

Baker all-stars' rally comes up just short at state

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker was down to its last strike, but that was a long way from its last hope.

The Little League baseball all-stars had been behind multiple times during their previous three games in the state tournament at Holland Youth Park in Salem.

But the situation was more precarious Tuesday night for the 10- to 12-year-olds.

They trailed Del Norte 9-6 entering the final inning, and Baker's first two batters went down quickly.

Baker's last hope was Paul Hobson, and he was down to his last strike.

Hobson fouled off three straight pitches before singling to left. Hobson advanced to second on a passed ball, then scored on Isaiah Jones' single to cut Del Norte's lead to 9-7.

After Hudson Spike was hit by a pitch, Kaden Conklin singled to score Jones



Photo by Toni Joseph

Baker second baseman Palmer Chandler makes a play during Baker's win over Hollywood-Rose City Monday.

and narrow the lead to a single run.

But Baker couldn't maintain the momentum, and the comeback fell one run short.

The 9-8 loss ended Baker's season.

"We had a great season," said Kevin Logsdon, one of Baker's coaches. "It's a pretty unique group of kids."

Logsdon said the team's ability to come back from deficits in previous games gave him confidence clear to the final out Tuesday.

"It was a tough way to go down, but it was a character-builder for sure," he said. "The kids just played hard."

Logsdon said Conklin, who pitched the first four innings, "pitched the best I've ever seen him."

Tuesday's game started much differently than Baker's 10-5 win Monday over Hollywood-Rose City.

Instead of falling behind early, Baker started fast.

The all-stars scored five runs in the bottom of the

first.

Jaxon Logsdon led off with a double, then scored on Hobson's single to left.

After an out, Spike singled to move Hobson to third. Hobson and Spike later scored on the same wild pitch to give Baker a 3-0 lead.

Conklin followed with a triple, and he scored on an error by the Del Norte catcher.

After a strikeout, Giacomo Rigerio tripled to left and scored on a wild pitch to give Baker a 5-0 lead.

Del Norte didn't flinch, scoring five runs of its own in the top of the second to tie the score.

Baker scored once on Hobson's double in the second to take a 6-5 lead, and that score remained until Del Norte scored twice in the fifth.

Baker 10, Hollywood-Rose City 5

Just as they did during their opening win over

Klamath Falls on Saturday, the Baker all-stars started badly, spotting Hollywood-Rose City a 3-0 lead after one inning.

But starting pitcher Thomas Smithson settled down after that, holding Hollywood-Rose City scoreless over the next 2 2/3 innings.

Baker's offense, meanwhile, revved up.

In the second inning Conklin tripled and scored on a passed ball to cut the lead to 3-1.

Jaxon Logsdon led off the third inning with a single. Hobson doubled and Isaiah Jones hit an infield single to load the bases with no outs.

After Logsdon scored on another wild pitch, Conklin drove in the tying run with a fielder's choice.

Baker took the lead for good in the fourth inning on Logsdon's two-run home run to left field. Conklin drove in another run with a single,

and Baker led 6-3 after four innings.

Hollywood-Rose City narrowed the lead to 6-4 with a sacrifice fly in the fifth, but Hobson quickly erased that run with a leadoff homer in the sixth.

Isaiah Jones and Spike hit consecutive singles, and Conklin then put the game away with a three-run homer to center field that pushed Baker's lead to 10-4.

Hollywood-Rose City scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the sixth, but Logsdon, who relieved Smithson on the mound with two outs in the fourth, induced a line drive that leftfielder Resean Jones nabbed for the final out.

Monday Game	
Baker	0 1 2 3 0 4 - 10
Rose City	3 0 0 0 1 1 - 5
Baker hits	— Logsdon 2, Hobson 2, I. Jones 3, Spike, Conklin 3, Rigerio, Chandler 2, Baker RBI — Logsdon 2, Hobson, Conklin 4.

Tuesday Game	
Del Norte	0 5 0 0 2 2 - 9
Baker	5 1 0 0 0 2 - 8
Baker hits	— Logsdon 2, Hobson 2, I. Jones, Spike, Conklin 2, Rigerio 2, Rud. Baker RBI — Hobson 2, Conklin.

GATE

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The Baker County Board of Commissioners discussed the situation during an executive session, which was closed to the public, on July 18.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said Monday that he continues to believe the locked gate on Longgood's property blocks a section of the Connor Creek Road that has been a public route since the 19th century.

"We're obviously in disagreement," Harvey said.

He said his main concern is retaining access for firefighters, although he also wants to ensure the public can travel on the entire route of the Connor Creek Road, which connects the Snake River Road along Brownlee Reservoir with the Lookout Mountain Road. The road is about 10 miles long and is an access route both to public land as well as to sections of private property that are open

to hunters through an agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"There are so many reasons to continue this effort," Harvey said.

This is the second time that the owner of private property bisected by the Connor Creek Road has installed a locked gate.

Around 2000 the owner of a gold mine along the lower end of the road, near Brownlee Reservoir, installed a gate across the road.

In March 2002, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution designating a

60-foot public right-of-way along the whole of the Connor Creek Road. The resolution cited a federal law from 1866, RS 2477, which reads "The right-of-way for the construction of highways across public lands not otherwise reserved for public purposes is hereby granted."

In the July 16 letter, Hudson writes that the 2002 resolution does not affect his clients' property because the people who owned the property at that time were not involved in the discussion.

Longgood and Hansen bought the Timber Canyon

Ranch property, covering about 3,700 acres, in January 2017, according to the Baker County Assessor's Office.

Hudson writes that before his clients bought the property they obtained a map from the Baker County Road Department that shows the historical Connor Creek Road.

"Satisfied that it did not correspond to the road on their land (in fact, it ran through a completely different section), (they) purchased the property," Hudson wrote.

Hudson included with his July 16 letter several historical maps and other documents related to his clients' property and to roads in the area.

Among the records is an 1882 survey map from the Government Land Office. Hudson writes that this map shows a road that follows a different route from the current Connor Creek Road.

Hudson also cites a government map from 1912 and a 1933 map from Metsker's, a private company, both of which show a road that's south of the existing Connor Creek Road.

Hudson contends that the section of the current Connor Creek Road passing through his clients' property, a section the county believes is a public route, actually was built after the property was conveyed by the federal government to private ownership, a process that property records show happened between 1912 and 1923.

As a result, Hudson concludes, the section of the Connor Creek Road through his clients' property can't be a public route because it was built after the property became private.

"No roads first established during private ownership can be claimed under RS 2477," Hudson wrote, "and we believe that the County Com-

missioners, if fully informed, would not wish to assert a claim to public ownership that is not supported by historical evidence."

Hudson claims that the earliest evidence for the Connor Creek Road existing on its current route is from a 1938 survey by the Government Land Office.

Hudson also contends that a 1978 road easement agreement between the BLM and a previous owner of the Timber Canyon Ranch property proves that the section of the Connor Creek Road is not a public route.

The BLM paid the landowner, Frances Hoff, \$2,280 for the easement as part of a timber sale in the area.

Hudson argues that if the Connor Creek Road were public, as the county asserts, the BLM would not have had to pay for an easement.

"That easement... expressly acknowledged that the road was private and might be locked by the owner," Hudson wrote.

He concluded the July 16 letter by urging county officials to abandon their efforts to have the locked gate removed.

"We are hopeful that, after reviewing the situation, the County will not take the actions described in (Sullivan's) letter and will abandon any claim that there is a public road across our clients' land."

Harvey said commissioners will schedule another executive session to discuss the matter after consulting with Sullivan.

Their ultimate decision on how to proceed, which must be made in a public meeting, will be up to the three commissioners, he said.

"We'd like to get this thing right, and it does take time," Harvey said. "We'll have to see how it comes out."

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