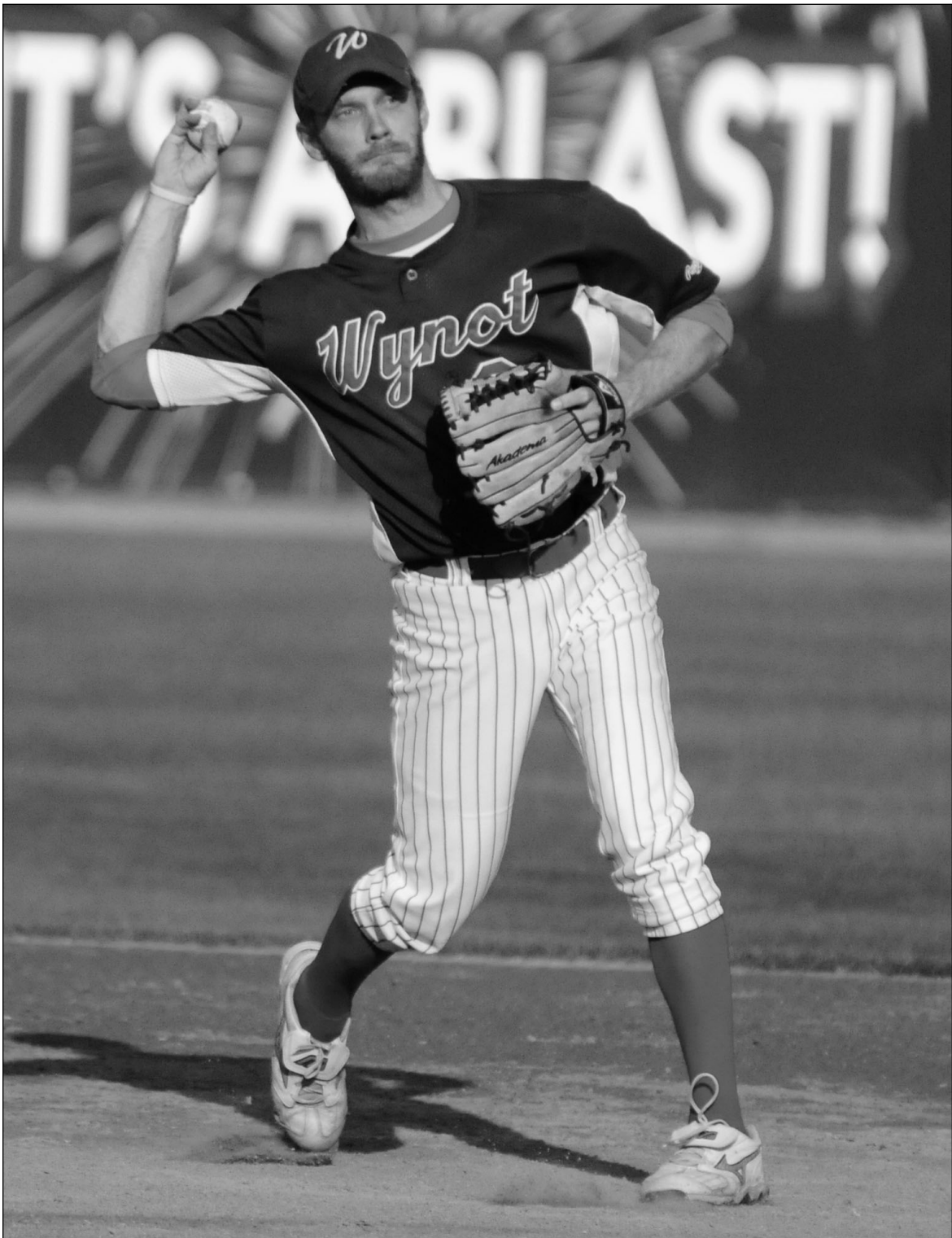


S.D. State Class B Amateur Baseball

# Wynot Wins Opener 5-1



Wynot shortstop Matt Hames fires to first base during the Expos' matchup with Wessington Springs in the opening round of the South Dakota Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Wednesday at Sioux Falls Stadium.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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SIoux FALLS — Wynot player-manager Lee Heimes refers to starting pitcher Eric Hames as a “bulldog.” On Wednesday, he was more like a watchdog, scaring Wessington Springs off the basepaths in a 5-1 victory in the opening round of the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament at Sioux Falls Stadium.

Hames scattered four hits and struck out four in the complete game victory. The one run he allowed was unearned.

“Eric came out strong,” said Lee Heimes. “He’s a bulldog. He comes right after people.”

Hames gave credit to catcher Scott Heine.

“Scott calls a great game. He’s one of the more veteran catchers around,” he said. “He puts it down, and I try to throw it.”

The Expos also had a good day offensively, recording 12 hits, led by three from Lee Heimes. Ryan Heimes doubled and singled, and Scott Morrison had two hits as eight different Expos recorded hits.

Adam Kaus and Nathan Hainy each doubled for Wessington Springs.

Arin Boschee, who played in Scotland a few years ago, took the loss, allowing all five runs. Mitch McLagan, the former Lancer reliever, threw two scoreless innings in relief.

Wynot wasted little time getting on the board. In the bottom of the first, Chase Rolfs drew a leadoff walk, stole second and scored on a

## also

■ S.D. State Amateur Baseball Tourney Schedules Can Be Found In Scoreboard. **PAGE 9**

WYNOT | PAGE 9

# Bittersweet 16: Lesterville Ready For State Action

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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The Lesterville Broncos will return to the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament after 16 years away when they face the Parkston Rock Bass in the opening round today (Thursday) at Sioux Falls Stadium. Game time is 11 a.m.

After falling just short of a state berth in 2012, Lesterville (12-11) felt confident it could end its absence from state this year, according to manager Kevin Bloch.

“We knew we had the talent to do well, but we needed to work together to get better every game,”

he said. “At the beginning of the season, we weren’t gelling right away. After the Fourth of July, we finally started to play together as a team.”

When the Broncos earned that berth — one week ago today — the importance to the team and the community did not initially hit the younger players, according to veteran Ian Powell.

“Some of the young guys don’t understand that it’s been a long road,” he said. “I’ve played here since 2005, and I’ve never made it to state. I know (Mike) Pavel has never made it as well.”

Pavel, who first played for the

Broncs in 1999 as an American Legion pickup player, has plenty of state tournament experience as a pickup player, but may have to wait to play for the Broncos himself.

Pavel was under the weather on Tuesday and may not be available, according to Bloch.

“We need Ian Powell and Andy Gall to pick up the slack,” Bloch said. “We need somebody to step up and lead us in the right direction.”

Other than Pavel, who comes into state batting .320, and Powell (.320), the Broncos have been led offensively by younger players, like Tyler Edler (.414), Cody Ulmer (.408) and Zach Johnson (.305).

Pitching-wise, younger arms have carried Lesterville, with Jason Bierle (4-3), Tyler Edler (3-4) and Alex Wagner (2-4) collecting a majority of the team’s wins.

“Jason Bierle was injured early, but has come on,” Bloch said. “Alex Wagner and Tyler Edler have pitched well. Cody Ulmer’s pitched a couple of games where he didn’t get the win but should have.”

“Our pitching has really stepped up.”

The Broncos will also be helped by their one pickup player, Menno’s Macon Oplinger.

BRONCS | PAGE 9

# Vikings: Civil Lawsuit Won’t Affect Team, Stadium Plan

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings say a civil lawsuit against some members of their ownership group will not affect the team’s finances or plans for a new stadium.

Brothers Zygi and Mark Wilf and their cousin, Leonard, committed fraud, breach of contract and fiduciary duty, and had violated New Jersey’s civil racketeering law, a judge ruled on Monday in a 21-year legal battle.

The Wilfs were sued by partners in a 764-unit apartment complex in Montville. Ada Reichmann, of Toronto, and her brother Josef Halpern, of Brooklyn, said they were cheated out of their fair share of revenue from the project. They are seeking more than \$50 million in damages.

Superior Court Judge Deanne Wilson said she will announce the rest of the ruling and the damages in the next two

weeks, but Vikings vice president of public affairs Lester Bagley said any judgment will not influence the team’s payroll or the development of a new billion-dollar stadium in downtown Minneapolis that is scheduled to begin this fall.

“This is a private business matter and involves a business dispute,” Vikings vice president of public affairs Lester Bagley said. “But it will not impact the Vikings or the stadium project.”

The dispute began in 1992 when Reichmann and Halpern, who had been the complex’s longtime manager, filed the first lawsuit.

In her ruling on Monday, Wilson said



Wilf

that the Wilf family failed to meet the “barest minimum” of their responsibilities as business partners, adding: “I do not believe I have seen one single financial statement that is true and accurate.”

“The bad faith and evil motive were demonstrated in the testimony of Zygi Wilf himself,” Wilson said.

Wilson said that Zygi Wilf, the principal owner of the Vikings, testified during the trial that he reneged on the deal.

The family violated the partnership agreement by taking out “grossly disproportionate management fees,” charging unreasonable interest and inflated advertising costs to the partnership and used revenues from the apartment complex to pay staff members who worked elsewhere, the judge found.

The Wilfs’ lead attorney, Shep

Guryan, issued a statement saying the family has earned “a well-deserved reputation for integrity and honest dealings.”

“As with many businesses, disputes occasionally arise, and since we are currently in the midst of a legal process to resolve this civil lawsuit, we must decline further comment,” he said.

Wilson was the fourth judge to be involved in the legal battle, and delayed her retirement to hear the case to its end. An appeals court ruling in 2006 sent the case back to the Superior Court, and the case went to trial for a second time in 2011.

It is a civil case between business partners, meaning there have been no investigations into or allegations of criminal wrongdoing. The Wilfs could face a hefty fine when Wilson issues the rest of her ruling, which can be appealed.

Stewart has also worked with the Steelers, 49ers, Falcons and Buccaneers along the way, and he learned early from Noll and others that the key to connecting with players was to shoot them straight. Whether it was Terrell Owens, Randy Moss or Adam Thielen — an undrafted rookie from Minnesota State, Mankato, trying to win a roster spot this year — Stewart has never had any trouble finding some common ground.

“He knows how to relate to us guys and just talk to us like grown men,” Simpson said.

He also knows when to have some fun. Stewart is known for orchestrating elaborately choreographed group handshakes to mark the beginning of practice, sometimes highlighted by his booming voice shouting “Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!” to mark the beginning of the work period.

# Nebraska RB Ameer Abdullah Not A Secret Any Longer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — After what he did for Nebraska last season, Ameer Abdullah’s days as an underdog are over.

Abdullah was one of the Big Ten’s biggest surprises last season, running for more than 1,100 yards filling in for the injured Rex Burkhead. He’s a known commodity now, but he’s still the same guy who lives by the mantra that every day is another opportunity to improve.

“I’m hungry, just as hungry as I was my freshman year, and I’m anxious to prove things that I feel I need to prove,” the junior said. “It doesn’t change my work ethic. It doesn’t change my attitude toward this season just because I’m in a different role.”

Abdullah has come a long way since arriving in Lincoln from Homewood, Ala., two years ago. He attracted little fanfare when he signed, but of the three running backs in the 2011 recruiting class, he’s the only one who remains.

With Burkhead in camp with the Cincinnati Bengals, Abdullah is the undisputed No. 1 running back for the Cornhuskers and maybe the best in the Big Ten. His name even appears on some early Heisman Trophy lists, though a ways down.

“It’s great and it makes you feel good,” he said. “It’s just lip service until you do it. I don’t really like to feed into all that stuff, all the expectations, predictions, preseason polls. None of that stuff means anything.”

Big Ten coaches named Abdullah to their all-conference second team last season. The shifty 5-foot-9, 190-pounder had six 100-yard games, finished with 1,137 yards and eight touchdowns and caught 24 passes for 178 yards and two more scores.

If Abdullah is planning for bigger and better things, he isn’t telling anyone — even his friends back home in the Birmingham, Ala., area.

Abdullah trained at the gym of former NFL defensive end Otis Leverette when he was in high school and works out there when he’s home on break. Leverette said he and Abdullah have talked for hours about football over the years. But Abdullah goes into a shell when it comes to talking about himself.

“I wanted to talk about his possibilities or shot at being a Doak Walker candidate or possibly winning the Heisman,” Leverette said. “He’s always going to say that he just has to keep getting better. He believes in keeping the goals small and letting it evolve into bigger things. I know he has bigger goals. His goal was to become a premier college running back and have a shot to play in the NFL. Last year was a part of that overall goal from the day he left Birmingham.”

Playing in an offense led by fourth-year starting quarterback Taylor Martinez and complemented by a strong group of receivers, Abdullah is poised to match or exceed



KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT  
Michigan State’s Max Bullough tackles Nebraska’s Ameer Abdullah during their Big Ten game last season in East Lansing, Mich.

HUSKERS | PAGE 9