

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JEREMY HOECK jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

If you will allow me to branch away from local topics (which we usually discuss in this space), I feel it necessary to comment on a significant sports story from Wednesday. By pure definition, a perfect game in baseball should be rare, right? Instead, such performances are becoming commonplace this summer.

Refreshing To Hear King Felix Admit To Knowing Of Perfect Game

The 26-year-old Venezuelan admitted later that yes, he realized what was going on. "It was in my mind, the whole game, it was in my mind," he said.

Yankton Man Competes In PBA Event

HAMMOND, Ind. — Patrick King of Yankton qualified as No. 18 in a field of 124 professional bowlers in the Senior PBA South Shore Open, held recently in Hammond, Ind.

Lakeview Thursday League Fun Night Tonight

CROFTON, Neb. — The Lakeview Golf Course Thursday Men's League will hold its end-of-season fun night today (Thursday).

USD Volleyball Picked 6th In Summit League Poll

VERMILLION — After placing sixth in its inaugural season of Summit League play, the South Dakota volleyball team was picked to finish sixth in the Summit League Pre-

season Coaches Poll released on Wednesday. The Coyotes, who finished 7-11 in league play last season, received 33 points in the poll. North Dakota State, the defending league champion, was tabbed to win the league for the third time in four years with 62 points.

Augie Women Picked Fourth In NSIC Poll

BURNSVILLE, Minn. — Augustana College was picked to finish fifth, while Wayne State (Neb.) was picked 13th and the University of Sioux Falls was tabbed 14th in the pre-season Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) women's soccer coaches poll, released Wednesday.

Minnesota State was picked as the team to beat in the NSIC, receiving 11 first-place votes and 221 total points. Winona State was chosen second, followed in the top five by Minnesota-Duluth, St. Cloud State and Augustana.

All NDSU Football Games Televised For First Time

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota State University athletic officials say all 11 of the team's regular season football games will be televised for the first time in school history.

Twins Move Radio Broadcasts

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins are moving their radio broadcasts from AM to FM in the metro area, using a pop music station already owned by their Pohlman family owners to try to reach younger listeners.

The switch from KSTP to FM 96.3 K-TWIN for the 2013 season was announced Wednesday.

African Country To Make Debut At Little League WS

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Uganda will be making history at the Little League World Series.

SOCCER, BOYS' JV Paradise Valley Inv. at Casper, Wyo. (8 a.m.)

TENNIS, GIRLS' R.C. Stevens/Waterton/Vermillion at YHS (9 a.m.)

SOCCER, GIRLS' JV Paradise Valley Inv. at Casper, Wyo. (8 a.m.)

SOCCER, BOYS' Paradise Valley Inv. at Yankton (3 p.m.)

pristine fields at the World Series. Uganda is one of eight international teams in the 16-team field.

The pint-sized U.S. bracket was the first team from Nebraska to make it to the series. The tournament starts Thursday.

Cubs Fire VP Of Player Personnel

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs have fired vice president of player personnel Oneri Fleita.

Fleita joined the organization in 1995. He was the manager of the club's Class-A affiliate and also oversaw extended spring training.

After spending time as an area scout and coordinator of Latin America operations, Fleita was promoted to director of player development, where he helped current closer Carlos Marmol and shortstop Justin Castro.

Epstein says Fleita is "free and clear" to pursue opportunities with other organizations.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

Table with columns for Bowler, Innings, Runs, Hits, Errors, etc. Includes Kevin Millwood, Stephen Pryor, Eric Baily, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Texas at N.Y. Yankees, Oakland at Kansas City, Cleveland at L.A. Angels, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes St. Louis at Arizona, Colorado at Milwaukee, San Francisco at Washington, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes St. Louis at Arizona, Colorado at Milwaukee, San Francisco at Washington, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes St. Louis at Arizona, Colorado at Milwaukee, San Francisco at Washington, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes New York, Baltimore, Tampa Bay, Boston, Toronto, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Washington, Atlanta, New York, Philadelphia, Miami, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Chicago, Houston, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Los Angeles, San Francisco, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Los Angeles, San Francisco, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, etc.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Texas, Oakland, Los Angeles, Seattle, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Los Angeles, San Francisco, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Los Angeles, San Francisco, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Los Angeles, San Francisco, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, etc.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Los Angeles, San Francisco, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, etc.

NFL: Smith Has Command Of Packers' Defense

BY BOB BGINN (c) 2012 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

GREEN BAY, Wis. — D.J. Smith, a sixth-round draft choice out of Appalachian State, is entrenched as the only inside linebacker on the field in the dime defense that the Green Bay Packers hope to use more this season.

Smith has worked ahead of Rob Francois and A.J. Hawk as the middle linebacker in the 4-1 defense, replacing Desmond Bishop, who blew out his hamstring a week ago.

The message from defensive coordinator Dom Capers was that it is Smith's job to lose. "He's got good command of the huddle, he moves well and is a physical guy," said Capers.

"He's got good instinct in there. If they want to run in the right place," Capers called Bishop "an impact player." He went down against San Diego.

"Bishop threw his body around and played recklessly," Capers said. "Bishop was pretty good in that role."

As it stands now, Smith will play 100 percent of the snaps as the weak inside linebacker in base, one of two inside linebackers in nickel, the middle line-

backer in dime and a key figure in goal-line and short-yardage. Smith seems to be handling the stress of Capers' expansive playbook almost without a hitch. If he didn't, a cerebral, seasoned player such as Hawk no doubt would be in there.

"He's a master of the defense," rookie inside linebacker Terrell Manning said, referring to Smith. "He knows the defense a lot better than a lot of guys that (are here). Ask me what he did (to learn it), I couldn't tell you. But it just kind of flowed in his head."

Smith didn't score particularly well on the 50-question Wonderlic intelligence test, tallying 11 before his senior year and 20 at the scouting combine. But understanding football is what matters most, and Smith is proving able to ace that test.

"He's just a natural born leader," linebacker Erik Walden said. "You could tell that late last year when he played. He can play, and he has a little thump."

Walden said Hawk continues to call the defense in base, Smith or Hawk calls it in nickel and Smith calls it in dime.

Francois (6-2, 250) appeared to be working ahead of Hawk as the No. 2 dime linebacker this week, but Francois said they were interchangeable.

Smith, just 5 feet 10 inches and 239 pounds, had taken a snap from scrimmage last season until Bishop played the next 3½ games.

A meanwhile, Francois replaced an injured Hawk down the stretch and played 165 snaps, making three turnovers.

"Last year, D.J. was the first guy in and Francois was the next guy in," said Capers. "They had to play for us, and they played pretty darn good."

At the combine, Smith ran 40 yards in 4.74 seconds, posted well below average numbers in the vertical jump (31 inches) and broad jump (8-8), and bench-pressed 225 pounds 20 times, two above the linebacker average.

The four-year, \$2.143 million contract that Smith signed was slotted for a player drafted 186th overall. His average per year of \$535,788 ranks 43rd on the Packers' payroll.

Hawk, the fifth selection in the 2006 draft, signed a five-year, \$33.75 million deal in March 2011 that averages \$6.75 million and is tied for sixth on the club. He has widespread experience playing in both the nickel and dime defenses the last six years.

breaking balls. Tampa Bay seemed to try another technique to disrupt Hernandez, and that also failed. With two outs in the seventh, Matt Joyce came out to argue after plate umpire Rob Drake called strike one on a borderline pitch to Matt Joyce. Maddalon stuck around for a minute or so to argue and when he left, Hernandez was still right in rhythm.

"I was yelling at Joe to get ... out of there," Wedge said. It was the second no-hitter this season for the Mariners — doubling the franchise's total entering the year — and third total at Safeco Field after the park went more than a dozen years without one. After Homer's perfect game, a six-pack of Seattle pitchers tossed a combined no-hitter against the Dodgers in June.

The total of six no-hitters is two shy of the record set in 1884, one short of the total in each of the 1990 and 1991 seasons.

Peterson is usually the one delivering the punishing hits. "One of the things they told me was, 'Coach, you know how he runs. What about protecting us?' Frazier said. 'He's not going to change his running style, we all know that, but they have to be smart out there and they know that.'"

Peterson smiled when asked if he'd be letting up at all. "Oh, I'm going to lower my shoulder," he said. "Those guys are probably going to get tired of touching off and tired of me putting my shoulder into them."

Peterson smiled when asked if he'd be letting up at all. "Oh, I'm going to lower my shoulder," he said. "Those guys are probably going to get tired of touching off and tired of me putting my shoulder into them."

Perfect

From Page 8

pitched through tough at-bats, delay tactics and the mounting pressure of perfection to close out the gem. Hernandez struck out 12, including but eight in the final four innings. He struck out the side in the sixth, did it again in the eighth and hit as high as 95 mph in the ninth.

Two starts earlier against the New York Yankees, Hernandez tossed a two-hit shutout, leading Seattle manager Eric Wedge to call it the finest outing he's seen from Hernandez. Suffice to say, Wednesday was better.

"It was special. He had special stuff," Wedge said. "But Felix is consistently good that when he does take it up to another level which we've seen him do through the course of the year, you never know how it's going to turn out."

Desmond Jennings pinch hit for Jose Lobaton to open the ninth. Hernandez got ahead 1-2 before Jennings fouled off two straight and Hernandez fanned him on a 92 mph fastball down in the zone. Jeff Keppinger batted for Elliot Johnson and grounded out to shortstop on a 1-2 pitch.

With one out to go, Rodriguez got ahead 2-0 in the count. After circling the mound, Hernandez took the sign from Jaso and came back with two straight breaking balls for strikes. He ended perfection with a called third strike on his 113th pitch.

"I went 2-0 and I just took a little walk, took a break, and he called a slider. I had been following him the whole game, so I threw a slider and he swung," Hernandez said. "It was a good thing I followed this guy."

The 26-year-old Venezuelan right-hander had the Rays swinging over his sharp curve all afternoon, with Evan Longoria, Ben Zobrist and Carlos Pena each striking out in the eighth chasing

breaking balls. Tampa Bay seemed to try another technique to disrupt Hernandez, and that also failed. With two outs in the seventh, Matt Joyce came out to argue after plate umpire Rob Drake called strike one on a borderline pitch to Matt Joyce. Maddalon stuck around for a minute or so to argue and when he left, Hernandez was still right in rhythm.

"I was yelling at Joe to get ... out of there," Wedge said. It was the second no-hitter this season for the Mariners — doubling the franchise's total entering the year — and third total at Safeco Field after the park went more than a dozen years without one. After Homer's perfect game, a six-pack of Seattle pitchers tossed a combined no-hitter against the Dodgers in June.

The total of six no-hitters is two shy of the record set in 1884, one short of the total in each of the 1990 and 1991 seasons.

Vikings

From Page 8

Peterson is usually the one delivering the punishing hits. "One of the things they told me was, 'Coach, you know how he runs. What about protecting us?' Frazier said. 'He's not going to change his running style, we all know that, but they have to be smart out there and they know that.'"

Peterson smiled when asked if he'd be letting up at all. "Oh, I'm going to lower my shoulder," he said. "Those guys are probably going to get tired of touching off and tired of me putting my shoulder into them."

Peterson smiled when asked if he'd be letting up at all. "Oh, I'm going to lower my shoulder," he said. "Those guys are probably going to get tired of touching off and tired of me putting my shoulder into them."

Black Hills State University logo and text: Black Hills State University has the only Associate of Science in Advanced Manufacturing degree in the state and it's HERE IN YANKTON. Register Now! Classes Start Aug. 28

Yankton Area

From Page 8

They'll start firing back, which is pretty much what I want them to do." His first contact will come later this month, maybe in practice next week or in the team's third preseason game Aug. 24 against San Diego. As defensive coordinator Bill Musgrave put it, Peterson "has to go through the physical part."

So far, so good.

They'll start firing back, which is pretty much what I want them to do." His first contact will come later this month, maybe in practice next week or in the team's third preseason game Aug. 24 against San Diego. As defensive coordinator Bill Musgrave put it, Peterson "has to go through the physical part."

Sertoma logo and text: YANKTON AREA 1st & 2nd GRADERS Registration is going on NOW for a Free 1st and 2nd Grade Flag Football league starting this fall. REGISTRATION FORMS AT yanktonyouthfootball.com SIGN UP DEADLINE AUGUST 24, 2012 FLAG ONLY, PLAYERS WILL NOT USE SHOULDER PADS OR HELMETS