



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Professional golfer Neil Johnson swings on the No. 1 fairway during Friday's round at the Hillcrest Pro-Am at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

Twins Tip Cleveland 10-9

CLEVELAND (AP) — Torii Hunter's ninth-inning homer gave Minnesota a 10-9 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Friday night, ending the Twins' five-game losing streak.

Hunter connected against Bryan Shaw (1-2) to complete a comeback for the Twins, who couldn't hold an early 6-0 lead. Hunter also drove in two runs in the Twins' six-run third.

Trevor May (8-7) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Glen

Perkins worked out of trouble in the ninth for his 30th save. Carlos Santana drew a one-out walk and pinch-hitter Ryan Raburn singled with two outs, but Jerry Sands struck out on three pitches to end the game.

Cleveland, which traded outfielders Michael Bourn and Nick Swisher to Atlanta for third baseman Chris Johnson before the game, fell to a season-worst 10 games under .500.



P&D FILE PHOTO

Tabor prepares to take the field for the District 6B championship game earlier this month. The Bluebirds, who beat Crofton for the title, face Madison in the opening round of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament today (Saturday) at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Tabor

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manager said.

"A couple of them had done it with legion, but this is a little bigger stage," Vavruska said. "They'll come through, I think."

To help bolster their lineup, the Bluebirds added Wynot players Lee Heimes, Eric Hames and Scott Heimes to the roster — moves that were met with impressed reactions across the league.

As Tabor proved late in

the season and into districts, if everyone is on board at the same time, the Bluebirds are a tough team to beat.

"We knew that we had a good team, it just took a little time," Vavruska said. "Thankfully it showed up when it did."

Does that mean the Bluebirds are set for another couple wins at state?

"We're looking forward to seeing what happens," Vavruska said. "Last year we had a good run, but we thought we could've gone a little further."

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Hillcrest

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his belt. Metzger plays on the Dakotas Tour, the Gateway tour in Arizona, and looks to compete in Q-School, the qualifier for the PGA tours. Metzger talked about what keeps him coming back the Pro-Am.

"The people really," Metzger said. "The golf is fun and this is probably my favorite golf course."

"This is the one week of the whole year that's my favorite week so I just get excited for this week."

Chris Evans, of Shelton, Washington, has been playing in the Pro-Am for around four years while playing on the Dakotas Tour and tours in California and Arizona. Evans also likes the people of Yankton.

"It's been great every year," Evans said. "There are good people here, and I always get a chance to be with some pretty good groups and the amateurs are always good to play with."

"The purse is pretty good, the competition is good, and I always end up staying with a nice host family and it makes me feel at home."

Brent Baylon, from



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Todd Sapp of Sioux City, Iowa, kicks up a cloud of grass on a tee shot during Friday's round of the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am in Yankton.

Phoenix, Arizona, and San Osborne, from Cannon Falls, Minnesota, are playing in the Hillcrest Pro-Am for the first time in 2015 and have enjoyed the first two days of the tournament. Both golfers are playing on the Dakotas Tour for the first time this year.

"I just started the Dakotas Tour full time this year and signed up for every tournament," Baylon said. "I am enjoying my time so far."

"I enjoy meeting new

people, and it's just a good time here."

Osborne was originally from London, England, before coming over to the states to play golf.

"It is my first time here in South Dakota, it has been fun, and I really like it," Osborne said. "It's great, the golf course is fun, and it's a little different playing with amateurs instead of playing with pros all the time."

"It's been cool, playing

with different people every day makes it interesting, so yeah I've enjoyed it."

Metzger Leads Way

Metzger takes a three-stroke lead into today's third round with a two-round score of 13-under 131. Nick Hodge sits in second, with Aaron Cockerill, Doug Quinones, Neil Johnson and Nick Chladek tied for third at 135, four strokes back.

Metzger and Kevin Stanek tied for Friday's low pro round, each shooting 65.

Brian Lemkau sits at 3-under 141 to lead the amateur division by one stroke over Yankton's Jace Guthmiller. Dillon Cooney and Jason Merkel are tied for third at even-par 144.

The boys from Muscatine led the way on the team side, as Pat, Dan and Darin McFate held a five-stroke lead over fellow Iowans Jordan Lucas, Brad Gosset and Nate Brockhouse, 187-192. Yankton's Mitch Schlingman, Heath Larson and Todd Duncan were tied for second. Three more Muscatine golfers were on the two teams tied for fourth.

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Menno

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season, 2-0 in districts) as one of the top pitchers in the league, along with a jolt of youth into the lineup, has helped Menno reach the first part of its goal, Liebl. The second part, naturally, would be a run to a state title.

"With our pitching and defense, we feel like we can make a nice run," Liebl said.

That effort will start with the Armour Jayhawks, which like Menno ended a long state tournament drought this year. The two teams

played back in May in Menno, a game the Mad Frogs won 14-0.

Though Menno isn't about to look past Armour, the Mad Frogs know what they need to advance far in the tournament — they scored 3, 2 and 6 runs at the district tournament.

"Our bats are due to come around," Liebl said. "Once we get that key hit, we should go off."

The additions this season of catchers Kyler Pekarek and Jared Nelson have been invaluable for the Menno pitching staff, according to Liebl. The Mad Frogs are likely to start Doug Hall on the mound Sunday, but they

would also have a number of other options.

To help their efforts for a deep tournament run, the Mad Frogs picked up the Lesterville tandem of Alex Wagner and Cody Ulmer — Wagner could eat up some innings and Ulmer could fill in at a number of spots.

Menno knows it's that kind of depth that has allowed the South Central League to have recent success at state — last year, for example, the league sent four teams to the tournament quarterfinals, with Wynot winning the championship.

"From what we've seen, it's been good pitching that's carried us through," Liebl

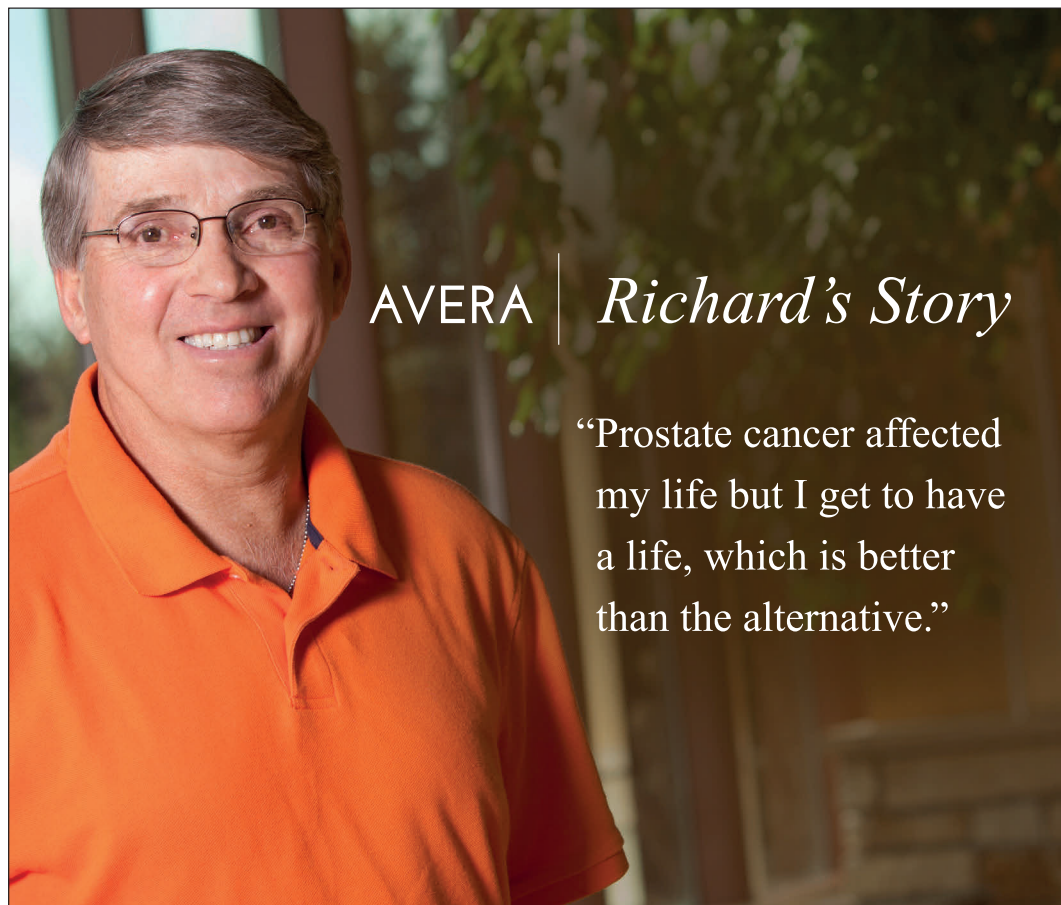
said. "Around the state, the other teams will have one good pitcher, or maybe two, but we've all got a couple good ones."

All season, the Mad Frogs have been looking forward to the opportunity to play at Cadwell Park in Mitchell, Liebl said.

"The whole team has been up all year, confidence has been the key," he said. "We always felt like we were right there, but we couldn't close out a game."

"Now we're learning how to win the right way, and we like it."

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