

Coyote Fans Out In Full Force In Yankton

Howling Pack Event In Yankton Draws 200

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As every member of the University of South Dakota football team stepped off two charter buses, they were greeted with a kind of red carpet reception from young fans.

It was clear, the Coyote players enjoyed the moment just as much as the youngsters.

"It's very important to us. We want to try to turn this state red," junior quarterback Kevin Earl said, before adding with a smile, "and less of the blue."

The appearance of the entire team highlighted Saturday's USD Howling Pack gathering along the marina in Yankton. A crowd of approxi-

mately 200 people spent the afternoon

Following their second practice of the day in Vermillion, the players arrived in two big charter buses to spend the next hour and a half with their younger fans — signing autographs, playing games, eating pizza and talking about football.

"That's absolutely awesome. I love kids; love to be around them," senior wide receiver Josh Vander Maten said. "It's a great opportunity to be around them when they're looking up to you, and be a great example."

Head coach Joe Glenn addressed the crowd and pointed out that by the time his Coyotes take the field for the Aug. 30 season opener at Oregon, his squad will have

squared off against each other 45 times in practices and scrimmages.

And so, understandably, getting away from football for a couple hours is necessary.

"This was by far a feel-good deal," Glenn said later, before boarding a bus. "Our kids loved it, our coaches loved it, and it was just the shot we needed right now."

"It lets our kids know how much they're loved."

Branching out to towns across the region for events like Saturday's has long been a goal for the USD athletic department, athletic director David Herbster said.

"A long time ago when I got here, they coined the



University of South Dakota football players are welcomed by their young fans during Saturday's Howling Pack event in Yankton.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

COYOTES | PAGE 8

Tabor Advances To Quarters

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MITCHELL — The Tabor Bluebirds had their backs to the wall in the ninth inning, down a run, but was able to come back against Groton Locke Electric 7-6 and advance to the quarterfinals of the 2014 South Dakota 'B' Amateur baseball tournament, at Cadwell Park in Mitchell on Sunday afternoon.

"We are young, we have a never give up attitude," Tabor player-manager Jon Vavruska said. "Sometimes, the attitude can get you in trouble. They stayed in it and clawed back, luckily we were able to hold on."

"It was a roller coaster ride. We got up right away and the defense played good. It was back and forth. I have to give our team props, we hit the ball very well when we were down."

The Bluebirds went with Vavruska on the mound to start the contest, while legion pick-up Parker Rossow got the nod for Groton.

"I came in and had some control issues right away but was able to get through it. We made plays defensively when we needed to."

Tabor hopped on Groton to start the contest off, scoring off a Rob Keppen RBI single, which scored Nathan Kloucek. They went up one to zero, however, stranded three runners in the inning.

Groton got their run back in the bottom of the second,

thanks to a RBI single from Ryan Delzer.

Locke Electric took their first lead of the game in the fourth inning. Zach Harry led off the inning with a double to the gap. Mitch Locke and Matt Erickson each had RBI's in the inning, which pushed the Groton lead to 4-3.

"We knew they were good hitters, very young with a great legion program," Vavruska said. "We knew we had to stick with them inning for inning and our pitchers had to get on top."

Tabor marched back in the fifth inning. With the bases juiced, Kloucek scored on a wild pitch. Jason Humpal and Josh Berndt each had RBI's in the fifth inning, which helped regain the lead for the Bluebirds.

Groton took Rossow out of the contest after the fifth inning and put in Justin Link.

After loading the bases, Tabor took Vavruska out of the game. The Bluebirds put Keppen in the tough situation. Jeff Tobin knotted the game at four a piece on a wild-pitch from Keppen.

"Rob came in a tough situation and they only got one run, which could have been disastrous," Vavruska said.

The Bluebirds were able to bounce back and retake the lead in the seventh inning off a RBI single from Josh Berndt.

"It was a tough game," Keppen said. "They are a tough team and hit the ball



Tabor pitcher Jon Vavruska fires home during their state amateur baseball tournament game against Groton on Sunday afternoon in Mitchell. Tabor won 6-5 to advance to the quarterfinals.

NICK ROBINSON/P&D

TABOR | PAGE 8

Tyndall Teeners Win State Title

VOLGA — Six for six is a great day of hitting. When it refers to consecutive state championships, that stat is downright amazing.

Chase Kortan tossed a complete game four-hitter and helped his own cause with a pair of doubles as Tyndall beat Dell Rapids 6-0 for the championship of the South Dakota State Class A VFW Teener Baseball Tournament on Sunday in Volga. The title marked the sixth consecutive state title for this group of players.

"I told the kids in my post-game speech that I played ball for 30-some years and never won more than one in a row," said Tyndall head coach Gary Kortan. "All it would have taken is one slip-up for this not to happen. To their credit, they got it done."

Tyndall did not allow a run in the tournament, outscoring its three opponents 24-0. It allowed just five hits in the three games.

Hunter Young and Zach Sutura also doubled for Tyndall, which finished with eight hits.

For Dell Rapids, Ty Hoglund doubled and singled.

Kortan struck out 11 in the complete game victory. Hoglund took the loss, allowing the first five Tyndall runs.

"Hunter and Chase have been our go-to guys. When you have two pitchers like that, it makes my job pretty easy," Coach Kortan said. "The three kids we pitched on Friday don't get many innings for us, but they would be at the top of most team's staffs."

THIRD — VERMILLION 9, VOLGA 5: Billy Mount helped his cause with three hits and two runs scored, leading Vermillion to a 9-5 victory over host Volga in the third place game.

Brett Hansen and Brandon Mockler had two hits each for Vermillion, which scored nine unanswered runs after trailing 2-0 after an inning and a half. One of Mockler's hits was a double.

Collin Kramer had two of Volga's five hits.

Mount pitched five innings, allowing two runs, for the victory. Cole Gross took the loss.

FIFTH — GROTON 8, MADISON 4: Groton pulled away with a four-run third on the way to an 8-4 victory over Madison in the fifth place contest.

CROFTON | PAGE 8

TEENERS | PAGE 8

Bluejays Clip Corsica-Stickney In First Round



Crofton starting pitcher Scot Donner sends the ball home during the Bluejays' opening round matchup with Corsica-Stickney in the opening round of the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Saturday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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MITCHELL — Crofton scored a textbook Bluejays over Corsica-Stickney on Saturday, jumping out to an early lead and holding on for a 3-2 victory over the Horned Frogs in the opening round of the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Crofton scratched out single runs in the first, fourth and seventh innings, then held on for the victory.

"A win's a win," said Crofton's Scot Donner, who allowed one run over eight innings for the win. "We have to find ways to win, whether it's like this or by 10 runs. We live to fight another day."

Tyler Zimmerman doubled

and singled, scoring twice, for Crofton. Rand Thygeson also had two hits. Donner and Nick Hegge each had a hit and a RBI. Joe Wiebelhaus and Carl Schieffer added hits in the victory.

For Corsica-Stickney, Aaron Groeneweg had a RBI triple, and Kris Menning doubled and scored to lead the way. Kiefer Johnson had a hit and a RBI. Alex Kocer and Bronson Tolliver added hits for the Horned Frogs.

Donner struck out six in the win. Kocer went the distance in the loss, allowing two earned runs and striking out two.

Zimmerman got Crofton going in the first with a lead-off double, moving over and in on grounders by Thygeson and Donner. In the fourth, Crofton took advantage of a

Horned Frog miscue to score. The Bluejays added their final run on Hegge's bases-loaded grounder in the seventh.

Meanwhile, Donner was dealing. After Kocer led off the game with a single, the 2011 state tournament MVP retired 16 straight batters, including striking out the side in the second.

"That's what Scot does," said Schieffer, the Crofton manager. "It probably wasn't the best thing they did, getting a hit with the first batter. He buckled down, and he keeps getting tougher as the game rolls on."

Corsica-Stickney finally broke through in the eighth. Menning led off with a double, advanced on a grounder

Defending Champion Alexandria Escapes Avon 4-3

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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MITCHELL — The Avon Bards had defending champion Alexandria on the ropes, but the Angels escaped with a 4-3 victory in the opening round of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Saturday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

"Look at the scoreboard. To think that the number one team in the state only beat us by one," said Avon player-manager Dan Bures, who earlier this season announced that this season would be his last. "As long as we're in position, we can maybe win. Hopefully this builds momentum for some of these guys going forward."

Cole Wenande reached

base four times, recording two hits, two RBI and a run scored, to lead Alexandria, which will face the Redfield Pheasants in a second round contest on Wednesday. Peyton Smith also had two hits. Cory Marek had a RBI double for the Angels, who finished with 11 hits.

Bures had a pair of hits in his final game. Tate Bruckner, Nick Honke and Drue Soukup added hits.

Tyson Gau pitched into the ninth, striking out 11, for the victory. Trevor Vermeulen struck out the one batter he faced for a save. Logan Tycz started and took the loss, with Honke tossing two innings of scoreless relief.

Avon bounced back from a rough first inning — two strikeouts and a runner

called out for running inside the baseline — with a strong second inning. The Bards took advantage of three Alexandria errors to score the game's first run.

Alexandria answered back with a three-hit inning, with Wenande's two-out single tying the game.

For the next three innings, both teams threatened but could not score. Gau credited Tycz for keeping the Angels off balance.

"It took him a while, but he found a nice little curve that kept us off balance," he said. "We were hitting a lot of balls hard, but they were making plays."

Avon threatened in the sixth, loading the bases with one out. But a soft liner to second resulted in a double

play, ending the inning.

"That was a big momentum shift," Bures said. "It was a double play, but I would have liked it if they would have called an infield fly."

Alexandria took advantage. Three straight two-out singles, followed by Cory Marek's double, gave the Angels a 4-1 advantage.

"We just got together and said that we needed to stay relaxed," Gau said. "We had to try not to do too much."

In the ninth, Avon got its first two runners on, with an error putting them on second and third. With one out, Soukup came to the plate after having struck out in his previous three plate appearances.



Avon's Cody Ulmer (17), a pickup player from Lesterville, collides with Alexandria first baseman Pierce Smith after a bad throw took Smith into Ulmer's path during the ninth inning of their first-round matchup in the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

AVON | PAGE 8