

Sports

BAKER BREWERS SUMMER BASEBALL

Baker wins 3 of 4 games

By Corey Kirk
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Baker's two summer baseball teams, one for ages 16 and under and one for 17- and 18-year-olds, took three of four games over the weekend.

16U team sweeps doubleheader

The 16 and under team had a strong offensive performance Friday in a doubleheader against Hermiston at the Baker Sports Complex, amassing 30 runs in the 15-0, 15-5 sweep.

In game one, incoming freshman Hudson Spike and

junior Cody Skidgel combined to shut out Hermiston in the 5-inning win. Spike threw the first four innings and Skidgel got the final three outs.

Defensively, incoming eighth-grader Jaxon Logsdon caught the entire game and was able to throw out a couple of runners attempting to steal.

Baker's offensive momentum continued in the second game.

Incoming junior Silas Carter hit a home run and also made great defensive plays at second base.

Freshman Paul Hobson

also homered for the Brewers.

18U team splits with Pendleton

On Saturday, the 18 and under team traveled to Pendleton to face the Buckaroos.

The first game was close throughout, with the score tied at 7 after three innings.

Key hits by recent graduate Sam McCauley and incoming senior Logan McCluskey gave Baker a late 13-12 lead, and senior Mason Van Arsdall, pitching in relief, closed out Pendleton to preserve the win.

In the nightcap Baker trailed by only one run until

the Buckaroos scored six runs in the fifth inning. Baker's rally fell short in a 9-4 loss.

Baker's 16U team travels to Pendleton Tuesday for a doubleheader and then returns to Baker for another twinbill against Enterprise Friday at the Sports Complex. Both doubleheaders start at 5 p.m.

The 18U team will play host to Hermiston on Wednesday for a doubleheader starting at 5 p.m., and then travel to The Dalles Saturday for another doubleheader.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Timbers advance to knockout round

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Jeremy Ebobisse and Diego Valeri scored and the Portland Timbers clinched a spot in the knockout round of the MLS is Back tournament with a 2-1 victory over the Houston Dynamo on Saturday night.

With a pair of wins to open the World Cup-style tournament, the Timbers have secured one of the top two spots in Group F going into Thursday's match against the Los Angeles Football Club.

"It feels good to win. Our first goal was to reach the knockout stage," Portland coach Giovanni Savarese said. "At the beginning, we were too conservative and made sure we had enough numbers to cover but once we had players going forward we were able to take more chances. We were able to control the match the majority of the time."

Alberth Ellis scored on a penalty kick for the Dynamo, who have one point through two matches. They would need a win over the LA Galaxy on Thursday to have any hope of advancing.

Valeri's score in the 61st minute not only gave the Timbers breathing room, but puts him one goal away from becoming the third player in MLS history to record 80-plus goals and 80-plus assists in their career during the regular season.

Valeri took a crossing pass from Eryk Williamson at the top of the box, shook off pressure from Houston's Aljaz Struna and placed a left-footed shot into the bottom right corner. It is the Argentine's third goal of the season.

The Dynamo pulled within a goal in the 86th minute when Ellis converted a penalty kick, which was awarded after Portland's Jorge Villafaña was called for a handball in the box. Ellis received his second yellow card of the match two minutes later as Houston played a man down the remainder of the match.

Portland opened the scoring in the 35th minute when Sebastian Blanco split the midfield in transition and lofted a pass to Ebobisse to the left side of the box. The Timbers forward then beat two Houston defenders and fired a left-foot strike that eluded Houston goalkeeper Marko Maric and found the bottom right corner.

It is Ebobisse's second goal in the tournament and his second in five career matches against Houston.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

Portland Thorns move on to semifinals

HERRIMAN, Utah (AP) — Rookie Morgan Weaver scored in the 68th minute to send the Portland Thorns into the semifinals of the National Women's Soccer League's Challenge Cup with a surprising 1-0 upset victory over the two-time defending league champion North Carolina Courage on Friday.

The win was eighth-seeded Portland's first victory at the tournament, and it came with the team's third-string goalkeeper Britt Eckerstrom in goal. The

top-seeded Courage had won all four of their Challenge Cup games going into the match.

Eckerstrom had a stunning game, finishing with eight saves.

Weaver took a cross from Raquel Rodriguez and beat Courage goalkeeper Katelyn Rowland, putting North Carolina behind for the first time in the tournament.

It was the first professional goal for Weaver, who was the No. 2 pick in this

year's NWSL draft out of Washington State.

Portland was hampered by injuries going into the game. Starting goalkeeper Adrianna Franch hasn't played in the tournament because of a right knee injury. Backup Bella Bixby, who played in the first four games, was ruled out for Friday's game because of a knee injury.

Portland's backup for the game was goalkeeper coach Nadine Angerer, the former German national team standout.

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