

## BAKER GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Bulldogs sweep two on road trip

■ Baker improves to 4-1 with wins at Estacada, Molalla

By JAYSON JACOBY

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If there's such a thing as a win that's too easy, the Baker girls basketball team might have had one Friday, Dec. 10 at Estacada.

The Bulldogs dominated the host Rangers 59-4.

Baker assistant coach Jason Ramos, who served as head coach for the Bulldogs games at Estacada and Molalla while coach Buell Gonzales Jr. was attending a funeral, said the rout, although easy on the court, also was difficult because it was so one-sided.

"It's a tough game to coach the kids through," Ramos said. "You just have to work on some things, to get better."

Baker led 23-0 after the first quarter. Jozie Ramos, who led all scorers with 18 points, had 10 of those points in the first eight minutes.

Rylee Elms took over in the second

half, scoring 14 of her 16 points.

Brooklyn Jaca added nine points, and Taylor Gyllenberg had eight.

Saturday's game at Molalla was much more competitive, and thus a better test for the Bulldogs, who broke open a close game with a run late in the second quarter, then held off a Molalla rally in the second half.

The 50-33 win boosted Baker's record to 4-1, the only blemish a one-point loss at Pendleton on Dec. 7.

"We want to have games where teams are going to come at us," Jason Ramos said. "We want to be in more games like that one. It was a good test."

It was also Baker's third game in three nights, and Ramos said that although there were signs of fatigue, the Bulldogs didn't falter.

Leading 11-9 after one quarter, Baker dominated the second quarter, 18-7, to lead 29-16 at halftime.

But Jozie Ramos, who scored 11 points in the first half, also picked up her fourth foul in the second quarter.

Ramos had to sit the entire third quarter, and Molalla outscored the Bulldogs 11-5 to cut the lead to 34-27 entering the final quarter.

Ramos returned in the fourth quarter and scored her final basket.

Macey Moore had four of her 11 points in the final quarter; Gyllenberg had a three-pointer, and Elms and Sydnee Pierce each made two of two free throws to thwart the Molalla rally. Gyllenberg finished with nine points, Jaca had six, and Elms five.

"We're getting better," Jason Ramos said. "We're being a little more patient on offense, which is good to see. There are plenty of things to work on."

Baker returns to its home court Wednesday, Dec. 15 for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff against Fruitland, Idaho.

The Bulldogs then join the boys team for another cross-state trip, this one to Klamath Falls. The Baker girls will play Mazama on Friday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m., and then Klamath Union on Saturday at 11 a.m.



Baker City Herald/Lisa Britton

Baker's Macey Moore, seen here on Dec. 2 against Homedale, helped lead the Bulldogs to wins over Estacada and Molalla last weekend.

## NYCFC wins MLS Cup, beating Portland Timbers in shootout

By ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

PORTLAND — After more than a decade in Major League Soccer, goalkeeper Sean Johnson was finally able to lift the championship trophy.

He earned an MLS Cup MVP award, too.

Johnson stopped a pair of Portland penalties and New York City FC won its first MLS Cup title in a shootout after a 1-1 draw with the Timbers on Saturday, Dec. 11. Alex Callens converted on his attempt to clinch the shootout, 4-2.

Afterward, a teammate filled the cup with cham-

pagne and handed it to Johnson, who took a drink. Johnson has been in MLS since 2010, first with the Chicago Fire. He joined the NYCFC in 2017.

"What a ride so far, this journey was crazy this year. So many ups, so many downs," Johnson said. "We talked amongst ourselves before the game and just said it's a massive opportunity to make it all worth it. And this is what we live for, these moments. To be to be the MVP of the finals, I mean it means the world, but it means so much more to lift the cup for this for this club."

Golden Boot winner

Valentin "Taty" Castellanos scored in the opening half and it appeared that NYCFC was on its way to the league championship in regulation, but Portland's Felipe Mora scored in stoppage time to give the Timbers hope.

Johnson, NYCFC's captain, stopped PKs from Mora and Diego Valeri in the shootout after the two teams went scoreless in extra time.

"I just wanted to make sure that we stayed level, we've been in that position before. I told the guys that we have the experience, not to panic, not to get down on ourselves, because there's more of an opportunity to go

forward and win the game," he said about guiding the team to the finish.

NYCFC celebrated in front of the goal after Callens converted, while Valeri lay in the middle of the field in disbelief. A group of New York players broke off from the party to salute their fans, grouped in the opposite corner of the stadium.

New York stayed on the field long after the victory. Coach Ronny Delia stripped down to his underwear and lifted the trophy.

"I don't regret that, it was a big moment," Delia said. "I will keep on doing that if we keep on winning trophies." NYCFC, which joined the league in 2015, had never advanced to the title game. Castellanos, who had 19

goals in the regular season, was back in the starting lineup after missing the Eastern Conference final against Philadelphia. The Argentine striker was handed a red card in the conference semifinals against the top-seeded New England Revolution, which NYCFC won on a penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw.

New York's 2-1 victory over Philadelphia secured NYCFC a place in the MLS Cup final. NYCFC was the fourth seed in the East after finishing the regular season 14-9-11.

The Timbers were also seeded fourth after going 17-13-4 in the regular season. Portland downed the top-seeded Colorado Rapids on Thanksgiving Day before beating Real Salt Lake 2-0 at

Providence Park to win the Western Conference and secure home field for the final.

The Timbers won an MLS Cup in 2015 and went to the final in 2018 but fell to Atlanta.

"It feels cruel, it feels sour, it feels difficult to accept. Before we learn something from it, we need to feel and understand the emotions that we're going to have after this match, not to achieve what was our goal, to lift the trophy at home," Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese said. "We couldn't have thought about a more beautiful situation for us than lifting that trophy. So the first thing is manage our emotions and come to the realization that it happened this way. The game can be cruel."

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**"Royal Cafe:  
50 Years on Main Street"**

Exploring the Vital Role Chinese Immigrants Played in Baker County

A Conversation With  
**Gary Dielman**  
Historian

In 1935, five related Chinese businessmen from a small village in southeastern China came to Baker City after having engaged in business ventures in Walla Walla, Washington, and Pendleton. In Baker City they began by acquiring a second-story restaurant at 2009 Main St. called The Chinese Tea Garden. Soon they started a new restaurant at 1910 Main St. named Royal Café. That café remained under family ownership for more than half a century.

Join us to learn about the Eng family, whose experience illustrates the vital role Chinese Immigrants played in Baker County.

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