

Sports

Grass tennis courts bring visitors to Baker City for rare sporting experience

By Casey Crowley
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This weekend I attended the annual Pacific Northwest Grass Court Championships at the Baker City Grass Tennis Courts with my parents, Ken and Terri Crowley.

While I didn't play, my dad did and for him playing on grass courts was a check on his tennis bucket list. I am sure this was the same for the four other players from his club that came along to play as well.

I know some residents of Baker City have issues with the existence of the courts and the noise and lights that are at times present. I respect those views but I am optimistic that there won't be any further controversy.

From talking with the new owner of the courts, Jon McLagan, it seems these issues will be left in the past because these courts are loved by the tennis community as a whole. This is because although the sport started on grass, most American players will never have the chance to play on grass courts.

Baker's courts are one of only seven grass tennis facilities in the country. I wonder if most residents of Baker know how rare of an attraction the courts are.

This year's tournament brought about 30 players, along with many family members and friends. The vast majority of those players came from outside of Baker City. This should be a good



Four of five players from the Charbonneau tennis club, who came to Baker City, face off in a doubles match.

thing for the city because most of the players stayed at a local motel and ate most of their meals at local restaurants.

This means that the tournament will not only benefit the owner of the courts but other small business owners.

My parents are an example. They have visited me twice in the past few months, since I started at the Herald in July, mostly because my dad wanted to play in a tournament on the grass courts.

Each time we have eaten out for almost every meal. That money isn't going to

make or break the Baker economy, but the more money spent the better businesses will do.

This weekend's tournament brought in people from all over the West, including six members of the Portland State University women's tennis team and five people from my dad's tennis club. Only a few of these people had ever been to Baker City before, and there is a chance they never would have visited if not for the grass tennis courts.

The courts have even made me interested in



Casey Crowley / Baker City Herald

playing tennis again for the first time since high school. They're one of the unique aspects found at Baker City and play a part in making the city a great place.

Ken Crowley makes a return during a match on Sunday at the Pacific Northwest Grass Court Championships at Baker City.

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MAJOR LEAGUE
BASEBALL
PLAYOFFS

Rockies nip Cubs in 13th inning

By Jay Cohen
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Tony Wolters waited and waited as the NL wild-card game went deep into Tuesday night. He stretched a couple of times and tried to figure out when he might get a chance to play.

When that opportunity arrived, he was ready.

Wolters hit a tie-breaking single with two outs in the 13th inning and the Colorado Rockies outlasted the Chicago Cubs 2-1 at Wrigley Field in the longest win-or-go-home postseason game in major league history.

"Probably the biggest hit I've ever had, that's for sure," he said.

The 26-year-old Wolters, claimed off waivers from Cleveland in 2016, entered as part of a double switch in the bottom of the 12th. The reserve catcher came up with runners at the corners and drove in Trevor Story with a two-strike hit back up the middle off losing pitcher Kyle Hendricks, quieting the crowd of 40,151 on a crisp fall night.

After playing its third big game over three days in three different cities, Colorado now heads to Milwaukee to open a best-of-five Division Series against the NL Central champion Brewers on Thursday.

"We didn't make it easy on ourselves, that's for sure," Story said, "but we're going to enjoy this one tonight and we're definitely not done."

Scott Oberg, the sixth Colorado pitcher, fanned Kris Bryant for the final out of the 12th and then struck out the side in the 13th to end the longest postseason game at 104-year-old Wrigley.

Seahawks' Kendricks suspended

By Tim Booth
AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. — The NFL suspended Seattle Seahawks linebacker Mychal Kendricks indefinitely on Tuesday after he pleaded guilty last month to federal insider trading charges.

Kendricks was suspended under the personal-conduct policy, said league spokesman Brian McCarthy.

A suspension had been anticipated since his guilty plea in early September.

Seattle signed Kendricks prior to Week 2 because of a need at linebacker with K.J. Wright out following knee surgery. It was a controversial signing since Kendricks had pleaded guilty in federal court only days earlier.

Kendricks has started two of the three games he's played with Seattle and played a significant amount of snaps at weakside linebacker for the Seahawks. He had six total tackles and a sack in each of the past two games.