

And Then There Were Four...



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Crofton's Brock Mueller slides as a throw gets past Bruning-Davenport-Shickley shortstop Riley Tegtmeier during their matchup in the Nebraska Class C Seniors American Legion Baseball Tournament on Monday at Battle Creek, Nebraska. Crofton beat BDS 6-5 in eight innings to stay alive in the tournament, and will face Elmwood-Murdock-Nehawka today (Tuesday) at 8 p.m.

Crofton Edges BDS In Extras



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Crofton's Tyler Koch is hit by a pitch, driving in the tying run in the bottom of the eighth of a matchup with Bruning-Davenport-Shickley in the Nebraska Class C Seniors American Legion Baseball Tournament on Monday at Battle Creek, Nebraska. The next batter, Brock Mueller, walked to score the game-winning run of a 6-5 victory.

Walkoff Walk Gives Crofton 6-5 Win

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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BATTLE CREEK, Neb. – Crofton didn't let a slow start end its season, rallying from deficits of 4-0 and 5-4 to claim a 6-5 victory over Bruning-Davenport-Shickley in the Nebraska Class C Seniors American Legion Baseball Tournament on Monday in Battle Creek.

Crofton now advances to face the Elmwood-Murdock-Nehawka today (Tuesday). "They regrouped and played their game," said Crofton head coach Dean Wieseler. "They got things done defensively."

Austin Hegge had a hit, two RBI and a run scored, and Brock Mueller had a hit, three walks and a RBI to lead a balanced Crofton attack. Tyler Koch and Lathan Maibaum also had hits for Crofton.

Grant Norder went 2-2 with a home run and three runs scored for BDS. Riley Tegtmeier doubled and singled. Chris Rohr, Ben Elznic and Samuel Christensen each had a hit.

Hegge went the distance for the win, striking out eight and hitting two batters. Norder, the third BDS pitcher, took the loss.

BDS got on the board in the first when Norder was hit by a pitch, stole second and scored when Elznic's two-out popup fell between home and

the plate.

In the third, Tegtmeier led off with a double, and advanced on a Chris Rohr single. Norder was hit by a pitch to load bases. Elznic followed with a grounder to third, with one run scoring on the play and another scoring on a throwing error. Ben Baden's sacrifice fly stretched the BDS lead to 4-0.

Hegge settled in after the third, allowing just three hits over the final five innings.

"Tyler helped me out a lot," Hegge said, referring to catcher Koch. "I started feeling my arm better, and Tyler was calling great spots."

Wieseler credited Koch for paying attention as BDS went through the lineup nearly twice in the first three innings, then adjusting to its lineup.

"Tyler hadn't faced these guys before. He picked up their reads after the first time around, and set Austin up for success," Wieseler said. "Austin threw a great game. He regrouped as well."

Crofton, which was no-hit by Louisville-Weeping Water on Sunday night, had just one hit through the first five innings. It got thing going in the bottom of the sixth, when Koch led off with a single. Three straight walks put Crofton on the board and sent BDS to the bullpen for Norder, its third hurler of the game. (Tegtmeier went in for Rohr, the starter, in the

fourth.) Norder hit Justin Mueller to force in another run, then struck out two straight hitters before Austin Hegge looped a single to right to score two and tie the game.

After Crofton failed to take advantage of a walk and an error in the bottom of the seventh in the scheduled seven-inning game, BDS took advantage. Norder led off the eighth with a home run to give BDS back the lead, 5-4.

But BDS could not close the door. After a leadoff walk to Justin Mueller, Norder got the next two batters to pop up, but walked Hegge and Cody Stratman to lead the bases, then hit Koch to tie the game.

BDS went to its fourth pitcher, Elznic, who walked Brock Mueller on four pitches to end the game.

"The coaches did a good job in making us disciplined hitters," said Hegge, whose team took 11 walks in the contest.

Crofton, now in the final four of the tournament, will look to advance to the tournament's final day when it takes on Elmwood-Murdock-Nehawka.

"We're all extremely pumped," Hegge said. "We didn't want to go down. We wanted to make a run."

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Price Silences Scuffling Twins As Blue Jays Win 5-1

TORONTO (AP) — Minnesota's scuffling offense ran into a familiar foe with to a familiar result.

David Price struck out 11 over eight innings to win his Blue Jays debut. Josh Donaldson hit a tiebreaking home run and Toronto beat the Twins 5-1 in the opener of a four-game series between AL wild-card contenders.

Price is 4-0 with a 1.16 ERA in four starts against Minnesota this season.

"He's been tough on the Twins this year," Twins manager Paul Molitor said.

Minnesota has scored just six runs over its past four games, losing three of them. Half those runs came in Saturday's 3-2 win over Seattle.

Still, outfielder Torii Hunter isn't too worried.

"We'll be all right," Hunter said. "Just keep telling yourself 'David Price.'"

If Minnesota meets Price again this year, it'll be in a playoff game.

Hunter, who played with Price in Detroit, called the lefty "a bulldog."

"He's always bearing down," Hunter said. "Once he

settled in, he's David Price."

Acquired from Detroit Thursday for a trio of minor league left-handers, Price received a standing ovation from the sellout crowd of 45,766 as he walked in from the bullpen before the game.

"That was the best atmosphere I've ever been in," Price said. "I've never experienced anything like that."

Price (10-4) allowed one run and three hits. He threw 119 pitches, two shy of his season high. His 11 strikeouts were the most by any pitcher in his Blue Jays debut. Roger Clemens

struck out nine White Sox on April 2, 1997.

"There's guys that kind of separate themselves," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "David's at the top. He's one of those guys. That's what they do."

NBA All-Star Kevin Durant was among those on hand to watch Price work on a sunny afternoon.

"That's probably the coolest thing I've had happen to me, fan-wise," Price said.

The lefty retired the last 15 batters he faced. He tipped his cap as he walked to the dugout

after the eighth.

"He pitched like an ace today," Minnesota starter Ervin Santana said.

Shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, another of Toronto's deadline additions, singled off Santana (2-2) to begin the fifth and scored on Donaldson's 27th homer, an opposite field drive to right.

Price struck out the first two batters and set down four straight before Torii Hunter homered in the second. It was the 12th home run surrendered by Price in 10 career starts at Rogers Centre, where he's 8-0.

Dakotas Tour Notebook: Hillcrest Welcomes Returning, New Golfers To The Course

BY DYLAN HUGGINS

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For the first time, Pro Juniors had the opportunity to compete in a Pro Am on Monday at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club in Yankton. The Lady Pro Am Qualifier will be held today (Tuesday).

Although some professional golfers may have more experience than others on the course, they all have one goal in mind: Make the cut for the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am, which begins Thursday. Scott Cherry said this is the first time he has played at Hillcrest.

"This is the first time I've golfed here. I came out here and drove it yesterday and took some notes. I like the course a lot I think it fits my game," he said.

"I felt like I kept it in front of me well today, I just wasn't sharp enough."

On the other hand, Casey Pyne said he has played at Hillcrest before and is familiar with the course.

"I played here last year and I do know the course pretty well," he said. "I was able to get a practice round in yesterday and I really like it,"

"It was a pretty easy going round. I made a birdie early and I just kind of played steady golf."

Golfers Position Themselves Well To Play In Invitational

Those playing on Monday understood the importance of getting off to a good start.

"I played well and I didn't make a five today. I made a bogie at six which is probably the toughest hole out here. It was a pretty solid day," said professional golfer Kelly Kretz.

"I've been playing okay the last few weeks. It's kind of a relaxing day before the big event starts on Thursday."

Justin Imel said a key to doing well on Monday was positioning himself well.

"I wouldn't say I did anything extremely well," he said. "I didn't put myself in bad positions so I guess that made it less stressful."

"I don't think I have to go out and shoot anything low (today). Another solid round and I should be right there."

Cameron White and Dylan Baker shared the pro lead after the opening round, each carding 7-under 65s. Four other golfers were at 67, two strokes off the pace.

Rice, Weber Take Titles

Two names very familiar to high school golf fans in South Dakota held the top spots in the older youth divisions of Monday's junior tournament.

Mitchell standout Jacob Rice shot a 73 to beat out Yankton grad Mitch Schlingman by one stroke for the boys' 16-18 year-old division. In the boys' 14-15 year-old di-

USD Will Go In 'Different Direction' After Big Ten Decision

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Here are the drive times between the University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion and three potential football games against Big Ten Conference opponents: Lincoln, Nebraska: Three hours.

Minneapolis, Minnesota: Four hours.

Iowa City, Iowa: Five hours.

Such FBS games for the Coyotes are, however, off the table because of a decision last week by the Big Ten to eliminate FCS games from league schedules beginning in 2016. The reason for the mandate? To accommodate nine league games, one non-conference against a 'Power Five' opponent and the Big Ten championship game.

The decision to move on from scheduling FCS opponents has already had a trickle-down effect at USD, for example, a Missouri Valley Football Conference school that is still hunting for FBS games for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 seasons.

"We have to go in a different direction," athletic director David Herbster said Monday.

Despite the announcement last week by Big Ten commissioner Jim Delaney, schools like USD had been operating under the assumption that Big Ten schools were off the table anyway, Herbster said.

That doesn't mean it was any less disappointing, he added.

"Those are regional matchups, and matchups between two state schools, the 'University of' in both cases, and now those aren't possible," Herbster said of such games as Nebraska, Minnesota or Iowa.

The Coyotes, like many of their Missouri Valley brethren, have previously played 'guarantee' games against Big Ten schools. USD faced – and defeated – Minnesota in 2010, and then had games against Wisconsin in 2011 and Northwestern in 2012.

Five Missouri Valley programs have Big Ten games on their schedule for this season, and North Dakota State has a game scheduled with Iowa next fall – the Big Ten did say it would attempt to honor contracts already signed.

Such games between two leagues in the same geographic area would, in Herbster's eyes, make more sense than a Big Ten school trying to spend more money to bring in an FBS opponent – even one outside the Power Five.

"If you're Minnesota and playing Louisiana-Lafayette, there's more of an interest to the game from an attendance perspective if you're playing South Dakota," Herbster said.

If the Big Ten is, indeed, trying to position itself better for the College Football Playoff, that's one thing, Herbster said, but mandating that every league team follow suit could leave some schools wishing they could schedule an FCS game.

"If Ohio State feels like they've got the team to make the run, they don't have to schedule an FCS team," Herbster said, "but a team like Indiana, which is in rebuilding mode, they would probably rather face an FCS team."

And in turn, those FCS schools would be open to such conversations. But now, without the Big Ten as an option, USD has to look elsewhere.

When it comes time to filling an FBS vacancy, there are a series of two key questions to answer, Herbster said: Is it within driving distance for fans? Or is it an area that your athletic department or institution already recruits?

Herbster said his ideal philosophy would be to schedule a regional FBS game every other year or every three years (like was the case in 2013 at Kansas and this fall at Kansas State), and then schedule a 'destination game' (as was the case last year with Oregon and next year at California).

It's just a matter of finding the right fit, Herbster said. Sure, the money can be nice – USD made \$525,000 for

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Cassidy Gough, an Aberdeen Central golfer, chips on to the green during Monday's Hillcrest Pro Junior/Lady Pro-Am at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

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