

## BAKER FOOTBALL

# Bulldogs' season ends with loss to Pendleton

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com

Baker's promising football season came to a disappointing conclusion with a 49-7 loss to Pendleton on Friday, Oct. 28 at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

Baker's second straight loss ended the Bulldogs' bid for a Class 4A playoff berth.

The Bulldogs finished 5-4 overall, 2-3 in the newly constituted Greater Oregon League, which added four teams this fall — Pendleton, Crook County, Madras and The Dalles.

"Well, kids played hard," Baker coach Jason Ramos said. "I mean a lot of adversity with, you know, starters out and young guys having to step in and fill roles and so, you know, up against a really, really good football team."

Baker, already without running back and safety Jaxon Logsdon due to injury, lost another starter for the season's final game, as Rasean Jones, the dynamic

freshman wide receiver, kick returner and defensive back, was also hurt. Junior Dash Bloomer, one of Baker's top tacklers, also missed Friday's game.

The Buckaroos, 7-2 overall with a lone Greater Oregon League loss coming to league champion La Grande, took the opening kickoff and moved down the field, relying mainly on senior running back Payton Lambert. He ran 33 yards for the game's first touchdown, and Pendleton led 7-0 about three minutes into the game.

Baker couldn't gain a first down on its first possession, and after taking over on the Bulldogs' 24 yard line, the Buckaroos quickly scored again to lead 14-0.

The Buckaroos had two more touchdowns in the second quarter to go up 27-0, but Baker answered with its best offensive play of the game.

Junior wide receiver Malaki Myer ran a perfect route and fellow junior Paul Hobson hit Myer in stride for a



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

**Baker junior wide receiver Malaki Myer outruns Pendleton's Trey Boston for the Bulldogs' lone touchdown, on a pass from junior quarterback Paul Hobson, on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.**

48-yard touchdown. Junior Hudson

But the Buckaroos denied Baker any momentum, scoring with 30 seconds

left in the first half on a 23-yard pass to lead 35-7 at the break.

Pendleton scored on two short touchdown runs in the third quarter to make it 49-7.

"The challenge was to come out and just compete for 48 minutes, you know, on senior night," Ramos said. "And I thought for the most part we did that. You know, we had some things didn't go our way, but kids played hard."

Pendleton held Baker to 207 total yards. Hobson completed 13 of 27 passes for 150 yards. Myer had five catches for 98 yards, and Spike had six catches for 49 yards.

Kayden Garvin led Baker with 27 yards on 10 carries.

Senior David Shaw had six tackles, including a tackle for loss. Senior Tate Powell had four tackles.

The Buckaroos gained 327 yards, including 267 rushing yards. Pendleton converted all five of its third downs, while Baker was just 3 for 12.

## BAKER GIRLS SOCCER

## Baker girls lose heartbreaker in play-in game at The Dalles

BY MIKE WEBER

For the Baker City Herald

THE DALLES — Despite having the role as underdogs in an OSAA Class 4A girls soccer play-in game, the No. 23 ranked Baker High Bulldogs played nearly even against the No. 10 ranked The Dalles Riverhawks and they had a chance to win Friday afternoon, Oct. 28.

For 70 minutes of the contest, it was a 0-0 deadlock and the Bulldogs (5-9-1) were hoping for an upset win over the Riverhawks (9-4-2) to reach the state playoffs for the first time since 2018.

However, the Riverhawks' leading scorer, Amyrah Hill (22 goals on the year) got a goal with nine minutes left to propel them to a 1-0 win at The Dalles High School's Wahtonka campus field. The Dalles advanced to play in a Nov. 2 first round matchup in the 16-team playoffs. For the Bulldogs and first-year coach Robbie Langrell, the loss marked the conclusion of their season.

"I am super proud of our team, but I'm really disappointed that the refs made so many bad calls," Langrell said. "The girls battled hard and then in the last 10 minutes the refs made some bad calls and gave them (Riverhawks) free kicks and it just changed the whole dynamic of the game. I'm super proud of how amazing the girls played. This was supposed to be an easy win for a No. 10 ranked



Mike Weber/For the Baker City Herald

**Baker goalkeeper Oakley Anderson, left, leaps to make a save during the Bulldogs' play-in match at The Dalles on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022.**



Mike Weber/For the Baker City Herald

**Baker's McKay Anderson, left, battles with The Dalles' Amyrah Hill for possession of the ball during a play-in match on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, at The Dalles.**

team. It should've been a 0-0 tie and then went into overtime, but that didn't happen and it's OK."

The Bulldogs didn't have a lot of scoring opportunities as they had a total of just seven shots on goal, while The Dalles had more than 20 shots on goal. The Dalles controlled the ball offensively near the Bulldogs goal area for a majority of the first 40 minutes.

The Bulldogs had some solid first half shots by junior Emma Llauro, senior McKay Anderson and senior Brooklyn Jaca. Unfortunately, whenever the Bulldogs had a potential scoring opportunity, The Dalles junior goalkeeper Katlyne Sorensen was able to make a key save to help keep Baker off the

scoreboard.

A strong offensive Riverhawks team that averages three goals per game was shut down for the most part by a solid defensive effort by the Bulldogs. Baker sophomore goalkeeper Oakley Anderson (24 saves) did a remarkable job of stopping numerous offensive first half scoring threats by the Riverhawks and she was instrumental in helping to keep it a scoreless tie for most of the game.

In the second half, Baker senior Te'yan Coley, Jaca, McKay Anderson and Llauro each had solid scoring chances, but Sorensen again proved to be

a valuable asset for the Riverhawks as she continued to make key saves to help The Dalles get the shutout.

In the final minute of the game, Baker sophomore forward Jaycee Gray was injured and was unable to walk, so she was placed on cart and moved to the Baker bench, where she was examined by the Baker team personnel.

"My girls started getting hurt because the game got dirty and they (referees) weren't calling any fouls on them (Riverhawks)," Langrell said.

"Now we have a girl (Gray) who might be out with an injury and she could miss the basketball season. The girls played well and I wish they would've been rewarded for it."

The contest marked the final game for Baker seniors Anna Macias, Neah Thomas, Sydnee Pierce, Kaci Anderson, Riley Jo Shaw, Coley, McKay Anderson, Skye Smith, Jaca, Anna Belding and Maddy Yencopal.

"They (seniors) played really hard," said Langrell, who started the season as an assistant coach. "We only had eight players at the beginning of the preseason practice in August. Most of the seniors had quit because they were unhappy with the coaching situation. When I became head coach, I was able to get the seniors to come back and I'm happy they did that and stuck with it and they had a great season."

## BAKER CROSS-COUNTRY

## Both Bulldog teams qualify for state meet

Pine Eagle's Gover also advances to state

Baker City Herald

Baker will have a big presence at the Class 4A state cross-country championships Saturday, Nov. 5 at Lane Community College in Eugene.

Both the Baker boys and girls teams qualified for the state meet with their performances at the district meet Friday, Oct. 28 at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario.

"It was a fantastic finish for our regular season," Baker coach Suzy Cole said. "We are looking forward to heading to Eugene."

Baker won the boys team title — the sixth straight for the Bulldogs — and the girls finished second.

The Baker boys, led by sophomore Daniel Brown's individual title and senior Thaddeus Pepera in fourth place, had five runners in the top 10. Baker finished with 27 points, well ahead of runner-up La Grande, with 43.

"Daniel and Thaddeus went out in a group of four for about the first mile and a half before Daniel opened it up, and was too much for the others to stay with him," Cole said.

The Baker girls had 45 points, finishing second to La Grande (21).

Sophomore Sofie Kaaen was fourth overall, and freshman Gwen Rasmussen (seventh) and junior Maddy Gagnon



Stephanie Brown/Contributed Photo

**Baker junior Katie Spaugh finished 15th at the district cross-country meet on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario.**

(eighth) were also in the top 10. "Sofie Kaaen continues to get more confident all the time, as does Maddie Gagnon," Cole said.

Tanner Lucas won the boys JV race.

Pine Eagle senior Cooper Gover qualified as an individual for the Class 1A/2A boys meet, also Nov. 5 at Lane Community College, by finishing



Stephanie Brown/Contributed Photo

**Baker sophomore Daniel Brown won the individual title at the district cross-country meet on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario.**

sixth at the district meet Oct. 28 in Pendleton.

Baker's individual results from the district meet:

**Boys**

1st, Daniel Brown, 17:33.82; 4th, Thaddeus Pepera, 18:08.09; 6th, Angel DeArcos, 18:17.53; 7th, Jordan Mills, 18:19.03; 9th, Nate Jensen, 18:57.82; 11th, Karsten



Stephanie Brown/Contributed Photo

**Baker freshman Gwen Rasmussen finished seventh at the district cross-country meet on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario.**

Cikane, 19:06.15; 14th, Seth Mastrude, 19:28.72.

**Girls**

4th, Sofie Kaaen, 20:35.85; 7th, Gwen Rasmussen, 21:38.42; 8th, Maddy Gagnon, 22:11.42; 12th, Annastasia Johnson, 23:30.98; 15th, Katie Spaugh, 24:08.49; 16th, Sage Cuzick, 24:28.21; 17th, Tyler Gressley, 24:58.07.

## BAKER BOYS SOCCER



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald, File

**Baker goalkeeper Noah Lien makes a save on Sept. 8, 2022, against McCall.**

## Baker boys' season ends with play-in loss

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com

The Baker boys soccer season ended with a 3-0 loss to Molalla in a Class 4A play-in game on Saturday, Oct. 29, but coach Victor Benites was pleased with the team's progress.

"It's a good feeling being able to look back and see that all the hard work kids and coaches put in to get this far," Benites said.

Baker didn't qualify for the playoffs in 2021.

On Saturday against Molalla — the match was played at nearby Estacada High School — the Bulldogs had trouble controlling the field.

Molalla scored two goals to lead 2-0 at halftime, but the deficit could have been larger if not for Baker goalkeeper Noah Lien.

"Noah had some really good

*"It's a good feeling being able to look back and see that all the hard work kids and coaches put in to get this far."*

— Victor Benites, coach

saves," Benites said.

Molalla added a third goal late in the second half for the final margin.

"I thought we played a good game, we had some good chances to score," Benites said.

After a season record of 3-7-4, Benites is optimistic about the prospects for 2023.

"I'm only losing seven players out of this year, so I have a bunch of them coming back," he said.