

# 2014 MLB All-Star Game Awarded To Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The competition among cities for baseball’s All-Star game has grown stiffer over the years, leading to some tough calls for Commissioner Bud Selig.

Awarding the 2014 game to the Minnesota Twins and Target Field, it turns out, was one of the easier decisions Selig has made.

“This is the right thing to do and this is the right place to do it,” Selig said Wednesday in making the official announcement.

Selig has long been close with the Pohlad family, which has owned the Twins for decades, especially the late Carl Pohlad. The commissioner stood by his side while he fought for a new ballpark in the late 1990s, a bitter dispute that threatened the franchise’s future in the Twin Cities.

## Lancer Baseball Adds Two Transfers, In-State Recruit

Mount Marty College announced Wednesday the addition of two transfers and one high school recruit to join the Lancer baseball program, coming off an NAIA National Tournament appearance this past spring.

Cutolo comes to Mount Marty from McCook (Neb.) Community College and is a graduate of Sierra Vista High School in Las Vegas, Nev. Griffith is a transfer from Miles Community College (Mont.) and went to high school in Great Falls, Mont.

Klapperich is a 2012 graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City.

Griffith, a pitcher, helped lead Miles Community College to back to back Mon-Dak Conference and Region IX Championships. He tied for the team lead in appearances with 13 and compiled a 3-0 record with a 2.79 earned run average. In 42 innings pitched he only allowed 25 hits while striking out 33 and only issuing 13 base on balls.

The son of Robert and Veronica Griffith, A.J. is undecided in major at Mount Marty. He is the recipient of an MMC academic incentive scholarship in addition to his baseball scholarship.

“AJ has played on championship teams and we want to continue that mindset in the program and on the pitching staff,” Mount Marty head coach Andy Bernatow said. “He’s pitched in a variety of roles at the junior college level which makes him very versatile in how we can use him. I was very impressed with his ability and feel that he is just hitting his athletic prime. He showed three pitches that he threw for strikes and some good velocity on his fastball.

“We graduated some really good arms last season and for us to continue to stay competitive, it’s essential that we bring in a veteran arm for the pitching staff.”

Cutolo, a catcher, was a two-year starter at the junior college level. He started over 70 games in his junior college career and batted .232 in a wood bat league. He also had an outstanding high school career batting .444 with 52 hits, 28 runs, 8 doubles, 3 home runs, 1 triple, and 36 runs batted in during his senior season. During his high school career he was part of a legion team that won State and National Regional American Legion Championships. The American Legion Regional Championship led to a birth to the 2010 American Legion World Series.

The son of Frank and Tiffany Cutolo and Barbra Cutolo, Julian is the recipient of an MMC academic incentive scholarship in addition to his baseball award.

Once the Twins finally won approval to build Target Field, it was only a matter of time before Selig was going to bring the mid-summer classic back to Minnesota. It will be the third time the Twins have hosted the game, following 1965 at Metropolitan Stadium and 1985 at the Metrodome.

“Target Field is just spectacular,” Selig said. “Every time I’m here, I just can’t tell you how impressive this is. So this will be a great showplace for the 2014 All-Star game.”

The play on the field has been anything but spectacular over the last two seasons. The Twins entered the game against Seattle on Wednesday night with an AL-worst record of 52-77, one year after losing 99 games. The lack of success following a period of six division titles in nine seasons has caused attendance to at the shiny,

three-year-old ballpark to drop and a traditionally loyal fan base to start grumbling.

“They’ve been as passionate and as loyal as any fans in baseball,” Twins President Dave St. Peter said. “For what they’ve put up with on the field the last two years, they deserve an All-Star game and a lot more.”

Selig said he hoped the news of the game coming to Minnesota will be a brief respite for fans who have endured the last two seasons, and said he had no doubt the franchise would bounce back.

“As commissioner I get a chance to have a view of all 30 clubs, sometimes on a daily basis,” he said. “This is one of those clubs that you never worry about. They always do the right thing in the right way.”

Owner Jim Pohlad has been putting

pressure on the front office and coaching staff to get things turned around while at the same time taking the prudent, patient approach that has been the family’s hallmark while owning the team. Manager Ron Gardenhire, for now, does not appear to be in trouble and GM Terry Ryan is expected to remove interim tag from his job title sometime in the next few months.

With a core of Joe Mauer, Justin Morneau and Josh Willingham at or near their prime, the urgency is there to return to the top of the AL Central. They’ll need to vastly upgrade their starting rotation to make that happen.

“I suppose we could hope to go for a double in 2014 and have not only the All-Star game but the World Series,” Jim Pohlad said. “Actually it would be great if we could just be awarded the World Series, but we’ll do our best to win it.”

## BURNING UP



P&D FILE PHOTO

**Yankton's Tristan Roy is pictured at last fall's Yankton Junior Varsity Invitational cross country meet at Yankton's HSC course. The Bucks and Gazelles were scheduled to compete in today's (Thursday) Brandon Valley Invitational, but the meet was postponed due to extreme heat.**

## Heat Affects Yankton Sports

### FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

The record heat for the area has taken its toll on youth sports for Yankton High School and Yankton Middle School. District activities director Ryan Mors announced three

postponements and cancellations for events that were scheduled to take place today (Thursday).

Yankton was scheduled to compete in today's Brandon Valley Cross Country Invitational. The freshman football game

between the Bucks and Mitchell, scheduled for 4:15 p.m. today at Crane-Youngworth Field, has been postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

Football practice for seventh and eighth graders for today has also been canceled.

# Southern Miss Hopes Uncertainty Helps Vs. Nebraska

BY DAVID BRANDT  
AP Sports Writer

Southern Mississippi is the obvious underdog when it travels to face No. 17 Nebraska on Saturday.

But with a new coach, new quarterback and a revamped defense, the Golden Eagles hope to use the unknown to their advantage.

First-year coach Ellis Johnson hasn’t been particularly secretive during preseason camp, but he’s just vague enough with the team’s progress to keep the Cornhuskers guessing. Johnson announced on Monday that junior Chris Campbell would start at quarterback against Nebraska, but also acknowledged that Anthony Alford and Ricky Lloyd could see time under center.

The uncertainty has kept the Nebraska film room busy.

“There’s a lot of guess work, so that’s a little bit of a concern,” Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said.

Of course, the 60-year-old Johnson has been around a long time and isn’t a complete unknown — especially for the Cornhuskers. As South Carolina’s

defensive coordinator last season, his fingerprints were all over the defense that helped beat Nebraska 30-13 in the Capital One Bowl, even though Johnson had already left to take over at Southern Miss.

The Golden Eagles aren’t bothered by playing top-line competition. They went on the road and beat Virginia 30-24 last season and also thrashed Kansas at home in 2010. But the Cornhuskers will be a much tougher test.

“Southern Miss as a program is no stranger to these challenges and I think our players will handle it well,” Johnson said. “But frankly, the players that come into this room to meet every day, they have not been in any kind of fight like this yet and we’re going to have to see how they respond.”

The main challenge for Southern Miss will be stopping Nebraska’s power running game — which features quarterback Taylor Martinez and running back Rex Burkhead. The two combined for more than 2,200 rushing yards and 24 touchdowns last season.

The no-frills, option-based offense is very different than what Southern Miss usually faces in Conference USA, with its reputation for wide-open, pass-happy approach that puts a premium on athleticism over strength. Southern Miss defensive coordinator Tommy West likes to call it “basketball on grass.”

But there will be no confusing sports when Nebraska runs its offense at Southern Miss. It will be vintage football. Johnson said Southern Miss has the speed to match Nebraska, but would have more trouble with the Cornhuskers’ size advantage.

“The physicality of it is different,” Johnson said. “We’re going to have to tackle some bigger, stronger running backs than we have been. I think that’s going to

## TV

■ Nebraska’s Season Opener Saturday Will Be Televised By ABC At 2:30 P.M.

be the whole difference — yards after contact.”

On offense, Campbell won the quarterback job after nearly a month of competition. The 6-foot-4, 215-pound junior from Collierville, Tenn., has waited three seasons for his turn to lead the Golden Eagles, and won the job primarily for his knowledge of the system and consistency in the passing game.

“The thing that Chris brings is some stability right now,” Southern Miss offensive coordinator Steve Buckley said. “We’re going into a stadium that holds 86,000. It’s going to be loud. It’s going to be nationally televised. We know that and we feel that Chris is a mature young man.”

But Campbell probably won’t see every snap. Alford, a freshman, has impressed with his ability to make plays on the ground and through the air. Lloyd is much like Campbell — a capable thrower who doesn’t make many mistakes.

Buckley said Campbell’s his man at the beginning of the game, but circumstances could dictate changes.

“Do we want to play three quarterbacks on Saturday? No,” Buckley said. “Could it happen that way? Yes.”

Johnson said he hopes Southern Miss won’t need any of the three quarterbacks to be a hero. The Golden Eagles return a deep group of running backs, including Tracy Lampley, Kendrick Hardy and Jeremy Hester. There’s also a decent amount of experience on the offensive line.

“If we give them protection, if we have success running the ball, that’s going to take a lot of pressure on those guys,” Southern Miss offensive lineman Austin Quattrochi said.

But Johnson knows rotating quarterbacks or any other type of trickery probably won’t be enough to beat Nebraska.

The Golden Eagles must be nearly flawless in every phase.

“If I had to point to two big things that I hope I can put my finger on at the end of that ball game and feel good about, it’s that we tackled well defensively and executed on offense without missed assignments and dead plays,” Johnson said.

## Report: Twins Put Mauer On Trade Waivers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins have placed All-Star catcher Joe Mauer on trade waivers, according to a report by Fox Sports.

Wait, what? Joe Mauer, about to be dealt by his hometown team?

The report on the network’s website late Tuesday, attributed to an unidentified “major league source,” was enough to raise eyebrows around the sport. It said the waivers on Mauer expired Wednesday.

Twins general manager Terry Ryan declined to comment, citing Major League Baseball’s policy prohibiting teams speaking publicly about the waiver wire. The process is supposed to be confidential.

The fact is that big-name, big-money guys like Mauer land on trade waivers in August all the time. Most players in the majors are run through the wire after the July 31 deadline for making non-waiver trades. This is usually not a sign of a team’s desire to get rid of an expensive star but more of a procedural move to gauge potential interest in case a legitimate trade offer were to come about.

“Everybody in here’s been through it at some point. We’ve all been run through in the past. It’s a non-issue,” said first baseman Justin Morneau. “There are probably two guys in the league that don’t go through it.”

Mauer woke up to the news — and a flurry of phone calls and text messages from friends and family.

“It’s part of the game. I was a little surprised about how much coverage, and how many questions I was asked about it,” Mauer said.

## SD Mines Keeps Focus Inward For UND Game

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — South Dakota Mines football coach Stacy Collins knows what he’s getting into.

The first-year coach of the Hardrockers, who will take on the University of North Dakota on Thursday in the season opener at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, has spent 14 years coaching college football, most recently at Big Sky Conference member Portland State.

Collins was assistant head coach and special teams coordinator at PSU before being named head coach at the Rapid City, S.D., school in December. Mines is transitioning from the NAIA to the NCAA Division II level. UND is a Division I Football Championship Subdivision school that is in its first year in the Big Sky.

“I’ve been at the FCS level, and I understand the type of athlete at that level,” Collins said. “And when you look at the tale of the tape, North Dakota is a good team. They’re big and physical.”

With that in mind, Collins said, the Hardrockers aren’t focusing much on UND.

“We’re concerned about ourselves,” he said. “We want to do what we do well — down to down, play by play.”

Collins said the Hardrockers are still trying to get their roster up to speed to the Division II level.

In order to overhaul, Collins said Mines has about 35 returners from last season and approximately 45-50 new players, with about 90 percent of those newcomers being graduated high school seniors.

The Hardrockers will have a handful of transfers, though, including some from the Big Sky.

Mines landed Idaho State transfer running back Jahmel Rover, who had 54 yards rushing and three touchdowns for the Bengals as a junior in limited time due to an injury.

At defensive end, Mines has two Big Sky transfers in Zach Zelecki, formerly of Portland State, and Jacob Phipps, formerly of Northern Arizona.

“The big challenge is integrating the system and staff,” Collins said. “The one common goal is to get better every day.”

Collins is hoping to build a program at Mines, which finished 1-10 last season and lost to Sioux Falls 71-0.

Still, UND coach Chris Mussman said the Hardrockers will come to the Alerus Center with a dangerous mindset.