

Sports

BAKER BASEBALL

Bulldogs remain perfect at Arizona tournament

By Gerry Steele
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Baker's baseball team continued its early-season impressive play Monday and Tuesday at a tournament in Arizona.

The Bulldogs improved their season record to 6-0 with a pair of wins.

Baker defeated Copper Canyon, Arizona, 19-7 Monday, and stopped Maine West, Illinois, 14-8 Tuesday.

Against Copper Canyon, Baker led just 9-7 then exploded for 10 runs in the seventh inning.

"The kids played really well," said Baker coach Tim Smith.

"We made it deep into their bull-

pen."

Baker had 18 hits off six Arizona pitchers.

Smith noted that three different Bulldogs entered the seventh inning each a home run shy of hitting for the cycle. (The cycle is single, double, triple, homer in the same game.)

Connor Lay finished with two hits and four RBIs; Morgan Bennett three hits and three RBIs; Dawson Linscott three hits and two RBIs; Mason Van Arsdall four hits and two RBIs; and Spencer Smith a hit and two RBIs.

Winning pitcher Andrew Zellars and three relievers dropped Copper

Canyon.

Tuesday, Baker started strong, scoring six runs in the first inning.

"We opened up really strong,"

Smith said.

But, then the Bulldogs went into a lull.

Maine managed to tie the game at 7-7 in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Baker then responded with seven runs in the seventh.

"We strung some hits together,"

Smith said.

Linscott, Bennett and Lay each drove in two runs to lead the way.

Spencer Shirtcliff, the second of three Baker pitchers, earned the

win.

Baker finishes its trip Thursday with a game against Ketchikan.

Monday game	
Baker	3 4 0 1 0 1 10 — 19
Copper Canyon	0 1 5 0 0 1 0 — 7
Zellars, Lay (3), Curry (3), McCauley (7) and Van Arsdall.	
WP — Zellars.	
Baker hits — Linscott 3, Bennett 3, Van Arsdall 4, Lay 2, Shirtcliff, Curry, Smith, Owen, Rohner 2. Baker RBI — Linscott 2, Bennett 3, Braschler, Van Arsdall 2, Lay 4, Smith 2, Owen.	
2B — Linscott, Bennett, Van Arsdall, Lay. 3B — Linscott, Bennett, Van Arsdall.	

Tuesday game	
Baker	6 0 1 0 0 0 7 — 14
Main West	1 4 0 0 1 1 1 — 8
McCauley, Shirtcliff (6), Bennett (7) and Van Arsdall.	
WP — Shirtcliff.	
Baker hits — Linscott, Bennett 3, McCauley, Van Arsdall 2, Lay 3, Shirtcliff, Smith. Baker RBI — Linscott 2, Bennett 2, Van Arsdall, Lay 2, Shirtcliff, Smith, Miller.	
2B — Linscott, Van Arsdall, Lay 2.	

LeBron leads Lakers past Wizards 124-106

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Lance Stephenson stepped on Jeff Green's foot and then stepped back, releasing a perfect 20-foot jumper while the Washington defender stumbled and nearly fell.

Staples Center roared and the Los Angeles Lakers' bench lost its collective mind, leaping and sprinting in all directions to celebrate one incredible crossover.

After every disappointment in this lost season, the Lakers and their fans are grateful for any bit of fun — and for every win they can get.

LeBron James had 23 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds, and the Lakers beat the Wizards 124-106 on Tuesday night for their first back-to-back victories since mid-January.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 29 points and JaVale McGee had 20 points and 15

rebounds for the Lakers, who had lost 20 of 27 and plummeted out of the playoff race since their last set of consecutive wins.

"It's been difficult knowing that mathematically we're not going to be in the postseason," James said. "That's like March Madness for college kids for me. But when I suit up, it's all business. I never change my approach, and I try to go out and make every play."

Two days after beating Sacramento, the Lakers comfortably won this meeting of 11th-place teams whose playoff dreams have been wrecked by injuries. Washington has lost John Wall and Dwight Howard, while the Lakers don't have Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram, Josh Hart or Reggie Bullock.

"We know if we were healthy, what we would have been," Caldwell-Pope said. "Unfortunately, injuries got the best of us. But we're still

going out and having fun."

Bradley Beal scored 21 of his 32 points in the second half for the Wizards, who opened a four-game road trip with their fifth straight loss. Washington (30-45) is on the brink of missing the playoffs for just the second time in six seasons.

"We've got to get some of these wins, even if they don't mean anything," Beal said.

The Lakers are out for the sixth consecutive season, tripling the previous longest postseason absence in franchise history.

Los Angeles opened a 19-point lead in the third quarter despite Beal's 17 points in the period. Washington trimmed it to single digits midway through the fourth, but James and Caldwell-Pope hit big shots down the stretch.

"We don't like the way we played tonight," Washington coach Scott Brooks said. "We put our heads down when the shots didn't fall, and when

you also don't get back on defense, that's a bad combination."

TIP-INS

Wizards: Trevor Ariza started despite a groin injury, but the former Lakers swingman played only seven minutes. The product of Westchester High School and UCLA had missed Washington's previous two games. ... Thomas Bryant had seven points and six rebounds against his former team. He showed promise as a rookie last season while playing 15 games for the Lakers and making the All-G League first team, but their front office waived him in July to save \$1.38 million in salary cap room. He has started 46 games for Washington.

Lakers: Bullock missed his second straight game with right plantar fasciitis. ... Coach Luke Walton will wait to see how James feels in the morning before deciding whether he'll play at Utah.



Mr. and Mrs. Terry Dyke will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, March 30th with an Open House at Community Connections, 2810 Cedar Street in Baker City from 2 - 5 p.m.

They were married on March 29th, 1969 in Portland, Oregon. The event is hosted by their children, Wayne, Suzie, PJ & their families.

The couple requests no gifts.

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WEEK AHEAD IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

■ **Baseball:** Baker vs. Ketchikan, 3 p.m., Arizona

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

■ **Softball:** Baker vs. Junction City, 11 a.m., Milton-Freewater; Baker vs. Yamhill-Carlton, 1 p.m., Milton-Freewater

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

■ **Softball:** Baker vs. Stayton, 11 a.m., Milton-Freewater; Baker vs. Santiam Christian, 3 p.m., Milton-Freewater

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 from April 1 to May 1.

The program, run by BHS coaches and athletes, will take place 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.

Green Bay opens vs. Chicago

PHOENIX (AP) — As part of the celebration of its 100th season, the NFL will break from tradition and feature the Packers vs. the Bears in its season opener Sept. 5.

Usually, the Super Bowl champion is the home team for the prime-time opener, but the league wants to salute historic rivalries in 2019. None fits better than Chicago-Green Bay. The teams have met 198 times since 1921, when the Bears were the Chicago Staleys. Green Bay leads the series 97-95-6, including the clubs splitting two postseason games.

Staging the Thursday night game at Chicago's Soldier Field — even if it is a modernized version of the stadium — adds to the theme. There will be a free fan festival and concert in nearby Grant Park and, for the first time, the league has approved a free viewing event of the game in the park.

"We see that around other sports," said Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's executive vice president for league events. Such viewings, for example, have been a staple of the World Cup for decades, and hockey also has adopted the practice. "It will create a big festival environment."

This will be the first time since 2003 the Super Bowl champion has not played in the opener. New England instead will open at home in the prime-time game.