

Sports

BAKER BOYS SOCCER

Bulldogs break 2-game losing streak

By Gerry Steele
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Baker broke a two-game losing streak Tuesday, defeating Four Rivers, Idaho, 5-2 in a nonleague boys soccer match at the Baker Sports Complex.

A strong north wind was blowing and Baker (5-3-2 overall) chose to have the breeze at its back in the first half.

It appeared to be a wise choice as the Bulldogs scored three times in the first 12 minutes of the half. Justin Ash, Wyatt Hawkins and Omar Benites scored for the Bulldogs.

Meanwhile, Baker's defense kept the young Four Rivers squad at midfield or deep in their own defensive end of the field most of the half.

Baker ended the first half leading 4-0. Jorge Duran added the fourth goal in the half.

The Bulldogs added a fifth goal by Eli Lien midway through the second half before Four Rivers scored the



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Jorge Duran, right, and Brogan Lewis help their team beat the Four Rivers Falcons 5-2 during a cold and blustery match Tuesday afternoon at the Baker Sports Complex.

final two goals of the match. Baker returns to Greater

Oregon League play Saturday when the Bulldogs host

Ontario beginning at noon at the Sports Complex.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Astros sweep Cleveland, advance to ALCS

By Tom Withers
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — When the challenge arose in August, the Houston Astros responded like champions. They're doing it again in October.

Two months ago, last year's World Series winners hit one of those predictable lulls that every team encounters during the dog days of a season. Maybe feeling a bit overconfident and invincible, the Astros were caught atop the AL West by the Oakland Athletics, a scrappy squad that sneaked up on everyone in 2018.

But just when it appeared the Astros might be in some trouble, they switched on their after-burners. After Aug. 18, Houston went 29-10 to finish with 103 wins.

"There is an extra gear that our guys have," explained manager A.J. Hinch. "And once we hit the postseason, it looks like, as of right now, our guys really, really turned it on."

Showing no weaknesses while exposing Cleveland's flaws at every opportunity, the Astros took another step toward defending their crown Monday by finishing off a surprisingly easy three-game AL Division Series sweep with an 11-3 blowout of the Indians, who were overmatched on the mound, at the plate and in the field.

Houston outscored Cleveland 21-6. The Astros outhit the Indians .327 to .144 and banged out eight homers with making an error.

Red Sox close out Yankees, earn rematch with Astros

By Ronald Blum
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Eduardo Nunez charged Gleyber Torres' four-hopper toward third base and whipped the ball across the diamond. Steve Pearce stretched, falling on his chest for a sprawling catch. The umpire signaled: "Out!" The Boston Red Sox

gathered around exhausted closer Craig Kimbrel, hugging and celebrating after the New York Yankees' two-run rally in the ninth inning fell short.

But wait! In 21st century baseball, the game doesn't always end when it seems, hanging in limbo until umpires in a downtown Manhattan replay

room agree. A Yankee Stadium crowd of 49,641 wondered and the Red Sox paused as they watched from the infield in suspended celebration, fixated on the center-field video board.

After 63 seconds that felt like a lot longer, crew chief Mike Winters heard the decision, took off his headset,

raised his right fist and made it official: The Red Sox beat the Yankees 4-3 Tuesday night to win the AL Division Series 3-1, setting up a postseason rematch with the World Series champion Astros.

A year after losing to Houston in a four-game ALDS, the Red Sox open the best-of-seven matchup against the 103-win Astros on Saturday

night at Fenway Park. Houston went 4-3 against Boston this year.

Rick Porcello held the Yankees to one run over five innings for his first postseason win in 13 appearances. Barnes and Ryan Brasier followed with a perfect inning each to protect a 4-1 lead.

Red Sox ace Chris Sale told Cora when he arrived at the ballpark that he wanted to pitch, and he followed with a 1-2-3 eighth in a rare relief appearance that extended the Yankees' streak of consecutive outs to 11.

Night at Fenway Park. Houston went 4-3 against Boston this year.

leadoff runner on until Kimbrel walked Aaron Judge on four pitches leading off the ninth.

Didi Gregorius singled and Giancarlo Stanton struck out, Luke Voit walked on four pitches, and Kimbrel hit Neil Walker on a leg with a next pitch, forcing in a run that made it 4-2.

Gary Sanchez fell behind 0-2 in the count, worked it full and sent a drive that had the crowd roaring only for Andrew Benintendi to catch it on the left-field warning track, a few feet short of a series-tying grand slam.

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