

BAKER BASEBALL

Bulldog baseball off to 3-0 start

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Baker was just waiting to play an extra inning, apparently.

The Bulldog baseball team erupted for 11 runs in the final inning of a doubleheader on Thursday, March 17, at Heppner, turning a tie into a 19-8 win in eight innings and completing a sweep of Heppner/Ione.

Baker, which won the first game 7-2, improved to 3-0 on the season. "I thought we played pretty well defensively in both games, our infield was solid," Baker coach Tim Smith said.

He said he thought Baker hit the ball better than in the season opener at Parma, Idaho, on Wednesday, March 16, although he lamented the seven runners Baker left on base in the first game at Heppner.

"It could have been a bigger score for sure," Smith said.

Connor Chastain started on the mound and allowed just three hits and two runs in 5.2 innings, striking out six.

"Connor threw one of the better games he's thrown at the varsity level," Smith said. "Whenever we can get at least five innings out of our starter we're going to be in good shape."

Alex Crawford relieved Chastain and held Heppner/Ione scoreless over the final 1.1 innings.

Chastain helped himself at the plate, driving in a pair of runs.

Jaxon Logsdon, Logan Capon and Hayden Younger each had two hits.

The second game featured a lot more offense, as Heppner/Ione jumped ahead 3-0 after one inning and 7-4 after two.

Baker whittled away at the lead, scoring two runs in the top of the sixth to tie the score at 7. Heppner/Ione went ahead 8-7 with a run in the bottom half, but Baker got another run in the top of the seventh to make it 8-8.

Smith said Heppner/Ione had the potential game-winning run at third base with one out in the bottom of the seventh, but Capon, who was Baker's second relief pitcher, had a strikeout and induced a ground ball to force extra innings.

And that's when, as Smith put it, "the floodgates opened."

Most of the Baker line up had a hit as Baker pushed 11 runs across the plate to take a 19-8 lead.

Capon held Heppner/Ione scoreless in the bottom of the eighth.

"We came out in the top of the eighth and really put it to them," Smith said.

Logsdon went 4 for 5 and drove in four runs. Younger was 3 for 4 with 2 RBI, Chastain 3 for 5 with an RBI, Cody Skidgel 3 for 5 with 2 RBI, Kai Ogan 3 for 6 with 3 RBI, Hudson Spike 2 for 6 with 2 RBI, and Caiden Benson 2 for 4 with 2 RBI.

At Parma, Idaho

Baker opened its season at Parma with a performance that was the reverse of what Smith anticipated.

The Bulldogs struggled at the plate, with no extra-base hits and 15 strikeouts.

But Baker played solid defense, with no errors, and four Baker pitchers combined to allow seven hits and two runs in a 5-2 win.

"We played better defensively than we did offensively, which I didn't expect would be the case," Smith said.

With weather forcing Baker to spend much of its practice time in the batting cages rather than on the field, he anticipated a better offensive showing.

"It shows that live hitting is different than being in the cages," Smith said. "We've got things to work on. It was a rough win."

Smith said starting pitcher Chastain and a trio of relievers — Thomas Smithson, Silas Carter and Capon — all threw well for their first outing of the season.

With a doubleheader scheduled the next day, Smith had to limit pitch counts against Parma. Pitchers who throw more than 25 pitches can't pitch the next day, so Smith capped Chastain, Smithson and Capon to that threshold.

Carter, who came on in the fourth and threw 51 pitches over three innings, earned the win. He struck out four batters, walked two and allowed only one run.

Baker scored all its runs in the fifth inning, breaking up a scoreless game through four.

Smithson had the biggest hit with a two-run single. Cody Skidgel also had an RBI single.

Although Baker hitters struggled to make solid contact at the plate, Smith said he was pleased with the

AT PARMA

Baker	0	0	0	5	0	0	—	5
Parma	0	0	0	1	1	0	—	2

Chastain, Smithson (2), Carter (4), Capon (7) and Logsdon. Powers, Hultman (5) and Heffelfinger.
WP: Carter. LP: Powers.

GAME ONE AT HEPPNER/IONE

Baker	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	—	7
Hepp/Ione	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	—	2

Chastain, Crawford (6) and Logsdon. Ashbeck, Eynetich (7) and Proudfoot. WP: Chastain. LP: Ashbeck. 2B: Capon.

GAME TWO AT HEPPNER/IONE

Baker	0	4	0	1	0	2	1	1	—	19
Hepp/Ione	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	8

Smithson, Benson (2), Capon (7) and Logsdon. Nation, Eynetich (8), Wilkins (8) and Proudfoot. WP: Capon. LP: Eynetich. 2B: Skidgel, Younger, Spike, Benson, Logsdon.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Baker baseball player Thomas Smithson awaits a pitch during batting practice on March 15, 2022.

Bulldogs' speed when they did get on base. Baker had 11 stolen bases, including three by Capon and two thefts each from Smithson, Logsdon and Spike.

"We didn't get on base a lot, but when we did we wanted to move runners into scoring position," Smith said. "We can steal bases. It was exciting to see."

Less than half a day after returning from Heppner, the Bulldogs headed out on Interstate 84 en route to Arizona, where they'll play four games next week.



Baker City Public Works/Contributed Photo

A fire on Thursday evening, March 16, 2022, scorched the city's sewer jetter truck at the Baker City Public Works Department shops.

Fire

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Fire damage was so extensive that it wasn't possible to identify a specific part on the truck that might have sparked the fire. He said the truck had not had any recent mechanical issues.

The public works department uses that truck, which has a water tank, to dislodge blockages in sewer lines. The truck has a pump that creates a high-pressure surge of water.

Owen said city workers park the truck in what's known as the "warm storage" building, which is kept at a warm enough temperature to prevent the water in the sewer jetter truck from freezing.

She said the truck was parked and shut down as usual after being used on Wednesday.

"It was shut down like every other day," Owen said. "We use it every day, we go through the same process every day. There wasn't anything unique or different."

Flames spread elsewhere in the warm storage building and damaged a pickup truck the city uses to spread salt and sand at icy or snowy intersections, as well as a street sweeper.

The city likely will need to rent equipment to temporarily replace the vehicles damaged by the fire, Owen said.

The building itself, which has metal siding, will need to be stripped to the studs.

"There was some electrical damage," Owen said.

The city's insurance company had an adjuster look at the damage, Owen said.

Eight Baker City firefighters worked on the blaze, with mutual aid from the Baker Rural Fire Protection District.

There were no injuries.

"Thankful nobody was hurt, thankful it didn't spread to any other buildings, thankful it didn't do any other equipment damage to the graders that are parked right outside that building," Owen said.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Top seed Gonzaga pulls away late

BY TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Gonzaga coach Mark Few has seen plenty of No. 16 seeds in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. When he watched video of Georgia State, the longtime Bulldogs' coach didn't see a team that fit that profile.

Few turned to be correct. Gonzaga spent 30 minutes struggling to create any separation against the 16th-seeded Panthers before pulling away late for a 93-72 win on Thursday, March 17.

"Once we started really breaking them down, I kept telling people that's not a 16 seed," Few said after Gonzaga won its 13th straight first-round game in the NCAAs. "I think they showed it tonight. Georgia State gave us quite a fight."

The Bulldogs eventu-

ally had too much size and skill for the Panthers. Drew Timme scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half, making up for a sluggish start by the Zags and a long stretch of the first half when the tournament's No. 1 overall seed couldn't make a basket.

Even when Gonzaga's offense kicked into gear after halftime, the Panthers didn't fold.

The eventual overwhelming surge from the Bulldogs finally arrived with about 10 minutes to go. Gonzaga went on a 24-1 run, turning a four-point game into the blowout that was expected. The Zags will face the West Region's No. 9 seed, Memphis, in the second round on Saturday.

Timme was the catalyst, topping 30 points for the fifth time in his career while also grabbing 13 rebounds.

Chet Holmgren, the Zags' 7-foot freshman, added 19 points, 17 rebounds and seven blocks.

"My guys had my back and the coaches believed in me. I just had confidence from them," said Timme, who was 3 of 7 shooting and 4 of 9 at the foul line in the first half. "It's really reassuring. It really can help give you a boost when you get a little down on yourself."

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Alan (Big Al) King

March 17, 1947 – January 10, 2022

Alan Lloyd King was born March 17, 1947, to Lloyd Sterling King and Della Frances Ryan in Exeter, California, and died with his wife by his side on January 10, 2022, in Appleton, Wisconsin, from Covid.

He is survived by his wife, Sheri. Children: Aaron (Rilda) King, Becky (Jack) Zoglman, Ryan King and Karle (Jason) Stoll. Grandchildren: Ethan (fiancé Alyssa) Zoglman, Grace Zoglman, Andrew Zoglman, Ben Winans, Xander Winans, Jonathan Stoll, Nick Stoll, Drew Stoll. Sister: Anita Joyce Barlow. Nephew: Robert Barlow. Niece: Sarah Barlow.

A Celebration of Al's life will be Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City.

Remembrances can be made to a charity or program of your choice.



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