

Post 22 Escapes Yankton Again

Rapid City
Beats Post 12
To Win Third
Straight Title,
40th Overall

BY JEREMY HOECK
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BROOKINGS — One run. That's all that separated Yankton Post 12 from its first state Legion baseball championship.

Rapid City Post 22 captured its 40th state title with a 7-6 win in 11 innings in Sunday night's championship game of the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Tournament in Brookings.

After playing 20 innings over two games Sunday, Yankton mounted a memorable rally against Post 22 — rallying for two runs in the top of the ninth inning and later taking a 6-5 lead into the bottom of the 10th.

The Hardhats, however, beat Post 12 for the title for a second year in a row.

"Our kids did everything they needed to do to win," Yankton head coach Trey Krier said. "But someone has to win and someone has to lose."

"At least you saw two teams walking off the field that deserved it."

With the score tied in the bottom of the 10th, Post 22 got a leadoff walk from Zach Solano. He was then sacrificed to second on a bunt and then moved to third on a grounder to the right side.

Erik Petry then hit sharp grounder to third baseman Mason Townsend, who lost his footing and his throw to first base was late, allowing

POST 12 | PAGE 8



Rapid City Post 22 beat Yankton 7-6 in the championship of the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament on Sunday in Brookings. Post 22 won its 40th title, including a third straight. Yankton finished second for a second straight season and for the third time in five years.

ABOVE: Rapid City Post 22 shortstop Tanner Simons, center, forces out Yankton runner Mason Townsend, 34, during Sunday's championship game at the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Brookings.

LEFT: Yankton's Austin Johnson, celebrates with Mason Townsend after scoring the tying run in the ninth inning of Sunday night's championship game against Rapid City Post 22 at the S.D. State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Brookings.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Kunick Claims Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am Title

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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Tim Kunick isn't a stranger when it comes to playing on Yankton golf courses.

In the professional division on Sunday, Kunick finished first at the 2015 Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament. The three-day event took place at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton.

Kunick won the Hillcrest Invitational in 2014.

"This is one of the tournaments that has gotten away from me in the past. I've played well here and I've had my opportunities to win," he said. "It means a lot to come here because there are a lot of people that support me here from

Yankton.

"It finally feels a little bit of a relief, but it hasn't quite set in yet."

Kunick finished the tournament with a three-day score of 16-under 200, one stroke better than Brad Marek. Christopher Evans finished at 203. Andre Metzger, the 2014 champion, and Nick Delio each shot 204.

In the amateur division, Eric Baily finished in first.

"It's fun. I've played out her quite a bit so it's always fun to come out here and play good," he said.

Baily said having friends on the course makes it easier to golf.

"Playing with friends is nice and relaxing. You're not too worried about anything," he said

Baily finished with a score of 9-under 207, one shot ahead of Arron Lickteig. Preston Carda finished a distant third at 227, with Pat Honner fourth at 228.

W.D Metheny, who is with tournament sponsor Thrivent Financial, said the most rewarding part of being a sponsor isn't just about sponsoring a golf tournament.

"Our intent when we became a sponsor was to provide to a couple of local charities. Currently we've been providing proceeds to the Yankton Boys and Girls club and to the Yankton area Special Olympics and to Yankton Wounded Warrior," he said. "Yankton over this two



DYLAN HUGGINS/P&D

Tim Kunick won the pro title at the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am on Sunday.

PRO-AM | PAGE 8

Sioux Falls West Downs Watertown To Claim 15-16 Minors Title

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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Sioux Falls West took home the state championship in the 15-16 VFW Minors State Tournament, by winning the final game, 10-2, against Watertown in Yankton at Riverside Field at Bob Tereshinski Stadium on Sunday.

The bats were hot early for West as they were able to score two in the top of the first due to an error and a run scoring ground out by Harris Leonard. They didn't stop there adding three more in the second thanks to a RBI single from, the pitcher, Skylar McCauley and a two-RBI single from Alex Denevan, making the lead, 5-0. Watertown was able to put a run across the plate in the bottom of the second on

a single by Colton McClemons that scored Logan Stacey. They then scored on a double steal in the third that plated Seth Davis.

From there it was all West, who added three more in the fourth on one-run singles from Brayden Luay, Leonard, and Jack Niedringhaus. They then added a run from Landon Bartels who scored from third on an error by the shortstop. The final run came on Leonard's team leading third RBI in the sixth inning.

"I just wanted to contribute to my team and do to the best of my ability to get on base and score for the team," Leonard said.

McCaully pitched six innings for West allowing just two runs on three hits, one walk, and three strikeouts,

before being relieved by Jacob Rames, who pitched a perfect bottom of the seventh striking out two batters to end the game.

"McCaully has been our guy all year," West coach Alex Fling said. "He throws strikes every time out and throws a variety of pitches."

"He doesn't really blow the ball by anyone, but we don't need him to."

Fling and Leonard both felt good about being state champions.

"It is good we came out at the right time and played our best baseball against a good Watertown team and took care of business," Fling said.

"Feels pretty good, our team definitely earned it throughout the season by setting goals for ourselves

throughout the season and would ultimately achieve them," Leonard said.

Watertown threw four pitchers on the mound but none of them could stop the offensive onslaught. Six of the nine batters for West recorded a hit, led by Leonard and Niedringhaus with two, and the players who did not get hits all contributed by scoring runs, Joey Engeman led the team with three. Watertown's only three hits came from Rob Kowitz, Logan, and McClemons.

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S.F. West 5, Pierre 1

Sioux Falls West advanced to the championship of the South Dakota State Class AA 15-16 Minors VFW Baseball Tournament with a 5-1

STATE | PAGE 8



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Sioux Falls West baserunner Skylar McCauley slides safely across home plate before being tagged by Watertown catcher Brandon Cole during the championship game of the South Dakota State Class AA 15-16 Minors VFW Baseball Tournament on Sunday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field in Yankton.

Amateurs: Tabor Topples Crofton For District 6B Title



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Tabor pitcher Ross Kortan sends the ball home during the District 6B amateur baseball tournament championship game on Saturday in Irene. Kortan pitched a complete game as the Bluebirds beat Crofton 8-3 for the title. Kortan was named the tournament MVP.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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IRENE — The Tabor Bluebirds stumbled into the District 6B Amateur Tournament, losers of five of six.

They are not stumbling anymore.

Tabor completed a run through the district tournament with an 8-3 victory over top-seeded Crofton in the championship on Saturday at Irene. The victory gives the Bluebirds the district champion berth in the state Class B tournament, Aug. 5-16 at Mitchell's Cadwell Park. Crofton, Freeman and Menno also advanced out of the district.

"We're a young team, but we were in most of our games all season," said Tabor manager Joe Vavruska. "It's just a matter of our young kids adapting to amateur baseball. I was confident that, if we got a good draw and played as a team, we could come through the tournament pretty well."

Tabor will draw Madison on Saturday, Aug. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the opening round at state. Crofton faces Garretson on Thursday at 1 p.m. Freeman draws Alexandria on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Menno faces Armour on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Doug Vanecek had two solo home runs and Logan Tycz went 2-3 with a home run, a double and two RBI to lead Tabor. Austin Kaul also had two hits. Blasé Vanecek and Jason Humpal each had a hit and a run scored, with Humpal driving in two runs and Vanecek driving in one in the victory.

"I think we hit four home runs all season, and we hit four home runs in the tournament

For Crofton, Nick Hegge went 3-4 with a double and a home run, and Brandon Hegge went 2-3 to lead the way. Kyle Mueller, Tyler Zimmerman and Carl Schieffer each doubled for the Bluejays.

Ross Kortan — just one year removed from American Legion baseball — went the distance for

the win, scattering eight hits and striking out three. Kortan, who had the go-ahead home run in the ninth in the Bluebirds' semifinal victory over Menno, was named the tournament's most valuable player.

"I knew if I located (my pitches) that would be a big part," said Kortan, who did not walk a batter in the game. "I did my job, and the defense did their job."

Gage Rethwisch took the loss for Crofton, giving up five runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Crofton pitching had an uncharacteristic six walks as well as four wild pitches, something that drew the attention of Schieffer, the Bluejays' manager and starting catcher.

"You can't put guys on," he said after the game. "If you're going to win a game, you have to make them hit your pitches."

Crofton struck first, as Zimmerman and Kyle Mueller led off the

DIST. 6B | PAGE 8