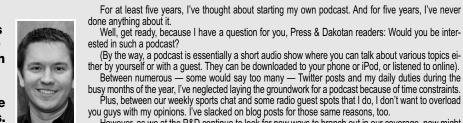
Press&Dakotan **BY JEREMY HOECK** DAILY DOSE jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

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



Would You Be Interested In A Podcast?

be the time to try a podcast. I recorded podcasts while in college, so I'm not completely unfamiliar with the idea

I've got a few ideas on a format (local and area sports), but it would take some work. First, you have to find the necessary equipment, such as a suitable microphone. Second, you would need certain computer programs. Third, you need the time.

And in our case, fourth, I would ideally like to set up some sort of advertising or sponsorship. But that could be determined later.

But for now, I go back to my original question. Would there be an audience for such a podcast? Would people in Yankton download and listen to it? Or would I be doing hours of work every week for one maybe two listeners?

Whether it be USD or SDSU athletics, or Yankton High School, or Mount Marty College, or area sports, we could have plenty to get to. We would never run out of topics to discuss.

I'm curious, though, what you guys think. Please let me know. Feel free to email me, call me at 605-665-7811, or hit me up on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck.

McCloy Named USD Asst. **Director Of Development**

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota athletic department announced Wednesday the hiring of Jessi McCloy as assistant director of development effective immediately. McCloy worked at National Associa-

tion of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) during the 2012-13 academic year.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, McCloy graduated from Cleveland State Universitv in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in promotional communications and earned her master's degree in sports

McCloy management two years later.

While at NACDA, McCloy worked with membership, the Collegiate Event and Facility Management Association, Division I-AAA Athletic Directors Association, the John McLendon Minority Foundation, International Collegiate Licensing Association and the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup. A former collegiate soccer player and two-year team captain, McCloy served as director of Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Association for six months

For at least five years, I've thought about starting my own podcast. And for five years, I've never

Well, get ready, because I have a question for you, Press & Dakotan readers: Would you be inter-

(By the way, a podcast is essentially a short audio show where you can talk about various topics ei-

Plus, between our weekly sports chat and some radio guest spots that I do, I don't want to overload

However, as we at the P&D continue to look for new ways to branch out in our coverage, now might

beginning in July of 2012. She has served an internship at Laurel School Athletics Department in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She worked for the department of student life and graduation admissions while earning her master's degree at Cleveland State.

Yankton Soccer Tryouts Begin Aug. 5

Tryouts for the Yankton boys' and girls' varsity and junior varsity soccer teams will begin on Monday, Aug. 5, at Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex. Tryouts begin at 6 p.m., with registration beginning 30 minutes prior to the first day of tryouts. Tryout participants must be registered with

Yankton Youth Soccer prior to the tryout. No player will be allowed to tryout without the registration

Canton 13, Beresford 4 Akron 8, Vermillion Grey Sox 1

ood 9, Akron 0

Beresford 15. Dakota Vallev 8.

Larchwood 7, Lennox 0

Garretson 10. Canton 0

form and fee. Registration packets may be picked up at 1205 Maple in Yankton, or may be picked up and field out on Aug. 5 prior to the tryouts.

There will also be a mandatory parent meeting in conjunction with the first day of the tryout on Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. at the soccer complex.

Nebraska Volleyball Scrimmage Tickets On Sale Aug. 7

LINCOLN, Neb. — Tickets for the 2013 Red/White Volleyball Scrimmage at the newly-renovated Bob Devaney Sports Center will go on sale on Wednesday, Aug. 7. The match is slated for 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24 and will give Husker fans their first glimpse at the new home of Nebraska volleyball.

Fans are encouraged to purchase tickets on Huskers.com, while tickets are also available by visiting the Nebraska Athletic Ticket Office or calling 1-800-8-BIGRED. UNL students will receive free admission to the match, but ticket quantities are limited and students must secure a ticket in ad-

CHAMPIONSHIP: Game 5 winner

East Division W L 64 44 64 44

59

55

Pct GB

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vs. Game 7 winner, 5:30 p.m. IF NECESSARY: 8 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston

Tampa Bay

Baltimore

New York

Toronto

Detroit

Cleveland Kansas City

Minnesota

Chicago

Oakland

Texas Seattle

Los Angeles

vance on Huskers.com. Current season ticket holders wishing to attend the Red/White Scrimmage will need to purchase separate tickets for this match.

Chadron State Football Star **Taylor Suspended 6 Games**

CHADRON, Neb. (AP) — A star football player for Chadron State College has been suspended for the first six games because he was ineligible to play in 2011.

The western Nebraska school announced the suspension of Trelan Taylor on Tuesday. The senior from La Mesa, Calif., won't play until the Oct. 19 road game at Black Hills State

Athletic department spokesman Alex Helmbrecht said the suspension was related to academics and that the school would have no additional comment.

Taylor is one of the top defensive backs in NCAA Division II. He was a team captain and firstteam All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference pick

last season. His 74 tackles were third-most on the team, and he intercepted eight passes.

Twins Trade Catcher Drew **Butera To Dodgers**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins have traded catcher Drew Butera to the Los Angeles Dodgers for either a player to be named or cash

The deal was done right before the non-waiver trade deadline on Wednesday afternoon.

Butera was the backup to Joe Mauer for most of the last three seasons, but he has spent all but the last week with Triple-A Rochester this year. When Mauer was out on paternity leave, Butera appeared in two games.

Butera, who will turn 30 on Aug. 9, missed time because of a broken left hand earlier in the season and was hitting .229 in 83 at-bats for the Red Wings. Defense has always been his strength. In 490 career at-bats for the Twins, Butera has a .182 batting average with five home runs.

GOLF, SDGA Two-Woman Championships at

ky Run GC, Dell Rapids BASEBALL, LEGION S.D. State A Tourn. at

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER S.D. State 13-14

GOLF, SDGA Two-Woman Championships at

ky Run GC, Dell Rapids BASEBALL, LEGION S.D. State A Tourn. at

bid City BASEBALL, VFW TEENER S.D. State 13-14

Majors at Mitchell (Yankton Lakers); S.D. State 13-14 Minors at Watertown (Yankton Reds)

Majors at Mitchell (Yankton Lakers); S.D. State 13-14 Minors at Watertown (Yankton Reds)

Sunday, August 4 GOLF. DAKOTAS TOUR Hillcrest Pro-Am

SCOREBOARD

GOLF DAKOTAS TOUR

HILLCREST LADIES PRO-AM

Tuesday at Hillcrest Pro Division RESULTS: Dave Schultz 68, Neil Johnson 69, Patrick Strandemo 69, Tim Frazer 69, Kevin Stanek 70, Mike Plate 70, Nate Barbee 70, Travis Stockholm 70, Peter Lansburgh 71, Ben Pisani 72, Ryan Dillon 73, Austin Karle 74, Jeff Berkshire 75, Corv Blenkush 76, Scott Berkshire /5, Cory Blenkush /6, Scott Pugh 76, Jamie Estrada 77, Nick Delio 77, Ty Dannenbring 85 **Pro-Am Teams** FIRST: AUSTIN KARLE, Rhonda Karolevitz, Karen Swanda, Tona Larsen

132

SECOND: KEVIN STANEK, Moira Zahn, Yavonne Slowey, Connie Somsen 133 THIRD: TRAVIS STOCKHOLM.

Jennifer Dietrich, Amanda Woods, Karen Hovland 135

Amateur Ladies GROSS: Kristin Sabers 83, Stacy Schramm 84. Jennifer Dietrich 88

NET: Yavonne Slowey 70, Karen Swanda 73, Tena Becker 75

BASEBALL

LEGION BASEBALL S.D. STATE A LEGION July 31-Aug. 4 at Rapid City NOTE: Times listed in Central Time

Wednesday, July 31 Watertown 10. Spearfish 2 Pierre 9, Aberdeen 7 Sioux Falls West 9, Mitchell 4 GAME 4: Brandon Valley vs. Rapid City Post 22, 30 minutes after Game 3

Thursday, Aug. 1 GAME 5: Spearfish vs. Mitchell, 11 a.m GAME 6: Aberdeen vs. Game 4

- loser, 30 minutes after Game 5 GAME 7: Watertown vs. Sioux Falls
- West, 6 p.m. GAME 8: Pierre vs. Game 4 winner, 30 minutes after Game 7
- Friday, Aug. 2 GAME 9: Game 6 winner vs. Game

7 loser, 1:30 p.m. GAME 10: Game 5 winner vs. Game

Baseball

From Page 7

Sunday, July 28 12 NOTE: Pairings of Games 12 and 13 Dakota Vallev eliminated not previous opponents against each other, unless absolutely necessary Sunday, Aug. 4 GAME 14: Game 12 winner vs. GAME 14: Game 12 winner 12 winner 14: GAME 15: If necessary, 6 p.m. NOTE: If three teams remain after Ga Game 13, the winner fo Game 11 automatically advances to Game 15 AMATEUR BASEBALL S.D. DISTRICT 6B Thursday, July 25 Menno 10, Scotland 0 Friday, July 26 Freeman 6, Wynot 2 Tabor 6, Avon 1 Saturday, July 27 Wvnot 10, Scotland 0, 7 innings, Scotland eliminated Crofton 2, Menno 1 Irene 5, Lesterville 4, 10 innings Sunday, July 28 Lesterville 8, Menno 4, Menno eliminated

Wednesday, July 24 Garretson 11, Dakota Valley 1, 7 in-

> scored in the win. Flandreau. Colin Walth picked up the win. John Gassman took the loss. relief of Tyler Williams, as the pair combined on a one-hit shutout. Logan Busch

Thursday's Games

ter (Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Menno, 5:30 p.m.; Game 7 — Game 5 loser vs. Game 6 winner, 8 p.m.) GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Hillcrest Pro-Am 49 51 57 .546 5 .519 8 .467 13 1/2 5 Fiday, August 2 BASEBALL, AMATEUR A District at Yankton (Vermillion Red Sox vs. Mitchell-S.F. Saints loser, 8 Central Division L Pct GB 45 .575 — 48 .551 21/2 51 .505 71/2 **W** 61 BASEBALL, LEGION S.D. State A Tourn. at 59 52 58 65 45 .437 14 1/2 (B.Norris 6-9), 6:05 p.m. 40 .381 20 1/2 Seattle (F.Hernandez 11-4) at West Division W L 63 45 GB Boston (Dempster 6-8), 6:10 p.m. Pct .583 Toronto (Jo.Johnson 1-7) at L.A. An-4 12 14 26 gels (Richards 2-4), 9:05 p.m. 49 56 58 59 .546 .472 Geis (Richards 2-4), 5.00 p.m. Friday's Games Seattle at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m. 50 48 .453 Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 6:08 36 70 .340 Tuesday's Games Cleveland 7, Chicago White Sox 4 Arizona at Boston, 6:10 p.m. Cleveland at Miami, 6:10 p.m. Kansas City at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m. Baltimore 4, Houston 3 Ballinole 4, Houston 3 Detroit 5, Washington 1 Tampa Bay 5, Arizona 2 Boston 8, Seattle 2 Texas 14, L.A. Angels 11, 10 innings Kansas City 7, Minnesota 2 San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 6:10 Houston at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m. Houston at Minnesota, 7.10 p.m. Texas at Oakland, 9:05 p.m. Toronto at L.A. Angels, 9:05 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at San Diego, 9:10 Toronto 5. Oakland 0 L.A. Dodgers 3, N.Y. Yankees 2 dnesday's Games Detroit 11, Washington 1 Toronto 5, Oakland 2, 10 innings NATIONAL LEAGUE Cleveland 6, Chicago White Sox 5, East Division W L Pct 63 45 .583 innings Houston 11, Baltimore 0 GB Atlanta 11 Arizona 7, Tampa Bay 0 Seattle at Boston, 7:10 p.m. Washington 52 56 .481 Texas 2, L.A. Angels 1 Kansas City at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 Ponder

Chicago White Sox (Sale 6-10) at eveland (Masterson 12-7), 11:05 a.m. Kansas City (Shields 5-7) at Min-From Page 7

> Rudolph, who has developed a close friendship with Ponder. "It's not fair to single him out. There's a lot of moving parts with this team, and we all have to do our part for this offense and team to be successful."

64.9 percent of his passes with eight touchdowns and only one interception in that stretch. But in the middle eight games of the season, the Vikings were 3-5. Ponder's completion percentage was 59.8 with 10 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. In two of those games, he failed to pass for more than 65 yards. In four of those games, he threw two interceptions.

This offseason, the Vikings upgraded the backup spot by signing Matt Cassel as insurance against Ponder's struggles. "I want to be the guy with the ball in my hand and a chance to win the game," Ponder said, adding: "The biggest thing is my decision-making. I

currently having the worst

season, our record is basi-

gether as a team quite yet,

but in our last game it really

seemed as though it was all

second half of the season

Great Falls Voyagers.

The Mustangs begin the

where they left off: facing the

It is unknown whether

Somsen's innings will remain

falling into place."

record in the north division.

"After the first half of the

want to play smart football."

During training camp so far. Ponder has done little so far to quash concerns. On one play, he'll zip a pass down the middle as a receiver breaks clear. On another, he'll sail a short throw well over the targeted out route. Most of his passes in team drills still travel less than 10 yards downfield, as the Vikings experiment with their playbook.

Wide receiver Jerome Simpson said it's not fair to place all of the burden on the quarterback. Simpson said Ponder seems more confident in his ability this summer.

Wynot 3, Avon 2, Avon eliminated Tuesday, July 30 Crofton 5, Irene 1 Tabor 10, Freeman 0 Thursday, Aug. 1 GAME 11: Freeman vs. Lesterville, 6 p.m. (winner is Rep #2 or #3) GAME 12: Irene vs. Wynot, 8 p.m. (winner is Rep #2 or #3) Saturday, Aug. 3 GAME 13: Game 11 loser vs. Game 12 loser, 5 p.m. (winner is Rep #4) CHAMPIONSHIP: Crofton vs. Tabor, 5:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. (both teams advance, loser is Rep #1) p.m S.D. DISTRICT 7B July 24 at high seed, July 26-31 at Larchwood, Iowa

nings

5:30 p.m. GAME 7: Game 5 loser vs. Game 6 nesota (Diamond 5-9), 12:10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2

8 winner, 30 minutes after Game 10 Saturday, Aug. 3 GAME 12: Game 9 winner vs. Game Friday, July 26 11 loser, 6 p.m. GAME 13: Game 10 winner vs. Saturday, July 27 Game 11 winner, 30 minutes after Game

8 loser, 6 p.m. GAME 11: Game 7 winner vs. Game

Lennox 4, Vermillion Grey Sox 2, rmillion eliminated Monday, July 29 Larchwood 4. Garretson 3 (both teams advance, Garretson is Rep #1) Tuesday, July 30 GAME 10: Beresford vs. Akron, 7:30

p.m. (winner is Rep #2 or #3) Wednesday, July 31

Larch

GAME 11: Lennox vs. Canton, 7:30 p.m. (winner is Rep #2 or #3) S.D. DISTRICT 6A Julv 30-Aug. 3 (All but #2 in Yankton) Tuesday, July 30

Yankton 3, Vermillion Red Sox 2, 11 Wednesday, July 31

GAME 2: Mitchell at S.F. Saints, 8 Friday, Aug. 2 GAME 3: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2

oser, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 CHAMPIONSHIP: Game 1 winner

vs. Game 2 winner, 2 p.m. STATE PLAY-IN: Game 3 winner vs. Championship loser, 5 p.m.

VFW TEENER BASEBALL S.D. REGION 2B VARSITY

July 30-Aug. 2 at Alcester Tuesday, July 30 Garretson 1, Beresford 0 Alcester 5, Flandreau 4

Garretson 2, Menno 1 ednesday, July 31 GAME 4: Beresford vs. Flandreau,

GAME 5: Alcester vs. Garretson, 8 Thursday, Aug. 1 GAME 6: Game 4 winner vs. Menno,

Tuesday in Alcester.

VFW Teener baseball tournament on Chandler Johnson had two hits for Mader had three hits in teh victory. Jacob Fitzgerald picked up the win in

CI

Arizona (Delgado 3-3) at Texas (Darvish 9-5), 6:05 p.m Houston (Lyles 4-4) at Baltimore

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, August 1 BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 6B Tourn. at Rapid City BASEBALL, VFW TEENER S.D. State 13-14 Scotland (Game 11 — Lesterville vs. Freeman, 6 p.m., KVHT-FM; Game 12 — Wynot vs. Irene, 8:30

West Division

W 57 L 48

 Arizona
 55
 52
 514
 3

 Colorado
 51
 58
 .468
 8

 San Diego
 50
 59
 .459
 9

 San Francisco
 47
 59
 .443
 10
 1/2

Milwaukee 6, Chicago Cubs 5, 1st

Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1, 11 innings,

Philadelphia 7, San Francisco 3

Detroit 5, Washington 1 Tampa Bay 5, Arizona 2

Los Angeles

Tuesday's Games

Arizona Colorado

1st game

Majors at Mitchell (Yankton Lakers); S.D. State 13-14 Minors at Watertown (Yankton Reds); Region 2B at Alcester (Championship - Game 5 winner vs. Game winner, 5:30 p.m.; If necessary — 8 p.m.) GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Hillcrest Pro-Am BASEBALL, LEGION S.D. State A Tourn. at Rapid City BASEBALL, VFW TEENER Region 2B at Alces-Saturday, August 3 BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 6B Tourn, at

Scotland (Game 13 — Game 11 loser vs. Game 12 Sociand (Game 13 — Game 11 loser vs. Game 12 Ioser, 5 p.m., KVHT-FM; Championship — Crotton vs. Tabor, 7:30 p.m., KVHT-FM); A District at Yankton

(Championship — Yankton vs. Mitchell-S.F. Saints winner, 2 p.m.; Qualifier — Friday loser vs. champi-

GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Hillcrest Pro-Am

GB Pct

.543

50 57 .467 12 1/2 Atlanta 11, Colorado 3 Philadelphia (Hamels 4-13), 6:05 p.m. New York 48 41 57 65 St. Louis (J.Kelly 1-3) at Pittsburgh .457 13 1/2 .387 21 N.Y. Mets 4, Miami 2, 10 innings (Morton 3-2), 6:05 p.m. Miami Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 0, 2nd game Colorado (Bettis 0-0) at Atlanta (Teheran 7-5), 6:10 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Nolasco 6-9) at Chicago Cubs (Rusin 1-0), 7:05 p.m. Central Division Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 2, 2nd W L 65 42 62 44 60 49 GB Pct .607 San Diego 4, Cincinnati 2 Pittsburgh .585 2 1/2 .550 6 L.A. Dodgers 3, N.Y. Yankees 2 Wednesday's Games St. Louis Cincinnati Friday's Games L.A. Dodgers at Chicago Cubs, 3:05 Detroit 11, Washington 1 Cincinnati 4, San Diego 1 San Francisco 9, Philadelphia 2 .453 16 1/2 .430 19 Chicago Milwaukee 48 58 46 61

p.m.

Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 4

Arizona 7, Tampa Bay 0

N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

N.Y. Mets (Harvey 8-2) at Miami (Koehler 2-6), 11:40 a.m.

(Darvish 9-5), 6:05 p.m. San Francisco (M.Cain 6-6) at

Arizona (Delgado 3-3) at Texas

Atlanta 9, Colorado 0

Miami 3 N Y Mets 2

Thursday's Games

. Atlanta at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m. Colorado at Pittsburgh, 6:05 p.m. Arizona at Boston, 6:10 p.m. Cleveland at Miami, 6:10 p.m Kansas City at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m. San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 6:10 Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

St. Louis at Cincinnati, 6:10 p.m.

Washington at Milwaukee, 7:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at San Diego, 9:10

VFW Region 2B Garretson 1, Beresford 0

ALCESTER — Micah Mader drove in the game's only run in the bottom of the seventh as Garretson edged Beresford 1-0 in the opening game of the District 2B Alcester 5, Flandreau 4 ALCESTER - Mitch Johnson had two hits and two runs scored to lead Alcester to a 5-4 victory over Flandreau in the District 2B VFW Teener baseball tournament on Tuesday in Alcester. Zach Ronning added a hit and a run

Garretson 2, Menno 1 ALCESTER - Garretson's Brady Schlueter out-dueled Menno's Logan Mudder as Garretson earned a 2-1 vic-tory in the District 2B VFW Teener baseball tournament on Tuesday in Alcester. Micah Mader had a hit for Garretson. adding to his three-hit performance in the opener.

Ponder, who missed the playoff game because of an elbow injury, helped the Vikings finish the season with four straight wins.

Over the first four games and the last four, the Vikings went 7-1. Ponder completed

"It's not a one-man team." Simpson said. "We all have to pull our weight and help him

Somsen

From Page 7

to fly me out to Goodyear, Arizona, in three days. It was really a 'bam-bam' situation; at home one day, then in Arizona a few days later, then to Billings.

Another big change for Somsen is when he is called upon to pitch. During his college career, Somsen was the Summit League pitcher of the year in 2013 for the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits as a starting pitcher. In his senior campaign for the Jackrabbits, Somsen held a 1.87 earned run average (ERA), and was a major factor in SDSU reaching the NCAA baseball tournament for the first time in school history. In their opening game in the tournament, Somsen faced the eighth overall seed University of Oregon in their hometown of Eugene, Ore. Somsen allowed only one hit in his seven innings of work and held a 2-1 lead when he left the game, but the Jacks fell 3-2 in a lategame rally. Now Somsen comes into the Billings games as a middle reliever, coming in at any moment of the game to relieve the starting pitcher and cover some innings for the closing pitchers.

'It's a little different being a middle reliever after being a starter at SDSU, but I am enjoying it," Somsen said. "I get to throw a little bit more often, as I will throw two to three innings twice a week rather than throwing as a starter only once a week.

"I also have to stay locked into all the games as I can be called upon at any time to go get a few outs.'

"Obviously, it is a job I'd prefer to be doing, and one that I am enjoying every bit of."

LAYNE SOMSEN

Being focused on all the games at all times means focusing on 76 games in only 80

days. "It definitely is a grind," Somsen said. "I have gone from playing in college since February and pitching about 100 innings, to now playing basically every single day. It really is a job. Many people may not think it is a job, but I am at the field from two until 11 every day, and back at it the next day. Obviously, it is a job I'd prefer to be doing, and one that I am enjoying every bit of.'

And it is a job that Somsen has done exceptionally well. Billings currently sits at the bottom of the north division of the Pioneer Baseball League with an overall record of 14-24, but Somsen holds a perfect 3-0 record with a 1.33 ERA. Somsen has appeared in nine total games and has pitched 20 1/3 total innings. In those 20 1/3 innings, Somsen has only allowed three earned runs and has only allowed earned runs in two of his nine appearances this season. Currently, Patrick Conroy of the Idaho Falls Chukars leads the eight-team PBL with a 2.08 ERA. Somsen's ERA is much better than that, but Somsen has not pitched the minimum amount of innings to be considered as a league leader. If he would have pitched at least 30 1/3 innings at this point in the season, he would

be the league leader in ERA. But the size of the pitching staff and the focus on developing players in the Reds organization has limited Somsen's innings. Thus far into the season, the Mustangs have had 20 different pitchers on the mound. Each pitcher is on a strict pitch count, and cannot exceed his count.

"I've never been pushed past more than three innings with Billings," Somsen said. "On Monday against Great Falls, Luke Moran started for us and was on a 60 to 70 pitch count limit. He reached that limit in the fifth inning with two outs already down and he was taken out. We had a big lead, and I came in for

him and snaked his win." Somsen pitched 2 1/3 perfect innings against the Great Falls Voyagers, retiring seven straight batters on his way to his team-best third win of the season. Many pitchers would be frustrated with only being allowed to go a few innings after being a heavily reliedupon starter with their previous team, but Somsen sees it in another way.

'They're looking out for us and our health, which is nice to know."

The development and care for the players is crucial for the entire Reds organization. Any one of the Mustangs players can be called up to a single-A, double-A, or triple-A affiliate, or even Cincinnati,

at any time, as evidenced by Phil Ervin being called up to the single-A Dayton Dragons from the Billings Mustangs iust hours after my conversa-

Many major league stars began their careers with the rookie-league Mustangs. Kansas City Royals legend George Brett, seven-time MLB all-star Trevor Hoffman, and 2010 National League MVP Joey Votto are a few of the many who donned a Billings

The uncertainty in their future also brings along a unique housing situation for members of the Billings baseball club. Rather than finding an apartment or stepping into the world of being a homeowner, the members of the Mustangs rely upon families in the Billings area to house players.

"It's a pretty nice set-up they have for us," Somsen said. "I live in a host family's basement with one of my teammates.'

with the Mustangs throughout the summer, there is still hope for him and the Mustangs to reach the postseason in the PBL, despite

cally scrapped," Somsen said.

tion with Somsen. "Whoever is leading after the first half of the season clinches a spot in the playoffs after the regular season, but everyone else gets a clean slate to start the second half of the season to make it to the playoffs. "I believe we can get there," Somsen said. "We haven't really clicked to-

jersey in their early years.

on the same schedule for the second half of the season, but one reason that Somsen may be given a lighter load of innings is because of Tommy John elbow surgery that he had while at SDSU. Something Assuming Somsen remains

that possibly scared some teams away from drafting him, but Somsen feels it isn't something that has harmed him. Actually, he views it as

something that has benefited him.

"I came back from the injury the same pitcher that I was before," Somsen said. "But after the surgery I was more mentally tough.

"That's a pretty big thing to miss two seasons and it was really frustrating, but the mental toughness I gained will help me in pro baseball. At this level you never know when you might be moved up, released, or sent down, so having that mental toughness is essential if you are going to make it.

"I can't look at it as a negative," Somsen said. "I just have to take what I get thrown at me and run with it."

So far in his rookie season in pro baseball, Somsen has been thrown numerous different situations at him and none have slowed him down on his way to an undefeated record halfway through the year.

You can follow Cody Ball on Twitter at *twitter.com/cball_ccs*



