

BAKER GOLF TEAMS AT DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald
Isaiah Jones hits his tee shot on the 15th hole at Quail Ridge Golf Course during the Baker Invitational on Monday, April 25, 2022.

Bulldog boys, girls qualify for state

BY IAN CRAWFORD
Baker City Herald

The Baker boys golf team won the two-day district tournament, which concluded Tuesday, May 10, at Scotch Pines Golf Course near Payette, Idaho. Baker will compete at the state tournament May 16-17 at Quail Valley in Banks, west of Portland. The Baker girls team finished third in its district tournament at Birch Creek in Pendleton and also qualified for state. Caitlin Lien placed sixth overall. The girls state tournament is set for May 16-17 at Eagle Crest near Redmond.

Boys district

Baker had the top three finishers in the individual standings, with freshman Jaxon Logsdon shooting a 73 in Tuesday's second round to nip fellow freshman teammate Isaiah Jones by a single stroke. Logsdon's two-day total was 149. Jones, who shot 75 in both rounds, finished at 150. Logsdon, who also plays baseball, "had a really good tournament," Baker coach Mike Long said. Logsdon made a 15-foot putt on the final hole, and shot even par for the final 9 holes.

Jesse Maldonado shot rounds of 84 and 80 to place third, while Gavin Stecher improved by 12 shots, firing an 85 in the second round. Kaden Conklin had rounds of 96 and 87.

"They played really, really good," Long said.

Baker took advantage of a major improvement in the weather on Tuesday to improve its team score by 18 strokes, from 331 to 313.

Monday's weather was rainy with temperatures in the high 30s. Jones' round of 75 and Logsdon's 76 were especially impressive given the conditions, Long said.

Baker improved its team score by 18 strokes in the second round, at 313 (top four scores) following a 331 on Monday.

Baker easily beat runner-up La Grande, with a two-day total of 644 compared to the Tigers' 724.

Girls district

Baker had a two-day team score of 972, trailing district champion La Grande (867) and runner up Dufur (887).

Lien had a two-day total of 223 to place sixth. Gretchen Morgan was 13th at 237. Makenna Shamion shot a two-day total of 254, while Lilly Wilson carded a 258.

Baker assistant coach Colt Nudd, who accompanied the girls team while head coach Mike Long was in Idaho with the boys team, said the Baker girls had to rebuild after losing half of its players to graduation in 2021 after placing third in the state.

"Caitlin is our senior leader and played well," Nudd said. "She was on her way to a top five finish but had a couple bad breaks coming in on the last hole."

Nudd said Morgan, despite feeling ill, "battled through and really showed up" Tuesday, dropping 19 strokes from Monday's score.

Nudd said Wilson, who is a freshman, and Shamion, a senior who transferred from Seaside and started golfing just two months ago, have been great additions to the team.

Shamion "worked about as hard as any girl I've seen," Nudd said.

He said Wilson's "work effort will surely show itself over the next few years."

"These girls often play extra on the weekends and have showed up to practice before school and have stayed after practice ends," Nudd said. "It's a great group of girls and has been a pleasure to get to know them and help where possible along their journey."

BAKER SOFTBALL

Bulldogs fall against unbeaten Grant Union

BY IAN CRAWFORD
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Baker's softball team finally got its chance to take on the Grant Union Prospectors, the undefeated and top-ranked team in Class 2A ranks.

Baker took an early lead but couldn't hold on Tuesday, May 10, at John Day in a game rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Although the Bulldogs couldn't match the 21-0 Prospectors on offense, Baker coach Sonny Gulick was pleased with the overall performance.

"It was a good game at Grant Union," Gulick said. "We got off the bus ready to play."

Baker drew first blood on Kaycee Cuzick's first-inning two-out single scoring Kiley Jo Aldrich, who had reached base on a dropped third strike.

Cuzick, who threw a complete game in the circle, kept the Prospector batters at bay for the first two innings, getting three of the six outs on strikeouts.

Grant Union took the lead for good, at 2-1, with a pair of runs in the bottom of the third. The Prospectors added runs in the fourth and capped the scoring with three more in the fifth, on consecutive home runs by Halle Parsons and Raney Anderson.

Baker matched Grant Union with six hits, and Cuzick had another single in the top of the sixth to score Brooklyn Rayl.

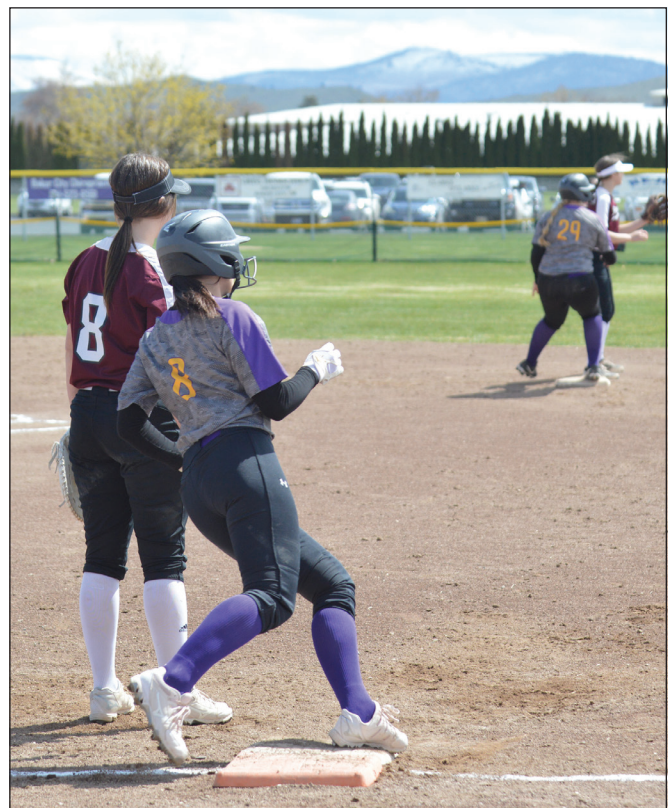
But Baker left five runners on base.

"We had our opportunities to score, but just couldn't push enough runners across," Gulick said.

Rayl, Malaya Rabourne, Candace Peterson and Teygan Coley each had a hit.

As has been the case in several losses this season, Baker hurt itself with errors, committing six miscues to Grant Union's three.

"We had some errors, but we were able to prevent most of them from hurting us," Gulick said. "I'm proud of our efforts."



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald
Brooklyn Rayl rounding first on April 29, 2022. Rayl had a hit in Baker's 7-2 loss at Grant Union on May 10, 2022.

Baker, which dropped to 8-11 on the season, concludes its Greater Oregon League schedule by traveling to La Grande on Friday, May 13, for a doubleheader starting at 2 p.m.

Baker	1	0	0	0	1	0	—	2
G-C	0	0	2	2	3	0	x—	7

Cuzick and K. Anderson.
Williams, Parsons (6) and Robertson.

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