



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Morgan Fitts, facing, gets a hug from her sister Lauren after Morgan clinched the SDGA Women's Amateur Championship on Sunday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course. Lauren won the first flight in the event.

Fitts To A Tee: Brookings Golfer Takes SDGA Women's Amateur

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
james.cimburek@yankton.net

It took Morgan Fitts a round to get back into the swing of stroke play golf. Once she did, the Brookings and South Dakota State golfer couldn't be stopped.

Fitts shot a final round 68, matching the best score of her career, to claim a four-stroke victory in the South Dakota Golf Association's Women's Amateur Championships, which concluded on Sunday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course.

Fitts became the first women's golfer to win the SDGA's Match Play and Amateur tournaments in the same year. She was also recognized as the state's top women's amateur golfer for her play this summer.

Hallie Getz of Pierre, who won the last two S.D. Class AA high school titles, and Karla Cotton of Sioux Falls, a two-time champion in this event, tied for second.

Fitts played 6-under over the final two days after beginning the weekend

with a 7-over 79.

"Friday I wasn't in the zone," she said. "The last two events I played have been modified chapman, where you don't have to finish your own car. I wasn't in that grind."

Despite making six birdies on Saturday, Fitts felt she should have shot better than the 2-under 70 she recorded.

"I was mad at myself that I didn't shoot 68," she said.

Fitts responded with a 3-under 33 on the front, then finished 1-under on the back despite going in the water on No. 18.

"My drop was 120 yards out," she said about No. 18. "I knew I could stuff it close and save par."

The win caps a solid year for Fitts, who placed second in the Summit League Women's Golf Championships and finished her career with an SDSU-record average of 79.25.

"I played really well my senior year," she said. "I got some help on my short game, and that had a lot to do with it."

Getz improved each day, finishing the tournament with a final-round 71 to end the tournament at 221.

"I knew if I shot 74, 75, I'd be right in there," said Getz, whose 2013 prep title came across town at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club. "I played well all week-end, but I knew I'd need to shoot low to come up from behind."

Despite finishing under par for Sunday's final round, Getz felt she could have played better.

"I don't think I've ever been mad at myself for a 71. It's probably because I was playing with someone who shot 68," she said. "I've never felt so crappy about a 71 in my life."

For Getz, Sunday's finish and her strong showings in other summer tournaments are positives as she gets ready to head to SDSU.

"I definitely have some momentum going into my freshman year," she said. "The courses I've been playing have

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Baseball | S.D. State Amateur Baseball

Rebels Expel Expos From State B

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

SIoux FALLS — A battle between an Iowa and Nebraska team for the right to advance in the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament went the way of Iowa.

also

■ Lesterville was in progress against Winner-Colome at presstime. Find the game story online at yankton.net

In the minds of the Expos, it was the opportunities wasted that loomed large.

"We needed a few more hits. Five runs wasn't going to be enough," manager Lee Heimes said. "That's a good-hitting team over there."

"It just didn't work out." Akron didn't exactly pound the ball against the Expos, but a handful of soft liners and slow rollers found holes.

Wynot certainly had opportunities to get closer, and even take the lead in the top of the eighth inning, but it couldn't find the necessary hit.

"That's the main thing, we had our chances," shortstop Matt Hames said.

Akron — a member of the State Line League — started early off a 2-run home run from Noah Bohlmann in the bottom of the first.

Wynot built a 3-2 cushion after a Scott Heine RBI single in the third, only to see Akron respond with a pair of run-scoring singles to lead 4-3.

A run in the fourth and three more in the fifth pushed the Rebels' lead to 8-3.

Wynot mounted a big threat in the eighth. After a bases loaded walk made it 8-5, Akron brought in pitcher Jared Kirkeby — owner of a first-round no-hitter — who promptly struck out the side.

Rally over. "He's obviously a good pitcher and he just challenged our guys," Heimes said. "We didn't get the job done."

And an inning later, season over for the Expos.

"It'd be nice to go further, especially when your expectations are a state championship," Hames said. "It's tough."

Steve Heimes went 3-5 in the loss, while Chase Rolfes, Ryan Heimes, Lee Heimes, Matt Hames and pickup player Logan Tycz (Avon) added a hit.

Another Avon pickup player, Joe Sees, took the loss after allowing five runs in four innings, with five strikeouts.

Wynot, which dedicated its season to former manager Terry Foxhoven who passed away in the off-season, finishes its summer with a 19-12 record.

The Expos have some things to work on for the 2014 season, but weren't exactly upset with the way the 2013 campaign went.

"We were hoping to keep going, but you still have to hit the ball," Heimes said. "You can't be disappointed with getting here, but it's tough."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Wynot runner Lee Heimes, left, slides into home plate while Akron catcher Randall Waterbury can't field the throw Sunday night in their second round game at the S.D. State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament at Sioux Falls Stadium. Akron won 8-5, ending Wynot's season.

Crofton Drops Lake Norden In State Tourney Opener



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Crofton second baseman Rand Thygeson, left, avoids shortstop Alex Mueller, middle, after Thygeson forced out a Lake Norden runner Sunday during their first round game at the State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament in Sioux Falls. The game was played at Augustana's Ronken Field.

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

SIoux FALLS — Winning in the first round is nothing new for the Crofton Bluejays. Winning at a new location with infield turf and the sun beating down on the players, however, was something new.

And their reactions were nearly unanimous: They liked the impromptu location.

In a game moved from Saturday night and across Sioux Falls to Augustana's Ronken Field, Crofton beat Lake Norden 6-3 in Sunday afternoon's first-round matchup at the State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament.

"It's an even playing field," Crofton manager Carl Schieffer said of Augustana's newly-renovated setup, with infield turf. "Neither of us had seen it before; weren't used to those bounces. That's why we were a little skeptical at first."

"But each guy just got done saying it was a privilege to play here."

Nick Hegge, who went 3-4 with three RBI, summed his thoughts on the field like this, "That's about as good as we'll

ever play on. This is like a minor league field."

The Bluejays (20-2) took advantage of the opportunity, thanks to a typically strong performance by pitcher Scot Donner.

Going the distance, Donner struck out 11 batters and ran into trouble only once — when Lake Norden got a 2-run double with two outs in the seventh inning. As the game progressed, he admitted to getting "gassed."

"In the heat of the day, it got really hot out there," Donner said. "The longer you're out there, you can really tell a difference."

Crofton broke a 1-1 tie in the bottom of the third, when Aaron Losing hit an RBI single.

The Bluejays padded their lead with fou runs in the fifth, on an RBI single by Hegge, an RBI single by Losing and an RBI base hit from Schieffer.

In short, it was typical Crofton baseball.

"We find ways to win; we always do," Donner said. "We don't make errors; don't beat ourselves."

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Kloucek, Tabor Have Big Day In Extra-Inning Win

Bluebirds Catcher Drives In Game-Winning Run, Proposes To Girlfriend After 6-5 Win Over Lennox

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

SIoux FALLS — Wes Kloucek put together a day to remember.

The 21-year-old catcher for the Tabor Bluebirds

brought home the winning run in a painful way and later proposed to his girlfriend — she said yes — on the field after the game.

"I was planning to ask, either way," Kloucek said after Tabor beat Lennox Only One

6-5 in Sunday morning's 10-inning first round game at the State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament at Sioux Falls Stadium.

"Doing it after a big win like this made it even more special."

Special it was for the Bluebirds (14-8), as well, who rallied from a 4-run deficit midway through the seventh inning. Tabor tied the game at 5-5 in the eighth and quickly got the job done in the 10th inning.

"It's a big win, especially with a younger team," Vavruska said. "I guess every win when you advance is big."

The victory, coupled with Kloucek's proposal after the game, made it a sweet day for Tabor.

Kloucek and his girlfriend, Danielle Kriz, 21, are "high school sweethearts," Kloucek said.

"She had no idea," he said.

"A few of our players knew, but

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