



Parkston's Jayden Bormann

S.D. Girls

FROM PAGE 15

Scotland

COACH: Greg Gemar
ASSISTANT: Janet Fiscel
VITALS: Class B, Region 4
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Maggie Fiscel (So., Class B state champion), Kimberly Stibral (Sr.), Katie Winckler (Sr.), Kristina Hlvac (Fr.)

Tripp-Delmont-

Armour

COACH: Josh Freier
VITALS: Class B, Region 4
RETURNING LETTER-

WINNERS: Payton Schafers, Kennedy Schatz

Viborg-Hurley

COACH: Tony Hauger
VITALS: Class B, Region 3, Tri-Valley Conference
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Ashley Benson (Sr.)

Wagner

COACH: Jim Jaeger
ASSISTANT: Riley Kirwan
VITALS: Class B, Region 3
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Megan Zephier (Jr.), Jackie Greger (So.)
NEWCOMERS: Emilea Cimpl (7th), Caitlyn Stimpson (7th), Markayla Yellow Horse (7th), Payton Mora (7th)

1-Handed Tenn.-Martin Pitcher Carter Smith Excels

BY DAVID BRANDT
 AP Sports Writer

Rick Robinson was settling into his new job as the baseball coach at Tennessee-Martin, moving some things around his office when he came across a few articles that had been written about the previous year's team.

He made a somewhat startling discovery: His best returning pitcher had just one hand.

Now, Carter Smith is turning into one of the best pitchers in the Ohio Valley Conference. The 6-foot-2 left-handed senior has been solid as a weekend starter for the Skyhawks, leading the conference with a 2.03 ERA in 31 innings while striking out 29.

Most gratifying for Smith is he's being looked at as a good college pitcher instead of a curiosity.

"It's great that it's a good story, but what I really wanted is to have success at this level," Smith said. "It's just working hard, staying persistent and being willing to put the time in to get better."

The 22-year-old from St. Louis was born without a right hand, but that didn't stop him from grabbing a ball and glove as a youngster to play catch with his five siblings. He learned how to throw and catch through trial and error, slowly perfecting the technique that would allow him to have success at the Division I level.

When he pitches, he throws with his left hand while balancing the glove on right forearm. After he lets go of a pitch he quickly slips his left hand into the glove so that he can field a potential line drive, bunt or hard grounder. If he catches the ball, he pulls the glove off with his right arm, lets the ball fall into his left hand and gets in position to throw again.

It sounds difficult, but Robinson said Smith does it so seamlessly that it's barely noticeable.

"Honestly, I'd rather have him on the mound fielding a bunt in pressure situations than anyone else," Robinson said. "He's so smooth with it."

Smith's system is similar to that of former Major League Baseball pitcher Jim Abbott,

who was also born without a right hand. He played 10 seasons in the big leagues, winning 87 games and even throwing a no-hitter.

Smith said his dad took him to Busch Stadium to watch Abbott pitch in the 1990s and it helped reinforce that having only one hand didn't have to stop him from playing baseball.

Abbott, now 47 and living in California, said he was excited to learn about Smith's success on the mound. He also can relate to one of Smith's biggest goals: Wanting to be known as a good pitcher instead of the guy who plays with one hand.

"When you grow up missing a hand, you know what it's like to want to fit in and want to be a part of something," Abbott said. "Being a good teammate means not always wanting to call attention to yourself, so I know the battle he's going through. I'm proud that he feels that way."

Smith said he's tried to never let one hand affect what he can or can't do in athletics. He even played basketball as a freshman and sophomore in high school before deciding to

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
 AP College Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — To toughen safety standards in youth sports, medical experts are turning away from lawmakers and toward high school sports associations to implement policies and procedures to prevent deaths and serious injuries.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine completed two days of meetings and programs with representatives from all 50 state high school athletic associations Friday at the NFL offices in Manhattan. The goal was to have decision-makers return to their states and push high schools to put into place recommendations on how best to handle potentially catastrophic medical conditions

Tyler Leif (Fr., IF)

Platte-Geddes-Dakota Chr.-White

Lake-Corsica

COACH: Jeff Kuiper
ASSISTANTS: Doug Dyk, Rob Hoffman
VITALS: Class B, Region 4
RETURNING

LETTERWINNERS: Coby Johnson (Sr., .263 average), Nate Spawn (Sr., .385 average), Tanner VanGenderon (Sr., .256 average), Hayden Thiry (Sr., .357 average), Colton Plooster (Jr., .250 average), Seth Kirsch (So., .417 average), Riley Hoffman (So., .375 average)

NEWCOMERS: Xavier Marshall (Fr.), Payton Foxley (Fr.), Trevor Sprik (Fr.), Chandler Frederickson (Fr.), Jarod Severson (So.), Dylan Mohnen (Fr.), Cole Nachtigal (Fr.)

Turner-Hutch

COACH: Joseph Plucker
ASSISTANTS: Lyle Utley, Marty Dahl
VITALS: Class B, Region 1, team includes districts of Freeman, Viborg-Hurley & Parker



Bon Homme-Scotland's Cole Uecker

TOP PROSPECTS: Isaac Decker (Sr.), Ryan John (Sr.), Thomas Kaufman (Sr.), Matt Munkvold (Sr.), Zach O'Keefe (Sr.), Cole Paulson (Sr.), Cody Thompson (Sr.), Zack Anderson (Jr.), Brandin

Jensen (Jr.), Cody Knock (Jr.), Kolton Lee (Jr.), Pierce Plucker (Jr.), Jayden Even (So.), Preston Gall (So.), Kelby Peters (So.), Nathan Dahl (Fr.), Ryan Doorn (Fr.), Grant Plucker (Fr.)

Medical Experts Look Beyond Law To Make Youth Sports Safer

such as heat stroke, sudden cardiac arrest and head and neck injuries.

Some states, such as Arkansas, have passed laws requiring schools to meet certain standards, but Doug Casa, director of athletic training education at the University of Connecticut, said high school associations should be first to act because they have more flexibility to move quickly.

"Trying to get a state law passed, one, can take a long time but two, sometimes a lot of things get attached to the laws that weren't the original intention. Also, they're written by people who don't truly understand the nuances of a football practice or how sports work into the system of a school year. Those are nuances that the state high school association totally gets," Casa said.

In 2013, best practice rec-

ommendations were published in the Journal of Athletic Training, but many states are still lagging in implementation of those guidelines. They include having a full-time athletic trainer on staff, having automated external defibrillators in every school and accessible to all staff members, and having an emergency action plan for managing serious and potentially life threatening injuries. Funding is often cited as the reason schools, many of which are already struggling to make ends, meet fail to implement these recommendations.

According to the NATA and AMSSM, only 37 percent of high schools in the United States have full-time athletic trainers. Only 22 percent of states meet the recommendation that every school or organization that sponsors athletics develop an emergency action plan. Only 50 percent of states have met recommendations that all athletic trainers, coaches, administrators, school nurses and other staffers have access to an automated external defibrillator.

Casa said just 14 states meet the minimum best practices with regard to heat acclimatization, but the ones that have adopted them since 2011 have had no athlete deaths from heat stroke.

Casa cited Georgia, Arkansas, Texas, North Carolina and New Jersey as states that have

been leaders in implementing the recommendations.

Jason Cates, a member of the executive committee of the Arkansas Athletic Trainers' Association who led reforms in Arkansas after a high school basketball player died of sudden cardiac arrest in 2008, said that while legislation can be help to move programs forward, it can also create problems with legal liability.

"At what point in time are we going to legislate ourselves out of sports?" he said. "I think in some states, in some instances (legislation) is the way to go, but my hope is people just get it."

Casa acknowledged legislation is often necessary to fund programs.

With legislation comes politics and give and take. Kevin Guskiewicz, professor and co-director of the Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Research Center at the University of North Carolina, said that doesn't come easy for medical professionals.

"It's hard for people like us that are medical people to compromise on anything because we think we should have it all," he said. "So that's where we're beating our fists on the table at state capital buildings as we're debating why we need it all. I did learn a lot about compromise."

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