

BAKER BASEBALL PLAYS FIRST HOME GAME

Bulldogs hold off Homedale, 8-6

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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The Baker baseball team used two big innings on offense early, and solid relief pitching and defense late, to hold off the Homedale Trojans 8-6 in the Bulldogs' home opener on a chilly and windy Wednesday evening, March 30, at the Sports Complex.

After spotting Homedale a 1-0 lead, the Bulldogs scored four times in the bottom of the first and never trailed again.

Baker improved to 4-3-1.

"I thought we hit the ball really well in the first half of the game," Baker coach Tim Smith said. "It was definitely an improvement at the plate for us."

The Bulldogs focused on that part of the game after scoring just three runs in two straight losses to close out their trip to Arizona during spring break.

Trailing 1-0 after a half inning, Baker batted through its entire lineup in the bottom of the first.

With one out, Jaxon Logsdon doubled to left, scoring Hudson Spike.

The Bulldogs scored the rest of their runs in the inning with two outs.

Logan Capon doubled to left, scoring Thomas Smithson. Connor Chastain then rapped a single to right, bringing home Capon and Cole Hester, who had walked.

Although Baker led almost the entire game, the outcome remained somewhat in doubt throughout.

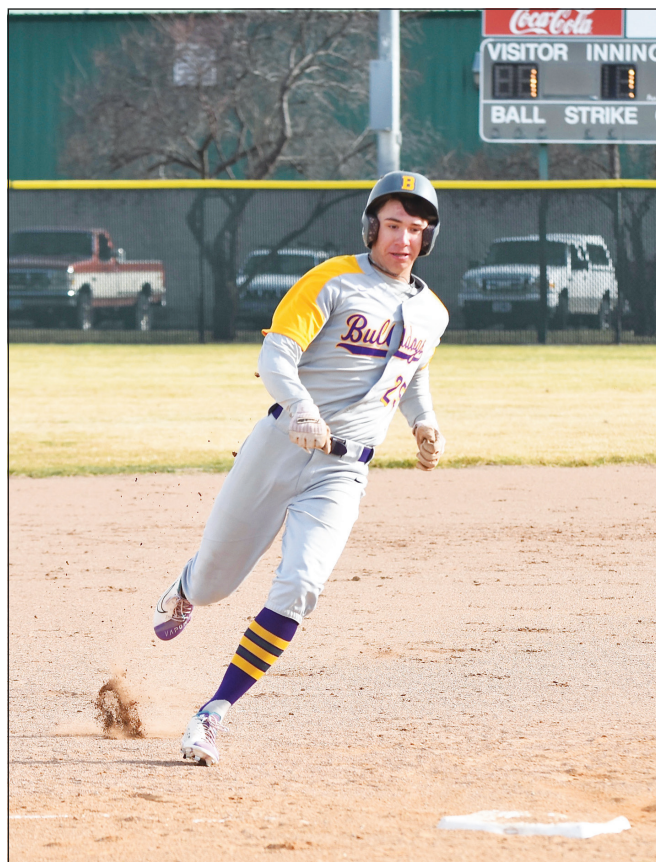
The Trojans scored two runs in the top of the second to cut Baker's lead to 4-3.

Baker got one run back in the third, but Homedale scored again with two outs in the top of the fourth to trim the deficit to a single run again, 5-4.

Chastain relieved Baker starting pitcher Silas Carter to start the fourth, and Chastain sandwiched a strikeout and a popout around a walk to Jayden Wutherich.

After a walk to D'Orr Packer that moved Wutherich to second, Sigmund Goode hit a ground ball that didn't have a lot of speed but found a gap.

Second baseman Hester, who was shading toward second



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Hudson Spike runs the bases during Baker's 8-6 win over Homedale, Idaho, on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at the Baker Sports Complex.

Homedale	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	—	6
Baker	4	0	1	3	0	0	x	—	8

Goode, Liebschwager (2), Lejardi (4) and Packer. Carter, Chastain (4), Capon (6), Spike (7) and Logsdon. WP: Carter. LP: Goode.
2B: Logsdon, Capon. 3B: Carter.

He promptly stole second. Spike laid down a bunt that Liebschwager bobbled, allowing Spike to reach first and Younger to advance to third.

Younger scored on a wild pitch, and after Logsdon walked, Cody Skidgel hit a hard ground ball that bounced over second base for a single that scored Spike and boosted Baker's lead to 7-4.

Baker scored its final run of the inning when Liebschwager tried to pick off Capon, who had singled. The throw was wild and Logsdon raced home. Homedale wasn't finished, though.

The Trojans rallied for two runs in the top of the sixth.

But Capon, who relieved Chastain in the sixth, and Spike, who got the final two outs, held the Trojans scoreless in the seventh.

Smith said he was happy with Baker's defense and pitching late in the game — he just wishes it hadn't been quite so necessary since Baker cooled off on offense, going scoreless in the fifth and sixth after leading 8-4.

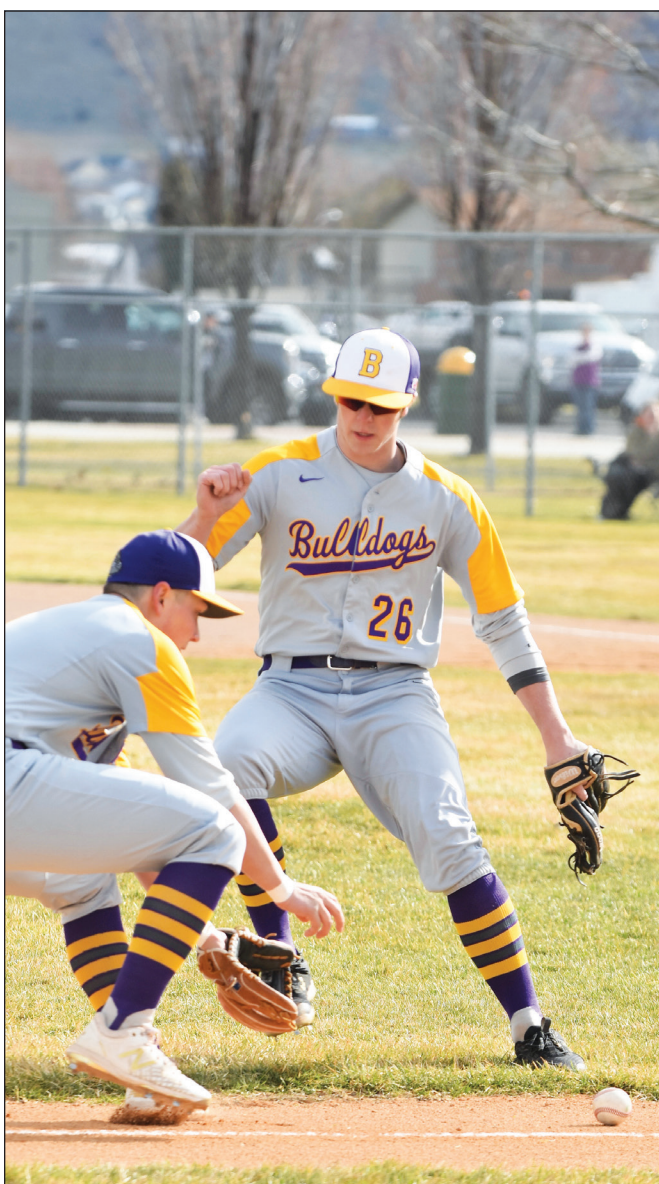
"We just need to put a full game together, to finish people off," he said.

Baker returned to the road this weekend, traveling to Astoria for a doubleheader on Friday, April 1, and a single game against Seaside on Saturday, April 2.

Carter was 2 for 3 against Homedale, including an RBI triple on a shot that rolled to the wall in right center in the bottom of the third.

Capon was 2 for 3 with an RBI, Chastain was 1 for 1 with two RBIs and two walks, and Logsdon was 1 for 3 with an RBI.

Carter earned the win on the mound.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker third baseman Logan Capon, left, fields a ground ball while pitcher Silas Carter looks on during the Bulldogs' 8-6 win over Homedale, Idaho, on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at the Baker Sports Complex.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Silas Carter went three innings and earned the win in Baker's 8-6 win over Homedale, Idaho, on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at the Baker Sports Complex.

BAKER TENNIS TEAM OPENS SEASON AT PENDLETON

Bulldog tennis finally makes it to the courts

Baker City Herald

No other group of Baker High School spring athletes had to wait longer to compete than the tennis team.

But finally, and on the last day of March, the Bulldogs took to the courts for something other than practice.

Baker traveled to Pendleton to take on the Class 5A Buckaroos.

Baker won three of the four boys singles matches and one of five girls singles matches.

Pendleton swept all four doubles matches.

Baker coach Amy Younger said she was happy to see the players have a chance to compete against another team after more than a month of practices.

And even practicing was a challenge at times, as players had to help shovel snow off the courts at the Ash Grove tennis complex early in the season.

"It's been a little frustrating," Younger said of the wait for the first official matches.

Baker was slated to play at Four Rivers School in Ontario in mid March, but the matches were postponed first by rain, then by the lack of buses.

Then a scheduling mishap canceled the Baker boys' planned matches on Tuesday, March 29, at La Grande.

Younger said the boys played well against Pendleton.

Although the Baker girls didn't have as much success, Younger said she was pleased with their consistency, which led to many long rallies and generally competitive matches.

"Overall they played great," Younger said. "It was fun to see."

She said the matches at Pendleton were different than usual because when players reached deuce, rather than playing the "ad" style, where one player has to win



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Isabel Cunningham hits a volley during her match on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at Pendleton.

two straight points to claim the game, there was a sudden death format, where the player who won the first point after reaching deuce also won the game.

That shortened the matches, but it also potentially cost Baker players a chance to win games.

Younger said future matches will use the regular ad style for deuce games rather than sudden death.

Baker will return to action Monday, April 4, at Ontario, starting at 3 p.m. The Bulldogs travel to Mac-Hi on Thursday, April 7, for matches starting at 4 p.m.

BOYS

Singles

Daniel Cunningham (B) def. Matthew Stansbury, 6-2, 6-4

Tyler Walker (P) def. Caleb Hills, 7-5, 6-2

Ashton LeTourneau (B) def. Miller Johnson, 6-0, 6-4

Anthony Christopher (B)

def. Ben Barhyte, 6-2, 6-3

Doubles

Matthew Stansbury and Miller Johnson (P) def. Ethan Hills and Jayden Yencopal, 6-1, 7-6

Elijah Olds and Ben Barhyte (P) def. Weston Downing and Lincoln Nemeck, 6-1, 6-3

GIRLS

Singles

Olivia Corbett (P) def. Sarah Plummer, 6-2, 6-2

Nora Yoshioka (P) def. Isabel Cunningham, 6-4, 6-1

Maya Smith (B) def. Lucy Oyama, 6-3, 6-4

Emma Coleman (P) def. Olivia Jacoby, 6-2, 6-3

Keri Kenz (P) def. Hannah Lay, 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

Annie Boswick and Tatum Paulus (P) def. Tristen Tritt and Riley Shaw, 6-1, 6-4

Rachel Walker and Taybree Waller (P) def. Campbell Vanderwiele and Daphne Thomas, 6-0, 6-1



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