

IFAA Championships Conclude



BY JEREMY HOECK
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For whatever reason, Paige Pearce never really seemed to fare well in Yankton.

That all changed Friday for the 19-year-old professional archer from Red Bluff, California.

Pearce, one of the top female shooters in the United States, set a new world during Friday's final round of the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships in Yankton. She shot a score of 559, out of a possible 560, in a 112-arrow hunter round.

"It's always been something bad here," Pearce said during Friday night's awards ceremony at the Easton Yankton Archery Complex. "Either something happens with my equipment or something in my life isn't going right."

One of the times she competed in Yankton, Pearce broke all three of the bows she brought with her.

"Yankton was cursed for me," she said, smiling. "I think I might have finally broken that curse."

"But geez, it took long enough."

Pearce, who previously broke the record on Tuesday, missed hitting the center circle on the target by one arrow on Friday. The old record of 553 was set in 1988 by Becky Pearson, who now shoots in the senior division and was also at the World Field Championships.

"That (record) stood for a long time," Pearce said. "It's crazy to think how long. I mean, I was born in 1995."

Pearce was also one of 43 archers to record a perfect round of 560 in the animal round on Wednesday (in the animal round, archers shoot 28 targets, one for each station).

Reaching a perfect round on a hunter round, however, is a whole different story, she said.

"It was a good eight days of competition," Pearce said. "It's a game of stamina."

"And I really don't have much of that," she added, smiling.

ARCHERY | PAGE 9



ABOVE: Lizeth De Wet, left, of South Africa and Emily Bee of Michigan zero in on their target on Friday during the final day of the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships in Yankton.

LEFT: Professional archer Paige Pearce, pictured here during an awards ceremony Friday night, set a new world record on Friday at the final day of the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships in Yankton.

RIGHT: Rick DeBrueler, left, and David Reiss hold up the American flag on the awards podium Friday night following the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships in Yankton.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D



Baseball | S.D. State Amateur Tournament

Irene Holds On To Beat Madison

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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MITCHELL — The Irene Cardinals survived a wild ride much longer than eight seconds, holding on for an 11-9 victory over the Madison Broncos in the first round of the South Dakota Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Friday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

The Cardinals advance to a second-round matchup against Larchwood, 2-1 winners over Dimock-Emery in Friday afternoon's other first-round contest.

"They're a solid ball club. We've faced them in the past," said Irene manager Kendall Johnke. "We know we have to bring our 'A' game."

Trevor Jacobsen had three hits and three RBI, and Simon Healy had three hits and two RBI to lead Irene. Mitch Dunbar had two hits and three RBI. George Sees doubled and singled in the victory.

Mitch McNary and Nick Bird each had three hits and two RBI for Madison. Brian Miller and Ray Wagner also had two hits each. Matt Burpee had a pair of hits. Travis Peters, a pickup player from Dell Rapids PBR and a former Mount

Marty College standout, drew three of the Broncos' eight walks.

Andrew Hora, who came on in the fourth, pitched 5 2/3 innings of relief for the win. Chris Brozik started and took the loss, giving up the first eight runs.

"Andrew came in and fought through it," Johnke said. "He got the job done."

Madison struck first on a Jon Waba grounder in the first, then matched Irene's four-run third. A single run in the fourth chased Irene starter Simon Healy from the mound, with the Broncos leading 6-4.

Madison led 7-5 after six innings when the Cardinals started their comeback. George Sees reached on a one-out error, the Cardinals strung together four straight hits, with a Dunbar RBI single and a Jacobsen two-run single giving Irene an 8-7 edge. Dunbar and Jacobsen provided the key blows again in the eighth as the Cardinals extended to an 11-7 edge.

The Broncos scored single runs in the eighth and ninth, but left a combined eight base runners on in the final three innings. In the game, Madison left 17 runners on base.

"I knew if I kept the team in the

game, we'd have a chance to win," said Hora, who allowed just three runs (two earned) despite allowing seven hits and six walks in 5 2/3 innings. "I just wanted to come in and throw strikes."

The victory was a nice start to the tournament for the Cardinals, according to left fielder Alex Loes, who caught 11 flyouts defensively and scored two runs in the contes.

"It's a really big relief," he said. "Everyone was uptight in the first few innings, but we got those out of the way, settled down and got the win."

For the Cardinals to extend their state tournament run, they will need to have another good hitting day, according to Hora.

"It's going to be a tough matchup next," he said. "Now we have to come out hitting on Monday and see what happens."

The Irene-Larchwood matchup will be the second game of the evening session on Monday, preceded by Wynot against Akron.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Irene pitcher Andrew Hora sends the ball home during the opening round of the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Friday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park. Hora pitched 5 2/3 innings of relief, allowing three runs, to pick up the win as Irene claimed an 11-9 victory.

Final Area Qualifiers Open State Tournament Play Today

Bards Face Another Challenge In Defending Champion Angels

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Avon Bards are not acting when they say this season has been challenging.

The Bards started with just 14 players, and lost two during the regular season and another on the opening night of districts. Now the Bards face their toughest task yet, a first-round date with the defending state champions.

Avon (9-10) faces Alexandria today (Saturday) at 7:30 p.m. to open the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament.

"Nothing's come easy all year," said Avon manager Dan Bures, who is retiring after the season. "We knew we were going to have to fight and claw to get in."

While "break a leg" is a good-luck wish in acting, it

hasn't been for the Bards. They had one player break a leg, another tear his rotator cuff and yet another tear cartilage in his knee.

But, as they say, "the show must go on," and Bures said that the focus of the team has made it so.

"You can look around and tell who are baseball guys, and who there for the social aspect," he said. "We have a lot of baseball guys, it's all they talk about."

One thing that has helped the Bards this season is the return of a few players to the diamond.

"We had a lot of guys come in who hadn't played since Junior Legion or Teeners," Bures said. "Brett Kuca (.286, 10 RBI) has played a really good first base, and his hitting's come a long ways. Josh Cihak (.290) has

'Jays Aim For Another Long Run

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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After three straight seasons of playing for a state championship, the Crofton Bluejays found themselves in a different position in 2013: sent home in the second round.

But with a couple of players from earlier runs back in the fold, Crofton is looking to get back to its winning ways.

Crofton (21-4) begins play in the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament today (Saturday). The Bluejays face the Corsica-Stickney Horned Frogs in the 1 p.m. contest, the second of four games on the day.

The Bluejays lost just one South Central League game and swept through the District 6B Tournament.

"We knew we had a good team, a versatile team," said Crofton manager Carl Schieffer. "Our pitching staff is as

tough as they come."

Part of what has helped the Crofton pitching staff, which still boasts 2011 state tournament MVP Scot Donner (5-1) and 2006 Class A tournament MVP Rand Thygeson (.440), is the returns of Tyler Zimmerman (1-0) and Seth Erdmann (6-1).

"Tyler coming back and playing with us has been a big asset," Schieffer said. "So has having Seth back as a pitcher for a full season. He's thrown really well for us."

Zimmerman has also provided a spark in the order, batting .365 and leading off for the Bluejays in the district championship game. Donner (.297), Thygeson (.387), Aaron Losing (.400) and Nick Hegge (.317) have also provided big bats in the middle of the order.

One surprise for Crofton this season, according to Schieffer, has been the emer-

Tappers Back In 'A' Field

BY NICK ROBINSON
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The Yankton Tappers amateur baseball team is making their first appearance back to the state tournament this weekend since 2012.

"I almost forgot what it felt like to be back," Yankton player/coach Ross Heine said. "We have all our guys here and I think this is one of the better teams we will send to a state tournament."

Yankton, who is 12-11 (10-8 in the South Central League), defeated the Pierre Rattlers 12-4 in regional play to earn a bid to the 2014 'A' tournament.

"It's been a real struggle to get all of our guys here this summer," Heine said. "We have a lot of good guys who coach for Yankton. So, it's been tough to get a good repetition going. But, once finally do have all our guys, we play great team baseball."

The Tappers will face the Rapid City A's on Saturday in Renner. The A's are a staple when it comes to the state tournament. Heine doesn't know much about them, but knows his Tappers will need to play solid baseball to advance.

"I don't know too much about those guys," he said. "But, it's the state tournament, and they're always in the tournament. Every team that makes it is good, so we will have to play our best baseball."

Key contributors swinging the stick for the Tappers this season have been: Jason Miller, with a .429 batting average, Jared Miller is batting .356. Trey Krier is hitting .414, while Mike Janish is at .354, and Heine with .322.

"I'm getting giddy just thinking about making the lineup," Heine said. "Our