

# Sports

BAKER VOLLEYBALL

## Bulldogs sweep Mac-Hi

■ Baker, which has clinched 2nd place in the GOL, now waits to find out who they'll draw in the Class 4A playoffs, and where the match will be

By **Gerry Steele**  
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Baker closed out its Greater Oregon League regular season volleyball schedule Tuesday with a 25-9, 25-13, 25-16 sweep of Mac-Hi on the Baker floor.

The Bulldogs, who had already clinched second place in the GOL, now must wait to see who and where they will play in the Class 4A playoffs.

Baker coach Chelsea Hurliman said the Bulldogs should know their playoff opponent and where they will be playing as early as Friday.

The OSAA website says 4A rankings will be frozen at 10 p.m. Thursday. Pairings will be decided at that time.

Hurliman was pleased with the way the Bulldogs played on Senior Night.

"It was a good way to have our seniors win at home," Hurliman said.

Not only did the Baker seniors perform well, but so did freshman Jozie Ramos, who was brought up to the varsity roster for the match.

"Jozie came out with solid blocks and hitting. She did great," the Baker coach said.



Kathy Orr/Baker City Herald

Baker freshman Jozie Ramos had a strong performance against Mac-Hi on Tuesday.

Baker had just four players quick 7-0 lead. Emma Baeth then increased the margin to 13-4.

Lauren Benson then served two points before Averi Elms served the final nine points.

In Set 2, Baker jumped out to a 3-0 start and never looked back.

The Bulldogs served consistently through the rotation for the easy win.

Elms served Baker to a 5-0 beginning in the deciding set. Again the Bulldogs used their balance to roll to the win.

"I'm just excited to see what these kids can do at our playoff game," Hurliman said.

WORLD SERIES GAME ONE

## Underdog Nationals take 1-0 lead

By **Ben Walker**  
AP Baseball Writer

HOUSTON — Juan Soto and the Washington Nationals quickly derailed the Cole Express.

A 20-year-old prodigy with a passion for the big moment, Soto homered onto the train tracks high above the left field wall and hit a two-run double as the Nationals tagged Gerrit Cole and the Houston Astros 5-4 Tuesday night in the World Series opener.

"After the first at-bat, I just said, 'It's another baseball game,'" Soto said. "In the first at-bat, I'm not going to lie, I was a little bit shaking in my legs."

Not even a history-making home run by postseason star George Springer — and another shot that nearly tied it in the eighth inning — could deter Washington.

Ryan Zimmerman, still full of sock at 35, also homered to back a resourceful Max Scherzer and boost the wild-card Nationals in their first World Series appearance — tres bien for a franchise that began as the Montreal Expos in 1969.

"They waited a long time," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said.

Otherworldly almost all season, Cole looked downright ordinary. Trea Turner singled on the second pitch of the game and the Nationals were off and running, ending Cole's 19-game winning streak that stretched back 25 starts to May.

"I didn't have my A-game tonight," Cole said.

Not what Cole or anyone else at Minute Maid Park expected, especially after he led the majors in strikeouts, topped the AL in ERA and finished second in the big leagues in wins to teammate Justin Verlander.

Cole had breezed through the AL playoffs, too.

Yet it was a further testament to an eternal truth about baseball: It doesn't matter what you do the whole season if you don't get it done in October.

"I think he's been so good for so long that there builds this thought of invincibility and that it's impossible to beat him," Astros manager AJ Hinch said. "So when it happens it is a surprise to all of us because we've watched for months this guy completely dominate the opposition."

Soto finished with three hits and a stolen base. Three days shy of his 21st birthday, the wunderkind left fielder also snared Michael Brantley's late try for a tying hit.

Relentless at the plate, he's already become one of those rare players — like Springer — who seems to turn pressure into production.

*"After the first at-bat, I just said, 'It's another baseball game.'"*

— **Juan Soto, who homered and doubled for the Washington Nationals in their 5-4 win over Houston in Game One of the World Series Tuesday at Houston**

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OPENING NIGHT

## Clippers top LeBron, Lakers

By **Beth Harris**  
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Kawhi Leonard hit seven straight shots in one stretch, creating a run for the Clippers that his new teammates quickly joined.

"It's a great sign of leadership," coach Doc Rivers said. "He talks with his game."

Leonard began a new career chapter Tuesday night, scoring 30 points to go with a strong bench effort in a 112-102 victory over LeBron James and the Lakers in the teams' season opener.

Leonard chose the Clippers

because he wanted to come home and his family was on hand.

"All those emotions went through me again," he said.

Lou Williams added 21 points and Montrezl Harrell had 17 off the bench when the Clippers began their 50th season overall and 36th in Los Angeles as the once unlikely but now favorites to win the franchise's first NBA championship.

"It's one of 82 (games)," Rivers said. "Next question."

Leonard won his second NBA title last season in Toronto.

The Lakers showed off their new 1-2 punch of James and Anthony Davis. Davis scored 25 points, making 9 of 14 free throws, and James had 18.

"For us, we're both aggressive," Davis said. "Sometimes we kind of miss each other. I missed him a couple times and he missed me, so just trying to figure it out."

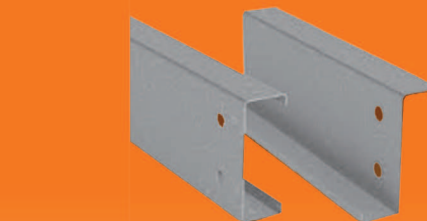
Danny Green outscored them both with 28 points, including seven 3-pointers, in the highest-scoring debut by a Laker in franchise history.

The Clippers' reserves outscored the Lakers' bench, 60-19.

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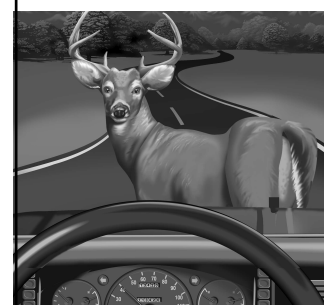
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