

BAKER SOFTBALL

Bulldogs dominate Nyssa, 15-0

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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The Baker softball team dominated from the start in a nonleague game against Nyssa on Tuesday, April 5, at the Baker Sports Complex.

Baker scored three runs in the first inning and went on to a 15-0 win.

The game ended after three innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

After Baker pitcher Kaycee Cuzick held Nyssa scoreless in the top of the first, including two strikeouts, Kiley Jo Aldrich led off the bottom of the first and was hit by a pitch from Taylor Cassidy.

Brooklyn Rayl followed with a single, the first of her three hits.

Aldrich stole third and Rayl stole second, and with Makayla Rabourne batting, Aldrich scored the game's first run on

a passed ball. Rayl scored on a wild pitch and Rabourne scored on another passed ball. Cuzick, who allowed just one hit and one walk, had two more strikeouts in the top of the second.

Baker then took complete control with seven runs in the bottom of the inning.

The Bulldogs scored all those runs with two outs. Aldrich singled and advanced to second and then third on consecutive wild pitches. Rayl singled to drive in Aldrich, and Baker led 4-0.

Rabourne single and Cuzick walked to load the bases. Rayl scored on a wild pitch, and Kaci Anderson doubled to left field to drive in Rabourne with Baker's sixth run.

Candace Peterson doubled to drive in Oakley Anderson, who was a courtesy runner for Cuzick.

Peterson later scored when Nyssa first baseman Jenny Trujillo misplayed Teygan Coley's hard ground ball.

Ashlyn Dalton then completed the scoring with an RBI single that scored Coley.

Baker added five more runs in the third.

Rayl, who was 3 for 3, had a leadoff double and scored on Rabourne's single.

Cuzick followed with an RBI single, and Kaci Anderson drove in a run with her second double.

Coley's RBI single pushed Baker's lead to 14-0, and Sydney Fry singled to score Coley with the game's final run.

Nine Baker players had at least one hit as the Bulldogs amassed 15 hits in just three innings against Cassidy, who was pitching in place of Nyssa's top pitcher, who was out with an injury.

Nyssa	0	0	0—0
Baker	3	7	5—15

"Nine players had hits — I love to see that," Baker coach Sonny Gulick said.

He said both Peterson and Rayl barely missed home runs, each hitting a double that went off the wall.

On defense, Baker, which at times has struggled on defense, didn't commit an error.

Baker defenders didn't have many chances, as Cuzick got seven of Nyssa's nine outs on strikeouts.

"We made the plays when we needed to," Gulick said.

Baker improved to 4-2. The Bulldogs traveled to Milton-Freewater on Wednesday, April 6, to open Greater Oregon League play with a doubleheader against Mac-Hi.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Ashlyn Dalton bats against Burns on Friday, April 1, 2022, at the Baker Sports Complex. Dalton had an RBI single in Baker's 15-0 win over Nyssa on April 5, 2022.

BAKER TENNIS



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Ashton LeTourneau returns a shot during his match at Pendleton on Thursday, March 31, 2022. LeTourneau won his singles match against Ontario's Henry Garrett on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

Baker girls top Ontario, boys split 6 matches

Baker City Herald

ONTARIO — The Baker High School tennis teams opened its district schedule at Ontario on Tuesday, April 5, with the Bulldog girls winning three of five matches and the boys splitting six matches.

Girls

Baker's Sarah Plummer won the No. 1 singles match, defeating Ontario's Laken Herrera, 6-4, 6-3.

Baker coach Amy Younger said she's pleased with Plummer's progress considering she missed a couple weeks of practice while competing in wrestling and then having her wisdom teeth pulled.

Baker's Isabel Cunningham lost only one game in beating Samantha DeLeon 6-0, 6-1 in the No. 2 singles match.

Younger said that although DeLeon wasn't the strongest opponent, Cunningham served and played well.

In doubles, Baker's Maya Smith and Olivia Jacoby beat Paige Eidson and Abigail Hally, 6-0, 6-4.

In the No. 2 doubles match, Ontario's Erika Perez and Ogaly Santiago beat Riley Shaw and Daphne Thomas, 6-0, 6-1.

In the third doubles match, which was played to a pro set, Ontario's Maya Gomez-Meza and Cayman Campbell beat Baker's Smith and Thomas, 8-3.

Boys

The No. 1 singles match was a highly competitive and enter-

taining battle between Baker's Danny Cunningham and Ontario's Dallin Berg.

The first set went to a tie-breaker, with Berg winning 7-4. The second set was close throughout, with Berg prevailing, 7-5.

"It was a fun match," Younger said.

In the No. 2 singles match, Baker's Caleb Hills beat Jack Hally, 6-3, 6-4.

Baker's Ashton LeTourneau won the No. 3 singles match over Henry Garrett, 6-4, 6-0.

Anthony Christopher lost to Martin Benites, 6-1, 6-2, and Weston Downing lost a pro set to Edgar Bernabe, 8-0.

Younger said Christopher "has improved so much over last year."

In doubles, Ontario's Jared Hally and Eduardo Navarro-Ramirez rallied to beat Baker's Ethan Hills and Jayden Yencopal, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

The Tigers won the No. 2 doubles match in similar fashion, as Pablo Ponce-Garcia and Bryan Alejandro-Munoz beat Noah Lien and Weston Downing, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

The No. 3 doubles match also went three sets, with Baker's Lincoln Neme and Diego Bedolla overcoming Humberto Gonzalez and Paul Barrido, 6-4, 4-6, 11-9 (tiebreaker).

Younger said that although Baker has played just two matches, she's seeing improvement in the team both in singles and doubles "now that we're able to not just play against ourselves."

Tiger Woods thinks he can win at Augusta

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Two words can go a long way when Tiger Woods is behind them.

No one would have been surprised if Woods never played golf again after a car crash in Los Angeles that damaged his right leg so badly he said doctors raised the prospect of amputation. Out of the public eye for nine months, Woods sent hopes soaring last November with a video of him swinging the club with a simple message, "Making progress."

And here he is at Augusta National, making a Monday practice round feel like Sunday at a major because of the gallery, walking the steep slopes, swinging well and making it clear he has every intention of playing in the Masters.

Does he think he can win? Woods offered the shortest answer of his press conference: "I do."

He said Tuesday, April 5, he is planning to play and thinks he can win. Never mind that it will be 508 days from the last time he played a tournament where he had to walk, or that he returns to this Masters with screws and rods still holding the bones in place in his right leg.

Woods also is 46. He would be the oldest Masters champion by three weeks over Jack Nicklaus.

The biggest question is how he holds up over 18 holes for four straight days. Woods walked 18 holes last week — his first big test — during a scouting trip with 13-year-old son Charlie (including a stop at the Par 3 course).

He played the back nine on Sunday, the front nine on Monday.

Woods plans nine more for Wednesday and then it's "game time." He is to tee off at 7:34 a.m. PDT Thursday, April 7, with Louis Oosthuizen and Joaquin Niemann.

"I can hit it just fine. I don't have any qualms about what I can do physically from a golf standpoint," Woods said.

"Walking is the hard part. This is normally not an easy walk to begin with. Now given the conditions that my



Andrew Redington/Getty Images-TNS

Tiger Woods (right) and Justin Thomas look on from the first green during a practice round prior to the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on April 4, 2022, in Augusta, Georgia.

leg is in, it gets even more difficult.

"Seventy-two holes is a long road and it's going to be a tough challenge," he said. "And a challenge that I'm up for."

That might be the biggest reason Woods is even at Augusta National for more than the sushi and miso-glazed cod and Wagyu beef that defending champion Hideki Matsuyama put on the menu for the champions-only dinner Tuesday night.

If he never plays — if he never wins — Woods said he is satisfied with what he has achieved.

"I think 82 is a pretty good number," Woods said. "And 15 is not too bad, either."

His 15 majors are second only to Jack Nicklaus and his 18, the gold standard in golf. He is tied with Sam Snead for the PGA Tour career record with 82 wins.

So why keep coming back? What else is there to prove?

"I love competing," Woods said. "And I feel like if I can still compete at the highest level, I'm going to. And if I feel like I can still win, I'm going to play."

"I don't show up to an event unless I think I can win it. So that's the attitude I've had,"

he said. "There will be a day when it won't happen, and I'll know when that is."

Shortly after he spoke, the starting times were released. Woods is helped by being part of the early-late rotation, meaning he will have some 22 hours between rounds.

Otherwise, Tuesday was mostly a wash. Woods wasn't planning on anything more than working on the range, anyway, and even that worked in his favor. Heavy storms moved over Augusta about the time he finished his work, and the course was closed the rest of the day.

As long as Woods has been part of Masters lore — Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer once predicted he would win more green jackets than both of them combined (10) — the reality is rust from no serious competition and a body that has endured at least 10 surgeries to both legs and his back.

But he's planning to play, and that feels like enough. For now.

"I think that the fact that I was able to get myself here to this point is a success," Woods said. "And now that I am playing, now everything is focused on, 'How do I get myself into the position where I'm on that

back nine on Sunday with a chance?' Just like I did a few years ago."

That was 2019, his fifth Masters title that followed four surgeries the previous five years on his lower back.

"How many comebacks has he had?" Jordan Spieth asked in wonderment.

There was the return from reconstructive knee surgery after his 2008 U.S. Open victory. He won seven times worldwide the following year. There was a return to No. 1 following the implosion in his personal life, and before the back surgeries.

Nothing compares with this one, mainly because of the walking involved on a leg so badly damaged that Woods spent three months in a hospital bed before advancing to a wheelchair, crutches, a compression sleeve and still the occasional limp.

"It's amazing if you think about where he was at a year ago to now," Spieth said. "I don't know how many people — if anybody — could be out here. And this is not an easy walk. So to be out here and not to throw his age in the mix, but I don't think that helps much for that recovery."

"But is anybody surprised?"

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