

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL

Badgers' season ends with loss to Lost River

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Powder Valley eventually played the style of football that had brought the Badgers 10 straight wins to start the season.

But by then it was too late.

A 32-0 deficit was too much for Powder Valley to overcome in a Class 1A semifinal game against Lost River on a chilly evening Saturday, Nov. 19 at Caldera High School in Bend.

The 40-14 loss kept the Badgers from returning to the state championship game. Powder Valley lost to Adrian, 46-38, in the 2021 title game at Baker High School.

"We had a phenomenal season," Powder Valley coach Josh Cobb said after the Badgers finished with a 10-1 record. "It didn't end the way we wanted it to end."

On Saturday at Bend, the Raiders, who came into the game with a 9-1 record, dominated most of the first half.

Lost River, which has allowed an average of just 4.6 points per game during a seven-game winning streak, forced Powder Valley to punt on the Badgers' four possessions.

The Raiders, averaging 48.3 points per game, took advantage on offense.

On Lost River's first play, Powder Valley's Braxton Golar sacked quarterback Chase McAuliffe for a loss of 4 yards.

But on the next play McAuliffe hit receiver Connor Dunlea in stride for a 62-yard touchdown pass. The 2-point conversion try failed, and the Raiders led 6-0 with 9:11 left in the first



Powder Valley quarterback Cole Martin wards off a Dufur defender on Sept. 29, 2022, at North Powder. Martin ran for one touchdown and threw for another in the Badgers' 40-14 loss to Lost River in a state semifinal game Nov. 19, 2022.

Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

quarter.

After the teams exchanged punts, Lost River forced Powder Valley to set up for its third straight punt. But the snap went awry and the Raiders recovered the ball on the Badgers' 32. McAuliffe found Grady Dunlea open on the first play for a touchdown. Powder Valley stopped the 2-point conversion try again, to keep the score at 12-0 with 2:10 left in the first quarter.

After another Powder Valley punt, Grady Dunlea got behind the Powder Valley coverage on a 3rd and 7 from the Badgers 47 and caught another scoring pass

from McAuliffe. This time the 2-point conversion worked, and Lost River led 20-0.

Cobb said the Badgers' defense shut down the running game, which, based on film of Lost River's games, looked to be the Raiders' strength.

"They could throw the ball better than we expected," Cobb said. "We stopped the run game."

Cobb said the Lost River defense was stout, with quick linebackers who cut off the running lanes that Powder Valley quarterback Cole Martin and running back Tucker Martin have used to gain hundreds of yards

this season.

"They flow to the ball really well," Cobb said of the Raiders. "They had us well-scouted, and they are stacked with athletes."

Early in the second quarter the Badgers gained their initial first down when quarterback Cole Martin scrambled for 17 yards to the Lost River 43. But a false start penalty on fourth and 1 was costly, as Martin's pass on fourth and 6 fell incomplete.

The Raiders capitalized immediately.

McAuliffe threw his fourth touchdown pass on the first play from scrimmage, 65 yards

to Isaac Hernandez. All four of McAuliffe's completions to that point were for touchdowns. The 2-point conversion failed, but Lost River's lead was up to 26-0.

On Powder's next possession the Badgers again faced a fourth down, with four yards to gain, from its own 29 yard line. Jackson Chandler nearly brought in Cole Martin's pass, but the ball went off Chandler's fingertips and Lost River had the ball deep in Badger territory.

Powder Valley's defense forced the Raiders into a fourth and 6, but McAuliffe again found an open receiver in Connor Dunlea, and McAuliffe's fifth touchdown pass, with 3:36 left in the first half, boosted the Raiders' lead to 32-0. Powder Valley stopped the 2-point conversion.

The Badgers finally switched the momentum on the ensuing possession.

Cole Martin threw a 30-yard pass to Chandler to the Lost River 33, and then hit Chandler for a 26-yard score to get the Badgers on the board. The 2-point conversion run failed, and the Raiders led 32-6.

Chandler then intercepted McAuliffe's pass, giving Powder Valley the ball on the Lost River 42 with 1:11 left in the first half.

Cole Martin scrambled to the Raiders 33, but the Badgers couldn't get to the end zone before time ran out, and the score remained 32-6 at halftime.

Lost River received the opening kickoff, and the Raiders relied on their running game to burn time, taking almost half of the third quarter before the

Badgers stopped a fourth and 5 play from the Powder Valley 25.

A facemask penalty on Lost River on fourth and 8 kept Powder's drive going, and the Badgers took advantage, with Cole Martin evading multiple defenders on an 18-yard touchdown run with 2:19 left in the third quarter. The 2-point conversion cut the lead to 32-14.

Cobb said he felt at that point that the Badgers had momentum on their side, as Powder Valley used a spread offense to try to create room for Cole Martin to run.

"I was so proud of our players," he said. "Our boys never quit fighting. They played with a tremendous amount of pride."

Powder appeared to be on the verge of a major rally when the Badgers recovered the ensuing kickoff at the Lost River 28 after the Raiders failed to catch the kick.

But Cole Martin's pass on fourth and 9 hit the turf in the end zone.

The Badgers never threatened to score again, and Lost River tacked on a final touchdown on McAuliffe's 7-yard run midway through the fourth quarter.

Cobb said the Badgers had two or three opportunities, including the incomplete pass in the end zone, to cut Lost River's lead and potentially turn the game into a close contest in the fourth quarter.

"We couldn't capitalize, and if you can't capitalize on those plays against a good team, that's what happens," Cobb said.

OREGON BASKETBALL

No. 3 Houston too much for Ducks

BY STEVE MIMS

Associated Press

EUGENE — Senior point guard Marcus Sasser scored 16 points to lead third-ranked Houston to a 66-56 win over Oregon on Sunday night, Nov. 20.

Freshman Terrance Arceneaux scored a career-high 15 points while Jamal Shead added 13 and Jarace Walker had 10 for Houston (5-0), which was 11 for 22 on 3-pointers.

"Great road win," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said. "It is still early and there is not one part of the game we are not going to get better at. It was our fifth game, not our 25th. ... We didn't play great, but this is not the time to play great, it's November. November is about winning and leaning and that is what we did tonight."

Arceneaux and Walker are true freshmen who played in their first true road game.

"It was very exciting," Arceneaux said. "I am glad to be able to do it with these guys. It is a great experience for me learning from the older guys. I hope we can continue this streak we have going on and get better as a team."

Senior center N'Faly Dante led Oregon (2-2) with 16 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots. Will Richardson added 13 points and Quincy Guerrier scored 10.

The Ducks shot 38.8% from the field, including 3 for 22 on 3-pointers.

"When one team shoots 11 for 22 on 3-pointers and the other shoots 3 for 22, it is not hard to figure out the difference in the game," Oregon coach Dana Altman said.

Oregon lost junior guard Keshawn Barthelemy to a left leg injury in the first half and Altman said he was unsure of the severity of the injury. The 6-foot-2 transfer from Colorado was averaging 10.7 points and 2.7 assists in the first three games.

Houston had a 31-24 half-time lead before Guerrier scored seven points in the first five minutes of the second half to pull Oregon to 36-33. The Ducks trailed 41-38 following five straight points by Dante, but Houston followed with a 14-2 run.

Oregon pulled to 60-54 on two free throws by Richardson with 2:36 left to play before Sasser followed with a 3-pointer for the Cougars.

CLASS 4A FOOTBALL SEMIFINAL

La Grande falls to Tillamook in playoffs

The Observer

GRESHAM — Judah Werner scored four rushing touchdowns and finished with an even 100 yards on the ground, powering No. 6 Tillamook to a 28-21 win over No. 2 La Grande in the OSAA Class 4A state semifinals Saturday, Nov. 19, at Barlow High School in Gresham.

The loss caps the Tigers' season at 9-3, while the Cheesemakers (10-2) move on to face Estacada for the state championship on Nov. 26 at Hillsboro Stadium. The Rangers knocked off Scappoose, 14-7, in the other state semifinal.

Werner scored on runs of 6, 5, 1 and 7 yards on the day, while carrying the ball 29 times.

Werner's 7-yard scoring run at the end of the third quarter put Tillamook up 28-7 going into the final quarter.

La Grande did make things close. Sam Tsiatsos caught a 2-yard scoring pass from Logan Williams to trim the deficit to 28-13.

Later in the quarter, Dominick Carratello powered in on a 6-yard run and Tsiatsos caught a 2-point conversion from Williams for the final score of the day.

Tillamook used the ground game to control possession, keeping the ball for more than 30 minutes and running 66 offensive plays. La Grande had the ball for just over 17 minutes and

managed just 44 offensive plays.

Tanner Hoskins connected on 8-of-16 passing for 80 yards for Tillamook. He also ran the ball 11 times for 52 yards.

Williams carried the ball 12

times for 95 yards and a touchdown to pace the Tigers running attack. He was also 6-of-18 throwing for a touchdown and three interceptions.

La Grande turned the ball

over six times in the loss, including a fumble and two interceptions on its first three drives of the game. The Tigers also fumbled twice on their first two drives of the second half.

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