

BHS honors fall athletes for academic achievements

BY IAN CRAWFORD

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Athletes from Baker High School's fall sports teams gathered Wednesday night, Nov. 9 in the BHS auditorium but the purpose was to celebrate their academic achievements as well as what they did on the court and field.

Buell Gonzales Jr., the Baker School District's athletic director, said all Bulldog teams — boys and girls soccer and cross-country, volleyball and football — had cumulative grade point averages in the top 10 for the Class 4A ranks.

"I want all the parents, and all the kids, to celebrate the accomplishments that all the kids had throughout the season," Gonzales said. "The ultimate purpose of them doing well in the classroom is what we're all about."

Gonzales started, however, with special appreciation for the staff helping the whole way. This included recognition to Becky Cross of BHS food services, to Wayne Paxton and his bus drivers and transportation staff, and to Summer Curry and the custo-



dial, maintenance and grounds crew, noting the renovations completed in the gym and well-maintained fields, and thanks as well for those giving their time at games to manage clocks,

scores, filming, and announcements.

The ceremony was also a farewell for Courtney Raley, the high school's athletic trainer for the past four years.

In hiring Raley, Gonzales said,

"every prayer I ever asked was answered. She has provided a level of care that is unmatched in any high school that you will ever go to or see."

He sent Raley off with a bouquet of

flowers, and the students and parents in attendance reacted with a standing ovation.

Raley said she had been honored to help care for Baker athletes.



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald Photos

Above: Baker School District athletic director Buell Gonzales Jr. offers a bouquet and merit on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, to athletic trainer Courtney Raley, who is slated to start a new medical career.

Left: Buell Gonzales Jr., left, athletic director for the Baker School District, recognized the Baker High School volleyball team for athletic and academic achievements during a fall sports dessert Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, in the BHS auditorium.

CLASS 4A FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Williams powers La Grande past Pendleton in 4A quarterfinals

BY ANNIE FOWLER

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — The opening play of the game set the tone on a frigid night at Community Stadium at Eastern Oregon University.

Pendleton quarterback Jack Davis fumbled the snap, and La Grande defensive lineman Myer Whitmore pounced on the ball for a touchdown just 4 seconds into the game, and the Tigers went on to beat the Bucks 28-13 in the 4A state quarterfinals on Friday, Nov. 11.

"It was a turnover battle again," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said. "You can't let a team like La Grande have opportunities like that. Their offense ate the clock. The third and fourth quarters melted away."

Tigers (9-2), who are on an eight-game win streak, will play Tillamook in the semifinals on Saturday, Nov. 19. The Cheesemakers (9-2) beat Gladstone 28-6, and will play in their first semifinal game since 1989. The game site and time have not been determined.

"We will be somewhere," La Grande coach Rich McIlmoil said of the semifinals. "We just keep plugging away one game at a time."

The Bucks end their first season at the 4A level with an 8-3 record.

After the Tigers scored their first touchdown, they turned the ball over on downs, and Pendleton's Ben Jennings intercepted a pass by La Grande quarterback Logan Williams to end the first quarter with a 7-0 lead.

Williams and the Tigers then put their offense into high gear.

Williams scored on a 15-yard keeper with 6:15 left in the second quarter, then added a 54-yard touchdown run with 42 seconds left before the half for a 21-0 lead.

"He's a stallion," McIlmoil said of his quarterback, who ran for 173 yards and threw for 70 on the night. "He wants everyone to know he's the best quarterback in the state. It all starts up front. The offensive line has been working extremely hard.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

La Grande's Sam Tsiatsos (3) runs the ball during a state playoff game against Pendleton on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022.

They don't get the glory, but they make the glory happen."

The Bucks looked to make something happen in the last few seconds of the first half.

Chas Corbett returned the ensuing kickoff 62 yards to the La Grande 18-yard line. Payton Lambert lost 5 yards on the next play, and a holding penalty on the Bucks moved the ball back to the 34.

On the final play of the half, Davis was scrambling to find a receiver when he was tackled by a streak of Tigers and fumbled the ball with a half second left on the clock.

Davis was out cold and was taken to the local hospital for treatment.

Coach Davis said tests showed no brain bleed, and Jack Davis was released to go home.

The Tigers received the second-half kickoff, and chewed up 5 minutes during their drive before Williams found a seam between his linemen, eluded the grasp of Jennings and motored

29 yards to the end zone for a 28-0 lead.

"How could I not see those holes they created?" Williams said of his line of Whitmore, Jarrett Armstrong, Kenai Huff, Jack Sunderman, Ryan Vanderzanden and tight end Elijah Bisenius.

With Jack Davis out of the lineup, Jace Otteson took over at quarterback.

During Pendleton's next drive, Otteson hit Corbett with a 29-yard pass to put the Bucks at the La Grande 3, but a sack by Williams on Otteson put the ball at the 15. A false start put the Bucks back at the 20.

A roughing the passer penalty on the Tigers moved the Bucks to the 10-yard line, where Otteson took the ball into the end zone with 27 seconds left in the quarter for a 28-7 ball game.

The Bucks had a golden opportunity to put some points on the board early in the fourth as the La Grande long snapper sailed the ball over the punter's head. The ball was downed at the

Tigers' 18-yard line, where Pendleton took over.

A short run and two pass plays brought up fourth-and-6, where Otteson, under pressure by the La Grande defensive line, threw an incomplete pass.

Pendleton would score on its final drive as Otteson hit Luke Benschung with a 62-yard touchdown pass with 1:01 left in the game.

"They played more physical," Davis said of the Tigers. "It's frustrating, but it's not for a lack of trying. It's a special group of seniors we have. I'm just sorry it didn't end the right way."

Otteson threw for 132 yards, while Lambert ran for 73. Benschung caught five passes for 83 yards, and Corbett caught three for 54. Defensively, Benschung had six tackles, while Andrew Demianev had five.

Sunderman led the Tigers with six tackles and two quarterback sacks, while Jace Schow had four tackles. Dominic Fields added 62 yards rushing on six carries.

OREGON FOOTBALL



Andy Nelson/Associated Press

Oregon running back Bucky Irving (0) rushes as Washington defenders Tuli Letuligasenoa (91), Carson Bruener (42) and Kristopher Moll (9) pursue during the first half Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, in Eugene.

Huskies rally late to shock No. 6 Ducks

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

EUGENE — Peyton Henry got his redemption kick.

The senior made a 43-yard field goal with 51 seconds left and No. 24 Washington snapped No. 6 Oregon's eight-game winning streak with a 37-34 victory Saturday, Nov. 12, dealing a blow to the Ducks' chances for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

In 2018, Henry had a chance to beat the Ducks but his 37-yard field goal attempt on the final play in regulation was wide right and Oregon went on to win 30-27 in overtime.

"That (miss) is always in the back of the mind, especially because when people think of me they think of that kick. So hopefully they remember me for this kick," he said.

Michael Penix Jr. threw a 62-yard scoring pass to Taj Davis to tie it at 34 with 3:07 to go after Oregon quarterback Bo Nix limped off the field on the previous series.

Nix returned after Henry's field goal and got the Ducks (9-2, 6-1, No. 6 CFP) to the Washington 38 but the final drive fizzled with an illegal touch penalty. The Huskies (8-2, 5-2, No. 25 CFP) won in Eugene for the first time since 2016.

"I didn't know he missed it here four years ago and somebody was telling me 'This is a redemption field goal. He's going to make it,'" Penix said. "And I was like, OK, as long as

he makes it, I'm good."

Penix, the national leader for passing yards per game, threw for 408 yards and two touchdowns as Washington stopped a 13-game losing streak against ranked Oregon teams. The last win was in 2002 when the Huskies beat No. 23 Oregon 42-12. Washington was 0-7 against the Ducks when they're ranked in the top 10.

Nix fell after a 2-yard run on third-and-5 on the Washington 10 and he limped off the field. Camden Lewis' 26-yard

field goal finished the drive to make it 34-27 with 3:54 left. After Washington's game-tying touchdown Nix was replaced for a series by backup Ty Thompson.

Nix threw for 280 yards and two scores, and ran for 59 yards and another

touchdown. The loss snapped a 23-game home winning streak, the third-longest streak in the nation and a win shy of the school record.

Oregon coach Dan Lanning said after the game he was waiting for a further evaluation on Nix's injury, but trainers had determined he was able to return to the game for the final series.

"Well, certainly not the result we had hoped for. I think our guys played the entire game. They certainly didn't quit, didn't throw in the towel," Lanning said. "You have to give Washington credit, they played a complete game and we made more mistakes at the end of the game that hurt us."

"Well, certainly not the result we had hoped for. I think our guys played the entire game. They certainly didn't quit, didn't throw in the towel."

— Dan Lanning, Oregon coach

Doncic leads Mavericks past Trail Blazers

Portland wraps up their road trip with 4-2 record

DALLAS (AP) — Luka Doncic had 42 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double of the season, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 117-112 on Saturday night, Nov. 12.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 20 points, capped by three 3-pointers in the final 2½ minutes.

The first of those tied it at 106 with 2:35 to play. His next, with 1:52 to go, put the Mavericks ahead for good.

Christian Wood scored 19 points off the bench after missing Dallas' previous two games with a knee sprain.

Jerami Grant scored a season-high 37 points for the Trail Blazers, who finished a six-game road trip 4-2 and remain one game behind first-place Utah in the Western Conference. Damian Lillard had 29 points and 12 assists, and Anfernee Simons added

24 points.

Doncic scored 30 or more points for the 10th time in 12 games after being held in the 20s in Dallas' previous two games, losses at Orlando and Washington.

"He had 42, a triple-double — I mean, it's just a little walk in the park," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said of his 23-year-old superstar.

Dinwiddie was 6 of 8 from behind the arc after having his two highest-scoring games of the season with 29 at Orlando and 33 at Washington.

"They trapped Luka. He makes the right read, the right pass," Dinwiddie said of his late flurry. "We then were just swing, swinging and it just found me."

Portland played its third consecutive game without Jusuf Nurkic, seventh in the NBA in rebounding, who is sidelined by a

"They trapped Luka. He makes the right read, the right pass. We then were just swing, swinging and it just found me."

— Spencer Dinwiddie

right hip adductor.

The Blazers ran off the game's first seven points thanks to grabbing the first four rebounds and led 23-20 with 4:23 left in the opening period.

Wood, who plays the most minutes at center but doesn't start, then entered for the first time and scored 10 points as the Mavericks went on a 15-2 run to lead 35-25 at the quarter.

Dallas led 49-33 midway through the second quarter following two 3-pointers by Tim Hardaway Jr. and another by Dinwiddie. The Blazers cut it to 59-57 at the half.

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