also forced him to conduct interviews — including with several members of Baker's 1972 team — remotely rather than in person.

Kaza also talked with John Heriza, who was Baker's assistant coach in 1972 and lives in Baker City, and with Greg Hammond, Gary Hammond's son.

Gary Hammond died on April 26, 2008, at Pendleton. He was 88.

Two starters on Baker's 1972 team — Daryl Ross and Mike Davis, the top two scorers — have also passed away.

Ross died Jan. 7, 2015, at age 60 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Davis died Jan. 4, 2016, at age 61.

Bringing the book to Baker City

Kaza said he's working to get copies of “High Contrast” to Betty's Books in Baker City.

Meanwhile, the book can be ordered online at www.high-contrastbook.com or at Amazon.com.

He said he'd like to schedule a book signing event in Baker City later this year, and potentially read excerpts at Betty's Books.

After growing up hearing about one of the more renowned high school sporting events in Oregon history — but not having been in the stands to see it himself — Kaza is glad he's been able to chronicle that game in book form.

“I never envisioned actually writing a book until this project came along,” he said.

News of Record

FUNERALS PENDING

LaVelle Scrivner: A memorial service will take place in October, with the date and time to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Ellen McBroom: Graveside service will be Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Timothy Kelly Slaney, 33, Baker City, 10:48 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 in the 1100 block of Campbell Street; cited and released; arrested on the same charge at 6:22 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 in the 1500 block of Indiana Avenue; jailed.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Songa Leonard Daniel, 21, Meridian, Idaho, 1:10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 on Campbell Street near Maverik;

MENACING (domestic violence): Matthew Nathan Jeseritz, 44, Baker City, 9:48 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 in the 2400 block of Madison Street; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION: Caleb James Mansuetti, 20, Baker City, 7:46 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 at Campbell and Main streets; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

FALLURE TO APPEAR (2 Washington County, Idaho, warrants): David Ramos Juarez III, 35, Ontario, 5:51 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16 at Union Creek campground; jailed.

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