Golf I Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am

Notebook: Small Iowa Town Well Represented

Press&Dakotan

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND

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A group of 13 golfers from Muscatine, Iowa, have made the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am in Yankton an annual golf event.

Pat McFate has been playing in the tournament for more than 30 years and over the years has brought a following of golfers from Muscatine to the Yankton event. McFate competes on a team with his two sons, Darin and Dan.

"Tom Hendricks got me coming about 30 years ago, he is a former resident of Yankton and invited me up," Pat McFate said Friday, during day two of the weekend tournament at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

"Ever since it is what our family has been looking forward to."

The entire group of golfers knows each other well and has been golfing to-gether for years. Each year a new golfer or two may jump into the fold. "My dad is 59 years old; he's been

playing with a lot of these guys forever," Darin McFate said. "It's a good opportuonline play with everybody we know. Highlights

"Everyone hears about how good of a Action At The tournament it is and Hillcrest Pro-Am. they want to come up yankton.net and play in it, it seems like every year we

From Friday

have more and more people that want to play in it."

"It's the tournament I look forward to the most every year," Dan McFate said. "We play quite a bit back home, but we dont get to play together as much, so to come up here and spend some time with my dad and my brother and compete is a lot of fun.

The McFate family not only comes to Hillcrest to compete in the tournament but also looks to contend in the tournament.

We better, we won last year, and we had a great day today," Pat McFate said. "We'll be in the hunt.

"You know, McFates grind." "I think the course is very challenging," Darin McFate said. "It's similar

nity to get up here and to our country club back in tonw, the greens make it a lot tougher, and it's a good challenge to come up here and play.

This weekend marks Darin's 11th year playing in the Hillcrest Pro-Am, while Dan has been coming every year except for two since 1996.

"We'll be back every year as long as they keep having the tournament," Dan McFate said.

As long as the McFates are returning every year you can count on a large amount of Muscatine golfers to be there as well.

Pros Enjoy The Pro-Am Whether it is their first year or their eight year, the professional golfers that play in the Hillcrest Pro-Am enjoy playing in the tournament and plan to come back again

Andre Metzger, of Sioux Falls, is playing in his eighth Hillcrest Pro-Am and has a handful of top five finishes under

PRO-AM | PAGE 14

JEREMY HOECK/P&D Jace Guthmiller of Yankton chips on to the No. 10 green

ports

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during Friday's round at the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am, at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

Baseball | State Amateur Tournament

Renner Push Past Tappers



Renner first baseman Jason Nyhus, right, reaches out to tag Yankton's Lane Sawatzke during their matchup in the South Dakota State Class A Amateur Baseball Tournament on Friday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Plankinton Ousts D-E In 'B' Tourney

MITCHELL - Plankinton's Travis Gant took a shutout into the ninth and the Bankers' offense did the rest in a 4-1 victory over Dimock-Emery in the opening round of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Friday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Trevor Salmonson went 3-5 with two doubles, and Gant had two hits for Plankinton. Preston Kristensen doubled in the win.

Phil Johnson had two hits, and Jason Schmidt had a double and a RBI for Dimock-Emery.

Gant struck out nine, walked six and hit four batters in the complete game four-hitter. Josh Engquist took the hard-luck loss, allowing eight hits and striking out 18.

MITCHELL - Wessington Springs

used a pair of four-run innings to down

Lake Norden 9-5 in the opening round

Armando Rodriguez and Logan Kop-

fmann each doubled and singled to lead

Wessington Springs, with Rodriguez

driving in two runs. Anthony Wahl also had two hits. Kody Kopfmann had a hit and two RBI in the win.

For Lake Norden, Jordan Johnson

doubled and singled, driving in three.

Austin Gilbertson also had two hits in

Tyler Waddle went the distance for the win, striking out eight. Johnson took

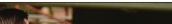
the loss, also going the distance.

of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Friday at Mitch-

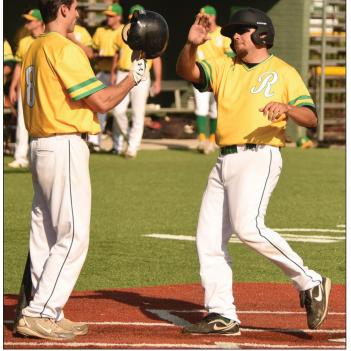
Lake Norden 5

ell's Cadwell Park.

the effort.



Yankton Plays Elimination Game at 11 a.m. Today Wessington Spr. 9.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Renner's Matt Guiliano, right, is congratulated by teammate Nate Hewes after a leadoff home run.

BY BEN HEGGE sports@yankton.net

The two-time defending state champion Renner Monarchs plated five runs in the final two innings to defeat the hosting Yankton Tappers by a score of 7-3.

The Monarchs got their offense going early. On just the fourth pitch of the game, the Monarch's leadoff batter Matt Guiliano sent a line drive homerun over the right field fence.

"That was a huge spark for us," said Monarchs manager Kevin Knetsch. "What a way to open up the state tournament.'

The Monarchs would later load the bases in the top of the first inning, but only came away with one additional run in the frame.

"It really hurt us not capitalizing with guys on base," said Knetsch. "Adding a few more runs could have been a game changer.^{*}

After the first inning, Tappers pitcher Brandon Nickolite seemed to find his grove, tossing six straight scoreless innings against the Monarchs.

Yankton got their offense started in the fifth. After a two out single by Dave Schmidt, the Tappers drew four consecutive base on balls to tie the game at two.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

"Our guys did a great job of staying patient at the plate," said Yankton's Ross Heine. "To get a rally started with two outs was big for us."

Nicolite sent the Monarchs down in order in the sixth and seventh innings leaving the score tied at two runs a piece headed to the eighth.

"We were just waiting for our rally," said the Monarchs' Knetsch. "There was no panic from our dugout, but were waiting for a big inning."

The eighth inning was just that for Renner.

The Monarchs strung together four straight extra base hits with two outs, including a two run blast from Eric DeJong.

Renner picked up two more insurance runs in the top of the ninth on their way to a 7-3 first round win over the Tappers.

Winning your first round game is so important in this tournament," said Knetsch. "Playing the host team on their

turf field makes it that much tougher." Brian McGuire finished the game with three of the Monarchs 12 hits, while Corey

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Tabor, Menno Set For 'B' Openers

Mad Frogs Look To Make Run After Ending Drought



Menno's Dylan Lehr heads in

to score during a game ear-lier this season. The Mad Frogs

face Armour in the South Dako-

ta State Amateur Baseball Tour-

nament on Sunday at Mitchell's

Cadwell Park.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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The drought is over. Menno will play at the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament.

The Mad Frogs, who haven't qualified for state since 2009, did so as one of the four representatives out of the South Central League.

"It's been a long time," Menno manager Ryan Liebl said.

The Mad Frogs will open tournament action Sunday at 11 a.m. in Mitchell against Armour, a member of the Pony Hills League.

The emergence of Macon Oplinger (4-1 regular

MENNO | PAGE 14

Bluebirds Look To Continue Post-Season Streak

BY JEREMY HOECK

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A year ago, the Tabor Bluebirds made a run to the quarterfinals of the South Dakota State Class A Amateur Baseball Tournament.

Then came a rough regular season this summer. Tabor, the No. 7 seed out of the South Central League, won the District 6B title to right the ship and establish some momentum heading into state.

'It just all came together," manager Joe Vavruska said.

If Tabor is to put together another deep run in the state tournament, it will first have to get by Madison in tonight's (Saturday) 7:30 p.m. first round game at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Madison, of the Cornbelt League, lost in the first round a year ago. "From years past, they've been really good," Vavruska said. "They're in a tough league.'

So too is Tabor, which could partly explain some of the Bluebirds' early struggles. The team's mix of youth (district MVP Ross Kortan is a year removed from Legion ball) and veterans needed a while to gel, according to Vavruska.

"All season we talked about how close we'd come, it was always one bad inning that hurt us, but when districts came around, we put it all together," Vavruska said.

The main pitching staff for the Bluebirds is relatively young, with Kortan, Doug Vanecek and Austin Kaul. Inexperience shouldn't be an issue at state, however, their

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Platte 8, Webster 1 MITCHELL – Richard Sternberg had three hits at the plate and struck out eight in a complete game five-hitter as Platte downed Webster 8-1 in the opening round of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Friday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park. Michael Buitenbos also had three hits for Platte. Jordan Johnson went

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