

**BAKER SOFTBALL DOUBLEHEADER AGAINST BURNS**

# Missed chances cost Baker in losses to Burns

**Baker strands runner at 3rd in each of last 4 innings in second game**

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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The modest span of 60 feet might as well have been a mile for the Baker softball team.

That smaller span of dirt lies between third base and home plate.

But short though it may be, it's also the yawning difference between winning and losing.

The Bulldogs had no trouble reaching third base during the second game of a doubleheader against Burns on Friday afternoon, April 1, at the Baker Sports Complex.

But Baker, which was seeking a split after losing the first game, never managed the key hit needed to bring any of those runners that final 60 feet and get the Bulldogs on the scoreboard.

Burns completed the sweep with a 5-0 win behind the masterful pitching of Ayla Davies, who got 17 of her team's 21 outs on strikeouts and walked only one batter.

Baker coach Sonny Gulick balanced his disappointment at the two losses, which followed a 3-0 start to the season, with optimism based on the Bulldogs' resilience.

After Baker fell behind 14-2 in the first game, the Bulldogs rallied with two outs in the seventh inning, scoring four runs to make the final score more respectable at 14-6.

More importantly, Gulick said, Baker carried over that momentum into the second game.

"We were feisty," he said. "We never quit, and that's what I love to see. I'm very happy with the growth we showed between the two games."

Still and all, Gulick lamented the many missed chances in the much more competitive second game.

"We had our opportunities," he said.

An understatement, to be sure.

Baker moved a runner to third base in each of the final four innings.

But in each inning, Davies pitched her way out of trouble with a combination of blazing speed and an occasional changeup that kept Baker batters a bit off balance.

"We hadn't seen velocity like that," Gulick said of Davies, who also was the winning pitcher in the first game. "We started figuring things out, but we could never get two hits in a row."

Baker actually outthit the Hillanders in both games — 8 to 7 in the first game and 10 to 5 in the second.

But Burns got a lot more out



Kaycee Cuzick pitches against Burns on Friday, April 1, 2022, at the Baker Sports Complex.

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Kiley Jo Aldrich slides safely into second base during the first game of a doubleheader against Burns on Friday, April 1, 2022, at the Sports Complex.

of its hits, including four home runs in the first game.

Baker also struggled on defense, committing 12 errors in the first game and five in the second.

The scorebook in the latter half of the second game was a litany of frustrations for the Bulldogs.

Unlike the first game, in which Burns led 7-0 after two innings, the nightcap was close throughout.

With Kaycee Cuzick throwing well in the circle for Baker, Burns led just 2-0 after three innings.

In the bottom of the fourth, Kaci Anderson led off with a single, and with one out Te'gyan Coley hit a ground rule double to center.

But Davies struck out the next two batters to end the threat.

Gulick gave a rueful chuckle when he pointed out that Co-



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

First baseman Te'gyan Coley catches a pop fly on Friday, April 1, 2022, against Burns at the Baker Sports Complex.

ley was in effect punished for hitting the ball too hard. If her drive had been a little shorter, and not bounced over the fence, Anderson almost certainly would have scored. But because it was a ground rule double, Anderson had to stay at third.

"A good hit cost us a run," Gulick said.

In the bottom of the fifth, Baker's scoring chance came with two outs.

Makayla Rabourne tripled to right field, and Cuzick walked.

But Davies got yet another strikeout to end the inning and add another zero to Baker's linscore.

Baker had another leadoff hit in the bottom of the sixth, when Oakley Anderson singled. She advanced to second on Coley's groundout and to third on a wild pitch.

In a repeat of the fourth, Davies bore down and struck out two straight batters.

Burns boosted its lead to 5-0 with a run in the sixth and two more in the seventh on Ashley Wright's two-run double.

But Baker tried to rally again.

Kiley Jo Aldrich reached on an error, and Brooklyn Rayl followed with a single. Aldrich advanced to third, and Rayl to second, on a wild pitch, and the Bulldogs had two runners in scoring position with no outs.

Davies, though, wasn't about to surrender the shutout.

She got three straight outs — including her 16th and 17th strikeouts — to finish it.

Gulick praised Cuzick's pitching with keeping Baker in position for a potential game-changing rally.

She had nine strikeouts and walked only one batter.

"Kaycee was great in the circle," Gulick said.

He was also pleased with Baker's defense in the second game — particularly after the struggles in the first game.

Gulick said he was thank-

**BMS softball team opens season**

Baker Middle School, which has a softball program for the first time, started its season on Saturday, April 2, at Fruitland. A Baker team of eighth and seventh graders beat McCall, Idaho, 14-6, in their first game, which went four innings. The second game, against Nyssa, ended in a 7-7 tie after five innings after reaching a time limit.

Against McCall, Colbi Bachman and Macey Morgan each had two RBIs. Kate Nelson, Reagan Ritter, Kellee Dixon and Raegan Gulick each drove in a run. Ritter and Gulick each pitched two innings.

**GAME ONE**

Burns 4 3 0 3 1 0 3—14  
Baker 0 0 0 1 1 0 4—6  
Davies, Dupuy (4) and Medley, Cuzick, Coley (6) and K. Anderson.

**GAME TWO**

Burns 0 1 1 0 0 1 2—5  
Baker 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0  
Davis and Medley, Cuzick and K. Anderson.

ful that Rabourne, who hasn't played outfield, agreed to do so. He said he wanted to keep her bat in the lineup. She was 1 for 3 with two RBIs in the first game, and 3 for 4 in the second.

Even without the assistance from Baker's errors, the Hillanders controlled the first game from the start.

Merissa Medley and Wright hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning — Medley's a three-run shot — to give Burns an early 4-0 lead.

The duo repeated that feat in the fourth inning to boost the Hillanders' lead to 10-0.

Although Baker's record dropped to 3-2, Gulick said he believes the Bulldogs are improving.

"Burns is a good team, and we showed we can play with a team like that," he said. "It makes me feel good that we're moving forward."

The Hillanders are 10-1 and the top-ranked Class 3A team. Their only loss was their opening game, 4-0 to Grant Union/Prairie City on March 17.

Grant Union is unbeaten and the top-ranked Class 2A team.

Baker returns to the Sports Complex Tuesday, April 5, playing host to Nyssa in a single game starting at 3 p.m.

**Defense**

Continued from Page A1

Klecker said Keys reached out to him about scheduling a women's self defense class.

Klecker, who previously worked for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in Newport, said he taught similar classes throughout Lincoln County.

"This is something I've wanted to do for a long time since I moved over here but with COVID hitting, it was almost impossible," said Klecker, who is a survival skills instructor. "They are a lot of fun. I really enjoy them."

Joining Klecker and Keys as instructors in Saturday's course in Baker City were two officers with the Baker County Sheriff's Office, patrol deputy Matt Rosin and patrol Cpl. Kyle Ebeling.

Among the methods Klecker demonstrated was getting away from someone who is sitting on and choking you.

After demonstrating several times how to get out of the hold, participants paired off and practiced the methods slowly and carefully so as not to harm each other.

"Speed is the enemy of retention; work slow and careful," Klecker said.

Advocates for MayDay, including Executive Director Leanna Gautney, set up tables that had several pamphlets of information for those attending. The pamphlets listed dif-

**Learn About MayDay Inc.**

The nonprofit helps victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder and child abuse. Its 24-hour crisis line is 541-523-4134, or toll-free at 1-888-213-4134. More information at [www.mayday-inc.net](http://www.mayday-inc.net)

ferent ways to get help and how to be informed on what is happening.

In addition to helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, MayDay has child and elder abuse services.

Gautney said MayDay has been interested in scheduling a self defense course for quite some time.

"A lot of the things we do is ensure that people get to a safe place in their life," Gautney said.

MayDay can help victims in a variety of ways, such as finding housing and dealing with financial difficulties.

But helping women defend themselves physically is also important.

"Self defense is a really important skill that helps you build confidence and ensure that you can protect yourself in a situation like that," Gautney said. "So it's a part of that safety planning piece and not a lot of people have access to that around here."

Although about 80% of the

people MayDay works with are women, Gautney said anyone, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, can potentially be a victim who can benefit from an advocacy group such as MayDay.

"Whether you're homeless or whether you have a situation like the Kardashians, up to that level," Gautney said. "It's hard for people to protect themselves and everyone has a right to live a fear-free life."

Gautney said MayDay would like to have the survivor's self

defense training course twice a year, in spring and fall.

The goal is to make the training available to everyone, for free.

"It's a way to bring the community together and bring in fitness and confidence," Gautney said.

In an email sent out after Saturday's event, Gautney said many of those who attended said they will be bringing friends and family to the next training.

"We deeply appreciate Oregon State Police Academy DT

Coordinator Ben Klecker and all the DT Instructors from our local Sheriff's Office, Police Department and State Police who participated in this excellent training provided at no cost to our community, as well!" Gautney wrote. "Their volunteer time dedication, giving up personal time on a Saturday, showed true selflessness! We are honored to have been able to host alongside them, as they brought self defense wisdom and a greater level of confidence to survivors in our community!"

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