



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Tim Kunick tees off on Hole No. 14 during the final round of the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am on Sunday at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club. Kunick earned a two-stroke victory in the pro event.

BY ADRIENNE KUSEK
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Tim Kunick took day four of the 41st annual Hillcrest Pro-Am invitational off to a hot start and kept the heat on throughout the round. He won the invite with a score of 270, two strokes ahead of the second place finisher Kent Eger. "I got off to a hot start," Kunick said.

Part of Kunick's success was his ability to keep his nerves under control. "I knew I was in good position after the first three days to chase down Josh (Esler) who is a great player," he said. "My nerves got the best of me in hole five when I three putted from three feet, but I was able

to recompose myself, where in years past I haven't been able to."

After the front nine, Kunick was 14 under par, to start the round he was 12 under. "My ball-strike was awesome," Kunick said. "I miss hit maybe two golf shots on the back nine, but was able to get away with them to where I was able to maneuver a shot something to get it up on the green or around the green."

Kunick went under four more shots in the back nine, with the final score being 18 under par. "I couldn't be happier," he said. The Hillcrest Pro-Am is one of the biggest events of the Dakota Tour.

For placing first, Kunick received a oversized check for

\$21,000. "It's the biggest paycheck of my golf career, so I'm pretty excited," he said.

Kunick hopes to make it back to the Web.comtour. "I played there last year and made it through Qualifying School," he said.

"I'm playing well right now and have got a lot of confidence."

In the amateur gross division, Jason Merkel won with a score of 291. Mitch Schlingman and Ryan Elwood tied for second two strokes behind with 293. Ryan Elwood won the invite in both 2012 and 2013. Jace Guthmiller placed fourth scoring 295, and Tom Rose came in fifth with a score of 301.

Placing first in the team

division was a team from Mustcatine Iowa, Dan McFate, Darrin McFate and Pat McFate, with a compiled score of 574. From the same town was the second place team of Jon Nietzel, Diaan Roos and Sam Nietzel scoring 587. In third was the team of Pat King, Wayne Ibarolle and Greg Adamson.

In the amateur net division, Todd Radigan won with a score of 290, Heath Larson finished second, scoring 293, and Joe Vig came in third with a score of 295.

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Post 12 Falls Just Short Of Title

R.C. Post 22 Downs Yankton In Legion Final

BY NICK ROBINSON
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HURON — Yankton Post 12 was three innings away from forcing a second, winner take all game, in the 2014 South Dakota 'A' Legion baseball tournament.

After a two inning explosion, Rapid City Post 22 defeated Yankton Post 12 by an 8-1 score on Sunday afternoon for the second time in the state tournament.

"We had them on the ropes," Yankton pitcher Lane Sawatzke said. "They are a very good baseball team and have won a lot of championships, what a great program. They did what they do, and a couple of innings got away from us."

Even with the loss, Post 12 should be proud of its season, according to head coach Trey Krier.

"We had a great season," he said. "I am very happy our players let us coaches tag along. It was an absolute blast. Our kids played hard for us and that's all you can ask for as a coach."

Post 12 earned a trip to the championship with a 13-5 victory over Brandon Valley on Saturday. The fifth victory in three weeks for Yankton, was won by Mitch Gullikson. Landon Withrow and Sawatzke added four hits in the victory.

"We, as seniors, got our first wins in a state tournament this weekend," Sawatzke said. "Being here, I will never forget hanging out and playing with this group of guys."

A pitchers dual was in place the first half of the contest between Sawatzke and Jose Melendez, who committed to Feather River College in California, a top tier junior college.

Yankton cracked the first run of the game in the fifth inning, on a Gullikson RBI single, which gave Post 12 a one to nothing score.

In the seventh inning, Zach Solano hit an RBI double, which scored a run, knotted the game at one a piece.

After a pitching change, Muth went to the mound in the seventh. Carter Wevik sneaked a ground-ball past the infield, which scored a run, and gave the Hardhats a two to one advantage.

In the eighth inning, Brad Ulmer and Tanner Termansen each had base hits to threaten the Rapid City lead. But, Post 12 came up empty. After giving up a double



NICK ROBINSON/P&D

Yankton Post 12 pitcher Lane Sawatzke fires home against Rapid City Post 22 in the championship game of the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament on Sunday in Huron. Post 22 won 8-1 for its 39th state title.

Amateurs: Crofton Claims District 6B Title

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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FREEMAN — Crofton scratched across two runs after each team scored three-run innings in a 5-3 victory over Wynot in the championship of the District 6B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Saturday in Freeman.

Both teams advance to the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament, which begins on Wednesday in Mitchell. Crofton will face Corsica-Stickney on Saturday at 1 p.m., while Wynot faces Lennox Only One on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

With a state tournament bid already secured and the potential for a game as early as Wednesday, both teams didn't stick with pitchers for too long. Crofton starter Tyler Zimmerman went three innings, with Scot Donner throwing three and Rand

Thygeson tossing two. Jackson Sudbeck, a Legion pickup player for Wynot, went the longest on the mound for the Expos, three innings.

"We were going to start Alex Mueller but, due to the team he coaches playing in the state tournament, Tyler Zimmerman stepped up and did a good job," said Crofton manager Carl Schieffer. "Then Scot and Rand did what they do."

What they "did" was close the door when Crofton took a 4-3 lead in the third. Donner struck out four of the nine batters he faced, with the lone hit against him erased on a baserunning play. Thygeson struck out five of the seven batters he faced for the save.

Crofton got the scoring going on Aaron Losing's two-run double in the



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Crofton shortstop Scot Donner scoops up a ground ball during the championship game of the District 6B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Saturday in Freeman.

Reds Fall In Minors Final

PIERRE — The Yankton Reds finished second in the South Dakota State VFW Teener Class AA 13-14 Minors baseball tournament after a 5-4 loss to Brookings in the championship on Sunday in Pierre.

Yankton led 4-2 after five innings, but Brookings scored three runs in the frame to take the lead. The Reds threatened in the seventh, but were not able to plate the tying run.

Owen Feser had two hits and two RBI, and Levi Wiersma had a double, a triple and two runs scored to lead Yankton. Rex Ryken also had two hits. Ethan Wishon had a triple and two runs scored. Michael Drotzmann also tripled. Cole Sawatzke added a hit and a RBI in the effort.

Wishon took the loss in relief of Wiersma.

The Reds finished with a 27-22 record.

REDS 15, BRANDON VALLEY 0: The Yankton Reds advanced to the championship with a 15-0 rout of Brandon Valley in the semifinals on Sunday.

Michael Drotzmann had three hits, including a double, and two RBI to lead Yankton. Rex Ryken doubled and singled, driving in a run. Cole Sawatzke had a hit and a RBI, Levi Wiersma doubled and Owen Feser and Michael Frick drove in a run each in the victory.

Ethan Wishon picked up the win, tossing three no-hit innings. Fese pitched an inning of shutout relief.

REDS 17, WATERTOWN WHITE SOX 2: Four different Yankton players had two hits and two RBI as the Yankton Reds finished pool play with a 17-2 rout of the Watertown White Sox on Saturday afternoon.

Levi Wiersma and Sam Mooney each had two hits and two RBI, and Michael Drotzmann had a triple, a single and a RBI had Yankton. Ethan Wishon also tripled and singled. Rex Ryken and Peyton Mueller each had a hit and two RBI. Michael Frick had a hit and Cole Sawatzke drove in a run in the victory.

Sawatzke picked up the win.

REDS 8, MITCHELL GOLD 0: Rex Ryken took a no-hitter into the sixth, finishing with a one-hitter, as the Reds blanked Mitchell Gold 8-0 on Saturday morning.

Ryken and Michael Drotzmann had three hits each. Levi Wiersma had two hits and two RBI. Michael Frick also had two hits. Ethan Wishon had a double and a RBI. Owen Feser added a hit and a RBI.

13-14 Majors

MITCHELL 9, YANKTON LAKERS 1: Mitchell advanced to the championship of the South Dakota State VFW Teener Class AA 13-14 Majors baseball tournament unbeaten with a 9-1 victory over the Yankton Lakers on Saturday night at Yankton's Riverside Field.

The loss ended Yankton's tournament run. Andrew Kitchens and Briggs Havlik each had two hits and a run scored, and Kiel Nelson had two hits and a RBI to lead Mitchell. Jordan Dirkes had a hit, two RBI and a run scored.

Caid Koletzky had a hit and a RBI, and Jack Schoenfelder had a hit and a run scored to lead Yankton. Garrett Tennant and Miles Carda added hits for the Lakers.

Jordan Dirkes picked up the win. Jackson Somsen took the loss.

WATERTOWN 12, PIERRE 11: Logan Stacey's blast to the fence plated the winning run as Watertown edged Pierre 12-11 to advance to

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Notebook: NFAA Closes Book On 2014 Outdoor Nationals

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Before awarding trophies and medals to the 2014 top finishers, the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) took a bit of a stroll down memory lane on Sunday night.

During a ceremony that encompassed five separate events following the NFAA Outdoor National Championships, the national organization celebrated its 75th anniversary, officially dedicated its new museum, inducted a member into the NFAA Hall of Fame and gave out awards from the Outdoor Nationals.

And then came the official opening ceremonies for the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships, which begins today (Monday) and runs through Friday.

As for the NFAA, however, the organization has evolved in many ways since its creation in 1939 by a group of archers in California, according to NFAA president Bruce Cull.

"Several people got together and thought they would like to start an organization that didn't just shoot one or two distances on a flat field, but would shoot other kinds," Cull told a large crowd Sunday evening at the Easton Yankton Complex.

During Sunday's ceremony, Dean Pridgen was inducted into the NFAA Hall of Fame.

Pridgen, a 22-time NFAA national champion (the first in 1972), was accompanied by his wife, Rosie, who herself won nine NFAA senior titles during her career.

"This is an honor. I just want to thank everybody that's made this possible," Dean told the crowd. "To all you fans, I'm not walking away from you, just kind of on the competitive side."

Wash. Friends Win Titles

For Emily Oaks and Dahlia Crook, two archers and friends from Washington, they were able to complete the NFAA Outdoor Nationals with championships in their respective divisions.

"I feel really proud to leave with a trophy," said the 13-year-old Oaks, who won the Youth Female Bowhunter Freestyle title.

"I really want to eat cereal out of it," she added, smiling at the bowl-shaped trophy.

Traveling all that way to South Dakota only to take second or third place wouldn't have cut it, Oaks joked.

"When you spend all that money to get here, to be able to finish like this is amazing," she said. "I didn't want to leave without feeling like I accomplished something."

Crook, 14, was excited understandably proud.

"I'm really excited about winning," Crook said. "I've got a lot of people to thank for this."

Oaks said she wasn't planning to shoot this week's IFAA tournament, but was convinced by Crook to stay in Yankton to compete.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

National Field Archery Association (NFAA) president Bruce Cull, back, presents the NFAA Shooter of the Year awards to Erika Jones, left, and Jesse Broadwater during Sunday's ceremony in Yankton. Because this year's plaques were not available, the award winners are holding the plaques of the 2013 winners.

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