

Sports

BAKER GIRLS SOCCER

Younger's late goal gives Baker 1-0 win over Mac-Hi in league finale

■ Senior curls in a penalty kick from about 30 yards out with about 5 minutes left

By Jayson Jacoby
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Ten minutes or so have passed since Baker senior Sydney Younger scored the match-winning goal, and she seems not to notice the blood trickling down her right leg. Her smile suggests she's thinking about that kick rather than a minor scratch on her knee.

Younger capped senior day in dramatic fashion Saturday by curling in a penalty kick from about 30 yards to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 win over Mac-Hi on a frigid, and occasionally snowy, afternoon at the Sports Complex.

Now Baker waits for the Oregon School Activities Association to see if the Bulldogs will earn a Class 4A play-in game. As of this morning Baker was ranked 21st, one spot outside the threshold for a play-in game. But rankings won't be frozen until Tuesday night, and several games that could affect Baker's position are scheduled today or Tuesday.

Baker coach Kristen Rushton said in previous years when the Bulldogs finished third in their league, as they did this year, they advanced to a play-in game.

Younger's winning kick came with about 5 minutes left in a scoreless match.

And it happened just a few minutes after her earlier penalty kick, from just in front of the Pioneers' goal, was corralled by the Mac-Hi keeper.



Lisa Britton /For the Baker City Herald

Baker's Sydney Younger (12) controls the ball Saturday against the defense of Mac-Hi's Shara Caranza (18) and Jacky Hernandez (13). Younger scored the match's only goal on a penalty kick.

"I was just a little frustrated at that point," Younger said. "That was sort of a frustration kick."

And although the ball ended up nestled in the left side of the net, it didn't quite follow the path Younger intended.

"I wanted it more in the corner," she said. "We practice that all the time."

Younger nearly added a second score in the final 2 minutes on a breakaway but the Mac-Hi goalie managed to push the ball away just before it went into the net.

That was one of several balls

that almost turned into goals for the Bulldogs, Rushton said.

"We had at least five shots hit the crossbar," she said. "We had possession of the ball a lot more than they did."

Baker, which has 14 freshmen and just three seniors on its roster, finished with a 4-8 record, including a pair of 1-0 wins over Mac-Hi.

"I'm really proud of the girls persevering through the wind," Rushton said after the match as northerly gusts ruffled the hood of her parka. "These were tough conditions to play in."

With temperatures in the low 40s and winds gusting above 25 mph, the wind chill temperature was in the upper 20s during the match.

Younger's fellow senior, goalkeeper Shayna Ruby, made her teammate's late heroics possible by stopping every Mac-Hi shot, including an acrobatic save with about 13 minutes left in the match.

"She had some great saves," Rushton said of Ruby. "She didn't have a lot of chances, but she was always mentally in the game. When we needed her she was there for us."

WORLD SERIES GAME 5

Astros win 3rd straight, 1 win from world title

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

WASHINGTON — Gerrit Cole and the Houston Astros went to Washington, hoping to snap out of their funk and bring the World Series back to Minute Maid Park.

Not only are they heading home with more games to play, now they're just one win from another crown.

Handed the ball for what was supposed to be a high-stakes showdown against Max Scherzer, Cole gave Houston a firm grip on the Series by beating the Nationals 7-1 Sunday night for a 3-2 lead.

Cole looked exactly like the stud who dominated baseball most of this season, bouncing back from a Game 1 clunker to pitch the Astros to their third straight win.

What a turnaround for his teammates, too — out-scored 17-7 overall at home, Houston hammered the Nationals 19-3 in a Washington wipeout.

"We look like ourselves now," Astros manager AJ Hinch said.

Something was definitely missing for the Nationals. Namely, Scherzer.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner beat Cole in the opener, and was the Nats' best hope to slow Houston. But then Scherzer was scratched only 3½ hours before game time because of an irritated nerve near his neck, an injury that could finish him for the Series.

Lillard's layup lifts Blazers over Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Damian Lillard helped the Portland Trail Blazers a few ways on Sunday night. He scored the eventual winning basket and talked his coach into making a replay challenge, all in the closing seconds.

Lillard's twisting layup with 26 seconds remaining proved to be the winner as the Trail Blazers beat the Dallas Mavericks 121-119.

Lillard scored 26 of his 28 points in the second half, including a basket that gave the Blazers a 120-119 lead.

The Blazers' CJ McCollum had a game-high 35 points.

Kristaps Porzingis led Dallas with 32 points.

After Lillard's score, the Mavericks' Luka Doncic missed a 3-point attempt and Portland won a challenge of a call that would have sent the Mavericks' Dorian Finney-Smith to the foul line after he'd grabbed a rebound and attempted a shot with eight seconds left.

Baker City Herald



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A different numbered football game will appear in each of the sponsor boxes. Enter the advertiser name and game winner on the corresponding numbered line on the official entry form below, plus be sure to pick the remaining games already listed on the entry form plus the tiebreaker game. Pick the winner and the final score. In the case of an unbreakable tie the winnings will be split equally.

Entries must be postmarked by midnight this Thursday or dropped off at The Baker City Herald 4 p.m. this Friday.

Late entries will be considered invalid.

Mail entries to: Football Contest, Baker City Herald, PO Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814 or drop off at our office at 1668 Resort Street, Baker City (our front door faces Auburn Ave across from Clark Auto Electric, look for the striped awning!)

Limit 1 entry per person. Maximum of 2 entries per household per week. The contest is open to everyone in Baker County. No photocopies accepted. Employees of The Baker City Herald and their immediate families not eligible. Winners will be announced in Wednesday's ad each week. Decisions of the judges are final.

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