

Golf | Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am

# Notebook: Small Iowa Town Well Represented

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 together 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 opportu-

## online

■ Highlights  
From Friday  
Action At The  
Hillcrest Pro-Am.  
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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 don't 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 play with everybody we know.

"Everyone hears about how good of a tournament it is and they want to come up and play in it, it seems like every year we have more and more

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

This weekend marks Darin's 11<sup>th</sup> 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 eighth 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



JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
Jace Guthmiller of Yankton chips on to the No. 10 green during Friday's round at the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am, at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

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Baseball | State Amateur Tournament

# Renner Push Past Tappers



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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

Yankton Plays Elimination Game at 11 a.m. Today

BY BEN HEGGE  
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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 groove, 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.

"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 we 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

Wessington Spr. 9,

Lake Norden 5

MITCHELL – Wessington Springs used a pair of four-run innings to down Lake Norden 9-5 in the opening round of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Friday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Armando Rodriguez and Logan Kopfmann 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 the effort.

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

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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# Tabor, Menno Set For 'B' Openers

## Mad Frogs Look To Make Run After Ending Drought



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Menno's Dylan Lehr heads in to score during a game earlier this season. The Mad Frogs face Armour in the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament 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

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## 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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