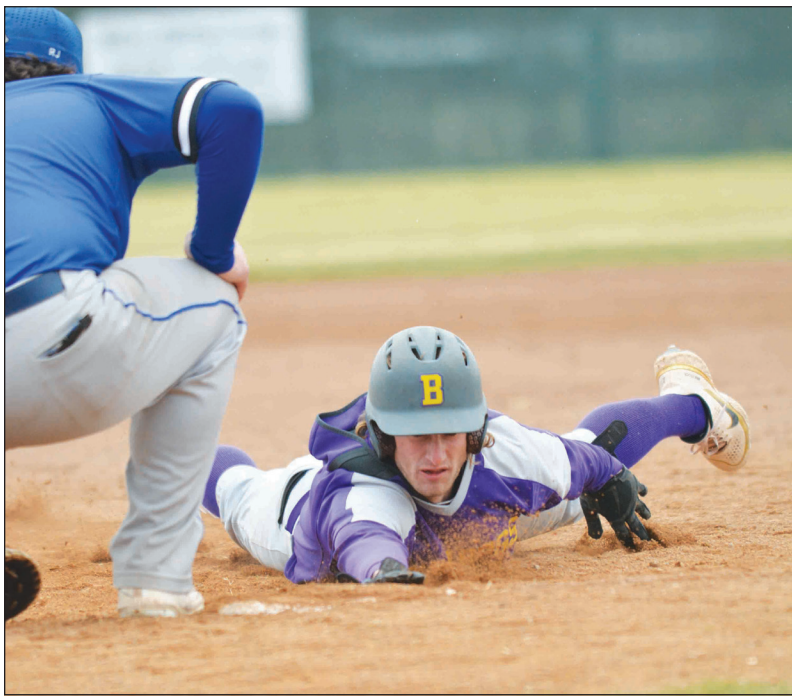


BAKER BASEBALL IN CLASS 4A PLAYOFFS

Hidden Valley eliminates Bulldogs with shutout



Baker's Hayden Younger slides safely into first base after a pickoff attempt on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at the Sports Complex.

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com

Baker's baseball season ended on a hot day when the Bulldogs' bats were cold.

The temperature was 88 when Hidden Valley's Nate Vidlak threw the first pitch at Grants Pass in a Class 4A playoff game on Wednesday, May 25.

Vidlak, who is one of the top pitchers in the state, allowing just two earned runs over the past two seasons, struck out 13 batters and allowed just five baserunners as the Mustangs won 7-0.

Baker coach Tim Smith said the Bulldogs knew the challenge they faced in Hidden Valley, the second-ranked team that improved its season record to 25-2.

"They're solid, they had great pitching," Smith said. "We played pretty well."

But the damage was done in the first inning as the Mustangs scored three runs in the bottom of the first. "We just couldn't get the bats going," Smith said.

Baker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hidden Valley	3	0	0	0	1	3	X	7	

Hayden Younger had Baker's only hit, a single in the third inning. Baker had two other batters reach base on walks, and two were hit by a pitch.

Baker's pitching and offense were solid, as starter Hudson Spike held Hidden Valley scoreless in the second, third and fourth innings.

Baker had runners on first and second with two outs in the second, and Younger advanced to second on Spike's sacrifice in the third.

Hidden Valley added one run in the fifth to lead 4-0, and three more insurance runs in the sixth.

A handful of errors and wayward pitches, especially in the sixth inning, put Baker in a deeper hole.

"As a coach that tells me we could have won if we'd made less mistakes," Smith said.

Baker ends with a 13-9 record.

The Bulldogs lose eight seniors — Logan Capon, Marco Rosales, Younger, Caiden Benson, Connor Chastain, Silas Carter, Alex Crawford and Cody Skidgel. Five of those seniors were starters.

"We're going to have to rebuild," Smith said. "We're going to miss their leadership and experience."

Among them, Younger, Capon and Chastain have expressed interest in moving on to college ball, Smith said.

In all, Smith says he saw continual gains during the season.

"I thought we improved throughout the season, and got better toward the end."

Smith wished the team could have another chance at some of the lost games earlier.

"Ultimately that cost us seeding in the playoffs, we might not have had to face Hidden Valley (this early)."

"This team worked hard, they persevered," Smith said. "They showed quite a lot of grit in my opinion. They never quit and competed every inning they played. I'm proud of them."

Warriors will make return to NBA Finals

BY JOSH DUBOW

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Klay Thompson drained the 3-pointers. Draymond Green anchored the defense and even chipped in on the offensive end for a change. Stephen Curry capped off an MVP performance.

The trio that led Golden State to so much success in recent years is whole again and has the Warriors in position for another title after advancing to the NBA Finals with a 120-110 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday night, May 26.

"Like I've said over and over again, I'm going to keep saying it: No one has proven that they can move us off that spot," Green said. "That's the mindset we come into this thing with. We understand what it takes to win a championship."

The triumvirate of Curry, Thompson and Green is in rarified air in NBA lore as the core of a team that has made it to six NBA Finals in an eight-year span. It's an accomplishment only the greatest groups have reached with Bill Russell's Celtics of the 1950s and '60s, Magic Johnson's Lakers in the 1980s and Michael Jordan's Bulls of the 1990s doing it.

Now the Warriors hope to add a fourth title to the ones they captured in 2015, '17 and '18 when the Finals start June 2 against either Boston or Miami. The Celtics lead the series 3-2 headed into Game 6 at home on Friday night.

"We're happy to be here, but it would help our legacy a lot if we completed the mission and won the whole thing," Thompson said. "We can be happy tonight, and we will be, I'll celebrate tonight. But tomorrow when this Game 6 comes on, I'm turning the page and I'm scouting because we want to finish this thing off the right way."

The last time the Warriors made it to the Finals they fell short, starting a two-year spiral filled with losing and injuries. Thompson tore his left ACL during a season-ending Game 6 loss in the 2019 NBA Finals.

Kevin Durant tore his Achilles' tendon earlier that series and then left for Brooklyn that summer, leading to the Warriors finishing an NBA-worst



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) drives against Dallas Mavericks' Dwight Powell (7) in the third quarter of Game 5 of their NBA Western Conference Finals at the Chase Center in San Francisco, Calif., on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

15-50 in the pandemic shortened 2019-20 season.

Thompson then tore his right Achilles' tendon just before the start of the next season and the Warriors were unable to make it back to the playoffs, getting knocked out by Memphis in the play-in game.

But Thompson returned in January and the combination of the aging trio of stars with an infusion of youth from players like Andrew Wiggins, Jordan Poole and others has Golden State back at the top of the league again.

"We never lost the faith, but you understand how hard of a process it was going to be to climb the mountain again," Curry said. "I think internally we are all extremely proud of what it took to get back here. Yeah, it's definitely sweet based on what we went through."

Thompson led the way in the clinching Game 5 win of the Western Conference finals over Dallas, making eight 3-pointers for a record-setting fifth time in his playoff career and scoring 32 points.

Green added 17 points, six rebounds and nine assists to go along with his usual defensive brilliance and Curry had 15 points and nine assists as he was named series MVP.

It's a level of play that reminds coach Steve Kerr of the Bulls teams he played on with Jordan and Scottie Pippen that won so many titles in the 1990s.

"The common denominator is just talented players who are fierce competitors," Kerr said. "Whether you talk about Michael and Scottie, Steph, Draymond, Klay, it takes a special kind of athlete to have both dynamics. The skill and the athleticism and all that, but to also be just incredibly competitive and to want to win so badly. It's the only way you can have a run like that because you get exhausted, you get tired, you get frustrated. If you don't have that type of competitive desire and that type of skill combined, it's just not going to happen six times out of eight years."

BAKER SOFTBALL IN CLASS 4A PLAYOFFS



Left to right, Baker's Brooklyn Rayl, Ashlyn Dalton and Kaycee Cuzick in action on April 15, 2022.

Eugene's Marist ends Baker's softball season

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com

The first inning set the tone in Baker's Class 4A softball playoff game at Marist Catholic of Eugene on Wednesday, May 25.

After Marist pitcher Malia Williams struck out the side in the top of the first, the top-ranked Spartans scored three runs in the bottom of the inning on a pair of home runs to take an early lead they wouldn't relinquish.

The trend continued, with Williams dominating on the mound, throwing a complete game no-hitter and striking out 17, and the Spartans getting timely hits. Marist went on to win 10-0 in six innings, ending Baker's season.

"Marist is a good team," Baker coach Sonny Gulick said. "They have a lot of play-off experience."

After hitting Baker leadoff hitter Kiley Jo Aldrich, Williams allowed just two other baserunners, both on walks.

Marist didn't commit an error.

The Spartans had four home runs, two by Paige Doerr.

Miranda Hopkins ended the game by the 10-run rule when she led off the bottom of the sixth with a solo home run.

Despite the loss, Gulick was pleased with Baker's defense. The Bulldogs committed just two errors.

"Ashlyn Dalton was fantastic at short and Lexi Rupel had a few nice plays," Gulick said.

Dalton had five putouts, and Rupel caught back-to-back fly balls in center field.

"Late in the contest, Oakley Anderson and Kaydence Thomas made nice grabs to get us out of easiest inning, defensively," Gulick said.

Baker, which ended the season with a 9-14 record, advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 2018 with a thrilling 14-13 win over Philomath on Friday, May 20.

Baker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marist	3	4	0	2	0	1	—	10	

Cuzick and K. Anderson, Williams and Hopkins.

"I am very proud of the improvements we made," Gulick said. "We will miss the positive attitude and work ethic Emrie (Osborn), our lone senior, brought to this fun group."

With so many players potentially returning, Gulick is excited about the prospects for 2023.

"I look forward to coaching them again," he said. "We had a great season."

Gulick said the start of a softball program at Baker Middle School program will also eventually benefit the BHS program.

He offered thanks to assistants Roy Cuzick, Taylor Gulick, Gussie Cook and Stephanie Petrucci for their help with this year's team.

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ALWAYS THE FIRST FULL WEEK OF JUNE

Adult Dances
Friday & Saturday

Parade
Friday @ 2 pm

Ed Miller Xtreme Bull Riding
Thursday, June 9, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
PRCA Rodeo & Horse Racing
Friday, June 10, 2022 @ 4 pm
Saturday, June 11, 2022 @ 2 pm
Sunday, June 12, 2022 @ 1:30 pm

4-H Horse Show - Mon & Tue, June 6th & 7th
4-H & FFA Livestock Show - Thu & Fri, June 9th & 10th
Market Animal Auction - Saturday, June 11th @ 8am

Tickets are available from Queen Candidates or online until June 6th
Horsemanship - Sunday, June 5th @ 2pm
Queen's Coronation - Tuesday, June 7th @ 7pm

EMMA RICKER
EMILY ARNOLDUS
JENNA DENTON

NOTICE OF ROAD WORK

Beginning **May 31** the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be chip sealing 60 miles of the Baker - Copperfield Highway (Oregon Highway 86), plus three other state routes in the Halfway area. All work is expected to be completed by end of June.

- OR 86 work will start at Oxbow/Snake River (milepost 70.8) and continue to the junction of Keating Cutoff Road (milepost 10.1, about 10 miles east of I-84).
- OR 86-S (spur) between OR 414/Record Street in Halfway and OR 86 (milepost 53.55 - 54.70).
- OR 413/Cornucopia Highway between Eagle High School/Halfway city limits and OR 414/Record Street in Halfway (milepost 10.8 - 11.45).
- OR 414/Pine Creek Highway between Record Street and OR 86 (mileposts 0.09-1.82).

NOTE: All dates are dependent on weather conditions and other factors that may impact the project start and end times.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS: No parking in work zones during chip seal activities in downtown areas.

TRAVEL IMPACTS: Expect up to 20-minute delays, reduced speeds, loose rock on the roadway, flaggers, and pilot cars directing single lane traffic through the work zones. Minor delays during nighttime/early morning hours for road sweeping. Please reduce speed and watch for construction activities in the area. Plan extra travel time and slow down to prevent loose rock from flying onto other vehicles. Crews will sweep roadway, but expect some loose rock to be present for several days after chip seal.

Bicycle riders should be prepared for traveling on rock chip covered highway sections behind a pilot car with no usable shoulders. Use alternate routes or delay travel if possible to avoid chip seal work zone. Pedestrians, including those with disabilities, will be provided access through or around the work zone.

RANCHERS, FARMERS, PROPERTY OWNERS: Please keep farm equipment off the impacted highway sections during and up to two days after the chip sealing. Also, adjust irrigation pivots and lawn sprinklers to keep water off the roadway. If you have plans for moving livestock on these highway sections, please advise ODOT Baker Section Maintenance Manager Allen Jensen at (541) 523-4566, cell 541-519-4934, or by email at Allen.S.JENSEN@odot.oregon.gov.

OR 86 CHIP SEAL PROJECT - SUMMER 2022

chip seal locations
MP = milepost

We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation during this paving operation.

For more info on this project, contact **Allen Jensen** (phone/email listed above).

For information on other eastern Oregon highway construction projects contact Vicki Moles at 541-620-4527 Vicki.L.Moles@odot.oregon.gov

For updated road conditions check TripCheck.com or call 511, or (800) 977-6368.