

BAKER FOOTBALL**Bulldogs roll over The Dalles Riverhawks**

Baker scores touchdowns following each of The Dalles' 3 turnovers

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Baker seemed to be stuck in the football version of neutral, until Kayden Garvin shifted into high gear.

The junior running back sprinted through a hole that his blockers blasted in The Dalles Riverhawks' defense and raced into the south end zone at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium for the game's first touchdown Friday, Oct. 7.

That score midway through the second quarter freed the Bulldogs from their sluggish start, and Baker cruised from there to a dominating 35-8 win.

The Dalles, one of four new members of the Greater Oregon League, scored its only points, via a touchdown and two-point conversion run, on the final two plays of the game.

Baker, playing at home for the first time in almost a month, improved to 4-2 overall, 1-1 in league play.

"It was nice to be home," Baker coach Jason Ramos said. "We knew we could move the ball on them. Garvin ran the ball well. We're going to have to be more balanced on offense."

The Bulldogs, as they have all season, relied heavily on the passing attack led by junior quarterback Paul Hobson and a plethora of receivers.

Hobson completed 15 of 23 passes — to five different receivers — for 249 yards and two touchdowns.

But the Bulldogs also rolled up 108 rushing yards, led by Garvin's 60 yards on 12 carries. He scored Baker's first two touchdowns, the second coming from 2 yards out just 3 minutes after the first.

Baker's defense stifled the Riverhawks, who attempted just five passes — two of which were intercepted.

The Dalles gained just 190 yards, and 179 were on the ground.

The Riverhawks' plodding style was somewhat effective early — at least in terms of taking time off the clock and keeping the ball away from Baker's potent offense.

The Dalles took the opening kickoff and gained two first downs on six straight running plays. A holding penalty left the Riverhawks with a fourth and 16, and Baker forced a punt, but by then the first quarter was already half over.

Baker started its first possession on its own 27. Hobson's pass to freshman Rasean Jones for 8 yards gave the Bulldogs their initial first down. A holding penalty on Baker on fourth and 1 led to a punt, which bounced backward and gave the Riverhawks great field position at the Baker 46.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Baker's Hudson Spike runs ahead of The Dalles' Andre Niko after catching a pass from Paul Hobson during the Bulldogs' 35-8 win on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.

But The Dalles fumbled on third down, leading to a loss of 16 yards and another punt.

Baker started on its own 14, and on the second play Hobson hit junior Hudson Spike on a slant route. Spike broke loose and went for 38 yards before being tackled from behind by Andre Niko.

The first quarter ended with no score, and Baker facing a third and 5 from The Dalles 44.

After an incomplete pass, Hobson found junior Dash Bloomer open in the flat. Bloomer rumbled for 35 yards, giving Baker a first and goal.

But The Dalles intercepted Hobson's pass inside the 10 with 10:34 left in the second quarter to thwart the Bulldogs' scoring bid.

The Riverhawks took over on their own 15 and again moved slowly upfield. Quarterback Joshua Taylor completed his first pass, to running back Manatu Crichton-Tunai, for 7 yards for a first down to The Dalles 37 with 9:10 left in the quarter.

After two runs netted 6 yards, Garvin made what turned out to be the play that shifted momentum.

Taylor threw a long pass, and Garvin beat the receiver for the jump ball, hauling in the interception at the Baker 21 with 6:55 left in the first half.

On the first play from scrimmage, Hobson threw a similar pass except his target, Jones, leaped high and grabbed the ball for a 43-yard gain to the Riverhawks' 35.

Garvin scored the first touchdown on the next play. Spike's extra point gave Baker a 7-0 lead with 6:26 left in the half.

That sequence, with Baker taking quick advantage of a turnover, was repeated almost immediately.

On the ensuing possession, The Dalles' center snapped the ball over Taylor's head, and Baker junior lineman Izek Cleveland recovered the ball at the Riverhawks' 15.

The Dalles defense tightened, though, and Baker faced a fourth and 4.

But Hobson's hard count drew the Riverhawks offside, and Garvin scored two plays later. Baker led 14-0 with 3:54 left in the half.

The Bulldogs weren't quite finished.

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL**Badgers have little trouble with Ione/Arlington**

BY JOHN BRAESE

EasternOregonSports.com

IONE — This season has frequently seen games rescheduled due to a lack of officials, but the Saturday, Oct. 8, football matchup between Powder Valley and Ione/Arlington needed electricians, not guys in black and white stripes.

Originally scheduled for Oct. 7, the game was moved due to lighting problems on the Ione field making a night game impossible.

Finally meeting on Oct. 8, the Badgers dominated both sides of the line during a 44-20 victory.

Senior quarterback Cole Martin finished an early day with two rushing touchdowns, while sophomore back Tucker Martin added an additional score for Powder Valley. Junior Lizandro Rodriguez picked up two scores, one on offense and a pick-six on an in-

terception and run back. Cooper Secl added a receiving score also in the first quarter.

"The younger guys on the team saw a lot of playing time," said Powder Valley coach Josh Cobb. "Orrin Cobb ran the ball hard during his time in the game."

Cobb was also impressed with the play of freshman Mason Martin playing in his first year of football action.

"Mason had some huge saving tackles playing in the safety position," Cobb said. "We see a great future for him and it is just amazing this is the first year he has ever played football."

The victory keeps the Badgers with a perfect 6-0 overall record and, 4-0 Special District 2-West mark. Next up is Enterprise (4-2 overall, 2-1 district) on Oct. 14 in Powder Valley.

Baker's defense forced a punt on the next possession, and the Bulldogs had the ball at their own 42 with 2:05 left.

Hobson, running the 2-minute offense, completed three straight passes for first downs — 13 yards to Spike, 19 yards to senior Tate Powell and 11 yards to Jones, the last giving Baker a first down at The Dalles' 13 with just over a minute left.

Hobson then found Bloomer open, and he dragged a defender for a couple yards, stretching the ball across the goal line with 57 seconds left.

Baker went into the locker room leading 21-0.

The Bulldogs quickly forced another punt on the first possession of the second half.

Then Baker, running a fast tempo offense, moved steadily down the field on a 70-yard drive. Hobson converted a fourth and 2 by racing around right end on a quarterback keeper to keep the drive alive.

Junior Malaki Myer ran for 17 yards, and Powell took a short pass from Hobson for 2 yards for the touchdown. Baker led 28-0 with 9:06 left in the third quarter.

Spike completed the scoring, this time from his defensive back position. He stepped in front of Taylor's pass and ran for 39 yards for a touchdown with 5:48 left in the third quarter. He then kicked the extra point to make the score 35-0.

The rest of the game was anticlimactic.

Ramos said he was happy to see sophomore running back Sage Joseph take advantage of his changes, gaining 25 yards on two carries, including a 20-yard gain.

Baker was without another sophomore running back, Jaxon Logsdon, with a shoulder injury sustained in the loss at La Grande on Sept. 30.

A key factor in the win over The Dalles was Baker's ability to capitalize on turnovers. The Bulldogs scored touchdowns after each of the Riverhawks' three miscues.

"We want to be opportunistic," Ramos said.

He attributed Baker's slow start on offense in part to The Dalles using a defense that's a bit different from what other teams have employed.

"We had to figure out what they're doing, and adjust," Ramos said.

The Riverhawks didn't do anything that Baker hadn't seen on game tapes, he said, but turning what you've practiced into performance during a game can sometimes take time.

Baker will complete its regular season schedule with three league games, two at home, and Ramos said "every game is really important."

Baker will play host to Madras in the homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. The Bulldogs travel to Prineville to take on Crook County on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m., then return home for the regular season finale on Friday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. against Pendleton/Nixyaawii.

BAKER VOLLEYBALL**Bulldogs fall to Vandals at McCall**

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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McCALL, Idaho — Baker's volleyball team battled, but the Bulldogs' rally wasn't quite enough against a determined McCall-Donnelly squad on Saturday, Oct. 8.

After the Vandals won the first two sets, Baker responded by taking the third set.

But McCall-Donnelly rallied from an early deficit to win the fourth set and the match, 26-24, 25-17, 20-25, 25-22.

The nonleague loss snapped Baker's four-match winning streak.

But Baker coach Ali Abrego said the defeat, which has no effect on Baker's bid for a Greater Oregon League title and a home match in the first round of the Class 4A playoffs, can serve as an important lesson for the Bulldogs.

"There's a lot to be learned in games like this, as frustrating as it is to lose," Abrego said. "If we make it to the final site (for the Class 4A state tournament) we're going to have to deal with unfamiliar gyms and a different atmosphere. It's really easy to let that influence how you play, but we did a really good job adjusting."

The Bulldogs had more than one thing to adjust to.

The McCall-Donnelly gym has lower ceilings than the Baker gym and most others the Bulldogs play in, and several passes that would have been in good position for a set instead caromed off the ceiling at angles that are hard to react to.

The Vandals' student section was loud, too — just as it was in August 2021 when Mc-



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Baker seniors Jozie Ramos, left, and Campbell Vanderwiele go up for a block against La Grande on Oct. 6, 2022.

"There are always things that we can't control. We did a lot of things right. We covered well, we swung well. After losing the first two sets it's hard to come back and win the third set. I can't be disappointed with that kind of effort."

— Baker volleyball coach Ali Abrego

Call-Donnelly swept the visiting Bulldogs.

"There are always things that we can't control," Abrego said. "We did a lot of things right. We covered well, we swung well. After losing the first two sets it's hard to come back and win the third set. I

can't be disappointed with that kind of effort."

It wasn't the only time Baker rallied.

McCall led for almost the entire first set, but after the Vandals went ahead 14-11, Baker came back to forge ties at 18, 19 and 21.

The Bulldogs then took their first lead at 22-21 on a Vandal attack error. Baker led 23-21 but McCall-Donnelly tied it at 23.

A kill by Baker senior Jozie Ramos gave the Bulldogs a set point at 24-23, but the Vandals scored the final three points. The set winner was on a Ramos kill attempt that went long, although Abrego and Baker's bench argued that a Vandal blocker tipped the ball at the net.

The second set was a different matter, as McCall-Donnelly never trailed.

Baker senior Taylor Dalton's hard serves briefly got Baker to within 7-5, but the Vandals dominated thereafter.

Baker took control early in the third set, leading 12-5, but the Vandals rallied to tie the score at 19 and 20.

The Bulldogs closed out the set to force a fourth.

Baker led 4-1 in the fourth set but the Vandals went on a run to lead 13-8 and prompt Abrego to call timeout. Baker rallied to within 20-17, forcing a McCall timeout, and the Bulldogs got as close as two points, at 20-18 and 22-20, but the Vandals were fortunate when a serve at 23-20 clipped the net and dropped straight down on the Baker side of the court for match point.

Baker scored two straight but couldn't finish the rally.

Baker dropped to 13-4 on the season. Three of those four losses were to Idaho teams — Fruitland, Cole Valley and McCall-Donnelly. Baker's only loss to an Oregon team was a 2-0 defeat against Powder Valley during a tournament at BHS on Sept. 2.

Baker avenged that loss with a 3-2 win over the Badgers on Sept. 8. The two teams will play the rubber match Friday, Oct. 14 at North Powder.

First, though, Baker returns to Greater Oregon League play against Pendleton on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Baker gym. Baker, 4-0 in league play, can clinch the league title with a win over the Buckaroos.

In the other matches at McCall, the Baker JV lost in three sets, 26-24, 23-25, 15-12.

The Baker JV2 team beat the Vandals in three sets, 25-18, 7-25, 15-11.

OREGON FOOTBALL**Ducks dominate Arizona**

BY DAVID BRANDT

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Noah Whittington surveyed the field while running to his right, making a quick cut to evade a tackle before sprinting up the field.

Then the Oregon running back reached a speed no one else on the field could match, bursting past a half-dozen Arizona defensive players on the way to the end zone. It was the first rushing touchdown of the game for the Ducks.

There would be many, many others before the night was through.

Bo Nix threw for 265 yards and ran for three touchdowns, Whittington added the superb 55-yard touchdown run and No. 12 Oregon rolled to a 49-22 victory over Arizona on Saturday, Oct. 8.

"We were able to impose our will at times tonight," Oregon coach Dan Lanning said. "We were able to run the ball the way we wanted to run the ball. Our guys played with physicality, and that's what we're looking for. We definitely saw that."

The Ducks (5-1, 3-0 Pac-

12) scored touchdowns on seven consecutive drives starting midway through the first quarter, building a 49-13 lead by late in the third. All seven scores were on the ground.

Oregon piled up 580 yards of total offense — including 306 yards rushing — doing pretty much whatever it wanted against Arizona (3-3, 1-2).

Nix was great on the ground for a second straight game, scoring on a pair of 2-yard runs before breaking free for a 25-yard touchdown in the third quarter. He ran for a career-high 141 yards and two touchdowns last week against Stanford.

The Ducks have won five straight since a season-opening loss to Georgia, scoring more than 40 points in every game. They built a 28-13 lead by halftime Saturday. Nix completed 13 of 14 passes for 187 yards as the offense racked up 346 total yards before the break.

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