

Sports

BAKER BASEBALL

Zellars pitches shutout

By Corey Kirk
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Andrew Zellars' last stint on the pitcher's mound at the Baker Sports Complex was under the lights.

It was a fitting finale. Zellars dominated, allowing only one hit through seven innings in a complete-game shutout of the combined team of Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa/Elgin on Wednesday evening, May 12.

Baker improved to 7-6 on the season with the 3-0 win over the Eagles (10-2).

Zellars struck out eight and walked four.

"Starting off I was a little bit shaky with my location. I got into my head that I had to start putting the ball where I wanted to put the ball and not give them perfect pitches to hit," Zellars said.

Baker coach Tim Smith said his senior hurler had a great last outing on his home field.

"I thought he pitched with a chip on his shoulder, he did throw well, I thought he threw with confidence," Smith said.

Baker got on the scoreboard early, and as it turned out the single run in the bottom of the first was all Zellars needed.

Junior Connor Chastain, batting second, had a hit and later scored on senior Zander Arriaga's single.

Arriaga went 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs.

"Zander Arriaga had a phenomenal game, he was just putting the ball in play,



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Baker senior Andrew Zellars pitched a shutout on Wednesday, May 12 against a combined team of Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa/Elgin. Baker won 3-0.

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— Baker senior pitcher Andrew Zellars

and we really needed that," Zellars said of his senior teammate.

Smith said he was pleased with his team's patience at the plate, and aggressiveness on the basepaths.

Chastain scored two of Baker's three runs thanks in part to two stolen bases.

Freshman Hudson Spike, batting in the eighth slot, drew walks in each of his three at-bats.

"That's our philosophy, get to the next guy, roll the lineup over, and it's no secret that the top of our order is better than the bottom of our order, and everybody respects that," Smith said.

Baker scored twice in the third. Arriaga had his second RBI single, and senior Payton Shirtcliff also drove in a run with a single.

Zellars, meanwhile, breezed through the Eagles' lineup, with help from the Bulldogs' defense.

"I thought we played pretty clean defense, I was pleased with their defensive effort," Smith said. "I talked to them before the game, I told them we want to make the routine plays, and we want to get half of the fifty-fifty balls."

Zellars credited his senior battery mate, catcher Mason Van Arsdall.

"A couple of times I got a little wild, but thanks to Mason behind the dish for calling a great game, and making valuable blocks when we needed it," Zellars said.

Baker completes its abbreviated season today by traveling to Nyssa for a double-header. Baker beat Nyssa 11-1 on April 27.

Zellars said he's eager to wrap up his high school baseball career with two more wins and to enjoy the final time with his teammates.

"If we can get two at Nyssa, that's a three-game winning streak," Zellars said. "As long as we keep disciplined, keep to our core values of playing the right kind of baseball, I feel like we should get both wins on Saturday."

SCHOOLS

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On Thursday, May 13, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the new guidance for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Later in the day, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said the state would follow the CDC's lead.

However, mask and social distancing rules will remain in effect for schools for the rest of the school year, Brown said.

The Baker School District will continue to follow the Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidelines from the Oregon Department of Education, said Lindsey McDowell, the district's public information and communications coordinator.

McDowell noted that both the CDC and Brown's announcements involved fully vaccinated people, and most students haven't been eligible to be vaccinated.

People ages 16 and 17 became eligible on April 19, and eligibility was extended just this week to those ages 12 to 15.

As of Friday, May 14, just 89 Baker County residents ages 16 to 19 were partially or fully vaccinated — and that includes some people who aren't students.

McDowell said the Baker School District isn't requiring employees to divulge whether they've been vaccinated, so district officials don't know how many workers are inoculated.

Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department, said parents of children ages 12 to 15 who want to schedule a vaccination for their child should call 541-523-8211 or go to the county's website, www.bakercountycovid19.com.

She said the Health Department will schedule appointments based on demand. Staten said that because the Pfizer vaccine, the only one approved for ages 12 to 17, must be stored at extremely low temperatures, the county has to request doses from Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, which has freezers capable of storing the vaccine.

RELEASED

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Charges include conspiracy to defraud the United States, aiding and abetting in the obstruction of an official proceeding, obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder, destruction of government property, entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, and disorderly conduct in a restricted building or grounds.

The judge ordered Matthew Klein to be released to a woman who is retired from Baker County government and lives with her husband, a prison guard at the Powder River Corrections Facility, court documents said. He'll be released on Friday once he is fitted with a location monitoring device.

Jonathanpeter Klein also has asked for pretrial release to a third-party guardian, under home detention and GPS monitoring. Federal prosecutors don't object. His release hearing will be held in early June.



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To our fellow healthcare workers, thank you for being the answer.

It has been a year like no other. Despite the challenges, our colleagues have courageously embraced our mission and have been unwavering in their calling to serve.

This **Healthcare Week**, and every week, we honor you. We thank you.
We celebrate you.