

All-Star Game Played Under Drug Cloud

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Davis knows power surges lead to suspicion in the 21st century. The debate has even trickled down to clubhouse banter.

"We always joke about it — how many home runs did you hit today?" the Baltimore Orioles slugger recounted.

"You hit two — well, you better be hydrated tomorrow."

As in, make sure you drink enough fluids to produce a urine sample for a drug test.

It's hard to talk about MVPs these days without discussing PEDs.

Davis leads the major leagues with 37 home runs, matching Reggie Jackson in 1969 for most by an American League player at the All-Star break. He's among a record 39 first-time All-Stars as baseball paused for its midsummer celebration at Citi Field.

But up ahead, more suspensions for performance-enhancing drugs appear imminent. Union head Michael Weiner said before Tuesday's

game he expects Major League Baseball will complete its investigation within a month and speak with the players' association to determine the mechanics of discipline, which would be subject to grievances and arbitration.

Last year, San Francisco outfielder Melky Cabrera was MVP of the All-Star game, then was suspended five weeks later for 50 games following a positive test for testosterone. Four All-Stars this year — San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera, Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon, Texas outfielder Nelson Cruz and Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta — have been linked in media reports to Biogenesis, the closed Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing PEDs.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig maintains he's not concerned the showcase could be decided by a player who may be disciplined when his probe is concluded.

"Whatever happens, happens. Given our knowledge today, that's not frustrating at

all," he said. "You play the hand you're dealt with on that day, and you can't second guess two weeks or two months or three months later."

Selig says players have complained to him that the vast majority who comply with the sport's drug rules have been tarnished along with those who think they can get away with using banned performance-booster.

"It is what it is. It's the nature of the era right now," Colorado outfielder Michael Cuddyer said. "Until we get the game totally clean, I'm sure there's going to be black eyes and suspicions."

Selig wants tougher penalties than the current system that has been in place since 2006 — 50-game bans for a first positive test, 100 games for a second and lifetime for a third.

Weiner says some of his members agree, some don't, and that players will discuss the possible changes when their executive board meets in December.

AL Blanks NL 3-0 In ASG

NEW YORK (AP) — Mariano Rivera pitched a perfect eighth inning in his final All-Star appearance, Jose Bautista, J.J. Hardy and Jason Kipnis drove in runs to back a night of pulsating pitching, and the American League beat the National League 3-0 Tuesday night to stop a three-year losing streak.

Ten pitchers combined a three-hitter and the 43-year-old Rivera, who is retiring at the end of the season, remained unscored on in nine All-Star innings. The only older pitcher to appear in an All-Star game was 47-year-old Satchel Paige.

Rivera was left alone on the field for a 90-second standing ovation, waving his cap to the crowd and touching it to his heart as the other All-Stars watched from the dugout railing and applauded.



P&D FILE PHOTO

Crofton Bluejays pitcher Scot Donner delivers to home plate during a South Central League amateur game against the Yankton Tappers earlier this season. Donner, the 2011 Class B State Tournament MVP, has continued to improve as the ace of the Bluejays' pitching staff.

Softball Standouts



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
ABOVE: The Yankton Spitfire finished fourth in the 18-under 'A' division at the South Dakota ASA Girls' Fastpitch Tournament, which concluded on Sunday in Sioux Falls. Team members include (front) Paige Thieman, Ely Millier, Katie Kozak, (back) Brooke Loecker, Taylor Ruby, Abby Schulte, Andi Sprakel, Haley Hinseth and Elizabeth Bye.

LEFT: The Yankton Xtreme won their 14-under division at the LeMars Youth Fastpitch Tournament on Saturday. Team members include (front) Alix Peterka, Kara Ulmer, (middle) Emily Oswald, Merlye Mason, Lexie McCorkell, Emily Bye, Bailey Peterka, Grace Roy, (back) coach Sean Cordell, Madie Cordell, Traia Hubbard, Madyson Gilbertson and coach Kim Velk.

SCL: Crofton's Donner Continues To Get Better

BY JEREMY HOECK
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CROFTON, Neb. — Aug. 12, 2011. Mitchell. Quarterfinals of the State Amateur Baseball Tournament.

The date, the place, the scene for Scot Donner to announce his presence to a statewide audience.

At that point still a college standout, the right-handed throwing pitcher for the Crofton Bluejays struck out 10 batters in a complete game 7-hitter against Redfield Dairy Queen — one of the state's offensive juggernauts.

Normally a reserved and composed player, Donner was understandably emotional that day.

"I always give him crap," Crofton teammate and cousin Nick Hegge said. "I told him I wanted to see the Scot that gives out a little fist pump."

"He's pretty calm, but you know when he shows emotion, he's doing something great."

Thing is, that was two years ago, and Donner has arguably only gotten better for the South Central League (SCL) leading Bluejays — who have advanced to three consecutive state title games.

Crofton needed every key pitch — he struck out the side in the ninth on a trio of called third strikes — that summer day in 2011, as it was able to edge Redfield 3-2 to advance to the semifinals. The Bluejays would go on to win the state title, beating Tabor in the final.

"I remember everyone talking about how good Redfield's hitters were, so I was a little intimidated," Donner said last week from his home in Omaha, Neb. "But that was a fun game; pretty intense."

As intimidated as he may have been, the now 24-year-old Donner had already pitched in much bigger games on bigger stages.

While at Iowa Western

Community College, the Crofton native was the winning pitcher in the championship game of the 2010 National Junior College World Series. Donner pitched 5 2/3 innings of scoreless relief against San Jacinto (Texas) College.

This is where Donner's college and amateur paths started converging.

Shortly after the championship celebration, Donner was met with offers from new schools, including Mount Marty College, but eventually decided on Nebraska-Omaha.

While with the NCAA Division II school, Donner pitched some his first year, but transitioned to starting third baseman during his senior season in 2012 — never once pitching that spring. He had already done plenty of that on the amateur circuit.

"I knew some other people going to Omaha, and we knew they had a pretty good program," Donner said. "I had to come back and try out for the team my senior year, but I did well enough that they kept me."

Meanwhile, his friends and teammates back in his home town have consistently been one of the top amateur teams in the state — South Dakota, actually.

Crofton, 13-2 this season in the SCL, has advanced to three consecutive state championship games. The Bluejays lost to Dimock-Emery in the 2010 final, beat Tabor in 2011 and lost to the Parkston Mudcats last summer.

Naturally, all that high-level experience has its benefits, Donner said.

"Being able to play in college and in the summer every year, you get to critique all the little miscues you have," he said. "You finally see them; you finally develop as a complete player. This year I've been pitching a lot more, so I've

SCL | PAGE 9

Leaders Hold Spots In Amateur Baseball Poll

WATERTOWN — Alexandria and the Sioux Falls Brewers continue to lead their respective divisions this week in the South Dakota amateur baseball poll.

Alexandria is No. 1 in Class B and the Brewers No. 1 in Class A.

The final poll of the 2013 season will be released next week.

Here is this week's complete poll:
 • Class A — 1. Sioux Falls Brewers; 2. Renner Monarchs; 3. Sioux Falls Saints; 4. Yankton; 5. Pierre. Also receiving votes — Vermillion Red Sox.
 • Class B — 1. Alexandria; 2. Canova; 3. Crofton, Neb.; 4. (Tie) Madison and Parkston Mudcats; 6. Dell Rapids PBR; 7. Dimock-Emery; 8. Clark; 9. Wynot, Neb.; 10. (Tie) Harrisburg and Garretson. Also receiving votes — Tabor, Salem, Britton and Larchwood, Iowa.

USD Volleyball To Visit Four Tourneys, Iowa State

VERMILLION — Tournaments hosted by Missouri, Washington State, Montana State and Wichita State, and a Summit League schedule that starts at home against defending champion Fort Wayne highlight the 2013 University of South Dakota volleyball schedule released Tuesday by head coach Matt Houk.

In addition to the four tournaments, the Coyotes open at home against North Dakota Sept. 16, host rivals South Dakota State and North Dakota State at the beginning of November and travel to Ames to take on the Iowa State Cyclones Nov. 5.

In addition to Iowa

State, USD will face NCAA tournament participants Wichita State, Hawai'i and Creighton during a two-day tournament in Wichita, Kan., Sept. 20-21. Iowa State and Wichita State advanced to the round of 16 last year. All four teams were ranked in the final top-25 poll.

South Dakota opens the 2013 campaign against Idaho State on Aug. 30 in Columbia, Mo. A match against tournament host Missouri follows later that afternoon. Matches versus Arkansas State and Pittsburgh the next day will round out the opening weekend.

USD will compete at the

Washington State Tournament on Sept. 6-7 and at the Montana State Tournament on Sept. 13-14.

The Coyotes host five of their first seven Summit League matches with the league opener against Fort Wayne taking place on Sept. 27. The first league road trip will start Oct. 4 at North Dakota State with a match at South Dakota State the next day. USD will host South Dakota State on Nov. 1 and North Dakota State on Nov. 3 to wrap up the home schedule.

The top four teams in league play will make the Summit League Tournament starting Nov. 21 in Indianapolis.

North Takes Girls' All-Star Game

ABERDEEN — The North all-stars outscored the South Squad 19-10 in the third quarter to rally to a 62-57 victory in the South Dakota High School Coaches Association girls' basketball All-Star Game, July 16 in Aberdeen.

Chynna Stevens of Clark-Willow Lake scored 17 points to lead the North squad. Sami Knecht (Aberdeen Central) posted eight points and nine rebounds. Mount Marty recruit Haley Froelich scored two points in the win.

Mitchell's Kristen Sabers led the South squad with 14 points. Centerville standout and MMC recruit Kieran O'Malley finished with 13 points. Also among area athletes, Erica Herrold (Parkston) scored seven points, Alyson Johnsen (Beresford) scored five points, and Kelsey Fitzgerald (Yankton) and Dina Soulek (Freeman) scored two points each. MMC volleyball recruit Allison Cross (Tri-Valley) scored six points.

AVON — The Yankton Tappers jumped out to a 10-0 lead and coasted to a 10-4 victory over Avon in South Central League amateur baseball action on Tuesday.

Yankton's Josh Cleveland went the distance on the mound, and helped his own cause with three hits and three runs scored. Nik Davis, Heath Arens, Ross Heine and Mike Janish each had two hits, with Davis recording a home run and Heine and Janish each posting doubles. Trey Krier and Tate Bruckner added hits, with Krier also stealing two bases.

Marshall Cihak had

three of Avon's eight hits. Jesse Hajek took the loss.

Yankton hosts Tabor on Thursday, with the Tappers celebrating "Fan Appreciation Night" in conjunction with the game. Avon travels to Wynot on Thursday.

YANKTON — 214 030 000 — 10 13 3
 AVON — 000 000 232 — 4 8 2
 Josh Cleveland and Ross Heine; Jesse Hajek, Logan Tyz (4), Nick Hoxia (8) and Zach London

Junior Legion

S.F. West 1-4,
 Yankton 0-5

SIoux FALLS — Yankton split with Sioux Falls

BALL | PAGE 9

Baseball: Tappers Win 10-4 At Avon



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Lakers pitcher Nate Stephenson sends the ball home during the opening game of a VFW Teener baseball doubleheader with Sioux Falls West on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Field. Results of the game were not available at presstime.