

# Offense Powers Crofton To State Tournament Bid

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Crofton's road to state took a different route than usual.

The Bluejays, who have long relied on strong and balanced pitching performances, watched their offense flip the script in 2010.

Now, that momentum has Crofton back at state for another attempt at a deep run.

The Bluejays face Clark in the opening round of the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament, today (Friday) at 7:30 p.m. in Sioux Falls.

"Honestly, we're in uncharted waters," Crofton manager Carl Schieffer said. "It's been a completely different season for us. Pitching has always been our strongest point, but this year, we've been out-scoring people."

Crofton (16-7) scored a total of 41 runs in three games at the District 6B Tournament and earned a state bid after beating Freeman 14-2.

It's been that rejuvenated

offense that has carried the Bluejays of late.

Crofton won its final four regular season games to finish 10-6 in league action. And over the second half of the South Central League season (eight games), the Wynot Expos were the only team to beat the Bluejays.

"We've only had two games all year that I feel like we played our best ball," said Schieffer, "In the other games, we played good enough to win, but we're a lot better than that."

The catalyst to the Crofton offense has been Nick Hegge, who leads the team in hitting at .463.

"He's just been lights out," Schieffer said. "He's seeing the ball really well right now. He was a big part of (districts). Not to discount anybody else, but he was the key."

Also playing big roles for the Bluejays have been Aaron Losing (.450) and Scot Donner (.400), as well as Tony Guenther, Kyle Mueller, Chad Guenther, Joe Wiebelhaus and Schieffer.

On the mound, utility pitcher

Logan Foxhoven boasts a 4-0 record, but the 1-2 punch of Mike Sturm (3-2) and Donner (2-3) have carried the load.

The biggest hurdle for Crofton will be overcoming the loss of two key players to injuries.

Veteran pitcher Bill Guenther (2-0) is out for the rest of the season with a broken thumb and newcomer Tyler Zimmerman (1-0, batting .300) is out with an ankle injury.

"To lose two good players like those would hurt any team," Schieffer said. "It's just something we can hopefully overcome."

After losing to Castlewood in the first round of last year's state tournament in Mitchell, Crofton will look to get over the hump against a Clark team Schieffer admitted to not knowing much about.

"It sounds like they have a couple good hitters and some decent pitching, but we don't know much about them," he said. "It's all word of mouth with that, but I'm confident we can play well."

## Elk Point Ends Tourney Drought, Faces Britton Today

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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The Elk Point Stags had not been a shining example of State Line League amateur baseball in recent years.

A year ago, the team was 2-16, ending a string of winless seasons that extended over half a decade.

But this year, the Stags are starting to shine, and take an 11-7 record into the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament.

"I don't know how many years it's been since Elk Point's been to state," said Elk Point manager Nate Hinseth. "This year, we had a great team returning and five guys that graduated from the Legion program last year and came back to play for their hometown team."

The Stags have been studs on offense, with nine guys hitting above .300 for a team that averages nearly 10 runs a game.

"We've got ourselves a gorilla-

style offense," Hinseth said. The term "gorilla ball" refers to a high-scoring offense built on power.

"When we beat the (Vermillion) Greysox 20-12 (to qualify for state), I think we had 19 hits."

One of the keys to that offensive surge has been a newcomer, former Mount Marty standout Cole Knippling, Knippling, who played for the Class A Vermillion Red Sox a year ago, teaches and coaches in Elk Point.

"He transferred to our team this year and ended up hitting .680," Hinseth noted.

Eric Docken (.528), Michael Strassburg (.480), Hinseth (.477) and Tyler Luoma (.429) have also made impacts offensively.

Docken (4-1) and Strassburg (3-3) shouldered much of the pitching burden during the regular season, but Bo Bruinsma has come on of late.

"He didn't get too many starts during the regular season, but he

won both our games in districts," Hinseth noted. "He throws hard and has great off-speed stuff."

The Stags also added some pitching depth with Akron's Trenton Lee.

"He actually pitched against us the second time we played Akron, and we only had two hits off him," Hinseth said. "If we're not put him in the outfield, we're not afraid of doing that, either."

Elk Point plays the 5:30 p.m. game today (Friday) against Britton.

"They're a lot like us," Hinseth noted. "I think it will be a good game."

For Elk Point to extend its stay in Sioux Falls, they need to do the little things well.

"We need to hit the ball like we've been hitting, keep focused and play solid defense," Hinseth said. "I think we'll have no problem winning some games if we play well."

## AREA DIGEST

### Kortan To Compete In Hershey National Meet

TABOR — Tabor's Chase Kortan will be one of nine South Dakota competitors in the Hershey National Track & Field Games, which will be held today (Saturday) in Hershey, Pa.

Kortan qualified for the Softball Throw in the boys' 11-12 age division, recording a toss of 200 feet in the state qualifier last month in Aberdeen.

Iona's Anthony Marshall and Watertown's Mason Hericks will also compete in the boys' 11-12 Softball Throw, while Sioux Falls' McKenzie Hermanson and Watertown's Jackie Tetzlaff qualified in the girls' 9-10 Softball Throw.

Payton Zabel of Pierre will compete in the boys' 9-10 softball throw. Sturgis' Jacob Simmons qualified in the boys' 13-14 800-meter run and Pierre's Cortney Dowling qualified in the girls' 11-12 400-meter dash.

### YHS Volleyball Meeting Aug. 12

The Yankton High School volleyball program will have an organizational and parent meeting on Thursday, Aug. 12, at 5:30 p.m. in the YHS Commons.

Any girl entering grades 9-12 who plans to participate needs to attend with a parent. Activity fees are also due at that time.

For more information, or if you are unable to attend, contact coach Leasa Woodward at LWoodward@yhsd.k12.sd.us.

### Booster Club Golf Tourney Aug. 15

The Yankton High School Adult Athletic Booster Club will hold its annual golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 15, at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton. The two-person scramble will begin with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

There is an entry fee, which includes the opportunity to win prizes on all 18 holes. Prizes and flights are determined by the number of entries.

Carts will also be available for rent, but must be reserved at least one week in advance. Private carts will be welcome, but will be charged a trail fee.

Contact Fox Run at 668-5205 for more information.

### Gazelles Tennis Practice Begins Aug. 9

The Yankton Gazelles girls' tennis team will begin practice for the 2010 season Monday, Aug. 9, at the YHS/SAC tennis courts. Practice will begin at 4 p.m. sharp.

Players interested in joining the team are expected to bring a racquet and their activity fee. Players must also have a physical or recertification form on file with YHS before they will be allowed to practice.

Contact coach Ginger Larsen at 665-9068 for more information.

### Bucks Football Potluck Aug. 8

There will be a potluck for Yankton High School football players, grades 9-12, and their parents at Crane-Youngworth Field on Sunday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m. A parents and players meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Hot dogs will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass along as well as their own drinks.

For more information, call Lori Drotzmann at 661-3254 or Colleen Schurrer at 660-3055.

### YHS Girls' Soccer Tryouts Aug. 9-11

Tryouts for the Yankton High School girls' club soccer team will be held Aug. 9-11 at the HSC soccer fields.

Students in grades 8-12 are invited. Soccer attire is recommended. All players must be registered with Yankton Youth Soccer Association (YUSA) before tryouts.

For more information, contact Kevin Buckman at 660-4254.

## AREA CALENDAR

### Friday, August 6

**BASEBALL, AMATEUR** State Tournament at Sioux Falls (Elk Point vs. Britton, 5:30 p.m.; Crofton vs. Clark, 7:30 p.m., KVHT-FM); S.D. State Class A Tour. at Yankton (Brookings vs. Brandon Valley, 5:30 p.m.; Vermillion Red Sox vs. Rapid City A's, 8 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, VFW TEENER** S.D. State 13-14 Year-Old Majors Tour. at Huron (Yankton Lakers); S.D. State 13-14 Year-Old Minors Tour. at Sioux Falls (Yankton Reds)

**GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR** 37th annual Hillcrest Pro-Am GOLF, SDGA Men's Amateur at Minnehaha, Sioux Falls; Women's Amateur at Prairie Green, Sioux Falls

**Saturday, August 7**  
**BASEBALL, AMATEUR** State Tournament at Sioux Falls; S.D. State Class A Tour. at Yankton (Brookings-Brandon Valley loser vs. Vermillion Red Sox-Rapid City A's loser, 11 a.m.; Brookings-Brandon Valley winner vs. Vermillion Red Sox-Rapid City A's winner, 1:30 p.m.; Renner Monarchs vs. Pierre, 5 p.m.; R.C. Black Sox vs. Yankton, 7:30 p.m.)

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### Dakotas Tour

**HILLCREST PRO-AM**  
**First Round Results**  
**PROFESSIONAL DIVISION**  
66 — Neil Johnson, Wade Pettitt, Tim Ailes, Ian Hessels, Jon Sauer, Zenon Brown, Brady Swedberg, Jay Juncos

67 — Kane Hanson, Doug Ferris, Josh Persons, Anthony Verma, Jay Juncos  
68 — Mark Baker, Ryan Lenahan  
69 — Robert Mink, James McCarthy, Ben Portie, Josh Thompson, Trent Peterson, John Elzondo, Dan Norton, Tom Kalinowski, Adam Hanson

70 — Clinton Dammann, Andre Metzger, Ryan Vermeer, Justin Herron, Drew Dvorak, Connie Pierce, Jordan Weber  
71 — Brad Marek, Bobby West, Tim Kunick, Patrick Duffy, Justin Herron, Drew Dvorak, Chad Fribley, David Murray, Ben Kern, Judd Cornell, Murray, Travis Stockholm, Travis Hoffman

72 — Britt Pavlovins, A.J. Elbert, Darrin Hall, Bryce Harstad, Chad Fribley, David Murray, Ben Kern, Judd Cornell, Murray, Travis Stockholm, Travis Hoffman

73 — Brad Marek, Bobby West, Tim Kunick, Patrick Duffy, Justin Herron, Drew Dvorak, Connie Pierce, Jordan Weber  
74 — Ryan Conn, Jeff LaHassan, Steve Franco, Danny Arundson, Kent Yamane, Nathan Lashley  
75 — Nicholas Reese, Parker Pemberton, Patrick Datz, Ryan Devlin

76 — Patrick Slope  
77 — Matthew Burk  
78 — Jeff Burton  
79 — Ryan Quinn

### Am. Baseball

**S.D. STATE CLASS B TOURN.**  
**Aug. 4-15 at Sioux Falls**  
**FIRST ROUND**  
Wednesday, Aug. 4  
Dimock-Emery 13, Montrose-Humboldt-Hartford 3, 7 innings  
Wynot 7, Geddes 0

Thursday, Aug. 5  
Dell Rapids Mudcats 4, Garretson 3  
Caron 8, Chamberlain 6  
Parker 7, Mount Vernon 6  
Westington Springs 4, 8  
Friday, Aug. 6  
Dell Rapids PBR vs. Volga, 11 a.m.  
Salem vs. Redfield Dairy Queen, 1 p.m.  
Britton vs. Elk Point, 5:30 p.m.  
Crofton vs. Clark, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 7  
Britton vs. Winner-Colome, 11 a.m.  
Milbank vs. Martin, 1 p.m.  
Gregory vs. Madison, 5:30 p.m.  
Aurora vs. Larchwood, 7:30 p.m.  
13 innings

Platte vs. Irene, 11 a.m.  
Renner-Newcastle vs. Miller-Westington, 1 p.m.

### SECOND ROUND

Wednesday, Aug. 4  
New York 67, 40 626  
Tampa Bay 67, 41 620  
Boston 62, 47 569  
Toronto 56, 52 519 11/2  
Baltimore 35, 73 324 32/2

Central Division  
W L Pct GB  
Chicago 62 46 574  
Minnesota 61 48 580 1/2  
Detroit 65 49 1  
Kansas City 46 62 426  
Cleveland 48 63 422 16/2

West Division  
W L Pct GB  
Texas 62 45 579  
Milwaukee 54 53 505  
Los Angeles 54 56 491 9/2  
Seattle 40 68 370 22/2  
Pittsburgh 38 70 352 22/2

Wednesday's Games  
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 1  
Oakland 4, Kansas City 3  
Chicago White Sox 4, Detroit 1  
San Francisco 82 47 569 1/2  
Baltimore 9, L.A. Angels 7  
Cleveland 10, Boston 1  
Minnesota 2, Tampa Bay 1, 13 innings

Thursday's Games  
Texas 11, Seattle 6  
Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 4  
Philadelphia 4, Toronto 3  
Minnesota 8, Tampa Bay 6  
Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 1

### Am. League

East Division  
W L Pct GB  
New York 67 40 626  
Tampa Bay 67 41 620  
Boston 62 47 569  
Toronto 56 52 519 11/2  
Baltimore 35 73 324 32/2

Central Division  
W L Pct GB  
Chicago 62 46 574  
Minnesota 61 48 580 1/2  
Detroit 65 49 1  
Kansas City 46 62 426  
Cleveland 48 63 422 16/2

West Division  
W L Pct GB  
Texas 62 45 579  
Milwaukee 54 53 505  
Los Angeles 54 56 491 9/2  
Seattle 40 68 370 22/2  
Pittsburgh 38 70 352 22/2

Wednesday's Games  
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 1  
Oakland 4, Kansas City 3  
Chicago White Sox 4, Detroit 1  
San Francisco 82 47 569 1/2  
Baltimore 9, L.A. Angels 7  
Cleveland 10, Boston 1  
Minnesota 2, Tampa Bay 1, 13 innings

Thursday's Games  
Texas 11, Seattle 6  
Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 4  
Philadelphia 4, Toronto 3  
Minnesota 8, Tampa Bay 6  
Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 1

### National League

East Division  
W L Pct GB  
Atlanta 62 46 574  
Philadelphia 59 48 551 2/2  
New York 54 54 500 8  
Florida 53 54 485 8 1/2  
Washington 48 60 444 14

Central Division  
W L Pct GB  
Cincinnati 61 48 560  
St. Louis 60 48 556 1/2  
Milwaukee 50 59 459 11  
Houston 47 60 439 13  
Chicago 47 61 435 13 1/2  
Pittsburgh 38 70 352 22/2

West Division  
W L Pct GB  
San Diego 62 44 565  
San Francisco 62 47 569 1/2  
Colorado 56 52 519 7  
Los Angeles 56 52 519 7  
Arizona 40 68 370 23

Wednesday's Games  
Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 4  
Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 4  
Philadelphia 4, Toronto 3  
Colorado 6, San Francisco 1

Thursday's Games  
Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 4  
Philadelphia 4, Toronto 3  
Colorado 6, San Francisco 1

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB  
Los Angeles 12 3 4 40 31 13  
Real Salt Lake 10 4 4 34 32 14  
FC Dallas 6 2 2 27 21 15  
Seattle 7 8 4 25 21 25  
Colorado 6 5 6 24 19 17  
San Jose 6 5 5 23 20 19  
Houston 5 8 5 20 23 27  
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

### Friday's Games

Atlanta at Indiana, 6 p.m.  
Washington at New York, 6:30 p.m.  
San Antonio at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
Tulsa at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.  
Houston at Chicago, 2 p.m.  
Tulsa at Seattle, 9 p.m.

### FLORIDA MARLINS

Signed 3B Chad Tracy. Options OF Bryan Petersen and C Brad Davis to New Orleans (PCL). Activated C Brett Hayes from the 15-day DL.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with INF/DP Wilno DeShields Jr. and assigned him to Kissimmee (GCL).

NEW YORK METS — Promoted RHP Jerry Mesa from St. Lucie (DSL) to Binghamton (EL) and OF Kirk Nieuwenhuis from Binghamton to Buffalo (IL).

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Activated RHP Todd Wellemeyer from the 15-day DL. Designated RHP Denny Bautista for assignment.

NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION PHOENIX SUNS — Named Lance Blanks general manager. UFAH JAZZ — Signed general manager Kevin O'Connor to a one-year contract.

FOOTBALL  
National Football League DENVER BRONCOS — Placed WR Kenny McKinley and J. Shoji Barrett on injured reserve. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Claimed LB Al Highsmith off waivers from the Arizona Cardinals. Announced that WR Bryan Walters has been waived-injured. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed DT Quinn Pickett. Released WR Mike Hass.

HOCKEY  
National Hockey League BUFFALO SABRES — Re-signed D Marc-Andre Gragnani to a one-year contract. DETROIT RED WINGS — Agreed to terms with C Mike Modano on a one-year contract. NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Traded F Mike Santorelli to Florida for a 2011 fifth-round draft pick. OTTAWA SENATORS — Re-signed D Geoff King to a one-year contract. Signed F Corey Cowick. SAN JOSE SHARKS — Re-signed C Steven Zalawski and D Derek Johnson to one-year contracts. COLLEGE ATLANTIC-10 CONFERENCE — Named Jason Leturmy director of media relations and communications and Lucas Feller director of championships. ROSE-HULMAN — Announced the resignation of football coach Steve Englehart to become offensive coordinator at Indiana State. Promoted Jason Martin to interim football coach.

## SCOREBOARD

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB  
Los Angeles 12 3 4 40 31 13  
Real Salt Lake 10 4 4 34 32 14  
FC Dallas 6 2 2 27 21 15  
Seattle 7 8 4 25 21 25  
Colorado 6 5 6 24 19 17  
San Jose 6 5 5 23 20 19  
Houston 5 8 5 20 23 27  
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

### Thursday's Games

San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.  
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.  
Cincinnati (Arroyo 11-6) at Chicago Cubs (Gorzulianzy 6-5), 12:20 p.m.

Friday's Games  
Colorado (Hammel 7-6) at Pittsburgh (Duke 5-10), 6:05 p.m.  
St. Louis (Warneight 15-6) at Florida (Nolasco 12-7), 6:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets (Niese 7-5) at Philadelphia (Blanton 4-6), 6:35 p.m.

Saturday's Games  
San Francisco (Zito 8-6) at Atlanta (Hanson 8-8), 6:35 p.m.  
Houston (W.Rodriguez 9-11) at Milwaukee (Bush 5-9), 7:10 p.m.  
San Diego (Garland 10-7) at Arizona (D.Hudson 1-0), 8:40 p.m.  
Washington (Lannan 2-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Korshun 10-6), 9:10 p.m.

Sunday's Games  
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 12:05 p.m.  
Colorado at Pittsburgh, 6:05 p.m.  
Houston at Milwaukee, 6:10 p.m.  
San Francisco at Atlanta, 6:10 p.m.  
St. Louis at Florida, 6:10 p.m.  
San Diego at Arizona, 7:10 p.m.  
Washington at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10 p.m.

Monday's Games  
St. Louis at Florida, 12:10 p.m.  
Colorado at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 12:35 p.m.  
San Francisco at Atlanta, 12:35 p.m.  
Houston at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 1:20 p.m.  
San Diego at Arizona, 3:10 p.m.  
Washington at L.A. Dodgers, 3:10 p.m.

### ML Soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE  
W L Pct GB  
New York 8 6 3 27 20 21  
Toronto FC 6 6 5 23 19 19  
Chicago 5 5 5 20 21 21  
Kansas City 5 8 4 19 14 20  
Philadelphia 4 9 3 15 20 29  
New England 4 9 3 15 16 27  
D.C. 3 12 3 12 12 31

### THE WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE  
W L Pct GB  
Atlanta 18 10 643  
Indiana 16 10 615  
Washington 16 10 615  
New York 15 11 547  
Connecticut 13 13 500  
Chicago 12 16 428

WESTERN CONFERENCE  
W L Pct GB  
z-Seattle 22 4 846  
Phoenix 13 13 500  
San Antonio 10 16 385  
Minnesota 9 16 360 12/2  
New Orleans 9 16 346 13  
Tulsa 5 22 185 17/2  
z-clinched conference

Wednesday's Games  
Los Angeles 82, Chicago 77  
Connecticut at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

### LAKERS

From Page 7A

Crاندall, Matt Hilson and Mike Carson have also contributed on the season, as every player on the team has scored at least 10 of the team's 270 runs this season.

"At the beginning of the year, we had one or two guys that could hit well for contact," Morrison

### REDS

From Page 7A

Fitzgerald and Taggart have also contributed on the hill. Yankton opens with the

game," he said. "Our defense has struggled, but our pitching is in good shape. The defense and hitting have been coming around."

The A's pitching has been anchored by J.R. Krogsdatt. Former Mount Marty pitcher Beau Garcia has also been a regular on the mound, as have Andrew Wolf and Parks Brigman.

Brigman and Garcia have been strong offensively, as has Dave Powers. With the state tournament only 25 miles from their home park, the Red Sox expect to feel right at home at Riverside Field.

"It's a great place to play, and it is convenient for us this year," Sorenson said. "We're hoping to have some good luck there."

For the A's to extend their time East River, they need to keep things under wraps.

"We have to limit the big inning and keep the errors down," Deneke said. "We need to get hits when it counts and keep the mistakes to a minimum."

## TABOR

From Page 7A

outs, Gary Kortan hit an RBI single. Tycz then scored on a pick-off attempt to first base.

Mount Vernon would pull ahead with runs in the fourth and fifth innings.

But it was in the sixth inning that Tabor pulled ahead for good.

"That was a momentum-changer for us," Scherschligt said of Tycz's home run. "We

## CLASS A

From Page 7A

infielder Robin Chute continues to be a mainstay of the Red Sox. Ken Longman, Colby Lessmann, Dan Hanson, Brad Donovan and Justin Beebe also return.

"We have a good nucleus back," said Vermillion manager Kirk Sorenson. Besides Chute and Lessmann, the Red Sox have relied upon Tyler Candor and Clint Swan who have been contributors offensively.

Chuck Benz and Donovan have anchored the pitching staff. Garrett Linhardt, who was also a major contributor on the hill, had to shut down his arm for the season due to soreness.

No matter who is