

WEEK AHEAD IN
HIGH SCHOOL
SPORTS**TUESDAY, MARCH 12**

- **Tennis:** Weiser at Baker, 2 p.m.
- **Softball:** Baker at Notus, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

- **Baseball:** Baker JV at Weiser, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

- **Tennis:** Payette at Baker, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

- **Baseball:** Baker at Fruitland tourney, 3:30 p.m.; Baker JV at Fruitland tourney, tba
- **Track:** Powder Valley at Harper, 11 a.m.; Baker at Ontario, 2:30 p.m.

AT A GLANCE

Youth track to start April 1

The annual Baker City youth track program for children in kindergarten through sixth grade will run April 1-May 1.

The program, run by BHS coaches and athletes, will run Mondays and Wednesdays at the Baker High School track.

A parent meeting is scheduled at 5:45 p.m. April 3 at BHS. Cost for the program is \$20 per athlete with a \$60 family cap. Checks should be made out to Baker High School Youth Track.

More information is available from Suzy Cole, 541-523-2040, 541-524-2641, or suzy.cole@bakersd.org.

Blake Marlia also will offer a free Baker City Running Club for adults on the grass area at the northeast corner of the BHS track.

The first meeting is at 5:30 p.m. April 1. The group will meet Mondays and Wednesdays during the youth track season.

Blazers dominant in snapping Suns' win streak

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — It didn't matter to CJ McCollum that the Portland Trail Blazers were expected to beat the Phoenix Suns, winners of just 15 games this season.

McCollum scored 26 points and Portland snapped the Suns' three-game winning streak with a 127-120 victory

Saturday night.

"I just go out there and hoop, man," McCollum said. "I don't worry about who we're playing against. They have some very capable players, they've got guys who are capable of winning the game and beating you by themselves. So you've got to be ready to play."

Seth Curry had 22 points

off the bench, while Damian Lillard had 18 points and nine assists. The Blazers, who had lost three of their previous four games as they jockey for playoff position in the Western Conference, led by as many as 29 points.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 23 points.

"For us, it's a learning experience," Suns coach Igor

Kokoskov said. "We need everything a little more — a little more discipline, a little more execution on both sides of the court."

After the Blazers built a 111-89 lead in the final quarter, the Moda Center fans started heading for the exits. McCollum was the only starter who played in the fourth, and he headed to the

bench with 5:25 left.

Jamal Crawford pulled Phoenix to within five at 123-118 with a 3-pointer with 10.5 seconds left, but the rally fell short. It was Portland's 10th straight victory over the Suns.

Blazers coach Terry Stotts joked afterward: "I'll talk about anything but the fourth quarter."

HISTORY

Continued from Page 6A

"It feels so good and we all worked together so well for the whole tournament," Nemeč said. "We've proved that we're pretty good at making comebacks. I was really nervous at the beginning of the tournament, because the last two years we came here, we lost both games. This is the year we finally showed up to play good basketball. This was our goal and we had expectations of winning the championship at the beginning of the year."

Baker took its largest lead of the game early in the third quarter when Younger sank two free throws, putting the Bulldogs up 27-22 with 6:39 left in the quarter.

Baker led 34-33 entering the dramatic fourth quarter.

"We definitely had a goal of getting back to the tournament and we were focusing on having success here by just coming out and playing hard in every game," Ramos said.

Following the final buzzer, the Bulldogs had an emotional victory celebration on the court with hugs, high-fives and screams of joy from players, coaches and fans.

Baker 61, Philomath 56

Baker advanced to Saturday's championship game with a semifinal win Friday that was almost as thrilling.

Baker's 61-56 win over the No. 6 ranked Philomath Warriors (23-4) featured a similarly dramatic final quarter, although the circumstances were quite different initially.

After the teams tied at 23 in the second quarter, Baker

"We all worked together so well for the whole tournament."

— Baker junior
Isabella Nemeč

scored the final seven points of the quarter to take a 30-23 lead at halftime.

Baker's aggressive man-to-man defense was outstanding in the quarter, limiting the Warriors to just 6 points, while the Bulldogs totaled 16.

Baker extended its advantage in the third quarter by continuing its aggressive defense and forcing Warrior turnovers and then scoring on transition baskets.

Gwillim was fouled on a Baker possession and she sank two free throws, making it 32-23 with 6:26 left in the third quarter. As it would be the following night, free throw shooting was a key factor in Baker's victory. The Bulldogs shot 70.6 percent (24-for-34). Philomath shot just 45.5 percent (10-for-22).

The teams then traded baskets and Baker remained on top 36-27 following a 12-foot baseline jumper by Nemeč. Younger then connected on a three-pointer, giving Baker a double-digit 39-27 advantage with 5:11 left in the third quarter.

Younger's two free throws lifted Baker in front 41-28 with 3:53 left in the quarter. Baker matched the 13-point lead two other occasions in the quarter. Keller, who had a game-high five steals along with six rebounds and six points, sank a free throw jumper, making it 43-30 with 3:02 left.

Gwillim then proved to be an unstoppable offen-

sive weapon for Baker. Her turnaround jumper in the lane made it 47-34. Then in what was undoubtedly one of the highlight's of the contest, Keller grabbed a rebound and then threw a length-of-the-court pass to Gwillim, who scored on a fast break layup, making it 47-34. The Bulldogs led 47-38 after three.

Baker's momentum continued in the fourth — at least for the first half of the quarter.

A Ramos three-pointer from the top of the arc made it 51-39 with 4:12 left in the game.

But Philomath responded with a rapid 8-0 run, and suddenly it looked as though Baker, which beat Stayton in Thursday's quarterfinals with an improbable fourth-quarter comeback, might be on the opposite side of a nearly miraculous rally.

Philomath went on a another run, this time scoring 10 of 13 points to tie the score at 54 with 1:32 left.

Following an exchange of turnover, Gwillim scored on a layup in the lane, putting Baker up 56-54 with 1:15 left.

After trading baskets, Baker led 58-56 with 18 seconds left. A Gwillim free throw made it 59-56.

On Philomath's ensuing possession, Younger grabbed a rebound of a missed Warrior shot and was fouled with eight seconds remaining. Younger calmly sank both from the line for the 61-56

final margin.

"I can't even explain how exciting it is to be in the championship game and I just feel so proud of all my teammates," Younger said. "We usually shoot about 30 free throws every day at practice, so we really work on them a lot. It's sometimes just all a mental thing to shoot free throws accurately. We played with a lot of heart and we just wanted to win so badly against Philomath, so that we could reach the championship."

"We put everything together for four quarters today against Philomath, which is something that we didn't do in our first game against Stayton," Sand said after Friday's win. "The way we played in this game was the same way that we've played all year. We ran the floor well, we grabbed rebounds, we made clutch free throws and hit some key shots and we just played consistent basketball."

Gwillim led the Bulldogs with 18 points. She also grabbed a season-high 20 rebounds.

"My goal every game is to try and limit our opponent to just one shot and one of my main roles is to get defensive rebounds," said Gwillim, who won the Moda Health Player of the Game Award for the second straight game.

Friday's semifinal against Philomath, the Oregon West Conference Champion, was a

seesaw affair early.

The Warriors built a five point lead at 15-10 and were on top 17-14 after one quarter.

The two squads continued trading baskets with Philomath on top 21-16 midway through the second quarter. A 5-0 Baker run, capped by Younger's driving layup in the middle of the lane, knotted it 21-21 with 3:56 on the clock.

Looking ahead

The school's first girls state basketball title was a fitting end to the BHS careers for Gwillim, Ramos and Calaway.

"I love those girls, they're the core group of our team and it's just going to be very difficult to replace them," Sand said. "I feel so proud of our entire team, including the players on our bench. They're all very excited and very supportive, while cheering for each other. We've worked hard to try and teach that everyone has a role on the team. Each player has a role that is just as important as the role of any player on the team and the kids have really bought into that concept."

Gwillim and Ramos capped their Baker High School basketball careers when they were recently selected as Greater Oregon League Co-Players of the Year.

Younger was named to the first team, and Keller and Nemeč earned second-team honors.

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Oregon Hunters Association

Annual Banquet

**Oregon Hunters Association
2019 Fund Raising Banquet**
Saturday, April 6th, 2019

**Community Event Center (4H Grounds)
2600 East St., Baker City OR 97814**
Raffles, Games, Live & Silent Auction
Doors Open 4:30 PM • Dinner 6 PM
Auction & Raffle 7 PM

Deadline for Dinner Ticket and Raffle Ticket Packages:
Friday, March 22nd. RESERVE YOURS EARLY
If you have any questions or would like to make a donation,
contact Charlie at 541-403-0402





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6 p.m. Doors Open
7 p.m. Program Begins
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Participate in blood panel screenings offered by
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- Friday, March 15 &
- Saturday, March 16
- 7am - 9:30am
- Elkhorn Conference Room

Your results will be mailed to you.

Insurance will not be billed, you will receive a receipt for your tests. Individuals are responsible for checking with their insurance carriers for possible reimbursement.



Saint Alphonsus

Questions? Please call Laura Huggins (541) 524-7732