



JEREMY HOECK/P&D Tabor's Chris Sutura connects for a 2-run homer in Saturday's first-round game against the Renner Old Timers at the S.D. State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Tabor Rolls Past Old Timers 16-2

BY JEREMY HOECK
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MITCHELL — Just as his position in the batting order indicates, Chris Sutura got things going in a big way for the Tabor Bluebirds.

The lead-off hitter had three hits and drove in three runs as Tabor made quick work of the Renner Old Timers 16-2 in seven innings Saturday afternoon at the S.D. State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Sutura singled, homered and tripled to spark a 16-hit attack for the Bluebirds (15-7), who are looking to make another run to the state championship game.

"I just tried to stay within myself; not do too much," Sutura said. "I was going for base hits and getting on any way I could. You can't be thinking home run out here."

It was a similar approach for veteran Tabor catcher Steve Fejfar, who was familiar with many of the legends on the team — including starting pitcher Curt Cutler.

Rather than over-swinging against the soft-tossing Cutler, Fejfar slowed things down. He responded by going 4-5 with two doubles, two singles and an RBI.

"That actually brought back some memories for me," Fejfar said later. "I've played with some of them and against most of them."

"I knew (Curt) Cutler was a crafty guy; that he'd try to get us off balance."

No such worries, however.

The Bluebirds scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning, an RBI single from Jason Humpal and a 2-run single by Rob Keppen.

An inning later, Sutura cracked a 2-run homer to right field, aided by a breeze blowing out of spacious Cadwell Park.

Fejfar and Humpal added RBI hits in the fourth to push the lead to 7-0 after four innings.

Meanwhile on the mound for Tabor, starting pitcher Doug Vanecek had no real issues in the early going. Despite issuing three walks and hitting another batter, Vanecek didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning when Don Hegge singled.

"We were just hoping Doug could throw strikes and stay in there and battle," Tabor manager Gary Kortan said. "For the most part, he did that."

Vanecek ran into trouble in the top of the fifth, when the Old Timers loaded the bases on a single and two walks. Reggie Ronken followed with a 2-run single, chasing Vanecek from the game.

"When we gave a few of those runs back, it was good that we had that early lead," Fejfar said.

The Bluebirds got those runs back in a big way in their next at-bat — getting an RBI single from Blase Vanecek, an RBI double from Jon Vavruska and an RBI triple by Sutura.

Up 10-2, Tabor was far from done.

With the bases loaded and nobody out in the bottom of the sixth, Keppen drilled a 2-run single, Casey Crampton walked to bring in a run, Brian Supik had an RBI sacrifice fly and Doug Vanecek added a 2-run single.

The 14-run lead was never threatened, ending the game down in order in the top of the seventh, ending the game via the mercy rule.

Aside from the offensive outburst, a bulk of the post-game chatter near the Tabor dugout centered around Tuesday night's second round game with Canova-Howard. The Gang righted four corners 15-0 in Saturday's early game.

Adding to the intrigue, Kortan said the two teams have never faced each other.

"We're looking forward to it," Kortan said. "It'll be a great crowd and hopefully a good game."

Of course, if the Bluebirds are to make a repeat run to the Aug. 12 title game, beating Canova-Howard would be necessary. Not so easy, though, Fejfar said.

"Canova's one of the toughest teams out here. They're never going to be easy to beat," he said. "We'll have to play a little bit better to get them."

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Renner Battles Past Castlewood To Advance To Mitchell Unbeaten In The 'A' Tournament

BY JILANNE DOOM
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Going into the ninth inning, it looked like it could have been anybody's game.

The score bounced back and forth as both the Renner Monarchs and the Castlewood Ravens battled for the win on Saturday night in the second round of the South Dakota State A Amateur Baseball Tournament at Yankton's Riverside Field. Renner came out on top in the end, winning 7-6.

"It's a big win," the Monarchs' head coach Kevin Knetsch said. "It was a battle the entire way. There was nothing easy. We scraped and clawed for everything we got."

Despite a rain delay earlier in the morning which pushed the

day's competition, the Ravens jumped out to a big start in the first inning as Andy Turbeck brought in Matt Stevenson on a brounch to right field for Castlewood's first score of the evening. Castlewood ended the inning on top 3-1 but the Monarchs made their own run in the second to tie the game.

They put a couple runs up early but it was huge that we came right back," Knetsch said. "That game could have gotten away from us a little bit if we didn't answer right away but we came back and actually took the lead. It's great to see our guys answer like that. Kind of what we expect from a veteran team like we have."

A couple of lead changes later, Renner finally managed to pull away in the fifth inning as Michael Clapp

and Tim Huber grabbed runs on stolen bases and a base hit by Darren Terveen brought in his teammate Jason Nyhus.

But the Ravens answered back in the sixth with a grounder by Billy McElhany to bring in Dave Binstyra. Although both teams came close several times, no more runs were scored for the remaining three innings.

"We've been through a lot of battles before so you just have to keep plugging away and trying to get better as the game goes," Knetsch said. "By large, we were able to do that right away by coming back and answering."

The Monarchs were able to answer in a big way by making adjustments along the way, according to Knetsch. A couple big hits by Nyhus

and solid pitching by Dallas Schneiderman were two keys in the Renner victory.

"You never know what to expect coming in," Knetsch said. "Every game kind of has its own personality and its own feel. You've just got to make adjustments as you go. And we were able to do that today."

Because of their sweep in Yankton, the Monarchs will now move into the winner's bracket of the State A tournament in Mitchell, facing the Brandon Valley Merchants on Friday. Castlewood will play an elimination game against the Black Hills A's on Friday in Mitchell.

"It's big to come out of this first weekend 2-0. It's where we want to be heading over to Mitchell."



KEVIN MAIERS/ PORTRAITMEMORIES.NET ABOVE: The Yankton Lakers pose for a team photo after winning the South Dakota State VFW Teener 13-14 Year-Old Class AA Majors Baseball Tournament in Brookings on Sunday. BELOW: Yankton Lakers players give coach Derrik Nelson a water cooler bath after the team clinched the title with an 8-2 victory over Sioux Falls West.



Lakers Win State Title

BROOKINGS — The Yankton Lakers won the South Dakota State VFW Teener 13-14 Year-Old Class AA Majors Baseball Tourn. in Brookings.

Yankton clinched the title with an 8-2 victory over Sioux Falls West on Sunday. Mason Townsend went the distance in the win.

Sheldon Gant had four hits, and Tyler Guthmiller and Bradley Sorensen had three hits each for Yankton. Reid Saawatzke, Colin Muth and Townsend had two hits each. Alex Withrow and Levi Schmidt added hits.

This marks the second straight year that Yankton has won the title in this age division.

Defending Champ North Dakota State Gets Back To Work

BY DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota State senior center Joe Lund has opened plenty of holes in his career with the Bison. One of his toughest tasks this season might be getting his family inside the Fargodome.

"A lot of them can't get tickets," Lund said, laughing but not joking.

Such is life for the defending Football Championship Subdivision champions, who held their annual media day Friday. All six home games in the 19,000-seat indoor arena are sold out and scalpers have already turned to ticket broker websites.

Two sideline tickets for the Sept. 1 home opener against Robert Morris, regularly priced at \$30, were posted on Stubhub this week for \$75 each — four rows from the top, Fargodome general manager Rob Sobolik said.

"There's not a bad seat in the house," Sobolik said, "but you're a ways away with those seats."

Linebacker and dominant product

Brandon Jemison grew up watching the Bison, which gave him an idea about high expectations but before last year's win over Sam Houston State for the school's first Division I title. But the team has never sold out the season before the season.

"There's a lot of interest from the fans. They do hold us to a high standard," Jemison said. "But even our fans know that winning a national championship is a hard thing to do. It's not a given that any team is going to win it any year, let alone back-to-back."

Even so, Lund and Jemison said, anything less than a return trip to Frisco, Texas, would be a disappointment.

"Repeating would really be the only way to top that feeling," Jemison said.

The 2012 edition of the Bison looks a lot like last year's club. They have 13 players on defense with starting experience and eight at starters on offense who have started at least one game. They have an experienced quarterback in Brock Jensen, a game-breaking return specialist in Ryan Smith and two defen-

sive backs, Colten Heagle and Marcus Williams, who are getting national recognition on preseason team lists.

NDSU was picked to finish first in the Missouri Valley Football Conference in a poll of league coaches, media and sports information directors.

"We know the media hype. Everyone wants to label us," Jemison said. "Either way, you are going to have to come out, week in and week out, and win games."

Missouri Valley coach impressed NDSU's championship coaches improved credibility of the league that last won the national title with Youngstown State's victory in 1997.

"I know a lot of us took a lot of pride in that," Illinois State coach Brock Spack said of the Bison title run. "And the way they did it. They kind of had their way with people all the way through the tournament. Very impressive."

League Commissioner Patty Viverito said she might be the happiest commis-

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Red Sox

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the opener. "The name of the game in the state tournament is pitching. If we have great pitching, we'll be fine."

Brandon Valley added two runs in the fifth and single runs in the sixth and seventh to end the game by the mercy rule.

Danielson had three hits and Andy Ahrendt doubled twice and drove in three runs for the Merchants. Bruning doubled and singled. Brett Fischer also had two hits in the win.

Colby Lessman had two of Vermillion's five hits.

Nate Olson took the loss, allowing the first seven runs.

Bryce Ahrendt said the Merchants are looking forward to another big matchup with Renner. The two teams have played each other in the state championship

game each of the past two seasons.

"If we continue to hit like we have been, I like our chances," he said. "Renner is a good team. There is a reason they're in there at the end each year."

Vermillion now looks to bounce back and keep its season alive.

"We have to hit in the cage again, keep these guys involved," he said. "We know Sioux Falls, they know us. We have to be ready to go or we're coming home."

Vermillion 13, Black Hills 4

The Vermillion Red Sox pounded out 19 hits — nine from Tyler Candor and Colby Lessman alone — in a 13-4 victory over the Black Hills A's in the opening round of the South Dakota State Class A Amateur Baseball Tournament on Saturday at Yankton's Riverside Park.

Besides the 19 hits, the Red Sox made the most of five A's errors in advancing to a second-

round game with Brandon Valley today (Sunday) at 1:30 p.m.

"We took advantage of some of their mistakes," said Vermillion manager Kirk Sorensen. "But they came to play."

Vermillion and Black Hills each scored a run in the first. The Red Sox started pulling away in the third, thanks to a three-run frame, then used four-run frames in the fifth and seventh innings to put the game out of reach.

Candor had five hits, including two doubles, and Lessman had four hits to lead Vermillion. A.J. Staert tripled and singled, pickup player Jared Miller (Yankton) doubled and singled, and Reece Steckler had two hits in the effort. Dan Hansen doubled and drove in three runs in the win.

Josh Lundin had two hits for Black Hills. Luke Swartz homered in the effort.

The victory went to Chuck Benz, who struck out eight in a complete game effort. Marcus Kiewel took the loss, exiting after

a rough start to the fifth inning.

Br. Valley 10, Pierre 2

Brandon Valley's Bryce Ahrendt took a no-hitter into the seventh and the Merchants blew open a two-run game with a seven-run opening in a 10-2 decision in the ninth round on Saturday.

Ahrendt finished with eight strikeouts and no walks, keeping Pierre at bay until Ryan Yackley's solo home run in the seventh. Lonnie Moody added a home run in the ninth for Pierre.

Nick Bruning, Jacob Poll and Brett Fischer each had three hits for Brandon Valley, which out-hit Pierre 15-3. Ross Heine, a pickup player from Yankton, added two hits.

Harry Decker took the loss, striking out four and allowing the first 10 Brandon Valley runs.

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London Police Arrest Bottle Thrower At Men's 100-Meter Dash Final

LONDON (AP) — A man was arrested for throwing a plastic bottle on the track at Olympic Stadium about a second before the start of the men's 100-meter final at the London Games on Sunday night, authorities said.

Scotland Yard said a suspect is

being held at a police station on suspicion of causing a public nuisance. The eight competitors in the final were apparently unaffected, and many said they didn't know about the bottle until being told about it by reporters afterward.

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