

BAKER VOLLEYBALL AT STATE TOURNAMENT

Baker volleyball tops Tillamook and advances to semifinals

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The Baker volleyball team was not satisfied with merely making it to the Class 4A state tournament.

The Bulldogs played like a team with higher aspirations, rallying from a slow start to win three straight sets in a four-set victory over Tillamook in a quarterfinal match Friday morning, Nov. 4 at Springfield High School, 21-25, 28-26, 25-20, 25-18.

"That was a lot of fun," Baker coach Ali Abrego said. "Stressful, but fun."

Baker played top-seeded Marshfield in a semifinal Friday at 6:30 p.m. Marshfield had to rally from a 2-1 set deficit against Crook County in the other early quarterfinal Friday.

Baker relied as much on its mental toughness as its physical prowess in dispatching the Cheesemakers.

The Bulldogs showed their resolve even in the first set despite losing 25-21.

Abrego said Baker had a good warm up period and started the match "with a lot of energy."

"But when the whistle blew you could see the nerves settling in," she said.

After Tillamook went ahead 13-7, Baker rallied to get as close as 14-13. Then, after the Cheesemakers forged ahead 21-17, Baker senior Jozie Ramos, the reigning Greater Oregon League player of the year, served three straight aces to tie the score at 21 and prompt a Tillamook timeout.

But the Cheesemakers scored the final four points to take a 1-0 set lead.

Tillamook seem poised to take control of the match in the second set, going up 13-9, but Baker then shifted the momentum with a 7-1 run.

Ramos had a kill to get the Bulldogs to within 14-13, and another kill on an over pass to put Baker up 16-14 and force a Tillamook timeout.

The Cheesemakers rallied



Courtney Raley/Contributed Photo

The Baker volleyball team celebrates its four-set win over Tillamook in a quarterfinal match at the Class 4A state tournament at Springfield High School on Friday morning, Nov. 4, 2022. The Bulldogs play top-seeded Marshfield Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Powder Valley loses opening match

REDMOND — The Powder Valley Badgers lost their quarterfinal match Friday morning, Nov. 4 at the Class 1A state volleyball tournament at Ridgeview High School.

The Badgers lost in three sets to St. Paul, 25-17, 25-21, 25-21.

Powder Valley played Crane in a consolation semifinal Saturday, Nov. 5 at 8 a.m.

to lead 23-19, and Baker was 2 points away from a 2-0 set deficit.

But the Bulldogs didn't panic in what turned out to be the most thrilling sequence of the match, and the key turning point.

"I told them, are we going to bounce back or are we going to throw in the towel," Abrego said.

Baker answered that question quickly and definitely, scoring 5 straight points, the last on Ashlyn Dalton's ace serve, to make it set point at 24-23.

Tillamook then had a set point

at 25-24, but Sofia Hanson's ace gave Baker a second set point at 26-25.

Tillamook forced one final tie, at 26, before Ramos' kill gave Baker its third set point at 27-26. A Tillamook attack error gave Baker the 28-26 win, evening the match at one set each.

The come-from-behind win energized Baker, and Tillamook couldn't match the Bulldogs' play in the final two sets.

Hanson had a strong third set, with multiple kills, as Baker never trailed after Tillamook scored the first point.

Taylor Dalton's ace gave Baker a 20-13 lead. Tillamook rallied but couldn't get closer than 4 points.

Baker dominated the third set, scoring the first 5 points and leading by as much as 16-4, on Ramos' second straight ace, before the Cheesemakers had a minor rally late to get within 24-18.

Abrego said the Bulldogs were excited about fulfilling another of the goals they set for themselves in August when practice started.

"I think they're really proud of themselves," she said.

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