

S.D. State Amateur Baseball Tournament

Wynot Captures State 'B' Crown

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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MITCHELL — After the Alexandria Angels knocked off Crofton on Saturday, Angels manager Chris Marek noted that his team would have to do a better job of hitting if they were to beat another South Central League team, Wynot, in the championship the next day.

Brett Scherschligt made sure that didn't happen.

Scherchligt, a pickup player from the Freeman Black Sox, pitched a complete game seven-hitter as the Expos ousted the defending champion Angels 8-2 on Sunday in the Class B championship of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

The championship is the second in team history for Wynot, adding to a title in 1999. The Expos had lost in their previous two title appearances, in 2006 and 2008.

"In 2006 and 2008 we were runners-up, and we felt we had unfinished business from those years," said Wynot manager Lee Heimes, who played in the previous three title appearances.

In addressing the crowd after the game, Heimes acknowledged his predecessor, the late Terry Foxhoven, who passed away from cancer prior to the 2013 season.

"We lost Terry two years ago," Heimes said. "He dedicated his life, not only to baseball, but to us and his family. He taught us about life, leadership and being a family."

"He taught us that it wasn't about one person, but about everybody."

The Expos showed that on the field on Sunday, as seven different players scored the eight runs in the contest, and all nine batters reached base at least once. Kyle Wiepen led the offense with a double and a single, driving in three runs.

For Alexandria, John Greicer had two hits. Peyton Smith had a hit, a RBI and a run scored.

"Our pitching gave us an opportunity to win. They threw a great game," said Marek. "Our offense was not very good. We didn't get many hits, and we didn't put them together."

Scherchligt went the distance, recording just one strikeout, but keeping the hard-hitting Angels off the basepaths.

"I just did the same thing I've tried to do all year, keep hitters off balance and bring the fastball when I have to," he said. "I had a good defense behind me."

Neither team generated any offense in the first five innings, with each team recording just one hit: Alexandria a leadoff single by Greicer in the third, and Wynot a leadoff single by Clif Kephart in the fifth. The Angels, though, broke through in the sixth. Pierce Smith led off with a sin-



Wynot players celebrate after beating Alexandria 8-2 for the Class B championship of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Sunday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park. It was Wynot's first state title since 1999.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Renner Rolls Past Vermillion To Defend 'A' Title

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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MITCHELL — The Renner Monarchs continued their reign over Class A amateur baseball in unusual fashion for them, completing a run through the losers bracket with an 11-3 victory over Vermillion in the championship game of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Sunday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Renner, which won its second straight and 17th title in team history, lost to Castlewood in the opening round, then rolled off five straight victories, including four in Mitchell this weekend.

"I wouldn't have chosen that path. I'd rather be sitting (Saturday) and waiting," said Renner manager Kevin Knetsch.

Erik DeJong went 4-6, including a triple, and three RBI for Renner. Juan Thomas and Cory Vasquez each had three hits, with Vasquez driving in three runs. Grant Hieb, Brian McGuire and Michael Clapp finished with two hits each.

Jake LaMourex had two of Vermillion's eight hits, driving in a run. Dan Hansen had a pinch-hit RBI single.

Taylor Candor also had a hit and a RBI for the Red Sox.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Vermillion pitcher Chris Eckstaine sends the ball home during the Red Sox's matchup with Renner in the Class A championship of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Sunday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Jack Van Leur, who allowed one unearned run in seven innings of relief, picked up the victory. Chris Eckstaine, who allowed the first five runs, took the loss.

Vermillion got on the board first, using a hit batter, a Lamourex double and a Tylor Candor single to plate two runs.

Renner got one back in the second on a Thomas double, then

plated four in the third. DeJong's two-run triple was the key blow in that frame.

"They answered it," said Vermillion manager Kirk Sorensen. "It was one of those days where we couldn't buy a break. We couldn't make a break."

The Monarchs added four more in the fourth, with DeJong, Vasquez and Hieb recording RBI singles. But a

Monarch baserunner missed third base as he went home on Hieb's hit, ending the inning.

Renner added two runs in the eighth on a wild pitch and a Vasquez double. Hansen's pinch-hit single in the bottom of the ninth ended the scoring for Vermillion.

Clapp, who finished the tournament 12-23, earned the Class A batting title. Tim Huber was named the tournament MVP. Huber, the Augustana College head baseball coach, was surprised by the selection.

"I was extremely surprised," he said. "I thought DeJong would get it with what he did last weekend and this weekend. He was our MVP all year — everyone would say that."

Sorensen was happy with the run his young squad was able to make this season.

"When you look at the teams playing in A: what Renner and the Sioux Falls Brewers have. They have veteran ball players, ex-pros, ex-college players," Sorensen said. "I've got a few guys that are not even 21 yet. But they handled themselves like men."

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Coyotes Show Off Receiver Depth In First Scrimmage

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — With two weeks remaining before its season opener, the University of South Dakota football team is still trying to develop depth in its passing game.

Saturday morning's scrimmage inside the DakotaDome was proof of that.

Whether it be a wide receiver, a full back, a running back or a tight end, the four Coyote quarterbacks found a number of different targets during an hour-long scrimmage.

"That's awesome to see," said sophomore Riley Donovan, the team's leading receiver back from last fall. "We're just all around getting better as a unit."

"Right now we're pretty good, I think, but we can get even better."

Statistics were not kept for the scrimmage, but unofficially, 13 players caught a pass, with two going for touchdowns — to receiver Brandt Van Roekel and running back Jasper Sanders.

With 84 receptions gone from last season, the Coyotes have plenty of openings for new weapons to emerge.

Newcomers Eric Shufford and Tacari Carpenter both caught a pass Saturday, as did fellow receivers Ben Kramer, Josh Vander Maten, Sam Cooke, Paul Anderson, Van Roekel and Donovan, as well as tight end Ethan Fenchel. Running backs Khorey Kilgore and Sanders also made catches, as did fullbacks Drew Potter and Tom Manning.

"I've been saying it for a

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Golf: Bucks Turn To Senior Duo For Leadership

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Though its numbers may be down, the Yankton boys' golf program has a 1-2 punch at the top of its lineup that is looking to keep the Bucks among the top teams in the state.

Yankton, fourth at the Class AA state tournament a year ago, returns only two of its golfers from the state lineup. They are, though, rather experienced.

Seniors Jace Guthmiller and Mitch Schlingman have a combined 11 seasons of varsity experience, and will assume leadership roles of a young roster.

"I'd consider us an underdog this year," said Guthmiller, who tied for third at state last year. "We don't have a lot of experience, but we have potential."

Yankton will see an early

glimpse of that potential when it opens its season today (Monday) at a Brandon Valley tournament, starting at 11 a.m.

There won't be as much of a glimpse to see this season, however.

Between its varsity and junior varsity groups, Yankton has 14 golfers out this fall, understandably not where head coach Brett Sime would like to see the numbers.

"I'd like to see more kids, for the program's future, but anywhere between 14-20 is a good number to work with," Sime said.

The silver lining to the amount of golfers?

"It's a good number for me to work with, to give individual attention to each one," Sime said.

Junior Mason Sundleaf returns after missing the 2013 season with an arm injury, and he brings experience from two

state tournament trips. He will be joined by senior Jason Shindler, junior Matt Jensen and eighth-grader Michael Frick.

The two most experienced golfers, Guthmiller and Schlingman, will naturally be counted on to guide those up-and-comers, Sime said.

"The biggest thing is, I expect them to be leaders," Sime said. "They both have a lot of experience. They can work with not just the young kids, but the less experienced yet older kids at the varsity level."

"Those two guys know golf pretty well at their young age."

Yankton's first home dual of the season is a Sept. 2 battle with Mitchell, followed two days later by a home dual with Lennox. Then comes the Yankton Invitational on Sept. 12.

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Jace Guthmiller, pictured during a home tournament last fall, will lead the Bucks this season. Yankton opens the 2014 slate today (Monday) at a Brandon Valley tournament.

Experienced Gazelles Softball Team Opens Season Today

BY ADRIENNE KUSEK
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A strong middle defense and experienced pitching staff is going to be the strength of the Yankton Gazelles softball team this season, according to head coach Bernie Goeden.

The Gazelles open their season today (Monday) at three-time state champion Sioux Falls Washington. The doubleheader starts at 6 p.m.

"We should be pretty good defensively up the middle with Andi Sprakel, Bailey Kortan, and Heather Hauer holding down those positions to start the season," Goeden said.

"With two veteran pitchers in seniors, Jaclyn Arens and Madison Dangler, our pitching will be pretty sound," Arens has been playing varsity since her freshman year.

The Gazelles graduated six seniors last season and have six returning letter winners, Andi Sprakel, Jaclyn Arens, Heather Hauer, Madison Dangler, Kelsey Hovorka, and Kortan.

"We have nine girls back that got a lot of valuable experience on the JV team last year, Danielle Schmidt, Danielle Dvorak, Liz Suing, Lexie McCorkell, Savannah Steffen, Maddie Herrickson, Merlye Mason, Alix Peterka, and Bailey Peterka," Goeden said. "The will be vying for varsity time."

Six freshmen are moving up from the middle school team they were on last season, Bailey Sejnoha, Britney Davis, Holly Mines, Ashlynn Schwarz, Megan McCorkell, and Bridget Nolz. "We also have a couple of newcomers to the program, Alex Duncan and Ciara Kul-

havy, who are working hard in practice to improve and add depth to the team," Goeden said.

The Gazelle seniors will be looked to for leadership, Sprakel, Arens, Hauer, and Dangler, Goeden said.

"Sprakel and Arens have really stepped forward helping the younger girls along," he said. "It has been nice to see Andi become more vocal at practice this year. I hope it carries over to the games."

Corner defense is where the Gazelles will be looking to improve, in the positions of first base, rightfield, third base and leftfield.

"We have quite a few girls working hard to win these starting positions," Goeden said. "We are also looking to improve at the catcher's position where we are young and

inexperienced at the varsity level."

As far as batting goes, the Gazelles will be competitive at the start of the lineup, Goeden said.

"The top of our lineup should be pretty solid as long as we are patient at the plate," he said.

The second half does not have as much varsity experience.

"We will have a lot of younger girls filling out the lineup that just need to get some experience and confidence," Goeden said.

Some friendly competition is going on to get all the positions filled, Goeden added.

"Right now probably only three or four positions are set with a lot of good competition going on for the others. We just need to see how some per-

form in games," he said.

"There will be a lot of moving girls around, trying to figure out where everyone fits the best."

Goeden has a strong game plan for the upcoming season.

"We will need our pitchers to keep the ball out of the middle of the plate and we will need to play good defense to be competitive this year," he said. "We will also need our hitters to be patient at the plate and have quality at bats every time they step in the box. We have the potential to be a pretty good offensive team, once we get a little more game experience and confidence."

You can follow Adrienne Kusek on Twitter at twitter.com/AdrienneKusek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.