

## POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL

# Badgers rout Adrian, avenge 2021 title game loss

Baker City Herald  
NORTH POWDER — This time the Powder Valley Badgers football team didn't need to worry about a comeback.

They had to worry about trying to stay dry.

But no comeback. On the first rainy evening of the season, the Badgers made an emphatic statement with a 46-14 rout of rival Adrian at North Powder on Senior Night.

The win, which kept the Badgers unbeaten at 8-0, avenged a pair of losses to the Antelopes last fall. Adrian beat the Badgers 38-0 in a regular season game, then rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Powder Valley 46-38 in a thrilling Class 1A state title game at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

"Unlike last year's match up, this time Powder came out on top," Badgers assistant coach Dan Townsend said. "It's fun any time you get to play a team the caliber of Adrian. They have one of the best programs in the state, and any time you can beat a team like that, it's special."

The Badgers started fast, as sophomore running back Tucker Martin scored a touchdown just 16 seconds into the game. The 2-point conversion gave Powder an 8-0 lead.



Powder Valley's Cooper Secl, right, tackles an Adrian Antelope with help from Cole Martin and Braxton Golar on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, at North Powder.

But it was competitive early, as Adrian, which came into the game 6-1, answered with a touchdown. The conversion try failed and the Badgers still led 8-6. Senior quarterback Cole Martin then went 85 yards on the soggy turf for another score, and the Badgers led 14-6.

The Antelopes wouldn't get to the end zone again until late in the fourth quarter, and by then the game had long since been decided.

The Badgers, fittingly on such a damp night, did most of their damage on the ground, amassing more than 400 yards rushing.

Cole Martin gained 285 yards on 21 carries and had four touchdowns.

Tucker Martin had 113 yards on 12 carries and one score.

"Once again the team was led by our guys up front," Townsend said. "Caleb Kerns, Logan Proffitt and Cade Lind



Powder Valley's Tucker Martin carries the ball against Adrian on a rainy Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, at North Powder.

dominated all night long. Cole Martin and Tucker Martin were the recipients of those huge holes up front. It was a lot of fun to watch."

After establishing the running game, Powder head coach Josh Cobb let Cole Martin exercise his arm, too.

Martin completed 3 of 6 passes for 100 yards, including a 74-yard touchdown strike to fellow senior Jackson Chandler.

"Jackson worked hard all game getting open and working down field," Townsend said.

"Offensively it just seemed like everything was clicking," Cobb said. "Great blocking up front, and playmakers making huge plays."

A key stanza came late in the first half, when Powder followed a touchdown by recovering an onside kick, which led to a second touchdown. The two scores within a minute boosted the Badgers' lead to 30-6 at halftime.

For all the offensive accomplishments, it was Powder's defense responsible for making sure Adrian didn't replicate its rally from the 2021 championship game. The Badgers never let the Antelopes get up to speed.

Cobb credited defensive coordinator Riley Martin.

"His defensive scheme was right on for the game," Cobb said. "He did a great job in making sure we were prepared defensively."

Tucker Martin had 17 tackles, and Cole Martin had 16 stops. Cole Martin was assigned to shadow Adrian's Jace Martin, one of the state's top running backs. Jace Martin had one of Adrian's two touchdowns.

But as with Powder's powerful rushing attack, the defense was keyed by the line, Townsend said.

"The true heroes on the defense was the guys up front, Cade Lind, Braxton Golar, Colt Cobb. They were responsible for five sacks and three fumbles. Lizandro Rodriguez also had a big day on defense with three pass breakups and seven tackles."

Prior to kickoff Friday, the Badgers honored seniors Jackson Chandler, Cole Martin, Cooper Secl, Colt Cobb, Cade Lind, Braxton Golar and Logan Proffitt.

The Badgers, who had already clinched a playoff berth, finish their regular season by traveling to Pilot Rock on Thursday, Oct. 27. The Rockets are winless this season.

Powder Valley is in a good position to earn a first-round bye in the playoffs and get a home game on Nov. 11, as one of the top four ranked teams. The Badgers are ranked third. Rankings will be frozen Oct. 29.

## BAKER FOOTBALL



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald, File

Baker receiver Malaki Myer tries to evade a Homedale defender on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium. Myer had five catches for 125 yards and two touchdowns in the Bulldogs' 48-31 loss at Crook County on Oct. 22, 2022.

## Turnovers prove costly in Baker's loss to Crook County

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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PRINEVILLE — Baker's football team appeared to be well on its way to rolling past the Crook County Cowboys and clinching a Class 4A playoff berth on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 22 at Prineville.

Kayden Garvin's pair of 3-yard touchdown runs had given the Bulldogs a 13-0 lead in the first quarter.

But then the momentum shifted even more rapidly than the weather did a day earlier when the first storm of the autumn brought rain and much cooler temperatures.

Crook County, one of the four new members of the Greater Oregon League, intercepted quarterback Paul Hobson's pass on Baker's third drive.

The Cowboys capitalized with a 3-yard touchdown run.

But that, unfortunately for the Bulldogs, was just the beginning.

Crook County ended scoring 34 straight points in a span that extended well into the third quarter.

Baker rallied with two straight touchdowns to get as close as 34-25 in the fourth quarter, but Baker couldn't recover the subsequent onside kick. The Cowboys returned two interceptions for touchdowns and went on to a 48-31 win.

"We did not bring our A game on Saturday, and our C game was not good enough to win," Baker coach Jason Ramos said. "It was a very disappointing loss. We need to recover quickly because we have a big game against Pendleton this week on Senior Night."

The Bulldogs, 5-3 on the season, will close out the regular season by playing host to the Buckaroos, another GOL newcomer, on Friday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

The playoff scenario is straightforward, said Buell Gonzales Jr., athletic director for the Baker School District.

If Baker beats Pendleton, the Bulldogs will clinch one of the GOL's three playoff spots. If Baker loses, its season ends.

Pendleton, 6-2 overall, is alone in second place in the league at 4-1, behind 5-0 La

### Baker and Pendleton, common opponents

Baker's home football game against Pendleton on Friday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium is a big one, with a playoff berth for Baker on the line.

The Bulldogs and Buckaroos have four opponents in common this year, all Greater Oregon League rivals.

The results:

#### Madras

Baker won 41-14

Pendleton won 49-12

#### Crook County

Baker lost 48-31

Pendleton won 39-0

#### The Dalles

Baker won 35-8

Pendleton won 49-12

#### La Grande

Baker lost 55-21

Pendleton lost 33-20

Grande, which beat Pendleton 33-20 on Friday, Oct. 21. Baker and Crook County are tied for third at 2-2.

If Baker beats Pendleton, and Crook County beats Madras on Friday, Oct. 28, there would be a three-way tie for second, with Baker, Pendleton and Crook County all 3-2 in GOL play.

The first potential tiebreaker is head-to-head results, but that doesn't work because Baker would have beaten Pendleton, Pendleton beat Crook County, and Crook County beat Baker.

The next tiebreaker is comparing the teams' RPI rating, Gonzales said.

And in that metric Baker fares well, with the highest RPI, as of Monday, Oct. 24, of the three teams, at No. 7. Pendleton was No. 12, and Crook County No. 17. Since Baker's RPI would likely rise with a win over Pendleton, the Bulldogs and the Buckaroos would earn playoff bids, while Crook County would be left out.

Turnovers the difference

On Saturday at Prineville, Baker had the

advantage in numerous statistical categories, including total yards (427 to 345), passing yards (325 to 149), first downs (19 to 18) and third-down conversions (8 of 12, compared to Crook County's 2 of 9).

But it was one statistic — turnovers — that told the tale, as it so often does in football. Baker turned the ball over four times, Crook County only one.

After the first turnover, with the Bulldogs leading 13-0, "we just lost all momentum," Ramos said.

"Our defense struggled to make plays when it counted, and our offense didn't get back on track until late in the game."

After the Cowboys went ahead 34-13 in the third quarter, Hobson started Baker's rally with a 2-yard touchdown run. The extra point was wide and Baker trailed 34-19.

The Cowboys appeared poised to punch in another touchdown, but they fumbled at the goal line and Baker recovered at its own 1. On the first play from scrimmage, Malaki Myer ran free down the sideline and Hobson hit him in stride for a 99-yard touchdown to make it 34-25. Baker went for two points to get within seven points but the try failed.

Baker's defense got a stop, but on the ensuing possession Crook County took back an interception for a 39-yard touchdown and a 41-25 lead.

The Bulldogs quickly advanced inside the Crook County 20, but a Cowboy defensive back stepped in front of Hobson's pass and ran untouched for 85 yards for a touchdown.

Hobson connected with Myer again for a 15-yard touchdown, but there wasn't enough time for Baker to mount a comeback.

Hobson completed 20 of 44 passes for 325 yards and two touchdowns. He also led Baker in rushing in 70 yards on nine carries. Garvin had 32 yards and the two early touchdowns.

Myer had five catches for 125 yards, Rasean Jones six catches for 95 yards, and Hudson Spike seven catches for 84 yards. Dash Bloomer had one catch for 10 yards.

On defense, Bloomer had six tackles, one sack and two tackles for loss.

## Arrest

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Indeed, federal crews called the regional interagency dispatch center on both days of the burn to report verbal harassment, threats and aggressive driving through the smoke, and to request law enforcement assistance on the scene.

The Hollidays maintain they were welcoming and cooperative with federal crews, providing access to their land in order to contain the blaze. But as the fire spread and crews worked to contain it, the Hollidays called 911. They didn't call to report the fire. They asked for the sheriff.

"We knew that somebody was doing something wrong," said Taylor.

### Planning for contingencies

Adlam points out that spillover fires like the one that happened in Bear Valley are rare occurrences but can still have a huge impact on people.

"I think that, the last 20 years, we've had one other occurrence of a burn crossing over from federal land onto private land in Oregon," he said.

The Malheur National Forest supervisor notes that the spillover was quickly brought under control.

"They caught it with the resources they had on scene," Trulock said. "We didn't use any aviation or anything. The only additional resource we brought on was that dozer, and that was to really secure the edge of the spot so that they could then mop it up. So we were staffed enough to actually catch something like this."

The Grant County Sheriff's Office and the Forest Service estimated the size of the spot fire as approximately 20 acres. Chad Holliday estimates it as closer to 40, after measuring the perimeter of the area at "exactly one mile."

### 'Somebody's got to be held accountable'

As the federal crews were attempting to control the spot fire on the ranch, McKinley arrived. Chad Holliday received a call from his sister who was on the scene and told him to get home. He arrived to see Sheriff McKinley speaking with people along the fence.

"I walked up, and Todd said, 'Chad, right now you're (being) videorecorded. You're the spokesman for the ranch. Would you like to press charges?' And I said, 'Absolutely. Somebody's got to be held accountable.'"

Holliday said McKinley then went directly to Snodgrass on the county road and "put the cuffs on him."

### 'A reasonable person'

The fire was set in the days before predicted rain, and will likely prove to be the last of this year's short burn season. But the issues surrounding prescribed burning and federal land management, especially as it impacts private landowners, will undoubtedly remain a flashpoint in Grant County.

McKinley declined offers to comment on the case beyond his initial press release, which said "details cannot be released at this time."

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter has been slightly more forthcoming, stating in his own press release that just because the burn boss was working as part of a federal crew doesn't mean he will be shielded from potential legal consequences.

"To be clear, the employer and/or position of Snodgrass will not protect him if it is determined that he acted recklessly," he wrote. "That the USFS was engaging in a prescribed burn may actually raise, rather than lower, the standard to which Snodgrass will be held."

Carpenter lays out in his release the full legal standard for determining if a burn is or is not "reckless" as defined in Oregon statute: "The risk must be of such nature and degree that disregard thereof constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of care that a reasonable person would observe in the situation."

Critics of the Forest Service point to the simple fact that the fire escaped the lines as evidence the conditions were unsafe and that the fire should never have been approved. To the Hollidays, and those skeptical of federal land management in general, it's a clear measure: the fire got onto their land and threatened or destroyed their property. How could that have been a reasonable thing to do?

When reached for comment on this story, McKinley clarified why he's reluctant to say too much at this point.

"I just want to respect the case and not get too much detail out so that it doesn't mess with potential jury pools and all that," he said, "because then we'd have to have (the trial) out of the area."

The sheriff said he knows how it appears in the court of public opinion to withhold detail, but "I just don't care" as long as it protects the process.

For McKinley, the most important consideration is that the facts surrounding this case and the decisions of Rick Snodgrass are ultimately determined by 12 reasonable people from Grant County.