

# Mauer, Twins Adjust To His Position Switch

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — As the Minnesota Twins annual honors were handed out at Target Field, the club's most valuable player hardly needed his introduction. He has a new title, though, and that's going to take some getting used to.

First baseman Joe Mauer. "That sounded a little bit weird, didn't it?" Mauer said to the audience last month during the Diamond Awards ceremony on the eve of the team's winter fan fair.

If this mid-career position switch was still setting in for Mauer, that weekend at the ball-park during TwinsFest helped cement it. Seeing the abbreviation "1B" next to his name on the placard at the autograph station served as another reminder.

A concussion, caused by a foul tip off the mask during a game last August and ended his 2013 season

early, forced a difficult series of doctor consultations and family conversations that culminated with the decision to leave the most dangerous position on the field.

"I want to be out there every day. That was the case when I was a catcher, but physically it's just not possible," said Mauer, who has started his 11th year in the majors. "I'm definitely looking forward to being on the field more. Hopefully that translates into a lot more wins."

The fresher body ought to increase his availability as well as boost his production, but the obvious benefits didn't make this move easy.

The Twins left this up to Mauer,



Mauer

whose wife Maddie gave birth to twin girls last July but wasn't able to be around them as much as he wanted because of the sensitivity to sound and light that lingered from the concussion.

The symptoms are gone now, and Mauer said his legs "feel great." The temptation to put the mask on again will probably arise this spring. He'll have to ignore it.

"If I grabbed the mitt, I'm sure Maddie and everybody in my family would probably be on eggshells," Mauer said, adding: "I feel like I could go out there and catch every day right now. But it's not fair to myself, my family or the team if I get down to spring and the first day of pitcher's BP I take one off the head and I miss half the year."

Catching, with the exceptional offense he provided at a defensive-minded position and his abilities

to throw out base stealers and call pitches, was a significant part of his value to the Twins — and of his \$23 million annual salary.

Veteran Kurt Suzuki was signed to replace him behind the plate, and prospect Josmil Pinto will push for time this spring. That doesn't mean Mauer can't still be a positive influence on the pitching staff.

"The guy knows all the hitters in the league," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "So we can use Mauer in a number of different ways. He knows how to play first base. He's put in that work, but he can also sit in on these meetings and help our catchers out. He'll be a good grandpa for Pinto."

Mauer will turn 31 in April. "I don't want to step on anybody's toes, but I'm here to win

MAUER | PAGE 8

## Twins GM Ryan Out Of Hospital After Cancer Surgery

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Twins general manager Terry Ryan has been released from the hospital, the first step in his recovery from cancer surgery.

The Twins announced Friday that Ryan left the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, three days after the operation.

According to team spokesman Dustin Morse, Ryan told team physician Dr. Vijay Eyunni that he was "doing well." Ryan will spend the next few days recuperating at home in the Twin Cities. There's no timetable for his return to work.

Ryan was recently diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma, after a cancerous lump was found in a lymph node in his neck. Radiation is the likely next phase of his treatment.

## Mount Marty Women Roll Past Grace

OMAHA, Neb. — Freshman reserve Denae Veldkamp scored 19 points and Mount Marty College held Grace to 11 second-half points in an 83-32 non-conference women's basketball victory Friday night in Omaha.

The Lancers (12-16) got 46 points off the bench, out-rebounded the Royals 57-34 and used a 28-0 run to start the second half.

Logan Wagner scored 14 points, Raquel Sutura had 10 points, and Cheyenne Lambley chipped in with nine points and eight rebounds. Holly Hegge also had nine points.

Mount Marty led 34-21 at halftime and the lead reached 62-21 at the 10:13 mark of the second half.

Destiny Gamble scored 13 points for Grace (4-20), which made just 2-of-28 shots after halftime.

The Lancers, who finish the non-conference portion of their schedule with a 9-1 record, earned a season sweep over Grace — MMC won the first meeting 107-31 in the season opener.

Mount Marty returns home for the final two Great Plains Athletic Conference games of the season, starting next Wednesday against Dakota Wesleyan.

**MOUNT MARTY (12-16)**  
Cassidy Gehhart 0-3 0-0 0; Logan Wagner 4-12 4-14; Holly Hegge 4-7 1-1 9; Raquel Sutura 4-6 0-0 10; Allison De Kam 2-5 0-0 4; Brittini Bormann 1-3 1-2 4; Denae Veldkamp 5-10 6-10 19; Allison Berry 0-3 0-0 0; Cheyenne Lambley 4-5 0-0 9; Jill Jandreau 2-5 0-0 5; Kellie Winckler 1-4 0-0 2; Samantha Blake 2-5 0-0 Ashley Green 1-1 0-1 2. TOTALS 30-67 13-20 83.

**GRACE (4-20)**  
Jesse Wirges 1-7 1-2 3; Ashley Roh 1-5 0-0 2; Katie Rockensock 1-7 1-2 4; Jenna Henderson 2-14 0-2 5; Cara Lyon 0-4 0-0 0; Faatimah Dreher 0-5 1-2 1; Destiny Gamble 3-8 7-8 13; Lonna Casada 0-1 0-0 0; Abrina Alvarez 1-2 2-2 4; Paola Galvan 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 9-54 12-18 32.

Halftime: MMC 34-21. Three-Pointers: MMC 10-27 (Veldkamp 3-6; Sutura 2-2; Wagner 2-7; Lambley 1-1; Jandreau 1-1; Bormann 1-2; Gehhart 0-2; Berry 0-2; Hegge 0-2; Winckler 0-2); Grace 2-12 (Rockensock 1-4; Henderson 1-4; Casada 0-1; Alvarez 0-1; Roh 0-2). Total Rebounds: MMC 57 (Lambley 8); Grace 34 (Roh 8). Personal Fouls: MMC 15, Grace 18. Fouled Out: None.

## Basketball | High School Girls

# Pirates Power Past TDA



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Avon's Chesney Nagel splits the Tripp-Delmont-Armour defense during their girls' basketball game on Friday in Avon. Avon survived a slow start to win 48-29.

## Crofton, Wynot Win Big To End Regular Season

AVON — Another strong all-around game from Chesney Nagel helped propel the Avon Lady Pirates to their 15th win, 48-29 over Tripp-Delmont-Armour on Friday night in Avon.

Nagel recorded 15 points, 14 rebounds, six assists and four steals for Avon (15-4). Ariana Oorlog led the way with 16 points.

For the Nighthawks (5-13), Hannah Just had 16 points and three assists, while Erica Koster and Allyson Ledeboer both grabbed four rebounds.

TDA won the JV game 29-28.

Up next, Avon travels to Gayville-Volin on Monday and TDA hosts Corsica-Stickney in Armour next Tuesday.

**TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (5-13).....10 19 26 29**  
**AVON (15-4).....15 21 37 48**

**Crofton 67, Randolph 23**

CROFTON, Neb. — Allison Arens scored 19 points to cross 1,000 for her career and Allison Tramp added 17 as the Crofton Lady Warriors rolled past Randolph 67-23 on Friday night in Crofton.

Quinn Wragge added 13 points for Crofton (21-1), which led 48-5 at halftime. Monica Arens posted eight points and six rebounds, and Kelsey Sanger recorded two points, four rebounds, six assists and four steals.

In the loss for Randolph, Haley Schnoor scored six points, Mackenzie Lemmons posted five points and three rebounds, and Megan Fink had three points and four rebounds.

Crofton plays either Hartington Cedar Catholic or Niobrara-Verdigre in the semifinals of the Sub-District C2-9 Tournament on Tuesday in Wausa, Neb. Randolph faces Allen in the semifinals of the Sub-District D1-4 Tournament on Tuesday in Ponca, Neb.

**RANDOLPH.....4 5 13 23**  
**CROFTON (21-1).....20 48 57 67**

## Irene-Wakonda 52, Canton 45

IRENE — Irene-Wakonda snuck past Canton 52-45 on Friday evening in Irene.

Amy Morman led Irene-Wakonda (13-6) with 16 points and nine rebounds. Andrea Sokolowski added 13 points and 10 rebounds in the loss.

Kristin Twedt led Canton (8-9) with 23 points, while Haile McMains added 10 points in the loss.

Irene-Wakonda will compete in Districts on Feb. 24 in Viborg. Canton will host Madison today.

**IRENE-WAKONDA (13-6).....13 28 38 52**  
**CANTON (8-9).....15 25 31 45**

## Wynot 66, Hartington 38

WYNOT, Neb. — Maggie Schulte scored 22 points as the Wynot Blue Devils closed regular season action with a 66-38 home win over Hartington on Friday night.

Danielle Wieseler had 10 points, six assists and two rebounds for Wynot (18-6), while Schulte added six rebounds and two assists. Carissa Kuchta and Cortney Arkfeld both chipped in with eight points and six rebounds.

For Hartington, Ryley Eickhoff had 11 points, Shelby Hochstein scored 10 points, and Sophie Noecker had eight points.

Both teams begin sub-district action next week, Wynot against either Santee or Osmond on Tuesday in D2-5 at Randolph, Neb., and Hartington against Bloomfield on Monday in D1-4 at Ponca, Neb.

**HARTINGTON.....10 23 32 38**  
**WYNOT (18-6).....11 36 52 66**

## Viborg-Hurley 69, Parker 52

HURLEY — Abby Hora of Viborg-Hurley put up 26 points in a 69-52 route of Parker on Friday evening.

Hannah Jorgensen and Kirsten Paetaw added eight points and two rebounds for Viborg-Hurley (13-4).

Rylie Christensen led Parker (3-11) with 24 points and 12 rebounds. Lauren Hunstad added 12 points and five assists in the loss.

Viborg-Hurley will travel to Platte-Geddes today (Saturday), while Parker hosts Garretson on Tuesday.

**VIBORG-HURLEY (13-4).....18 37 58 69**  
**PARKER (3-11).....9 27 41 52**

## Elk Point-Jefferson 68, Beresford 43

BERESFORD — McKenzie Men-

# Boys: Baltic Beats Cubs At Buzzer; Avon Downs TDA



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Tripp-Delmont-Armour's Shane Koster tries to lay the ball in as Avon's Brandon Kocmich tries to block the shot from behind during their boys' basketball game on Friday in Avon. Avon won the game 52-45

BALTIC — Kyler Johnson hit a jumper at the buzzer to lead Baltic past Alcester-Hudson 53-51 in boys' basketball action Friday night in Baltic.

Nate Stadem led Baltic (4-12) with 23 points. Johnson added 16 points in the victory.

Grant Johnson led Alcester-Hudson (10-9) with 20 points and 14 rebounds.

Baltic will host Flandreau on Tuesday, while Alcester-Hudson will host Canton next Friday.

**BALTIC (4-12).....9 25 37 53**  
**ALCESTER-HUDSON (10-9).....10 23 39 51**

## Avon 52, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 45

AVON — The Avon Pirates rallied from a 1-point deficit heading into the fourth quarter to beat Tripp-Delmont-Armour 52-45 in boys' basketball action Friday night in Avon.

Logan Mudder scored 21 points for the Pirates (6-10), while Brandon Kocmich had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Jacob Knodel added nine points.

TDA led 22-15 at halftime and 34-33 after three quarters.

For the Nighthawks (5-12), Cody Hrdlicka scored 21 points, and Shay Koster added eight points and six rebounds.

Avon hosts Gayville-Volin on Monday.

**TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (5-12).....8 22 34 45**  
**AVON (6-10).....5 15 33 52**

## Wynot 61, Hartington 53

WYNOT, Neb. — Jackson Sudbeck scored 21 points as the Wynot Blue Devils defeated Hartington 61-53 in boys' action Friday night.

Austin Lange added 12 points, and Brady Stratman posted 11 points and eight rebounds for Wynot (16-5).

Derek Jueden scored 16 points and Tanner Fischer had 10 points for the Wildcats (10-10).

Wynot travels to Laurel-Concord-Coleridge next Friday.

**HARTINGTON (10-10).....11 22 34 53**  
**WYNOT (16-5).....9 24 44 61**

## Centerville 71, Gayville-Volin 37

CENTERVILLE — Seamus O'Malley finished with 19 points to become Centerville's all-time

leading scorer as the Tornados cruised past Gayville-Volin 71-37 on Friday night.

O'Malley, who signed with Mount Marty College, also had six assists for the Tornados (11-6). Younger brother Rory O'Malley scored 25 points, while Christian Gruschin had 14 points and eight rebounds.

For the Raiders (3-16), Brandon Van Osdal scored 12 points, Alec Barta had 11 points and Grant Rice added eight rebounds.

Next Monday, Centerville visits Bridgewater-Emery and Gayville-Volin travels to Avon.

**GAYVILLE-VOLIN (3-16).....12 19 27 37**  
**CENTERVILLE (11-6).....29 44 59 71**

## Crofton 44, Randolph 32

CROFTON, Neb. — With the 44-32 victory over Randolph, Crofton was able to complete the sweep of Randolph for the night.

Evan Woodman led Crofton (11-8) with 14 points, while Eric Kleinschmit added 11 points in the victory.

Garrett Watters led Randolph (9-10) with 15 points in the loss.

Crofton will host Boone Central-Newman Grove next Friday. Randolph travels to Homer on Thursday.

**CROFTON (11-8).....11 24 33 44**  
**RANDOLPH (9-10).....9 12 25 32**

## Parker 80, Viborg-Hurley 46

HURLEY — Zach O'Keefe led four players in double figures with 24 points as the Parker Pheasants rolled past Viborg-Hurley 80-46 on Friday night in Hurley.

The biggest dagger for the hometown Cougars was a 22-2 first quarter edge for the visitors.

Reid Joffer added 14 points for the Pheasants (14-4), while Jake Anderson and Eric Hunstad both contributed 10 points and eight rebounds.

Rusten Anderson scored 17 points for the Cougars (12-5), while Wyatt Andersen had nine points.

Parker visits Hanson on Monday and Viborg-Hurley travels to Menno on Tuesday.

**PARKER (14-4).....22 40 60 80**  
**VIBORG-HURLEY (12-5).....2 7 24 46**

**Canton 78, Irene-Wak. 58**

WAKONDA — Canton rolled pasy Irene-Wakonda 78-58 on Friday evening.

Mount Marty recruit Cody Willett led Canton (12-3) with 18 points and six rebounds. Tyler Lehrs added 17 points in the victory.