



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton second baseman Miles Carda sends the ball to first base during a matchup with Pierre in the South Dakota State Class AA 15-16 Minors VFW Baseball Tournament on Friday at Yankton's Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Yankton Goes 1-1 To Open 15-16 Minors Tourney

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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Yankton defeated Sioux Falls East, 5-4, on day one of the 15-16 VFW Minors State Baseball Tournament Friday night in Yankton.

Sioux Falls East was able to strike first in the top of the second inning after an error by the shortstop, scoring one to take the lead. In the bottom half Yankton didn't waste anytime responding, after Trey Bakke scored on an error by the centerfielder and Kellen Franzen drove in two runs with a single, to make the score, 3-1.

Caid Koletzky got the start going four innings, allowing just one run on two hits, five walks and striking out five, before being relieved by Franzen to start the fifth.

East was able to tie the game at three, on a play that included a double steal and an error by the Yanton catcher, that scored Nick Marnin and Conner Cosini in the top of the fifth. The next inning East was able to add on another run with an RBI-single from Marnin.

Yankton's offense was sparked in the bottom of the sixth by a lead off double from Jack Shoenfelder, who later scored on a double steal to re-tie the game at four. Later in the inning Carter Peterson scored from second on an infield single by Nate Eickacker. Franzen then went on to pitch a one-two-three inning in the top of the seventh to end the game and earn the win.

Pool play concludes with three games today: Sioux Falls West against Renner at 11 a.m., Pierre against Brookings at 1:15 p.m. and Watertown against Sioux Falls East at 3:30 p.m.

Yankton, 1-1, awaits its fate as it as has completed pool play. The fifth and sixth seeds in the seven-team tournament will face off on Saturday evening, while the top four seeds advance to Sunday's semifinals.

Pierre 4, Yankton 3

Thomas Erickson went 3-3 and Kyle Stover had two hits as Pierre edged Yankton 4-3 in the opening game of the tournament on Friday afternoon.

J.R. Mayer, Garret Stout, Dawson Puepke, Gage Gehring and Alex Badger each had a hit for Pierre in the victory.

For Yankton, Caid Koletzky had a pair of hits. Carter Peterson, Kellen Franzen and Nate Eihacker each had a hit.

Jakob Larson took the loss in relief, allowing one earned run in two innings of work.

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Notebook | Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am

Fox Run Ready For Pro-Am Weekend

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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A storm early in the week left damage in the northern part of Yankton, but not only did it leave Fox Run Golf Course virtually unscathed, the rain that came with the wind was exactly what the course needed in the days before this weekend's Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am.

"We dodged a bullet," said Fox Run PGA Golf Pro Kevin Doby. "There was very little damage, and the rains that came with it were ideal."

Golfers were greeted with a warm but calm opening day of the tournament on Friday, and scores reflected the day. Pro Tarik Can, the first off of the No. 1 tee box Friday morning, got things started with a 5-under 67. Several more red numbers – signifying scores below par – followed, with Brad Marek, Cam White, Ricky Hearden III and Shane Feist joining Can in the lead.

"We've been getting a lot of

compliments about the course," Doby said. "The pros love it."

The tournament did have some last-minute withdrawals by pros, but overall the opening day got off to a great start, according to Doby.

"Sometimes you can't avoid those," he said. "Everything went well today."

Dakota Valley grad Nate Barbee is in a group one shot off the lead in the pro division, as 25 of 50 pros broke par on the opening day.

In the amateur division, Crofton's Eric Bailey shot a 2-under 70 to lead Marion's Arron Lickteig by one stroke. Gregg Bailey, Eric's father, sits in third at 1-over 73.

Gregg Baily had the best net score on Friday with a 62, one stroke ahead of Eric Domaas.

The team of Calvin Schlisner, Duane Engel and Dan Semmler hold the lead in the team race after day one with a score of 115. The team of Mike Carda, Preston Carda and Jeff Dayhuff, and the team of Jeremy Gardner, Loren Hansen and

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Nick Delio tries to coax the ball into the hole on the No. 13 green during the opening round of the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am on Friday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course. The ball went in for a birdie.

State 'A' Legion



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Yankton runner Adam Walter, left, slides under the reach of Rapid City Post 22 second baseman Walker Paz during Friday night's game at the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Brookings.

Post 22 Cools Off Yankton

Post 12 Faces Brookings In An Elimination Game Today

BY JEREMY HOECK
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BROOKINGS — The bats for Yankton Post 12 were held in check Friday night.

It wasn't as though Yankton was totally shut down, but missed opportunities told the story.

In the rematch of the 2014 final, Post 22 defeated Yankton 5-2 in the winners bracket game of the S.D. State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Brookings.

The loss sends Yankton to today's (Saturday) elimination game with hometown Brookings at 1 p.m. A win would send Yankton to Sunday's championship day, where it would need to beat Post 22 twice for the title.

Yankton (29-18), which had scored 29 runs over the first two games, certainly had its chances Friday. It, however, stranded 15 runners — including the bases loaded on two occasions and two in the bottom of the ninth.

A team that has peppered tournament pitchers with

line drives scored its first run Friday on a pair of errors.

Jordan Kathol reached first on a throwing error by the pitcher in the bottom of the fourth inning, then came around to score on an error by the shortstop.

The pitchers duel came to an end in the sixth, when Post 22 got an RBI double from Erik Petry and a two-run homer from Timmy Paris.

Each team added a run in the eighth, including an RBI single by Yankton's Sheldon Gant, but Post 22 maintained a 5-2 lead after eight innings.

Colin Muth took the loss for Yankton, after throwing 115 pitches in six innings. He was relieved by Landon Withrow, who went the final three frames.

Brad Ulmer, Gant, Kathol and Austin Johnson all had two hits, while Adam Walter had the other hit in a losing effort.

Zach Solono was 4-5 to lead Rapid City Post 22 (48-13), which moves into today's

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VFW Teeners: Lakers, Reds Open State With Victories

WATERTOWN — Four different Yankton batters had two hits or more as the Lakers downed Watertown 9-3 to open the South Dakota Class AA 13-14 Majors VFW Baseball Tournament at Watertown.

Ethan Wishon and Levi Wiersma each had three hits, including a double, and one RBI to lead Yankton. Michael Drotzmann had two hits, including a triple, and two RBI. Owen Feser had two hits and a RBI.

Also for the Lakers, Sam Mooney had a triple and three RBI, Kyle Withrow doubled and Rex Ryken added a hit.

Kieren Luellman went the distance, scattering 11 hits and allowing two earned runs.

Yankton continues play in the tournament today (Saturday) at 10 a.m. against Sioux Falls West. The double-elimination tournament runs through Sunday.

13-14 Minors

Reds 26, Pierre 0

SIoux FALLS — The Yankton Reds pounded out 15 hits on the way to

a 26-0 rout of Pierre in the opening game of the South Dakota Class AA 13-14 Minors VFW Baseball Tournament on Friday at Harmodon Park.

Matthew Mors drove in six runs and scored three times, recording a triple, a double and two singles for Yankton. Princeton Vollmer had two hits, three RBI and four runs scored. Grant Nelson had two hits, two RBI and four runs scored. Cayden Peterson had two hits, two RBI and two runs scored. Wil Pease posted two hits, a RBI and a run scored.

Also for Yankton, Justin Payer had a hit, a RBI and three runs scored. Matt Hein had a hit, a RBI and two runs scored. Christian Curran had a hit and a run scored. Ryan Eihacker scored three times. Paris Beeson, Nick Lindsey and Gavin Raabe each scored a run in the victory.

Eihacker picked up the win, striking out two and allowing two hits in the three-inning shutout.

Yankton concludes pool play at 9:30 a.m. today (Saturday) against Watertown. The tournament runs through Sunday.

Big Ten Touts Plan For Tougher Schedules As Playoff Push

CHICAGO (AP) — Hoping to set themselves apart when playoff selection time comes around, Big Ten teams plan to play at least one nonconference game against a Power Five opponent and eliminate FCS schools from their schedules starting in 2016 when the league goes to a nine-game conference slate.

Commissioner Jim Delany touted the league's "1910" scheduling model on Friday at Big Ten media days: one Power Five nonconference game, nine conference games, one conference championship game, zero games outside Bowl Subdivision.

The Big Ten would become the only Power Five conference to play nine league games, eliminate FCS opponents and require a Power Five

nonconference game.

Delany said the scheduling guidelines are not a mandate, though he believes they will make an impression on the playoff selection committee. The Big Ten has been working its future scheduling model for several years, but this week was an opportunity for Delany to tie it all together on a big stage.

Delany said games in Notre Dame and BYU, both independents, would count as Power Five opponents and the FCS games will be weaned off Big Ten schedules so its schools would not have to break current contracts.

"But this is the template that everybody thinks is best going

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Brookings, S.F. West Stay Alive In State Legion Tourney

BROOKINGS — Host Brookings took control with an eight-run fourth inning on the way to a 14-7 victory over Rapid City Post 320 in an elimination game in the South Dakota State American Legion Baseball Tournament on Friday at Bob Sheldon Field.

Jacob Meyer had a triple, double and single to lead Brookings. Carter Mahlum had a double and two singles. Seth Fraser doubled and singled, driving in four runs. Jared Tschetter, Sam McMacken and Jacob Puppe each had two hits, with Tschetter driving in three and Puppe plating two. Garret Jeppersen added a double in the win.

For Post 320, Cullen Gilbertson and Devon Romey each had two hits. Mason Holmes doubled in the effort.

Trevor Wallen went six innings, striking out six and allowing three earned runs, for the win. Carter Gordon pitched three innings for the save, striking out three. Brett Bayer took the loss.

S.F. West 9, Pierre 1

BROOKINGS — Luke Kovaleski scattered 11 hits as Sioux Falls West eliminated Pierre 9-1 in the South Dakota State American Legion Baseball Tournament on Friday at Bob Sheldon Field.

Ryan Benson had three hits and MMC recruit Reece Mimmack had two hits and two RBI to lead West. Tyler Wildes and Jalen Boyd each had two hits in the win.

Nick Rabern doubled and singled, and Justin Berheim, Nate Zimmerman, Spencer Sarringar and Connor Gerber each had two hits for Pierre.

Kovaleski struck out four in the complete game win. Berheim took the loss.