

Sports

BAKER BASEBALL

Bulldogs roll to 18-0 victory

By Gerry Steele
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Baker tuned up for its final weekend of Greater Oregon League baseball with an 18-0 nonleague romp over Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa/Elgin Tuesday at the Baker Sports Complex.

“We did what we needed to do,” said Baker coach Tim Smith.

“The kids threw the ball well and swung the bats real well.”

Spencer Shirtcliff led Baker’s offense with two hits and four RBIs.

Conner Lay added a home run and two RBIs. Jack Rohner, Justin Miller, Logan Braschler and Justin Eskew each added two RBIs.

Four Baker pitchers combined to throw a three-hitter.

Baker and La Grande are tied for first place in the GOL standings with 7-3 records. Baker travels to Ontario (6-4) and La Grande hosts winless Mac-Hi in their GOL finales.

“We’re gearing up for the first game against Ontario,” Smith said.

“We can’t sweep if we don’t get the first game.”

J/E/W/E	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
Baker	8	1	6	3	x	—	18

McCauley, Zellars (2), Curry (4), Linscott (5) and Van Arsdall, Zellars (4), Rohner (5). **WP** — McCauley.

Baker hits — Linscott 2, McCauley, Zellars, Van Arsdall, Curry, Lay 3, Shirtcliff 2, Rohner 2, Miller, Braschler, Eskew, Owen. **Baker RBI** — McCauley, Van Arsdall, Lay 2, Shirtcliff 4, Rohner 2, Miller 2, Braschler 2, Eskew 2. **2B** — Shirtcliff, Rohner, Braschler. **HR** — Lay.

Baker golf teams advance to state

By Gerry Steele
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Baker’s boys and girls golf teams qualified for the Class 4A/3A/2A/1A state tournament after Special District 4 play Tuesday.

The Baker boys placed second in their tournament at the La Grande Country Club.

The Bulldogs were led by Caden Long, who placed second individually with a two-day score of 167 (83-84).

Spencer Smith was sixth at 183 (90-93), Gavin Curry 10th at 187 (95-92), Jesse Maldonado was 11th with 199 (102-97) and Quinton Myers finished 13th at 214 (113-101).

The boys state tournament is set for May 13-14 at Emerald Valley Golf and Resort in Creswell.

Baker’s girls placed third in the Special District 4 play Tuesday at Wildhorse.

Taylor Nudd led the Bulldogs in 16th at 226 (109-117). Hylan West was 18th with 237 (120-117), Caitlyn Lien 20th with 239 (119-120), Grace Stampflee 23rd with a 247 (128-119) and Jocelyn Wellman 37th with 355 (182-173).

The girls state tournament is May 13-14 at Eagle Crest Ridge Course near Redmond.



Ronald Bond /The (La Grande) Observer

Baker’s Caden Long placed second at the district tournament Monday at La Grande.

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Nuggets win, push Blazers to brink

DENVER (AP)— Paul Millsap is showing the young’uns how it’s done.

Millsap scored 19 of his 24 points in the first half Tuesday night, sparking Denver’s 124-98 blowout of the Portland Trail Blazers that put the Nuggets on the verge of their

first trip to the Western Conference finals in a decade.

The 34-year-old forward with nearly 100 games of playoff experience has injected some savvy into a series dominated by youth and emerging stars.

“It’s not his first time, you

know? He’s been here before,” Jamal Murray said. “He’s showing everybody the ropes.”

Millsap is averaging 19 points and 9.6 boards in the best-of-seven series that the Nuggets lead 3-2 with Game 6 coming up Thursday night in Portland.

Damian Lillard, who led Portland with 22 points, said it’s exhausting facing the waves of young sharpshooters the Nuggets send at you, starting with the fulcrum of Nikola Jokic and Murray running the pick-and-roll.

“And then when all else fails, you’ve got to guard Millsap,” Lillard lamented. “He’s a handful for guys to guard because he’s in the paint, he’s making face-up jumpers, he’s making 3s. In transition, you’ve got to find him, and then he’s a monster on the glass.”

Baker softball postponed

Baker’s Greater Oregon League softball game with Mac-Hi scheduled Tuesday was postponed until 5 p.m. today at the Baker Sports Complex.

The game was postponed due to a lack of available umpires Tuesday.

Bulldogs select college teams

Two members of the Class 4A state-champion Baker girls basketball team have chosen where they plan to play college ball.

Rose Gwillim and Jayme Ramos have signed letters of intent to play at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham.

Linfield to play in California

The Linfield Wildcats are headed to California to compete in a three-team NCAA Division III regional playoff tournament starting Friday.

Top-seeded Linfield begins tournament play Friday at 3:30 p.m. against No. 3-seed Whittier (23-18-1).

Whittier faces second-seeded CMS (31-11) in Friday’s opening game at 1 p.m.

Linfield is coached by Baker High School graduate Jackson Vaughan. He was named coach of the year for the Northwest Conference for the 11th time in 18 years as coach. His overall record at Linfield is 661-167-2.



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