

BAKER GOLF TEAMS COMPETE AT STATE TOURNAMENT IN CORVALLIS

Baker girls take 3rd at state

By Corey Kirk
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With all five players carding their personal best rounds, the Baker girls golf team placed third at the state tournament Tuesday, May 18 at Trysting Tree Golf Course in Corvallis.

Senior Taylor Nudd led the way with an 88 to place eighth in the individual standings. Junior Caitlin Lien shot a 91 to finish 11th.

"Overall we just did a lot better than expected," Baker coach Mike Long said. "It's always nice when you can go and have kids play above expectations. It was a huge improvement for the girls."

Grace Stampflee carded a 102, and Gretchen Morgan had a 108.

The Baker boys team also competed at Corvallis.

Junior Jesse Maldonado, who won the district tournament at Quail Ridge Golf Course in Baker City on May 10, shot an 84 to finish 25th overall.

"He had a really good round," Long said of Maldo-



Contributed Photo

The Baker girls golf team placed third at the state tournament on Tuesday, May 18. From left, coach Mike Long, Taylor Nudd, Grace Stampflee, Caitlin Lien, Gretchen Morgan, coach Colt Nudd.

nado. "He had one hole where he had a quadruple bogey and then followed with two birdies, so I thought that showed pretty good resilience."

Kaden Conklin shot a 94, Gavin Stecher carded a 104, Cade Rudi shot 118, and Alex Ritter 124.

Long said he was glad the players had a chance to

compete at state following a shortened season.

"To see those smiles coming off the course it was pretty neat and fun," Long said.

BAKER BASEBALL

Bulldogs rout McCall in season finale

By Corey Kirk
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Traveling to Idaho for their last game of the season, the Baker baseball team dominated the McCall-Donnelly Vandals 21-5 on Tuesday, May 18.

"It was a good trip, the kids had fun, it was nice weather. It was a late night but it was all good," Baker coach Tim Smith said.

The Bulldogs won their final four games to finish with a 10-6 record.

Junior Hayden Younger started on the mound for Baker against McCall-Donnelly. Younger allowed just two runs and had three strikeouts in four innings.

Junior Connor Chastain pitched one inning, and Thomas Smithson and Silas

Carter each recorded an inning in relief.

With much of his pitching rotation being seniors, Smith said he was glad to have a chance to let some younger pitchers get game experience.

"We wanted to get those guys that will be returning for us (some innings)," Smith said. "We expect Hayden to be one of our league starters next year."

Offensively, Smith mentioned four Bulldogs who had stellar final games.

Senior Zander Arriaga had a grand slam and six RBIs in all to lead the attack.

Fellow senior Mason Van Arsdall had a two-run double, and senior Andrew Zellers and Carter, a junior, each had two hits and one RBI.

Smith said he was glad the game was extended to eight innings, as younger players, including sophomores Smithson and Kai Ogan, got valuable varsity experience.

Though traveling to McCall was a bit out of the way, Smith has no regrets giving the team, especially the seniors, one more time to bond.

"It was a good team bonding trip, had a little more time on the bus. They seemed to enjoy themselves, they came out and played loose and played well," Smith said.

"It was a good end. I just want to once again thank the seniors for all they've done for the program, and their leadership in that regard."

BAKER JUNIOR AT STATE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Plummer enjoys first trip to state

By Corey Kirk
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Just a week ago, in the midst of the district tennis tournament, Baker junior Sarah Plummer wasn't anticipating heading to the state tournament.

But then she finished second in the girls singles.



Plummer

"It was exciting, I wasn't expecting to go to state, and I actually didn't realize I qualified until after I played the match that qualified me," Plummer said. "I didn't realize the top two went, so that was really exciting to find out."

Plummer, the lone Baker player to qualify for the state tournament, headed to Roseburg for the event, which started Monday, May 17.

Baker coach Amy Younger said she was impressed with Plummer's composure during her first trip to state.

"She was very poised, very happy, as relaxed as she could be. You wouldn't have noticed any stress in her, she held herself very well," Younger said.

"I was just happy to get the experience, and play against someone that played that well"

— Sarah Plummer, Baker High School tennis player

In the first round, Plummer played Patricia Dougherty, a freshman from Klamath Union who went on to win the singles championship.

Although Dougherty beat Plummer 6-0, 6-0, Younger said Plummer played well.

"She was able to return good hard serves, and had a couple of rallies," Younger said.

Plummer said Dougherty is an impressive player. "Probably the shorter shots were the best, but she (Dougherty) definitely liked her ground strokes," Plummer said.

"I was just happy to get the experience, and play against someone that played that well, because I haven't really played against someone with that skill," Plummer said.

Younger is excited to see Plummer continue to grow from this condensed season, and is excited to see her return for her senior season in the spring of 2022.

Younger also hopes that Plummer's achievement will inspire her teammates.

"I am hoping she can light a little fire in some of the kids," Younger said.

Plummer is already ready for next season.

"I loved the entire season this year, it was really exciting," she said. "Hopefully I'll be able to go back (to state)."

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