

BAKER VOLLEYBALL

Vandals hand Baker first loss

■ Bulldogs rallied often but couldn't avoid sweep at McCall-Donnelly

By COREY KIRK

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The Baker volleyball team took to the road for the first time this season on Saturday, Aug. 28, and the Bulldogs returned from the three-hour trip to McCall, Idaho, with their first loss.

The McCall-Donnelly Vandals swept Baker, 3-0.

But the Vandals had to earn every point in front of their raucous home crowd.

"Yesterday was a good test for some of our kiddos, having to get off the bus and show up to play a tough team," Baker coach Ali Abrego said on Sunday, Aug. 29. "They got into rhythm and were able to piece together some really nice plays."

Baker, which opened its season by sweeping Powder Valley in the Baker gym on



Mark Stoeckl/The Star-News

Baker's Ashlyn Dalton goes up for a spike on Saturday, Aug. 28 at McCall-Donnelly against the Vandals' Lexi Arnold. McCall-Donnelly swept the match.

Aug. 26, fell behind 16-8 in the opening set at McCall.

The Bulldogs rallied to get within 19-15, and 24-22, but

the Vandals' early advantage was too much to overcome, and McCall-Donnelly won the set 25-22.

In the second set the Vandals again forged an early lead at 11-6.

But Baker responded again, tying the score at 13 and even taking a brief lead at 18-16.

McCall-Donnelly then scored four straight points to lead 20-18, but the Bulldogs rallied again to tie it at 21 and 22.

Junior Rylee Elms served two straight aces to give Baker a set point at 24-22, but the Vandals then tied it at 24.

Baker had two more set points, at 25-24 and 26-25, but couldn't get the winning point. McCall-Donnelly scored the final three points to win the set.

In the third and final set, McCall-Donnelly went up 9-4 but Baker scored six straight points, its longest stretch of the match, to lead 10-9. Elms had a spike that tied it at 9.

Baker continued the rally, eventually winning 13 of 15 points to lead 17-11, its largest advantage of the match.

But the Vandals responded with a 7-1 run to tie it at 18.

McCall-Donnelly led 23-20 and appeared poised to put the match away, but Baker rallied to tie it at 23 before the Vandals scored the final two points to wrap up the sweep.

"The girls recognized what they needed to improve on, and what they did well, with-

out me having to tell them, which also shows growth," Abrego said.

Baker returns to the road this week, but for a much shorter journey, to Union.

The Bulldogs will take on the Bobcats Thursday, Sept. 2 starting at 5:30 p.m.



Mark Stoeckl/The Star-News

Baker's Joie Ramos makes a set during the Bulldogs' match at McCall-Donnelly, Idaho, on Saturday, Aug. 28.

Patrick Cantlay delivers clutch putting for signature win

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — No one ever questioned that Patrick Cantlay had the chops to be among golf's elite.

What he might have lacked in number of PGA Tour victories, he made for it with the way he won or the field he beat. His victory Sunday in the BMW Championship — the fifth of his career and his PGA Tour-leading third of the season — was a little of each.

On a Caves Valley course that

suiting the biggest hitters, facing the biggest masher of them all in Bryson DeChambeau, he delivered a moment that will be remembered for the ice in his veins and nerves of steel.

He really only smiled after he made the last of six pivotal putts on the final nine holes — six of them in a sudden-death playoff.

"I'm just as focused as I can be. If I look the way I do, it's because I am locked in and focused," Cantlay said. "And I felt like that today."

Even more remarkable is that

Cantlay had plenty of occasions to believe he wouldn't be winning the BMW Championship, yet it only crossed his mind once.

That came on the second playoff hole when he hit his approach heavy and came up 55 feet short of the hole. DeChambeau, who had a 30-yard advantage off the tee on the 18th hole, hit wedge into 6 feet.

"I liked Bryson's chances of making that 6-footer up the hill," Cantlay said. "I thought he was going to make that putt. That was maybe the only time that I really thought I was done.

But he didn't make it. That's golf."

As for the other times? Right when Cantlay looked to be done, he was clutch.

DeChambeau took a one-shot lead on the par-5 16th with a 12-foot putt, and Cantlay still faced an 8-foot par putt to avoid falling two behind. He made it.

On the next hole, Cantlay's tee shot bounced short and right and into the water, with DeChambeau in the rough just short of the green, about 25 feet from the hole. Cantlay removed his cap and slowly tugged it

over his head. Surely, it was over.

But then DeChambeau muffed his chip and missed his 12-footer for par. Cantlay hit lob wedge from 100 yards away in the drop area and slid in the bogey-saving putt from 8 feet.

"I got to thinking, 'Let's try and make 4 here and at least not take all the pressure off of him.' We both had 4s on that hole, and that really kept me in the golf tournament, kind of switched the momentum a little bit," Cantlay said. "It would have been almost insurmountable if I would have went down two going into 18."

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