



CLAY STODDARD/P&amp;D

Yankton's Cooper Cornemann fires the ball home during day two of the Cal Ripken Regional Babe Ruth Tournament on Friday at Sertoma Park.

## Championship Brackets Set In Cal Ripken Regional

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG  
P&D Correspondent

Pool play concluded and top seeds were set as the Cal Ripken U9 Midwest Regional Tournament continued Friday at Yankton's Sertoma Park.

The Denver Rebels concluded the day by scoring the deciding run in the top of the sixth and holding on for a 5-4 win over the Fort Scott Tigers. The win earned the Rebels a top seed in Pool A, where they will await the winner of a 10 a.m. matchup between #3 Semo North of Missouri and #2 Cimmaron River of Kansas that kicks off Saturday's play on 1st Dakota Field.

The Yankton Bombers also played in Friday's last time slot but fell to Denver's Centennial Blue All Stars 14-1.

In other games, Alliance, Neb. earned a #2 seed and the right to play Saturday with a 10-2 win over Semo North. The Alliance Spartans fell to the Denver Rebels 3-1 earlier in the day.

Alliance will play #2 Sikeston at noon on 1st Dakota Field. North Dakota's Bismark American's earned a top seed and will play the Alliance/Sikeston winner in the day's finale at 4 p.m.

The Americans defeated Sikeston 3-2 and the Centennial Blue All Stars 12-3.

Semo North earned their #3 seeding with a 6-5 win over Fort Scott while Cimmaron River earned the right to play Saturday with a 19-3 win over the Bombers and by tying with Sikeston 6-6.

The Bombers did not win a game during the tournament, but earned a valuable three weeks of practice and experience in the regional tourney.

"They worked hard — really we haven't been together that long," said coach Tom Curran of his team of Yankton Sertoma Baseball all stars. "We had two or three weeks of good practices after the rec season ended.

"From the first game of the tournament to the last game, the kids really learned a lot," added Curran.

For Curran, the mental abilities of some of the visiting players in the tournament stood out.

"You can tell the kids who have played a lot of ball," said Curran. "The kids who are aggressive on the base paths, who know what the situation is, who know where to go with the ball, those are the ones who have played a lot of ball."

Standout hitters for the Bombers were Princeton Vollmer and Will Pease while Cooper Cornemann was able to get on base continually as the Yankton lead-off hitter.

Jimmie Cunningham and Trevor Fitzgerald came through with the pitching performances for the Bombers while Nick Gregoire was a standout fielder.

"It was a lot of fun and the kids are great; you could see the number-one area of improvement was their hitting, especially today," said Curran. "It's great to be part of helping these kids learn the game."

The winners of Saturday's 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. games will meet Sunday at 10 a.m. on 1st Dakota Field for the Midwest Regional Tournament Championship.

# Busch K's 15 As Bandits Hand Post 22 First Setback

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This game was completed after our press deadline for Thursday evening.

No matter how many times Landon Busch got in trouble, he was able to get out of it.

The result was a dominating pitching performance in his biggest start of the season to that point.

Busch struck out 15 batters in seven strong innings as the Brookings Bandits edged two-time defending champion Rapid City Post 22 2-1 in a pitchers duel late Thursday night at the S.D. State Legion Tournament at Riverside Field.

In a game that featured 30 strikeouts and 20 runners left on base, it was Busch who stole the show.

"Landon has been outstanding for us all summer, and his numbers haven't lied," said Brookings coach Rob Hirschoff, whose team advances to play Sioux Falls East tonight (Friday) at 7:30 p.m. "His pitch count got a little high, but 15 (strikeouts) is a testament to good he is.

"We don't think there's anybody better in the state."

Busch, a hard-throwing left-hander, allowed one run on five hits in his seven innings, on 133 pitches. He worked in and out of jams in every inning before giving way to Joey Texley for the final two frames.

A sacrifice fly in the top of the sixth inning proved to be the deciding run in the tightly-contested affair.

"More than anything, it was an outstanding game," Hirschoff said. "It was very well pitched by both teams, and that's nice to see both sides play-

ing that well."

While Busch racked up the strikeouts, Post 22 starter Asau Rodriguez was nearly just as efficient. The right-hander struck out 10 and allowed seven hits in eight strong innings.

Brookings recaptured the lead in the top of the sixth when Beste drove in Gunner Peterson with a sacrifice fly, after Busch advanced him on a bunt.

However, Rapid City had two chances in the late innings to plate a run.

In the bottom of the seventh, Jake Bohne was advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jake Sullivan. But a groundout by Michael Kelly and a strikeout by Carter Wevik ended the threat.

And then in the eighth, Jacob James walked with one out and a bunt attempt by Donte Bledsoe was popped up to the pitcher. A two-out single fol-

lowed, as did an inning-ending strikeout.

"Both teams competed tough, but they got a bunt down and got that run in. And we didn't," Post 22 coach Dave Ploof said. "It was a great game for pitchers; both starters did very well."

Brookings struck first in the top of the first when Kelby Beste smoked a two-out RBI single, bringing around Matt Thomas for an early 1-0 lead.

Post 22 situated a bases loaded, no-body out situation in the bottom of the first, as Busch struck out the next three batters.

Busch couldn't escape a jam in the fourth, as Post 22 got an infield game-tying RBI single from Donte Bledsoe with runners on second and third.

Rapid City again loaded the bases in the fifth, but Busch — who reached

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CLAY STODDARD/P&amp;D

Brookings' Matt Thomas lays a tag on Sioux Falls East's Austin Ridl during the battle between the two undefeated teams at the State Legion Baseball Tournament on Friday at Riverside Field.

## S.F. East

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cushion to 10-0.

East padded its already-comfortable lead with three runs in the fourth, on an RBI sac fly by Schenkel, an RBI single by Schaeffbauer and a double by Alex Schultz.

Brookings finally got on the scoreboard in the fifth when Sam Froehlich tripled and later scored on a wild pitch.

But it mattered little against East's potent lineup.

The lead reached 13-1 on an RBI single by Cross in the top of the sixth.

Brookings got things going a bit in the bottom of the sixth, as Kelby Beste and Daniel notched consecutive singles. Bryce Nelson then drove in a run on a long double, and Matt Pejsa followed with a 2-run double to cut the East lead to 13-4.

But in the end, it wasn't enough.

And it didn't help that East continued the offensive onslaught.

Hander smoked a 2-run home run to left-center field over the 351-foot mark to put East up 15-4 in the top of the eighth.

Schievelbein was replaced by Cody Havermann to start the bottom of the eighth after allowing four runs on eight hits, with two strikeouts.

Havermann surrendered four consecutive RBI singles to Matt Thomas, Gunner Peterson, Busch and Beste in the eighth, making the score 15-8.

Halgerson pitched a scoreless bottom of the ninth, highlighted by a game-ending double play by first baseman Schultz on an over-the-shoulder catch and throwout to third base.

The Brookings loss means the Bandits will face Yankton First Dakota Post 12 at 3 p.m. today (Saturday).

# NFL Roundup: Eagles Swoop In And Snag Asomugha

BY BARRY WILNER  
AP Pro Football Writer

Nnamdi Asomugha had a tough choice: the New York Jets or the Dallas Cowboys?

Then, the Philadelphia Eagles swooped in and snagged the biggest prize in this year's free agent frenzy.

The All-Pro cornerback signed a five-year contract Friday with the Eagles, who gave the former Oakland Raiders star a deal that would pay him \$60 million over the life of it, with \$25 million guaranteed.

It was a stunning development as the Jets and Cowboys were thought to be the final teams in the sweepstakes for Asomugha's services. Rex Ryan

and the Jets dreamed of a No-Fly Zone secondary with Asomugha paired with Darrelle Revis. Meanwhile, the Cowboys and defensive coordinator Rob Ryan, Rex's twin brother, imagined how improved their defense would be with one big move.

Turns out, the Eagles were the team celebrating in the end.

The signing came a day after Philadelphia acquired Pro Bowl cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie from Arizona. The Eagles also formally announced a one-year deal for quarterback Vince Young, a 2006 first-round pick of Tennessee, Young, who went 30-2 as a starter at Texas and led the Longhorns to a national championship in his final game there

only to have an up-and-down tenure with the Titans, will back up starter Michael Vick.

Asomugha, considered the top free agent on the market, spent his first eight seasons with the Raiders and is regarded as one of the best players at his position. But the Eagles now have three Pro Bowl cornerbacks on their roster: Asomugha, Rodgers-Cromartie and Asante Samuel, who has 42 interceptions in eight years and has made the Pro Bowl four straight years.

The Indianapolis Colts expect to begin training camp practices Monday without Peyton Manning, who not only is coming off neck surgery, but doesn't have a contract.

Coach Jim Caldwell said the star

quarterback is "not ready right now" and that the team will "turn him loose" when he is ready to play.

Manning is in the midst of negotiations on a new contract that Colts owner Jim Irsay says will make the four-time league MVP the highest-paid player in NFL history. Manning has never missed a start — the streak is at 227, including playoffs, the longest active one in the league.

"I've told him to be as cautious as he needs to be because the last time I checked, we don't count preseason games," Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday said. "I can tell you this, there's not a player that works harder than he does."

Coach Jim Caldwell said the star

## Eagles Sign Another Embattled QB

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP) — After a busy day at Lehigh University, on Day 1 of training camp, the Philadelphia Eagles closed up shop by formally announcing a one-year deal for Vince Young.

Young, a two-time Pro Bowl quarterback and a former first-round pick of Tennessee, will replace Kevin Kolb as Michael Vick's backup.

A standout at Texas, where he went 30-2 and led the Longhorns to a national championship only to have an up-and-down career with the Titans, Young will get a fresh start in Philadelphia, and won't have to deal with the pressure of performing right off the bat.

Released on Thursday after five years with the Titans, Young became the fourth Pro Bowl player to be acquired by the Eagles in two days, joining cornerbacks Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Nnamdi Asomugha, as well as defensive end Jason Babin.

Young, 28, won 30 of 47 starts with the Titans, but owner Bud Adams announced in January that the team planned to cut ties. His antics off the field, as much as his performance on it, probably cost him his job there.

After an overtime loss to the

Redskins in November in Nashville, the Titans' third straight with Young under center, he threw his shoulder pads at booing fans and then had a postgame confrontation with coach Jeff Fisher.

He never played again. With the Eagles, Young gets a fresh start and a chance to learn under coach Andy Reid and offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg, who, in just two years, helped re-energize Vick into an MVP candidate and Pro Bowl starter after his own troubled past.

"I'm looking forward to working with him," Vick said. "I think Vince will mature as a player. Get him in here and make him a better player.

"And if we ever need him, he's there for us."

Young finished second to Reggie Bush in the 2005 Heisman Trophy voting, when he led Texas to an 11-0 record, including that historic 41-38 win over previously undefeated USC in the BCS national title game. In the win, Young threw for 267 yards and ran for 200 more.

In five NFL seasons, Young has completed 58 percent of his passes with 42 touchdowns and as many interceptions. He's rushed for 1,380 yards, with a 5.2-yard average, and 12 more touchdowns.

## Post 22

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ing catcher didn't phase Jensen, who will be taking his athletic talents to the wrestling mat at Northern Iowa this fall.

"I've pitched to him quite a bit," he said of Wickham. "He's got plenty of experience. I had a lot of confidence in him."

Post 22 evened the score in the third inning. Carter Wevik led off with a single, stole second and came in on Ryne Lees, double. Lees would score on a Jacob

James single, tying the game.

Jake Bohne gave Rapid City the lead with a two-out home run to right field in the third inning. Post 22 extended the advantage in the fifth, when Newt Johnson got his first hit of the tournament, advanced on a Bohne grounder and scored on a Jake Sullivan bloop single.

That would be all the offense Jensen would need. After allowing five hits the first time around the West batting order, Jensen allowed just five hits the final three times around the order. He finished with four strikeouts and just one walk, which came to the game's second batter.

"The kid knows how to com-

pete," Post 22 coach Dave Ploof said of Jensen. "He bowed his neck like a bulldog and didn't let in another run. We're not going to trade him for anybody."

Sullivan and Wevik each had two hits, Bohne homered and Lees doubled for Post 22.

For West, Austin Holzer had three hits and Mimmack doubled and singled to lead the way. Jared Frazier doubled in the effort.

Dusty Haffeman took the loss, pitching six innings. Wolfgang pitched two innings of shutout relief.

Rapid City (46-19) now advances to face Sioux Falls East today (Saturday). The game time

will depend on the outcome of Friday's late game, with the East-Brookings winner playing the late game. Brookings will play Yankton in Saturday's other matchup.

"We just need to relax and start hitting," Jensen said. "We haven't been getting good hits together. We know we can hit the ball. We just need to do it."

West finishes with a 27-26 record.

"I am very proud of my team," Sage said. "West went toe to toe with one of the best teams in the state, one of the top programs in the nation in Post 22. We've had way too much fun this season to give in and roll over, no matter who we're playing."

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