

# Sports

## Season lost: Baker senior athlete adjusts to a spring without sports

■ Spencer Shirtcliff was ready to finish his high school career with one more season on the baseball squad

By Corey Kirk  
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After spending his fall under the Friday Night Lights, and his winter on the hardwood, Baker High School senior Spencer Shirtcliff was excited to find himself heading back to the baseball diamond. After a strong season last spring, he knew his development was vital to the team's success.

"I played a whole summer after my regular season my junior year, and found myself back in the cages a couple of months before the season was supposed to start," Shirtcliff said.

As the team prepared for the season, Shirtcliff and his teammates were excited to face the opponents on their schedule. When the Oregon School Activities Association announced it was following the executive order made by Gov. Kate Brown, all sports ceased operations due to COVID-19, which effectively ended spring sports on April 8.

"I was kind of in shock," Shirtcliff said. "I actually really didn't believe it at first. We hadn't really been hit by it so I didn't think it was that bad."

Now that this season is lost, what hurts student-athletes the most is the growth they could have accomplished in competition — something that head baseball coach Tim Smith sees as a problem for his graduating seniors and the



Spencer Shirtcliff drives a tractor while working as a ranch hand near North Powder on Thursday afternoon. The Baker High School baseball player has been filling his newfound free time working.



Spencer Shirtcliff tightens an eyebolt on an electric fence while working on a ranch near North Powder.

able to be there and at least practice," Smith said.

That is definitely the case for Shirtcliff, who is currently speaking with small colleges in the area for a chance to possibly play baseball on the collegiate level.

"He's looking at Blue Mountain Community College," Smith said. "The coach is supposed to be calling me."

Coaches like Smith are now facing hurdles of getting up-to-date film and content to help their student athletes who have mutual interest in playing their sport at a college.

"They are always interested in how they will compete and

"I was kind of in shock."

— Spencer Shirtcliff, talking about his reaction to learning that his senior season on the Baker High baseball team was canceled

we haven't been able to do that," Smith said.

Shirtcliff knows that the loss this year puts him at a disadvantage, as many of these schools were interested to see how his senior season was going to turn out.

"It really sucks, my fellow seniors and I were planning on having a really good year," Shirtcliff said. "I was hoping to have a year like last year, but go deeper in the playoffs."

Though his future career in baseball remains uncertain, Shirtcliff is motivated now more than ever to have his time on the diamond end on his terms, and will play next year.

"It does make me want to play at the next level even more because I have unfinished business," Shirtcliff said.

He hopes that student-athletes who are younger than him will not let the pandemic dictate their effort, and that they will continue to practice and work hard to be ready to compete in their respective sport.

"They need to not see this as a disadvantage and keep working," Shirtcliff said. "They need to try and not make it as bad as it is and prove themselves."

## OSAA talks prep sports return

EO Media Group  
WILSONVILLE — More than two months since the sports world went into hibernation, plans for the return of athletics have started to take shape.

The Oregon Schools Activities Association on Wednesday released Phase 1 of the return of high school sports and activities during the summer.

The following are some of the key points from the OSAA Executive Board meeting and the six-page document of the reopening plan, and how athletes and coaches must go about the offseason training in a social-distancing world brought on by the coronavirus pandemic:

- Beginning Tuesday, May 26, schools can control what school athletic activities programs are allowed to take place at the school's facilities.

- Gatherings of 25 people or more are prohibited. Workouts should consist of five to 10 athletes, or "pods." The pods should remain the same to limit the overall exposure. Social distancing should still be practiced during workouts, which should be done without a spotter.

See Sports/Page 6A

## SURPRISE BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER, SISTER, AUNT, GRANDMOTHER & GREAT GRANDMOTHER!!

### YES "JOAN" IT IS YOU WHO TURNS "90" TODAY CONGRATULATIONS!!



"Grandma you have meant so much to me & my family. Your unconditional Love & Support has made me the person I am today. Thanks for always being there for all of us, we could not have had a better role model. Love you more than you will ever know." Shannon & Family

"A-lways welcoming with a warm hug  
"U-nwavering strength & support  
"N-ever better baker of FUN Birthday cakes  
"T-hankful for ALL the memories

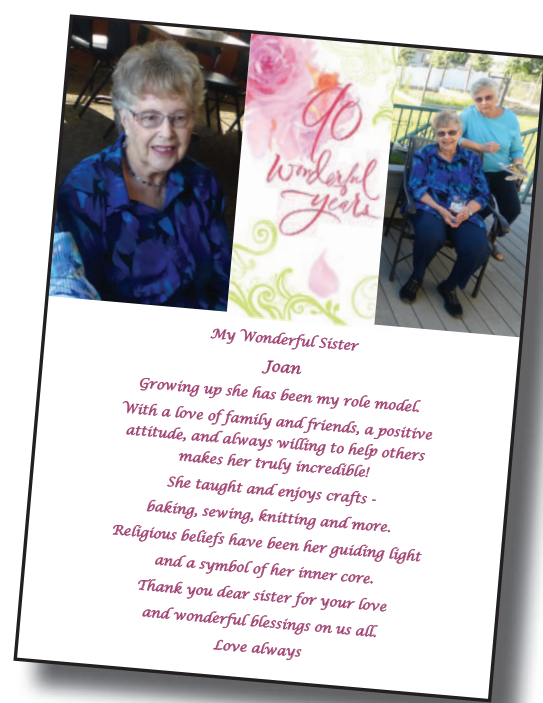
"J-ustifiably deserving of CELEBRATION  
"O-utrageously generous  
"A-dored by so many  
"N-iece who loves you so very much!" Amy

"Grandma, kind, honest & loving are just a few words to describe you. You are a constant guiding light & source of joy for so many throughout these amazing 90 years. You are truly a gift to all those around you & we count ourselves lucky to have you in our lives!" Cliff & Family

"Gram, Thank you for having such a positive influence on my life. Since I was pretty much raised out at your house, I have countless memories of you molding me into the man I am today! You & Grandpa were always there for me & I cannot imagine my life without you! Thank you for all you've done for me & your continued love & support! I know we don't see each other as much, but not a day goes by without me thinking about you & reminiscing about all the fun times we've shared!" Jason

"Grandma visiting your house in the summer was always so much fun, from your amazing waffles to playing in your amazing yard & delicious BBQ's & FUN at the Ranch! It was truly an amazing place to visit & you made all that possible! We love you!" Cory & Family

"Grandma I want you to know how very important you are to our little family and I look forward to every Thursday having you in my salon. You are the light in my life and I love you very much." April & Family



My Wonderful Sister  
Joan

Growing up she has been my role model. With a love of family and friends, a positive attitude, and always willing to help others makes her truly incredible! She taught and enjoys crafts - baking, sewing, knitting and more. Religious beliefs have been her guiding light and a symbol of her inner core. Thank you dear sister for your love and wonderful blessings on us all. Love always

"Mom, I Love You Dearly!" Jean

"Happy 90th Birthday Mom, Thank You for 48 years of being there for us but I Thank You most of all for bringing Jean into this World!" Bruce

"Mom, Thank You For Inspiring Me!" Sue

"Thank you for always being there & finding my wedding ring Mom!" Craig

"Aunt Joan I have such fond memories as a youngster: I remember having so much fun sliding down the inside stairs at the ranch! Also lots of adventures exploring outside but most of all your loving hospitality & your whipping up delicious baked treats & later great parties! Tons of love to you my AMAZING AUNT!" Deepak

### ALL OF OUR LOVE & BEST WISHES!



May 26, 1930 a lovely baby girl "Betty Joan" was born to Unnar & Cleo Stevens.

Childhood days were spent in Baker City with her siblings Bob, Sharon & Pat! She fell in love & married Ralph Callo-way in 1948 & raised three children Jean, Sue & Steve! Her family continued to grow as their children married spouses Bruce, Craig & Elaine! She has 8 grandchildren Shannon, Michele, Tom, Chad, Cliff, Cory, Jason & April, 19 lovely great grandchildren & lots of nieces and nephews! After losing Ralph she married George Wilder adding to her family Cristy & Dane & their families!

Joan worked as a secretary for Baker Co. Extension Office & was 4-H sewing & cooking leader with Clarene Rohner. Faith is very important to her, she leads a prayer study group & is active in her church! She loves Spring-time and flowers all season long! Hobbies include sewing quilts, clothing, etc. She is famous for her PEACH COBBLER & RASPBERRY PIES!

