

Sports

BAKER SOFTBALL



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Rose Gwillim makes a dive toward an infield hit at shortstop during the Bulldogs game against Weiser Thursday.

Weiser rallies to top Baker

By Gerry Steele
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Weiser scored 10 runs in the top of the eighth inning to break a 12-12 tie and went on to defeat Baker 22-12 in a nonleague softball game Thursday at the Baker Sports

Complex.

Weiser led 12-10 in the seventh before Baker rallied to tie the game at 12-12.

The teams combined for nine hit batsmen, 19 walks and 22 hits.

Baker built a 5-1 lead after

three innings only to have Weiser tie the game in the top of the fourth.

Baker regained an 8-6 edge after five innings, and led 10-8 after six innings.

Rose Gwillim led Baker's offense with two home runs

and five RBIs.

Bekah Davis was the starting pitcher for the Bulldogs. Celeena Fine came on in relief and suffered the loss.

Baker opens Greater Oregon League play at Mac-Hi Saturday.

Bucks clinch top seed in NBA playoffs

By Aaron Bracy
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Giannis Antetokounmpo helped Milwaukee lock up the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference and the NBA playoffs with another MVP-worthy performance.

Antetokounmpo outdueled fellow MVP candidate Joel Embiid, finishing with 45 points and 13 rebounds and leading Milwaukee to a 128-122 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday night

as the Bucks clinched the top spot in the conference and the top overall top seed in the upcoming playoffs.

"I was just trying to make plays and try to find the opportunity to attack," Antetokounmpo said.

Antetokounmpo reached 25 or more points and 10-plus rebounds in a game for the 42nd time this season.

"He's been doing it all for us this whole season," Bucks All-Star Khris Middleton said.

Middleton added 22 points and George Hill had 20 for the Bucks, who locked up home-court advantage with three regular-season games remaining.

"It's been a really special year," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "I'm very proud of the team."

Embiid returned from a three-game absence and had 34 points, 13 rebounds, 13 assists and three blocks. He tipped his cap to Antetokounmpo.

"He's a helluva player," Embiid said. "You know every time you go against him it's a challenge. He's really good."

JJ Redick scored 29 points and Mike Scott, starting for injured Jimmy Butler, had 22 points for the 76ers, who are two games in front of Boston in the race for the No. 3 seed in the East with three games left.

"We struggled guarding them, didn't we?" 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "We gotta do better."

The 76ers led by seven points in the fourth quarter when Embiid's 3-pointer with 8:14 left made it 102-95. But the Bucks, behind the offense and defense of Antetokounmpo, whittled away at the deficit.

Turner, Lillard lead Blazers to 50th win

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Evan Turner's second consecutive triple-double was even more rewarding because it came on a night when the Trail Blazers collected their 50th win.

Turner had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists off the bench in Portland's 116-89 victory over the short-handed Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

With the victory, the Blazers improved to 50-28 on the season.

"Fifty wins is really dope, because I've never actually done that," said Turner, the NBA's only player with back-to-back triple-doubles off the bench going back to the 1983-84 season.

Damian Lillard came close to a triple-double, too, with 20 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, but he sat for the final quarter after the Blazers built a solid lead. Enes Kanter had 21 points and 15 rebounds for his third straight double-double.

The Blazers continue to jockey for home-court advantage in the playoffs as the season winds to a close. Portland held onto fourth in the standings, two games up on the Utah Jazz in the Western Conference.

"I told the team 50 wins has always been a benchmark in this league. If you're a 50-win team, I think that really speaks a lot about what you've done in the regular season and the success you've had," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "I think we should all be very proud of what we've done so far this year. We've got our work ahead of us, but you need to celebrate moments like this."

Chandler Parsons had 16 points off the bench to lead the Grizzlies (31-47), who have already been eliminated from playoff contention.

Turner had 13 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists on Monday for a 132-122 victory over the Timberwolves. It was his first triple-double with the Blazers.

After Turner got his ninth assist late in the fourth quarter against the Grizzlies, teammate Jake Layman appeared to shout "One more!" from the bench. He clinched the triple-double a short time later with an assist on Anfernee Simons' 3-pointer with just under two minutes left.

Turner is the first Blazers player with back-to-back triple-doubles since Clyde Drexler in the 1989-90 season.

Baker City's playground grant up to \$36,080

The Portland Trail Blazers had 28 assists in their win over Memphis on Wednesday, boosting the grant for an all-abilities playground in Baker City to \$36,080. Baker City won the Moda Assist grant through online voting between Feb. 20 and March 20. The final grant amount will be based on the Blazers' assist total for the regular season, with \$20 per assist. There are four more regular season games.

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Warriors closing in on top seed in West

By Beth Harris
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — A year ago, Stephen Curry was hurting and the Golden State Warriors were locked into the No. 2 seed in the West.

How things have changed. Curry is feeling good and Golden State got closer to clinching the No. 1 seed with a 108-90 victory over the also-ran Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night.

"Much more comfortable this year," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "This year I think it's been good for us to have to compete for the one-seed."

With four regular-season games remaining, the Warriors own the best record in the West (54-24) and have a two-game lead over idle second-place Denver. The defending NBA champions also hold the tiebreaker over the Nuggets in the race for the top seed.

"They looked like they're turning on playoff mode," Lakers coach Luke Walton said. "They came in that first quarter and were ready to go."

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Kevin Durant added 15 points, eight assists and six rebounds. Curry finished a quiet night with seven points on 3-of-14 shooting and 10 rebounds.