



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Tabor shortstop Jason Humpal scoops a ground ball during the Bluebirds' quarterfinal matchup with Clark in the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Thursday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park. Clark won 5-2.

S.D. State Amateur Baseball Tournament

Clark Clips Bluebirds In Quarterfinals

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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MITCHELL — The Clark Traders jumped out to an early lead and kept Tabor at bay, edging the Bluebirds 5-2 in the quarterfinals of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Thursday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

"We couldn't get the key hits," said Tabor manager Joe Vavruska. "It's been that way all year."

Brady Welk had two hits and three RBI to lead Clark, which finished with just five hits. Lane Hovde and Bryce DesLauriers also had a hit and a RBI. Brent

Griffith added a hit.

Josh Berndt doubled, and Jason Humpal, Chris Sutera and Austin Koch had hits for Tabor.

Jay Huber went seven innings for the win. Taylor Welk pitched two scoreless innings in relief, striking out the side in the ninth, for the save. Doug Vanecek took the loss, allowing two earned runs and striking out two in 5 1/3 innings of work.

Clark took control early. After Griffith led off the game with a walk, stole second and scored on a Hovde single, DesLauriers singled in Hovde, but the Bluebirds escaped further damage due to a double play.

"Our defense played well tonight," Vavruska said. "It was a good team effort all around."

Vanecek kept the Traders from extending their lead until the sixth, when an error and two hit batters loaded the bases and sent Tabor to the bullpen for Rob Keppen. Brady Velk hit a fly to left to drive in the third Clark run, but the Bluebirds escaped further damage.

"Doug has been coming on lately," Vavruska said. "He wanted the ball tonight, and he came through for us."

Tabor got on the board in the seventh, scoring on a Doug Hall grounder and an error. A leadoff

single by Sutera and a ground-rule double by Berndt started the inning.

Clark got those runs back in the eighth, taking advantage of an error, a walk and two stolen bases to score two on a Taylor Welk single.

While Vavruska was disappointed in the loss, he was happy with how the Bluebirds competed.

"Our guys battled," he said. "It was fun."

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

MMC Sets The Bar High

Freshmen Trio Hopes To Help Mount Marty Track Program

BY ADRIENNE KUSEK
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Mount Marty College signed three area athletes for its pole vaulting program, and all three placed in their respective state meets.

Emily Boyle from Creighton, Nebraska, and Adam Haigh from Bloomfield, Nebraska, as well as Christina Herrboldt from Menno, will join the Lancers starting this fall.

The recruiting process was pretty painless for the athletes, they said.

"The recruiting process started with my high school coach mentioning to me that a Mount Marty coach was interested in me for pole vault, so I filled out a questionnaire and Coach (Randy) Fischer contacted me that same day. Everything from there went very smooth," Herrboldt said.

"I felt the recruiting process went very smoothly. I talked to Coach Fisher a few times and it sounded like a great program," Boyle said.

Because Mount Marty is a smaller school, these small town kids felt it was a better fit for them, Herrboldt said.

"I won't be known as just a number, I'll be known as an actual person in my classes," she said.

Joining a program looking to make waves in pole vault was an attractive quality, Haigh said.

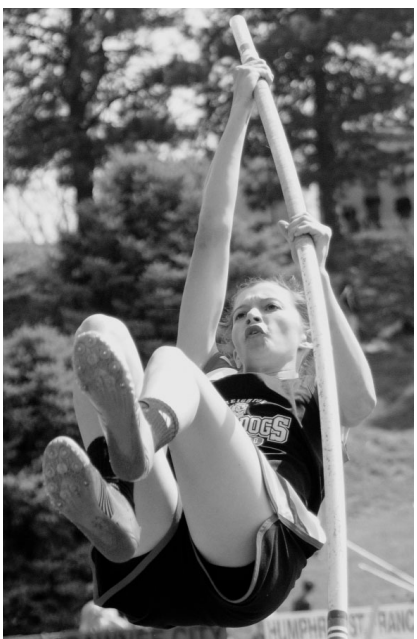
"I knew I wanted a smaller school and Mount Marty took interest in me," he said. "I choose Mount Marty because they are looking to build their



High-Flying Mount Marty Track Recruits

Mount Marty College added three pole vaulters to its track and field program. They include Adam Haigh (above) of Bloomfield, Nebraska, Christina Herrboldt (left) of Menno, and Emily Boyle of Creighton, Nebraska. All three placed in their respective state track meets last season as a senior.

P&D FILE PHOTOS



Coyote Women See 'Huge Step' With 2014-15 Hoops Schedule

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — The full 2014-15 schedule released Thursday by the University of South Dakota women's basketball program does show signs that things are continuing to get better.

Not to mention proof that an NCAA Tournament does have its benefits when it comes time to piece together a schedule.

Road games this season at Portland State (Nov. 19), Washington (Nov. 20) and Marquette (Nov. 30) will all be returned to Vermillion the following season, according to USD head coach

also
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Williams said Thursday. "And when the new arena gets here, we'll see an even bigger step — the quality will get better."

There still remains, though, some early-season tests away from Vermillion.

The Coyotes — winners of the Summit League tournament last season — will play five of their six games in November on the road, but will then play five of seven in December inside the Dakota-Dome.

USD opens the season on the road at Drake on Nov. 14, followed by consecutive road games at Kansas (Nov. 16), Portland State and Washington, before opening the home slate Nov. 24 against UC Irvine. The month then wraps up at Marquette.

The month of December begins with consecutive home games against Northern Iowa (Dec. 4), Cal State Fullerton (Dec. 6), Valparaiso (Dec. 9), NAIA University of Saint Mary from Kansas (Dec. 18) and former NCAA Tournament qualifier North Dakota (Dec. 21).

The non-conference schedule concludes Dec. 28-29 at a Texas San Antonio tournament, where the Coyotes will face host UTSA and Chattanooga.

Coming off an NCAA Tournament appearance, USD saw a trickle down effect that affected scheduling for this season, Williams said. And

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Las Vegas Beats Rapid City 12-2 In LLWS Opener

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Zach Hare hit leadoff homer in the third inning to help Las Vegas rout Rapid City, South Dakota, 12-2 in five innings Thursday night in the Little League World Series.

Hare tied it at 2 with his homer to center field and finished 2 for 2 with four runs in the opener for both teams.

Las Vegas added two more runs in the third and Brennan Holligan had a two-run double in a four-run fourth.

Las Vegas starter Austin Kryszczuk had an RBI single in the fifth and Rapid City conceded three more runs, two on wild pitches and the other when a batter was hit by a pitch.

Kryszczuk went 2 2-3 innings. He struck out six and allowed two earned runs on three hits.

CHICAGO 12, LYNNWOOD 2: SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Moments after Chicago beat Lynnwood, Washington, on Thursday in the Little League World Series, outfielder Pierce Jones looked at his phone — and had to turn it off.

"I didn't want to deal with all the notifications," Jones said.

Jones had three homers and four RBIs in Jackie Robinson West's 12-2 victory in five innings.

Manager Darold Butler the players on the all-black team hear about the support in and around Chicago, but that they do haven't grasped the magnitude.

"I know for a fact they don't know how big it is, or what exactly is going on at home," Butler said. "It's just baseball to them."

Twins Relieved Buxton Only Has Concussion

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins and their frustrated fans have stopped holding their breath. Future center fielder Byron Buxton was only left with a concussion from a scary collision with a minor league teammate.

Yes, head injuries can have long-lasting effects. Buxton must pass the standard Major League Baseball concussion protocols before being cleared to return to action, and general manager Terry Ryan said on Thursday afternoon that Buxton will be

out "for a while."

But considering the way Buxton laid crumpled and unconscious in the grass on Wednesday night after running into right fielder Mike Kvasnicka at full speed in New Britain, Connecticut, this was about the best-case scenario for him and the Twins. "Under the circumstances we're very fortunate," Ryan said. "It turned out about as good as you could ever hope with that kind of collision."

Buxton used hashtags "thankful" and "doingokay" on Twitter on Thursday

morning to describe his mood and outlook.

"I greatly appreciate all the support and prayers! I'm very blessed! Please keep Mike Kvasnicka and I in your prayers!" Buxton tweeted.

Buxton and Kvasnicka each sprinted for a fly ball in the fifth inning when they rammed into each other nearly parallel to the ground during the Double-A Eastern League game between New Britain and Bowie. Ryan, who happened to be there on a scouting trip, said Kvasnicka, who managed to make the catch, had a bruised

hip and soreness in his abdominal area.

Both players were taken to a hospital for evaluation. Kvasnicka was on track to return to the field in a few days, Ryan said, but Buxton was actually knocked out for about 10 minutes before regaining consciousness as he was being put in an ambulance. The game was delayed for about a half-hour and resumed with an eerie quiet, but tests on the 20-year-old Buxton showed no broken bones or damage beyond the concussion.

Rob Manfred Elected Next MLB Commissioner

BALTIMORE (AP) — Rob Manfred was elected baseball's 10th commissioner Thursday, winning a three-man race to succeed Bud Selig and given a mandate by the tradition-bound sport to recapture young fans and speed play in an era that has seen competition increase and attention spans shrink.

The 55-year-old Manfred, who has worked for Major League Baseball in roles with ever-increasing authority since 1998, will take over from the 80-year-old Selig on Jan. 25. It's a generational change much like the NBA undertook when Adam Silver, then 51, replaced 71-year-old David Stern as commissioner in February. And like Silver, Manfred was his boss's pick.

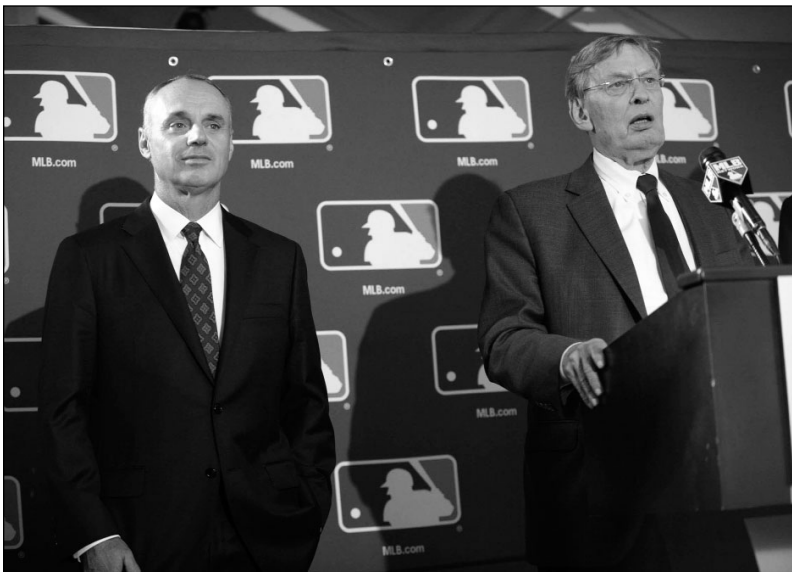
Manfred beat out Boston Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner in the first contested vote for a new commissioner in 46 years. The third candidate, MLB Executive Vice President of Business Tim Brosnan,

withdrew just before the start of balloting.

"I am tremendously honored by the confidence that the owners showed in me today," Manfred said. "I have very big shoes to fill."

Selig has led baseball since September 1992, first as chairman of the sport's executive council following Fay Vincent's forced resignation and as commissioner since July 1998. After announcing his intention to retire many times only to change his mind, he said last September that he really, truly planned to depart in January 2015.

One baseball executive who attended the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity because details of the 4 1/2-hour session were not to be divulged, said Manfred was elected on approximately the sixth ballot. The initial vote was 20-10 for Manfred, three short of the required three-quarters majority.



KEVIN RICHARDSON/BALTIMORE SUN/MCT
Rob Manfred, chosen to be the next MLB commissioner, listens to Bud Selig speak at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014. Manfred was chosen to be the next MLB commissioner, replacing Selig when he retires in January.