

## BAKER SOFTBALL OPENS HOME SCHEDULE

## Bulldogs breeze past Marsing, 18-2

## Bulldogs improve to 3-0 on the season

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker's softball team was eager to play in front of its home fans for the first time in 2022.

Perhaps a trifle too eager.

But after a sluggish first inning on a blustery Tuesday evening, March 29, the Bulldogs dominated Marsing, Idaho, breezing to an 18-2 win in five innings on Steiger Field at the Baker Sports Complex.

Baker, playing for the first time since March 17, improved to 3-0 on the season.

"I like the contributions I'm getting from everyone in the lineup, whether in the field or at the plate or on the bases," Baker coach Sonny Gulick said. "We play hard, and it's nice to see that."

Baker pitcher Kaycee Cuzick got out of a bases loaded jam with one out in the top of the first by striking out Lily Thoene and Jaci Montgomery.

Marsing scored one run on a close play at the plate as Taylor Callison advanced from third on a passed ball.

Catcher Kaci Anderson flipped the ball to Cuzick, who tagged Callison a split-second after her foot touched the plate.

Gulick credited Anderson

Marsing 1 0 1 0 0—2  
Baker 1 7 4 6 X—18  
Cuzick and K. Anderson. Astorquia and Gluch. WP: Cuzick. LP: Astorquia.  
2B: Aldrich, K. Anderson, Cuzick. 3B: Aldrich, K. Anderson, Dalton, Rayl.

with blocking another low pitch that, had it gotten past her, could have given Marsing a second run.

Kiley Jo Aldrich led off the bottom of the first by lining a pitch from Mila Astorquia to right field.

Unfortunately, rightfielder Sophia Lundberg scarcely had to move to make the catch for the first out.

Baker tied the score at 1 when Brooklyn Rayl singled to right field to score Anderson, who had reached on Astorquia's error.

After Candace Peterson drew a walk, Astorquia struck out Cuzick and Te'yan Coley to end the first inning.

Gulick said Baker batters were too aggressive in the first inning, swinging at pitches that would have been called balls.

But the Bulldogs quickly corrected that issue.

Cuzick had an easy second inning, striking out two Marsing batters after shortstop Ashlyn Dalton nabbed Mariah Colbert's ground ball for the first out.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

**Baker's Candace Peterson lets a high pitch go by for a ball during the Bulldogs' 18-2 win over Marsing, Idaho, on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at the Baker Sports Complex. Peterson drew three walks and scored two runs.**

Baker then took control in the home half of the second.

Dalton, batting seventh in the order, started with an infield single. She advanced to second on a throwing error and then to third on a wild pitch.

Sydney Fry and Emrie Osborn both drew walks to load the bases.

Dalton scored on a passed ball to give Baker a 2-1 lead,

and Aldrich was the third straight Baker batter to draw a base on balls.

Anderson followed with an RBI single, Rayl drove in a run on a fielder's choice, and the Bulldogs led 4-1.

The rally continued with two outs.

Rayl scored on a wild pitch, and Coley drove in a run with a single.

Dalton then completed the scoring with a two-run triple down the leftfield line.

Baker led 8-1 after two innings.

Gulick said the Bulldogs were much more patient at the plate after the first inning, waiting for Astorquia, who struggled to throw strikes, to get a pitch over the plate.

He was also pleased by the performance of the bottom part of the lineup. Dalton, batting seventh, started the second-inning surge and finished it with her triple.

"It's always nice when your 7 through 9 hitters start your rally," Gulick said.

Marsing picked up a run on Astorquia's single in the top of the third, but rightfielder Osborn threw out Astorquia at second as she tried to stretch the hit into a double.

Dalton ended the threat with an unassisted forceout at second on a ground ball.

Baker extended its lead to 12-2 with four more runs in the bottom of the third. Osborn opened the inning with a single, followed by consecutive RBI triples by Aldrich, Rayl and Anderson.

Cuzick drove in the final run with an infield single.

Baker completed the scoring with six more runs in the bottom of the fourth.

Osborn had an RBI single, Anderson drove in a run with a

double, Skylar Roy, playing for the first time after recovering from an injury during the state basketball tournament earlier this month, had an RBI ground-out, and Dalton had a run-scoring single to make it 18-2.

Baker ended the game by the 10-run mercy rule by holding Marsing scoreless in the top of the fifth.

Peterson caught a fly ball for the first out and threw to Roy at third base to get a runner trying to advance after tagging up at second.

Cuzick then struck out Montgomery for the final out, and the last of her nine strikeouts in the complete-game win.

Gulick said Cuzick, after figuring out the umpire's strike zone, "settled down and did a great job, throwing a lot of strikes."

Marsing had just five hits.

Gulick said that in talking with the Bulldogs after the win, he emphasized that they'll need to play the way they did from the second inning on against tougher opponents on their schedule.

Baker trailed just 1-0 against Marsing, but a similar start against other teams could lead to a much bigger deficit, Gulick said.

The Bulldogs will try to keep their record unblemished Friday, April 1, by playing host to Burns in a doubleheader. The first game is set for 2 p.m.

## NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

## What you need to know about each team in the Final Four

BY STEVE MEGARGEE

Associated Press

There's no room for a surprise team at this Final Four.

Duke, North Carolina, Kansas and Villanova have combined for 17 national championships. Each of the schools has won at least three titles, making this the first Final Four in which each of the teams already had won multiple championships.

The closest thing to a Final Four party crasher is North Carolina, which was seeded eighth in the South Region but has won 10 of its last 11 games.

Those aren't the only impressive numbers involving the four tradition-rich programs remaining in the NCAA Tournament. Here are a few things to know about each of the teams in the Final Four:

## DUKE

• **COACH K'S FINALE:** Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski is making his 13th Final Four appearance to move into sole possession of first place (former UCLA coach John Wooden also had 12). Krzyzewski also has made more NCAA Tournament appearances (36) and won more NCAA Tournament games (101) than any other coach.

• **ON THE MARK:** Mark Williams has blocked 16 shots in Duke's first games, which matches the most by any Duke player in a single NCAA Tournament. Shane Battier had 16 in 2001 when Duke won the title. Williams also is shooting 80.6% from the floor, which puts him on pace to have the highest field-goal percentage

## Men's Final Four

Saturday, April 2

• Villanova vs. Kansas, 3:09 p.m.

• North Carolina vs. Duke, 5:49 p.m.

Both games on TBS

in a single NCAA Tournament of any Duke player with at least 25 attempts. Williams' accuracy has helped Duke shoot 53.8% in the tournament, the best field-goal percentage of anyone in the original 68-team field.

• **WATCH OUT FOR GRIFFIN:** A.J. Griffin has been the barometer for Duke's level of success against semifinal opponent North Carolina this season. He scored 27 points in Duke's 87-67 victory at North Carolina on Feb. 5 but had just five points in 34 minutes when the Blue Devils fell 94-81 to the Tar Heels at home a month later.

## NORTH CAROLINA

• **FAMILIAR FINISH:** This is North Carolina's NCAA-leading 21st appearance in the Final Four. The Tar Heels also lead all schools with 130 victories in NCAA Tournament games.

• **SELECT COMPANY:** North Carolina coach Hubert Davis is one of only two people to play and coach in the Final Four with the same school. Davis was on the 1991 North Carolina team that lost an NCAA semifinal to Kansas. The only other person to make a Final Four as a player and coach

at the same school was Dick Harp, who played (1940) and coached (1957) NCAA runner-up teams with Kansas. Davis also was an assistant coach on Roy Williams' staff when North Carolina reached an NCAA final in 2016 and won the title in 2017.

• **MANEK VS. DEVILS:** Brady Manek scored at least 20 points in each of North Carolina's previous two meetings with Duke this season. He had 21 points when the Tar Heels lost to Duke at home. He had 20 points and 11 rebounds when North Carolina won at Duke. Manek has scored 86 points in this NCAA Tournament, the most of any player.

## KANSAS

• **GETTING STINGY:** The Jayhawks are allowing tournament foes to shoot just 34.1%. That's the best NCAA Tournament field-goal percentage defense of any team in the original 68-team field.

• **MORE WINS THAN ANYONE:** Kansas' Midwest Region final triumph over Miami gave the Jayhawks 2,355 all-time victories. That enabled Kansas to take the Division I lead over Kentucky, a first-round loser that ended its season with 2,354 all-time wins.

• **UNDER 70:** Kansas has held eight of its last nine opponents below 70 points. The Jayhawks are 24-0 this season when they allow fewer than 70 points. The only team to crack 70 points against Kansas during this tournament was Creighton, which lost 79-72 to the Jayhawks in the sec-

ond round. Kansas' semifinal opponent is Villanova, which has won nine straight but has reached the 70-point mark in just two of its last seven games.

## VILLANOVA

• **NO MOORE:** Justin Moore leads Villanova in minutes per game (34.4), ranks second on the team in scoring (14.8), 3-pointers (80) and assists per game (2.3)

and ranks third in rebounds per game (4.8). Villanova will have to play the Final Four without Moore, who tore his right Achilles tendon in a 50-44 South Region final victory over Houston.

• **SAMUELS' SURGE:** Jermaine Samuels has averaged 17.5 points in the tournament and has scored at least 15 points in each game. Samuels entered the tournament aver-

aging just 10.4.

• **COLD BUT POISED:** Villanova has shot 27.5% from 3-point range (14 of 51) over its last two games but still reached the Final Four. The Wildcats were 9 of 30 on 3-point attempts against Michigan and 5 of 21 against Houston. They've shot 30% or below from 3-point range in 13 games this season but have gone 9-4 in those contests.

Tires LES SCHWAB

LIFE IS SHORT  
BUY THE TIRES  
TAKE THE TRIP

Call or go online  
for an  
appointment,  
or drop in and  
see us!

FREE PRE-TRIP SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Tires
- ✓ Suspension

LEW BROS TIRE

(541) 523-3679

210 Bridge St., Baker City, OR 97814

## Signs of Pregnancy

Missed period, sensitive breasts, nausea, vomiting, increased moodiness, fatigue, bloating, increased urination, spotting, cramping, food aversion



Testing for pregnancy is available at Baker County Health Department.

If your test is positive, we can provide support: help getting health insurance, signing up for WIC and more....

Plus, we have great gift bags that include "What to Expect When Expecting" and more for our expecting mothers.

