

# In Twins Rotation, Experience, Competition Is Up

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With 195 losses over the last two years, the Minnesota Twins have a lot to fix. Starting pitching is on top of the list, and revamping the rotation might be the most complicated repair in the majors.

The Twins focused on the future by trading not one but two center fielders to acquire a couple of potential aces, but they also had a 2013 rotation to address. So they began, naturally, by increasing the competition.

None of the new guys were hot-stove headliners, but they're banking on at least more consistency that Kevin Correia, Mike

Pelfrey and Vance Worley can bring to a group whose 5.40 ERA was the worst in the AL last season. Scott Diamond is the only one of 12 pitchers who took at least five turns in the rotation last year who has been guaranteed a place this season.

"I kind of read a little about how they don't think Correia or I were sexy pick-ups, I guess because we don't really strike a lot of guys out," Pelfrey said on Saturday at the team's annual fan festival. "Any way you want to look at it, whether it's a groundout or strikeout, as long as you're getting people out, we'll take it."

Pelfrey added: "I think we can get this thing turned around and get a lot more consistency in keeping them in ballgames. From my understanding, this offense is going to put up some runs."

Correia lost his spot in Pittsburgh's rotation last year, but he has won an average of almost 12 games over the last four seasons. Pelfrey went 15-9 with a 3.66 ERA for the New York Mets in 2010, but he's coming off elbow reconstruction surgery and made only three starts last year. He said he'll be ready to throw at full speed when spring training begins on Feb. 13.

Worley has only 46 career starts, all with Philadelphia, but he went 17-13 with a 3.56 ERA over those appearances.

All of those statistics, of course, were in the National League. They'll have to face a regular diet of designated hitters now.

"It's a different offensive league than it is over there. There's a lot of stuff that doesn't happen in that league when you've got nine guys whacking away. So it's different. But if

you can pitch, you can pitch," manager Ron Gardenhire said.

The Twins signed Pelfrey for \$4 million, a modest sum in today's market for starting pitching. They gave a two-year, \$10 million contract to Correia, a 32-year-old who struck out only 89 batters in 171 innings last season.

"I've been fairly healthy my entire career, so I pride myself on staying on the field and trying to help us win most of the times I go up there," Correia said. "I think if you can do that throughout the season, you can have a productive year and help the team win."

The Twins arguably invested the most in Worley by trading Ben Revere, a potential

## Pavano In Hospital After Having Spleen Removed

BY RONALD BLUM  
AP Sports Writer

Carl Pavano's spleen was removed last week after the pitcher was injured when he fell in the snow.

The 37-year-old right-hander was hurt in mid-January at his home in Vermont and has been in a Connecticut hospital for nearly two weeks.

"He lost a lot of blood. It was very, very serious," agent David Pepe said Monday.

Pepe said Pavano didn't think he was seriously injured after the fall, then didn't feel well following a workout a few days later in Connecticut.

"He felt bad enough that he went to the hospital and he ended up getting admitted, and they realized he had a lacerated spleen," Pepe said. "They tried to control the bleeding. They did all they could to not take it out and, unfortunately, he didn't stop bleeding and he's been in the hospital since."

Pepe hopes Pavano will be released from the hospital this week. He would not put a timetable on the free agent's possible return to baseball.

"To be quite honest, I think he's very fortunate that he caught this thing. He had the presence of mind to go to a hospital," Pepe said. "It could have been a lot worse. He's just got to get his strength back and worry about baseball later."

Pavano spent the past 3 1-2 seasons with the Minnesota Twins, going 2-5 with a 6.00 ERA in 11 starts last year. He didn't pitch after June 1 because of a strained right shoulder.

A heralded free agent after the 2004 season, Pavano signed a \$39.95 million, four-year contract with the New York Yankees but then was sidelined by injuries to his shoulder, back, buttocks, elbow and ribs and became a target of criticism for Yankees fans and New York media. He went 9-8 with a 5.00 ERA in just 26 starts over the four years.

Pavano's career revived after he left New York. He went a combined 14-12 for Cleveland and Minnesota the following year, then was 17-11 for the Twins in 2010 before sliding to 9-13 in 2011.

## Robinson, Area Coaches Up For National Honors

SIOUX FALLS — Three area coaches are among the South Dakota coaches up for National Athletic Coaches Association 2013 Coach of the Year honors, announced by the South Dakota Coaches' Association on Sunday.

Yankton's Carmen Robinson is a finalist as a girls' sports assistant coach. Tom Culver of Avon is a finalist in football. John Nyhaug of Viborg-Hurley is a finalist in men's track and field.

To be considered for this award a nominee has been determined to have outstanding coaching longevity and win-loss record, championship years, awards received and service to the coaching profession and to the athletes of the State of South Dakota.

As a finalist each individual will be honored at the National Awards Banquet to be held at the NHSACA 48th Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa on Wednesday, June 26 at the Holiday Inn. This annual event is attended by athletic directors and coaches in 18 sports from throughout the United States.

Other finalists from South Dakota include Gary Munsen, Mitchell in the sport of boys basketball; Linda DeBoer, Miller in the sport of volleyball; Craig Black, Custer in the sport of girls track & field; Tom McGough, Miller in the sport of boys cross country; Vicky Fisher, Watertown in the sport of gymnastics; Bob Billotto, Eureka assistant in boys' sports; and Gene Brownell, Aberdeen Central Athletic Director.

Galen Busch of Mission and Virg Polak of Watertown will be inducted into the NHSACA Hall of Fame at a noon luncheon on Tuesday, June 25, at the Holiday Inn in Des Moines.

## MMC Women's Basketball Moved To Today

Mount Marty College has announced several schedule changes for the next two days, due to poor weather conditions to the north.

The Lancers' games with Dakota State, which had originally been scheduled as a men's game today (Tuesday) and a women's game on Wednesday, will now be played today at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena in Yankton.

Action will begin at 3 p.m. today with a JV women's game. The varsity women's game will be played at 6 p.m., with the varsity men's game at 8 p.m.

## Area Schools Postpone Monday Hoops Contests

Five basketball games scheduled for Monday that involved area teams were postponed due to poor weather conditions.

— The Bon Homme at Corsica-Stickney boys' basketball game was moved to today (Tuesday) in Stickney.

— The Canistota at Irene-Wakonda girls' basketball game was moved to Thursday in Irene.

— No makeup date was set for the Freeman at Marty girls' basketball game, the Freeman at Scotland boys' basketball game, or the Gregory at Bon Homme girls' basketball game.

Coaches and administrators are reminded to report postponements and cancellations to the *Press & Dakotan* at sports@yankton.net or 1-605-665-7811, ext. 106.

## Big 12 ADs Discussing Pros, Cons Of Staying At 10

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Big 12 athletic directors spent several hours Monday discussing the pros and cons of maintaining their 10-team configuration or eventually making additions to the conference — or maybe doing something in between.

League commissioner Bob Bowlsby repeated what he has said before "that our current composition is terrific for us" but the ADs went through plenty of "what-if" scenarios to be prepared for any eventuality in what has been an ongoing shift of conference affiliations. The Big 12 has lost four members to other leagues while adding West Virginia and TCU.

"I think we did gravitate around some principles that will guide us going forward and I think we created some filters that we all agreed on," Bowlsby said after the first day of their regular scheduled two-day meeting. "I think there was a fair amount of unanimity in the room."

Among the possibilities is an alliance with other conferences, including the ACC, and Bowlsby said there appears to be unanimous support for the idea.

"We talked about those kinds of things, and I think there are some ways that you can get some of the benefits and some of the value of larger configuration without actually adding members," Bowlsby said. "We spent a good portion of the late afternoon talking about how that all fit together and how it worked."

Bowlsby didn't get into specifics and wouldn't say what other conferences could be in the mix. Pac-12 and SEC officials have indicated they have had no such discussions with the Big 12.

## FUTURE STARS TAKE CENTER STAGE



Hundreds of young wrestlers took to the Summit Center mats as the Yankton Youth Wrestling program hosted its annual invitational on Sunday. Results will be published as soon as they are made available. Photos from the event are on spotted.yankton.net.

ABOVE: The Bloomfield Youth Wrestling team gathers around their coach before the tournament.

LEFT: Tyson Sanger of Crofton, Neb., gets pumped up for his first match.

BELOW: Yankton's Damian Janish and Dylan Howe both look to bring the other to the ground during their match.

NICK ROBINSON/P&D



## Menno Boys Cool Off Avon

MENNO — Menno defeated Avon 47-25 in South Dakota 'B' boys basketball action Monday night.

Caleb Preszler led Menno (4-8) with 13 points. Dylan Lehr added 12 points in the victory.

Logan Mudder led Menno (5-8) with 10 points and 11 rebounds in the loss.

Menno will host Mitchell Christian on Jan. 31. for a double-header. Avon will travel to Bon Homme on Feb. 1.

MENNO (4-8).....11 23 29 47  
AVON (5-8).....8 12 16 25

NENAC: LCC 56, West Holt 38  
PLAINVIEW, Neb. — Laurel-Concord-Coleridge pulled away in the second half to beat West Holt 56-38 in the opening round of the Northeast Nebraska Activities

Conference boys' basketball tournament on Saturday.

LCC led 26-25 at halftime as West Holt outscored the Bears 21-12 in the second quarter. But the Bears bounced back, outscoring the Huskies 30-13 in the second half to claim the victory.

Kyle Kardell scored 16 points and Zach Shear had 12 points to lead LCC. Dillon Wolfgram added 10 points and seven rebounds.

For West Holt, Marcus Marcelus led the way with 19 points. Connor Osborne added 11 points.

LCC, 7-10 and winners of four straight, faces top-seeded Creighton in the semifinals today (Tuesday) at 6 p.m. West Holt will

## Young Archer From Columbus Hopes For Championship

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — Pedro Villa steadied his small compound bow and stared down the shaft of an arrow at a target some 20 yards away.

The young left-hander squeezed the release and watched his arrow cut a path through the air, striking the center of a target positioned at the opposite end of the Platte Valley Archers' indoor range.

He knocked another arrow and calmly placed it in the second of five white targets printed on the square paper.

His mother Jenny Christman, seated in a chair behind him, looked on with a smile.

Villa heads to the downtown archery range three or four times a week to practice, sometimes after school, sometimes on weekends.

While other children his age are playing video games or watching television, Villa is adjusting to a new shooting distance he must master after turning 12 last summer.

"He's getting used to the move and he's doing really well," Jenny said.

But expectations are high for the sixth-grader at St. Bonaventure Elementary School. He's coming off two straight state titles and hopes to compete in nationals this spring, impressive feats considering Villa didn't pick up a bow until three years ago.

That's when Jenny married Ed Christman, who introduced Villa to

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