

# Sports

## BAKER BASEBALL



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Connor Lay makes a play from third base to first for an out in a game against La Grande earlier this season.

# Bulldogs finish 2nd

■ Baker could still host a first-round Class 4A playoff game

By **Gerry Steele**  
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Baker's bid for a Greater Oregon League baseball championship came up just short.

The Bulldogs split a doubleheader at Ontario on Saturday, while La Grande was sweeping last-place Mac-Hi to claim the regular season title.

Baker lost the first game at Ontario 8-3 but rebounded to win the second game 16-7.

La Grande swept Mac-Hi 24-0 and 22-0.

The results leave Baker in second place. The Bulldogs still could host a Class 4A

state playoff game. The six league champions and the top two second-place teams in the 4A rankings will host games. Baker currently is ranked seventh.

"We didn't hit the ball as well as we needed to with runners in scoring position," Baker coach Tim Smith said after the doubleheader split at Ontario.

Baker pitching issued four walks, and the Baker defense committed two errors, helping Ontario build a 5-0 lead after two innings of the opener.

"It was our first road loss of the season," Smith said. In Game 2, Baker scored six

runs in the third and fourth innings to break a 7-7 tie.

The Class 4A playoffs start May 22.

First game	
Baker	0 0 0 0 1 0 2 - 3
Ontario	2 3 0 0 0 3 x - 8

McCaughey, Curry (6) and Van Arsdall. LP — McCaughey.

**Baker hits** — Van Arsdall, Shirtcliff 2, Smith, Rohrer. **Baker RBI** — Smith 3.  
**2B** — Shirtcliff.

Second game	
Baker	7 0 1 5 0 1 2 - 16
Ontario	4 3 0 0 0 0 - 7

Lay, Zellars (5) and Van Arsdall. **WP** — Lay.

**Baker hits** — Linscott 2, McCaughey, Van Arsdall 4, Shirtcliff 2, Smith, Miller, Braschler. **Baker RBI** — Linscott 2, McCaughey, Van Arsdall 5, Shirtcliff, Smith, Miller 3, Braschler.  
**2B** — Linscott, McCaughey, Van Arsdall.

## NBA PLAYOFFS: WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

# Blazers upset Nuggets, advance to West Finals for first time since 2000

■ Portland will play the two-time defending NBA champion Golden State for a berth in the NBA Finals

By **Amie Stapleton**  
AP Sports Writer

DENVER — Damian Lillard's shots kept banging off the backboard, rattling off the rim, going everywhere but through the hoop.

The Portland Trail Blazers are going to the Western Conference Finals anyway because CJ McCollum had his back.

McCollum scored 37 points and added a crucial chase-down block in the closing minutes that helped the Blazers beat the Denver Nuggets 100-96 in Game 7 on Sunday to advance to their first conference championship series since 2000.

They'll open Tuesday night at Golden State against the two-time defending NBA champion Warriors in a series pitting Portland's Seth Curry against his big brother, Golden State star Steph Curry.

Lillard scored 13 points and made just 3 of 17 shots from the field, but two of them were critical 3-pointers in the fourth quarter that put Portland ahead 81-76 and 92-85.

"It's a luxury to have two guys like that who can find different ways to score in different ways," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "CJ does it one way, Dame does it in another. On a night when Dame struggled shooting the ball CJ came up big."

"CJ McCollum showed why they have one of the best backcourts in the NBA," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "He put his team on his back and made big play after big play."

None bigger than when his crucial chase-down block with 4:44 left and the Trail Blazers leading 87-83.

McCollum raced to stop a breakaway layup by Jamal Murray, who had a miserable night shooting, missing 14 of 18 shots.

"Seth did a good job of cutting off his lane and making him have to go over his head," McCollum said. "He put it right there for me and I went and got it 'Bron style. Shout out to my guy 'Bron. It was a mini-version of 'Bron's block on Iggy some years ago. Definitely didn't get up as high but it was a cool play. I might get a picture of that."

Lillard said it was just the spark the Blazers needed to complete the comeback from a 17-point first-half hole.

"Those are the plays that get teams going, coming off a turnover and they get an easy one," he said. "At that point of the game you want to make them work for everything."

The Nuggets were down 96-95 coming out of a timeout when McCollum hit a pull-up jumper over Torrey Craig with 12.4 seconds left.

"All summer long I'm going to probably be second-guessing myself at the timeout," Malone said. "That's a shot he makes consistently. Torrey played good defense, as good a defense you can play 1-on-1. And I was saying after we should have sent someone at him. He's having a great game and make somebody else make a play or make a shot."

The mismanagement continued: Jokic was fouled inside shooting a 2-pointer with 11.4 seconds left and missed the first free throw. Instead of missing the second on purpose, he made it for a 98-96 deficit.

Eric Turner then hit two free throws with eight seconds left for the final margin, and Jokic missed a long 3-pointer, with five seconds remaining, Turner grabbed the rebounds and dribbled out the clock.

The Nuggets raced to a 39-22 lead and Game 7 was beginning to look a lot like Game 5, when Denver blew out Portland by 26 points in this building. But Stotts called a timeout with 7:26 left in the second quarter and his team began chipping away.

"There wasn't going to be any quit," Stotts said. "I didn't think they ever stopped believing. ... It was just about regrouping."

The Blazers were down 48-39 at half-time and trailed by just a point heading into the fourth quarter.

That's when the Nuggets' hopes of reaching their first Western Conference Finals in a decade died with a 7-of-24 shooting performance, including 3 of 10 from Jokic, who tearfully blamed himself in the locker room for the loss.

## PREP STANDINGS

### Greater Oregon League Baseball (Final)

	W	L
La Grande	9	3
Baker	8	4
Ontario	7	5
Mac-Hi	0	12

### Friday games

Ontario 8, Baker 3
Baker 16, Ontario 7

### Saturday games

La Grande 24, Mac-Hi 0
La Grande 22, Mac-Hi 0

### Greater Oregon League Softball

	W	L
La Grande	12	0
Mac-Hi	8	4
Ontario	2	8
Baker	0	10

### Saturday games

La Grande 3, Mac-Hi 0
La Grande 15, Mac-Hi 7

### Monday games

Baker at Ontario (2)
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## BRIDGE

### Baker Ladies Golf Association

**May 2**  
1. Judy Karstens. 2. Virginia Kostol. 3. Shirley Dodson.

**May 8**  
1. Betty Combs. 2. Marlene Cross. 3. Dianne Ellingson.

## LADIES GOLF

### Baker Ladies Golf Association

**May 2**  
**First flight** — Linda Taylor. **Second flight** — Kathy Hopkins.

**May 8**  
**First flight** — Dana Endicott. **Second flight** — Judy Karstens. **Third flight** — Roxanne McAdams.

**Birdies** — Linda Taylor, Mary Kerns

## GOLF

### Twilight League Men's Golf Standings

**First Half, Week 4**

	W	L	T
Outpost Electric	2.5	3.5	14.5
Barley Browns	4	2	14
Superior Towing	4	2	13.5
Davis Computer	3.5	2.5	12.5
Windshield Doctor	3.5	2.5	11.5
Baker Dairies	5	1	11.5
Rosie's Bordello	2	4	11
Tri County Equipment	2	4	11
Four Seasons	2.5	3.5	11
Blacker's Hackers	1	5	9.5

**Front Nine**  
**Low gross** — Scott Holmberg 35. **Low net** — Mitch Grove 29.

**Back Nine**  
**Low gross** — Colt Nudd 36, Adam Crowell 36. **Low net** — Jerry Kincaide.

## MAJOR LEAGUES

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division		W	L	Pct.	GB
Tampa Bay	24	15	.615	—	
New York	24	16	.600	½	
Boston	22	19	.537	3	
Toronto	16	24	.400	8½	
Baltimore	14	26	.350	10½	

### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	25	14	.641	—
Cleveland	21	18	.538	4
Detroit	18	20	.474	6½
Chicago	18	21	.462	7
Kansas City	14	27	.341	12

### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	26	15	.634	—
Los Angeles	19	21	.475	6½
Seattle	20	23	.465	7
Oakland	19	23	.452	7½
Texas	17	21	.447	7½

### Saturday's Games

Boston 9, Seattle 5  
Detroit 5, Minnesota 3, 1st game  
Chicago White Sox 7, Toronto 2  
L.A. Angels 7, Baltimore 2  
Oakland 3, Cleveland 2  
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 2  
Philadelphia 7, Kansas City 0  
Minnesota 8, Detroit 3, 2nd game  
Houston 11, Texas 4

### Sunday's Games

Baltimore 5, L.A. Angels 1  
Boston 11, Seattle 2  
Chicago White Sox 5, Toronto 1  
N.Y. Yankees 7, Tampa Bay 1  
Detroit 5, Minnesota 3  
Houston 15, Texas 5  
Philadelphia 6, Kansas City 1  
Cleveland 5, Oakland 3

### Today's Games

**AllTimes PDT**  
Baltimore (Hess 1-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Loaisiga 1-1), 3:35 p.m.  
Houston (Peacock 3-2) at Detroit (Boyd 4-2), 7:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels (Skaggs 3-3) at Minnesota (Berrios 6-1), 4:40 p.m.  
Cleveland (Bieber 2-1) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 2-4), 5:10 p.m.  
Oakland (Fiers 3-3) at Seattle (Kikuchi 2-1), 7:10 p.m.

### Tuesday's Games

Cleveland (Carrasco 3-3) at Chicago White Sox (Banuelos 2-2), 11:10 a.m.  
Baltimore (Cashner 4-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Happ 2-3), 3:35 p.m.  
Colorado (Freeland 2-5) at Boston (Sale 1-5), 4:10 p.m.  
Houston (Miley 3-2) at Detroit (Carpenter 0-1), 4:10 p.m.  
Tampa Bay (Morton 3-0) at Miami (Smith 3-0), 4:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels (TBD) at Minnesota (Gibson 3-1), 4:40 p.m.  
Texas (Miller 1-2) at Kansas City (Duffy 1-1), 5:15 p.m.  
Toronto (Thornton 0-4) at San Francisco (Holland 1-4), 6:45 p.m.  
Oakland (Anderson 4-2) at Seattle (Leake 2-4), 7:10 p.m.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division		W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	23	16	.590	—	
Atlanta	21	20	.512	3	
New York	19	20	.487	4	
Washington	16	24	.400	7½	
Miami	10	29	.256	13	

### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Pittsburgh	20	17	.541	3½
St. Louis	22	19	.537	3½
Cincinnati	18	23	.439	7½

### Saturday's Games

Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1  
Chicago Cubs 2, Milwaukee 1, 15 innings  
N.Y. Mets 4, Miami 1  
Philadelphia 7, Kansas City 0  
Atlanta 6, Arizona 4  
San Diego 4, Colorado 3  
Cincinnati 5, San Francisco 4  
Washington 5, L.A. Dodgers 2

### Sunday's Games

Miami at N.Y. Mets, ppd.  
Philadelphia 6, Kansas City 1  
Pittsburgh 10, St. Louis 6  
Colorado 10, San Diego 7  
San Francisco 6, Cincinnati 5  
Atlanta 5, Arizona 3  
L.A. Dodgers 6, Washington 0  
Chicago Cubs 4, Milwaukee 1

### Today's Games

**AllTimes PDT**  
Milwaukee (Peralta 2-1) at Philadelphia (Nola 3-0), 4:05 p.m.  
Pittsburgh (Kingham 1-0) at Arizona (Ray 2-1), 6:40 p.m.

### Tuesday's Games

Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 2-4) at Cincinnati

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## NBA PLAYOFFS

### CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

#### AllTimes PDT

#### Eastern Conference

#### Toronto vs. Milwaukee

Wednesday, May 15: Toronto at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 17: Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19: Milwaukee at Toronto, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21: Milwaukee at Toronto, 5:30 p.m.

x-Thursday, May 23: Toronto at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.

x-Saturday, May 25: Milwaukee at Toronto, 5:30 p.m.

## Western Conference

### Portland vs. Golden State

Tuesday, May 14: Portland at Golden State, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: Portland at Golden State, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 18: Golden State at Portland, 6 p.m.

Monday, May 20: Golden State at Portland, 6 p.m.

x-Wednesday, May 22: Portland at Golden State, 6 p.m.

x-Friday, May 24: Golden State at Portland, 6 p.m.

x-Sunday, May 26: Portland at Golden State, 6 p.m.

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