



Members of the Vermillion Tanagers 15-16 VFW Teeners celebrate following their 4-2 win over Flandreau in the championship game of the State Varsity VFW A Baseball Tournament on Sunday in Flandreau.

Vermillion, Irene Claim State Teener Titles

BY TROY MARONEY
The Brookings Register

FLANDREAU — Outstanding pitching triumphed over outstanding hitting in the State Varsity VFW A Baseball Tournament in Flandreau on Sunday.

Vermillion left hander Collin Bertram limited the potent Flandreau offense to just four hits as the Tanagers won 4-2 to earn the state title.

Meanwhile, the Tanagers took advantage of a pair of Post 3351 miscues to stake themselves to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

Tanner Anderson led off the game with a single and advanced to second on a wild pitch on Tanner Settles' at bat.

Flandreau starter Mitch Hansen got Settles on a strikeout, but Chayse Meierkort's single put runners on the corners.

An errant throw on a double-play attempt on Nile Morecroft's fielder's choice allowed Anderson to score, and two consecutive Flandreau errors plated Morecroft.

Flandreau came back with two runs in the bottom of the fourth to tie the game as Dave Parsley led off the inning with a single and scored on Jake Patterson's double. A walk to Hansen put runners on first and second, and both runners promptly moved up a base on a stolen base.

Curt Hemmer's sacrifice fly to deep left field plated Patterson, but Bertram got the next two batters out on fly balls.

Vermillion came back with two runs in its half of the fifth as Collin Olson led off with a double and then scored on an infield error on Tanner Anderson's grounder. Anderson advanced to second on Settles' fielder's choice, and then scored on yet another Flandreau miscue to go

up 4-2. Flandreau got two runners on base with one out in the bottom of the frame, but Bertram struck out the side to get out of the jam.

With two outs in the bottom of the sixth, Geno Bursheim doubled but was left stranded on second.

Post 3351 got two runners on base in the seventh after Dakota Peterson singled to lead off the frame and made it to third on an infield error on a Dave Parsley ground ball after two were out.

But Bertram rose to the occasion once again — getting Flandreau's No. 3 hitter Jake Patterson on a pop foul out for the final out — and the championship.

Olson finished with two hits, including a double, to lead Vermillion which finished with seven hits on the day. Peter Haught added a pair of singles as Bertram struck out six to garner the complete-game win.

Patterson and Bursheim each doubled to lead Flandreau's offense as Hansen suffered the loss on the mound.

Other Games

TYNDALL 11, PARKSTON 1: Tyndall scored nine runs in the third inning to claim third place in the tournament.

Kodi Larson and Blase Vanecek each had a home run and two singles to lead Tyndall. Sawyer Fridrick had two hits in the victory, as Tyndall outhit Parkston 13-3.

Spencer Lucas doubled for Parkston. Vanecek picked up the win. Jake Weber took the loss.

SATURDAY

VERMILLION 8, PARKSTON 3: Tanner Anderson had a triple, double and two singles to lead Vermillion to a title game berth.

Jayce Huska added a pair of hits in the win. For Parkston, Ty Kinneberg doubled and singled. Joe Connor added two hits.

Joe Mazour picked up the win, with Zach Scott taking the loss.

FLANDREAU 14, TYNDALL 4: Jake Patterson helped his cause with two doubles and a single as the host team advanced to the state title game.

Mitch Hansen added two hits for Flandreau. Kodi Larson and Jordan Hejna each had two hits for Tyndall.

Patterson went the distance for the win. Larson took the loss.

Class B Teeners

MOUNT VERNON — Irene used a six-run fifth inning to lock up a 12-5 victory over Madison in the championship of the South Dakota State Class B 15-16 Year-Old VFW Teener Baseball Tournament, which concluded Sunday in Mount Vernon.

Dusty Livingston had three hits, including a home run, and Andy Hora and Chris Heirigs had two hits each in the win. Tyler Curry had two hits for Madison.

Trevor Jacobsen picked up the win. Jaco Giles took the loss.

PLATTE 15, KIMBALL-WHITE LAKE 14: Platte finished third by outslugging Kimball-White Lake.

Nate Spawn had a double and a home run, and Richard Sternberg and Philip Millar each had two hits for Platte. Matthew Randall added a triple in the win.

Spawn also picked up the win in the mound.

SATURDAY
IRENE 12, KIMBALL-WHITE LAKE 5: Irene's Trevor Jacobsen went 4-4 with at triple and a double to lead them to a state title game berth.

Alec Barta had two hits, including a home run, and Chris Barta and Dusty Livingston each had two hits for Irene.

Clay Jorgensen picked up the win in relief.

MADISON 12, PLATTE 9: Madison scored five runs in the seventh to deny Platte a shot at the title.

For Platte, Matthew Randall, Drew Turnis and Coby Johnson had two hits each. Connor Kuipers took the loss for Platte.

FRIDAY

IRENE 4, CLEAR LAKE 2: Irene scored three runs in the seventh to rally to victory.

Trevor Jacobsen had a two-run triple in the seventh inning rally, and Dusty Livingston had two hits for Irene. Tyler Novak and Chris Heirigs added hits.

Andrew Hora picked up the win.

PLATTE 6, MOUNT VERNON 4: Platte sent the host team to the loser's bracket thanks to a five-run fifth inning.

Phillip Millar had three hits and Chris Olson had two hits for Platte. Richard Sternberg struck out 15 in the win.

Bradley Goes Long (Putter) To Win PGA Championship

JOHNS CREEK, Ga. (AP) — Keegan Bradley was pretty impressive at the PGA Championship with his resiliency and his really long belly putter.

That's right, a belly putter. This 25-year-old used a club typically thought to be the last resort of graying golfers with creaky backs to pull off a shocking victory.

The PGA Tour rookie became the first to win a major tournament with a long putter, rallying to capture the PGA Championship in a three-hole playoff with Jason Dufner on Sunday.

He turned in amazing performances with the club on the greens at Atlanta Athletic Club.

"Personally, I think it's an easier way to putt," he said. "Especially when there's some nerves."

Oh, there were plenty of those during the final round — except maybe for Bradley.

"This guy is the guttiest player I've ever worked for, ever," said caddie Steve Hale. "This kid, there's no quit in him."

He banged in a hard-charging 35-foot birdie putt on the par-3 17th that brought him to 8-under

par, then delicately lagged a putt on the 18th hole that led to a tap-in par and kept his spot in the play-off.

"It wasn't easy to two-putt from that spot," said Scott Verplank, Bradley's final-round partner.

Bradley doesn't know what the fuss is about.

He's used the belly putter for 2 1/2 years and said it was routine on the Nationwide Tour to be "in a group with three guys that had unconventional putters. It happened all the time."

Crofton

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From the start, Crofton wasted little time getting the offense rolling.

The Bluejays loaded the bases on two walks and a Scot Donner double in the top of the first inning. Kyle Mueller scored on a passed ball, and Joe Wiebelhaus later added a 2-run single to put Crofton ahead 3-0.

In the second, the Bluejays added a fourth run on an Aaron Losing RBI single.

Crofton starting pitcher Bill Guenther, meanwhile, held Larchwood in check for the first three innings.

The Diamonds, of the Sioux Empire League, were held hitless until a Jon Underberg 1-out single in the bottom of the fourth. After a Koury Kramer double, Jake Schoening followed with a 2-run double.

Larchwood closed the scoring

with a Jason Engleman RBI groundout, to pull within 4-3.

"Bill threw really well; had some good stuff going," Schieffer said. "Every now and then, he'll run into an inning like that and a team will catch up."

The momentum switched back to Crofton in dramatic fashion in the top of the sixth.

Donner and Hegge hit consecutive singles, and Losing followed with a long home run to right field, pushing Crofton's lead to 7-3.

"Those are our big hitters, so it's nice when they do something like that," Schieffer said. "We don't really expect big homers like that from them, but hey, we'll take it."

However, that lead didn't last long.

Bill Guenther was replaced by Seth Erdmann for the bottom of the seventh, but wasn't able to prevent a Larchwood rally.

After a leadoff walk, a Steve Englund comebacker to the mound was thrown wildly into center by Erdmann, advancing the runner to the third. Underberg followed with

an RBI single and a Koury Kramer RBI double brought the Diamonds within 7-5.

Erdmann was promptly taken out.

New Crofton pitcher Mike Sturm surrendered consecutive RBI sacrifice flyouts to Jake Schoening and Noah Bohlmann, tying the game at 7-7.

Yet, once again, the Bluejays went to the long ball.

After Donner reached on an error to start the top of the eighth, Hegge followed with a 2-run homer to right to put Crofton back in front, 9-7.

It was the third hit of the game for Hegge, a left-handed hitting slugger who also made a pair of diving catches in centerfield.

"Nick's a gamer. We always look to him to be that guy in spots like that," Schieffer said. "He's a motivator. We really think he's one of those guys that every team would love to have on their team."

From there, Sturm held off the potent Larchwood offense, including a 1-2-3 bottom of the ninth.

Final

From Page 8

would have been big," said Crofton starting pitcher Mike Sturm. "It calmed my nerves down. I went out and pitched well after that."

Sturm set down the first eight Tabor batters he faced, but a two-out walk to Drew Lawrence helped set up the Bluebirds' first run. Tyler Edler and Logan Kortan followed with singles, putting Tabor on the board.

Crofton got that run back in the fourth, when Kyle Mueller tripled, then scored on a Donner groundout. The Bluejays took their biggest lead when Aaron Losing and pickup player Dan Bures had back-to-back doubles to lead off the fifth, making it 9-1 Crofton.

Tabor got the offense going in the bottom of the fifth, again beginning the rally with a two-out walk to Lawrence. Edler singled and Logan Kortan followed with a triple, plating them both. In the sixth, Tabor scored again when Jason Humpal doubled and scored on a Rob Keppen single.

The Bluejays got back in the scoring column in the seventh,

when back-to-back two-out singles by Chad and Tony Guenther plated two runs. Chad's hit loaded the bases, with Tony's hit scoring both runs.

Tabor kept the pressure on in the bottom of the seventh, when Edler and Logan Kortan led off with singles, and Steve Fejfar crushed his second home run of the tournament to make the score 11-7.

After Sturm walked Keppen to lead off the eighth, Crofton went to Donner to close the door. Donner got out of trouble in the eighth thanks to a double play ball, but found himself back in it in the ninth. Edler led off with a single, Cory Uecker was hit by a pitch and Humpal singled to loaded the bases. Doug Vanecek, a Legion pickup player, singled in one run, but Donner struck out the next batter to end the game and clinch the title.

Bures finished with three hits, and Mueller, Donner, Nick Hegge and Losing each had two hits for Crofton, which held a 14-12 edge in the hits column.

Edler had four hits and Logan Kortan had three hits and three RBI for Tabor. Humpal added two hits.

Sturm struck out three and allowed the first seven Tabor runs for the win, his second of the state tournament. Donner was

credited with the save.

"Mike talked to me last night and said, 'I want the ball,'" Schieffer said. "That's the kind of player you want out there in a game like this."

Donner also showed what he was made of during the tournament, Schieffer said.

"Those are the kind of guys you can build a team off of," he said. "(Donner), Sturm, Hegge, Mueller, all the way through for us."

Crofton also got a nice bonus, receiving the tournament's sportsmanship award, an honor presented by the umpires of the tournament.

"That was nice," Schieffer said. "Our guys try to keep their cool. A lot of times arguing doesn't change anything. It doesn't need to be said."

Tabor now sits in the same position Crofton was a year ago. But the Bluebirds look to continue the climb that started when Fejfar returned to Tabor after winning a couple Class B titles with the Vermillion Red Sox before they moved up to Class A.

"Ever since 2005 when Fejfar came back, we've been a different team," Gary Kortan said. "We're going to keep filling holes. We've got a good bunch of kids coming back. We're going to try to get back here, as hard as it is."

Schmidt

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you're doing it for fun. Everybody's friends."

In addition to playing baseball this summer, Schmidt has been working on exterior construction projects at the Corn Palace — he likes to refer to himself as a "technician."

"There hasn't been a dull moment this summer," he said. "I'm at work pretty much all day and

than it's either to a game or umpiring."

Schmidt, who will begin radiology school at Mount Marty on Aug. 22, said he plans to be back in Yankton later this week in time for Riverboat Days.

"I never try to miss that," he said.

Tabor

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2-run doubles.

The Mudcats got on the scoreboard with an RBI groundout by Johnson in the bottom of the second, and added another run on an RBI single by Travis Peters in the third.

After Johnson settled down and held Tabor scoreless for two innings, he was replaced on the mound by Matt Wilber after a lead-off single in the fourth.

Dell Rapids pulled within 5-4 in the fifth when a dropped pop fly by Tabor second baseman Cory Uecker allowed a run to score, followed by a Nick Thune RBI single.

After not scoring for four innings, Tabor woke up in the bottom of the sixth.

A Fejfar RBI single made it 6-4 and a 2-run single by Rob Keppen pushed the lead to 8-4.

Though, against a Mudcats team that rallied from deficits in all three of their tournament wins, that cushion might not have seemed safe.

Tabor had a chance to pad its

lead in the bottom of the eighth, when it loaded the bases with one out. But a strikeout and a slow groundout ended the threat.

Gary Kortan allowed a double to lead off the ninth, but a scorching liner to right field was caught by a great dive by Edler. The second out was recorded on a grounder to the shortstop, who fired to third to tag out a runner. Edler than made another diving

catch for the third out.

"I thought, 'If you don't get that, it's a huge game; could change the game,'" Edler said. "I think it took a lot out of them, and gave us a lot of confidence."

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