

S.D. ASA State ‘B’ Tourney



Yankton Crush players run off the field prior to a game in the Yankton Girls' Softball Association Invitational earlier this season. Yankton's Crush, Xtreme and Shamrocks are headed west for the South Dakota Amateur Softball Association's girls' fastpitch state tournament for 'B' division, beginning today in Rapid City.

5 Selected For S.D. Amateur Baseball Hall

WATERTOWN — Five former standouts will be inducted into the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 2013.

The new inductees — Perry Danforth of Huron, Billy McMacken of Brookings, Mark Ripperda of Larchwood (Iowa) and brothers Chuck and Dave Sendelbach, who spent most of their amateur careers as staples for the Renner Monarchs.

The quintet will be honored on Saturday, Aug. 17 during the final week of the 2013 South Dakota Amateur Baseball Tournament in Sioux Falls and will be inducted into the hall of fame during a banquet scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Crooks Town Hall.

Their biographies and photos will go on display at the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame building in Lake Norden.

More information on the hall of fame banquet will be announced as details are finalized.

Here is a brief biography on each on the new inductees:

Perry Danforth

The Huron native's amateur career spanned three decades, but was broken up with two summers playing in the Basin League and five years in the Milwaukee Brewers organization.

In all, he played 13 seasons of amateur baseball in South Dakota and participated in the state tournament each of those 13 years. He played one season with Woonsocket in 1970 and one season with the Huron Merchants after completing his professional career. He spent five seasons with Huron Porter Ford and his final six years with the Huron Old Mill Sixers before retiring at the age of 45.

A left-handed hitter with a lightning quick bat not only hit for average and power, but also was a talented defensive middle infielder.

His highlights included making the Class A All-Tournament team with Huron Porter Ford and going 5-for-5 with two home runs and six runs batted in as a pickup player for the Huron Merchants in a state-tournament game against Rapid City Gregs.

Danforth also batted third and played shortstop on the South Dakota Over-40 team that won the Men's Senior Baseball World Series title in 1993.

Billy McMacken

The Brookings native spent all of his baseball career playing in his hometown, including a glorious collegiate career as a hitter and pitcher at South Dakota State University — where he played in all 180 games, batted .390 with 42 home runs and 220 RBIs and also notched 23 career victories.

His bat and arm continued to be noted weapons during his 25-year amateur career (1984-2009) with the Brookings Cubs, where he tallied 168 pitching wins and smacked 240 home runs. He played in nine state Class A championship games, six of which Brookings won (1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002) and earned most valuable player honors three times.

McMacken clubbed 17 homers in state-tournament play and was the winning pitcher in three state championship games. On the mound, he recorded a 34-game winning streak from 1997-2000 and tossed 27 shutouts, two no-hitters and four one-hitters.

He also managed to the Brookings Cubs during each of their state championship seasons, coached Brookings to the 2001 state Class A high school championship and the Brookings Bombers to the 2010 state Class AA 13-14 VFW title.

Mark Ripperda

Ripperda dedicated nearly 40 years of his life to amateur baseball in Larchwood (Iowa), playing his entire career with Larchwood from 1966-1986 and managing the team from 1980-2003.

Despite hitting only one career home run, Ripperda batted over .340 during his

3 Yankton Teams Head West

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Three teams from Yankton — the Xtreme, Crush and Shamrocks — will compete in the 'B' Division portion of the South Dakota Amateur Softball Association's state girls' fastpitch tournament, beginning today (Friday) in Rapid City.

The Xtreme will compete in the 14-under age group, with both the Crush and Shamrocks competing in 12-under.

Teams in the 'A' and 'C' divisions competed July 12-14 in Sioux Falls. This marks the first year of a split-site S.D. state girls' softball tournament.

Here is a look at the Yankton teams competing this weekend. The tournament is being held at the Parkview softball complex in Rapid City.

Xtreme

For a team on the younger end of the 14-under division, the Yankton Xtreme has held its own, posting a 26-25 record. The team has earned top-three finishes in five different tournaments, including a title in a tournament at LeMars, Iowa, on July 13.

"I've been happy with the girls," said coach Kim Velk. "We played a lot of second-year 14s and some 16-year-old teams. We'd rather challenging games than easy wins. We've seen tough teams, and we haven't backed down."

Part of what has helped the team's success is a strong pitching staff. The Xtreme boast four pitchers: Emily Bye, Holly Mines, Kara Ulmer and Bailey Peterka.

"We have a good pitching staff," Velk said. "All four can throw well."

The squad's experience together has also helped, Velk said.

"The majority of these players have been together for three years," she said. "We have good communication. We make sure we never have a silent field."

The Xtreme have also shown determination on their strong finish.

"We have a lot of fight,"



LEFT: Yankton Xtreme's Traia Hubbard takes a cut during a game in the YGSA Invitational earlier this season. RIGHT: Yankton Shamrocks' Brooklyn Bernatow follows through on a swing during a game in the YGSA Invitational earlier this season.



Velk said. "We're coming off a championship at LeMars in which we had two games where we came from behind to win.

"We want to see the girls continue to fight to the final minute, to the final inning."

Alix Peterka (.330, 7 doubles, 20 RBI) and Madie Cordell (.323, 4 doubles, 9 RBI) have handled the catching duties, with Traia Hubbard (.345, 6 doubles, 4 triples, 30 RBI), Bailey Peterka (.372, 11 RBI), Cordell, Lexie McCorkell (.333, 4 doubles, 3 triples, 1 HR, 8 RBI), Madyson Gilbertson (.344, 2 doubles, 9 RBI) and Mines (.385, 1 double, 3 RBI) holding down the infield.

Emily Oswald (.200), Bye (.422, 3 doubles, 3 RBI), Ulmer (.403, 7 doubles, 14 RBI), Grace Roy (.211, 2 RBI) and Taylor Weber (.313, 1 double, 9 RBI) have anchored the outfield. Merlye Mason has returned from injury, and has two hits and three walks in limited action.

Besides being excited for state, many members of the team are excited for their first trip to the Black Hills.

"We're definitely excited to play in a park we've never played in before," Velk said. "It will be different going to Rapid City, but we're excited to see new teams, see Mount Rushmore and do some 'vacation' things as well."

The Xtreme open against the Heat in a 7 p.m. (CDT) game today.

Crush

In their second year in the 12-under division, the Yankton Crush (23-25-2) made great strides, according to coach Mark Vellek.

"We've come a long way this year," he said.

The Crush have relied on a trio of talented pitchers, Bridget Nolz, Payton Vellek and Bailey Sejnoha.

"Bridget and Payton have two different styles. Bridget throws harder. Payton is good at throwing strikes," coach Vellek said. "Bailey's been a nice addition. She's taken the pressure off the other two."

Handling that pitching staff has been catcher Brooke Madsen, a backstop that coach Vellek holds in high regard.

"Brooke's been my catcher for four years," he said. "In my eyes she's one of the best catchers in the state."

Elsie Marquardt and Tia Vlasman share first base duties, with Rachel Hamburg and Vellek splitting time at second. Nolz, Sejnoha and Audrey Ruda have shared duties at shortstop. Megan McCorkell, who also backs up Madsen behind the plate, and Chloe Koletzky handle duties

at third.

In the outfield, Rylee Audrus and Vlasman anchor left field, Ruda plays at center, and Karlie Freng and Larkyn Mason split time in right.

The Crush head west, excited about their opportunities.

"The kids are excited to come out and play, see a lot of different teams," coach Vellek said. "It will be nice to see what West River holds for us."

If the Crush can live up to their name, coach Vellek feels the team will have a chance to make a long run.

"If we can hit the ball like we've been hitting the past couple of weeks, and keep our mistakes down, we'll progress quite well," he said.

The Crush face the ST20 SWAT in a 1 p.m. CDT contest.

Shamrocks

While the Shamrocks have not had luck in terms of injuries, the squad has still held its own this year, boasting a 18-20-2 record.

"We've struggled here and there, but the girls have done well," said Shamrocks coach Brian McGinnis. "We have three girls that could still be playing 10-under, so we're on the younger end of the division, but we've done pretty well."

One thing that has helped

the team this season is its basic approach.

"We've really improved on our fundamentals," McGinnis said.

Tori Herrboldt and Baylee Kenney have split much of the pitching duties. Ivy Mines has handled the duties behind the plate, with fellow catch Noel Kusek battling injuries.

Gabby Pietila (1B), Hannah Muth (2B), Lauren Eidsness (2B), Brooklyn Bernatow (SS) and Lilly Ryken (3B/SS) have handled the infield duties, with Mines and Kusek also helping out at third. Jessica Reinhardt has been a utility specialist, playing catcher, first, third and center field. Kelsey Oswald and Eidsness have held down outfield positions. Another outfielder, Hailey Reisner, is out due to injuries.

The Shamrocks are one of the younger teams in the division, but hope to be heard.

"We want to make some knows and let people know we have a good program here in Yankton," McGinnis said. "Hopefully we'll be playing on Sunday."

The Shamrocks open against the Storm in a 1 p.m. CDT contest.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek

MMC, USD Earn WBCA Honors

ATLANTA — Several regional women's basketball programs, including Mount Marty College and the University of South Dakota, have been recognized as the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) announced its Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll on Thursday.

MMC ranked ninth in NAIA with a team GPA of 3.498. The Lancers were one of three Great Plains Athletic Conference programs to make the list, with Northwestern (3.553) ranking fifth and Concordia (3.299) ranking 24th. Vanguard University led NAIA with a 3.61 team GPA.

The Coyotes placed 24th in the Division I rankings with a GPA of 3.368 to make the list for a fifth straight season. USD, Oakland, South Dakota State and North Dakota all represented the Summit League in the top 25 this season, while league newcomer Denver also made the list. Utah Valley had the nation's top GPA at 3.639.

South Dakota has placed as high as fourth in the rankings during the five-year streak (2011-12).

SDSU and DePaul were

the only Division I programs to make the list and earn a NCAA Tournament berth in 2012-13.

Wayne State (Neb.) ranked 25th in NCAA Division II with a team GPA of 3.444.

The WBCA annually recognizes the top-25 GPAs for programs at the NCAA Division I, Division II, Division III, NAIA and the junior college/community college levels. This is the 18th year the WBCA has had the honor roll.

Ohio Dominican (3.699) led NCAA Division II, with Gustavus Adolphus (3.6) leading Division III. Snow College's 3.583 led all junior and community colleges.

A team's GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of hours attempted by all team members (semesters or quarters) that the season spans. Weighted grades are converted to a 4.0 scale and rounded to the nearest thousandth of a point. Teams are nominated for the honor by a WBCA-member head coach. A team must have a 3.0 or better GPA to be nominated.

Black Sox Split With Sioux Falls South

The Yankton Black Sox split a hard-fought VFW Teener baseball double-header with Sioux Falls South on Thursday at Yankton's Riverside Field.

South made a diving catch to end the game with the bases loaded to claim a 4-2 victory in the opener.

Bradey Sorensen and Mason Townsend each had two hits for Yankton. Sheldon Gant posted a double. Tyler Guthmiller and Colin Muth each drove in runs for the Black Sox. Muth took the loss.

The Black Sox rallied in the nightcap to claim a 7-6 victory in eight innings.

Gant drove in the winning run by being hit by a pitch.

Guthmiller had two hits, and Muth had a hit and two RBI to lead Yankton. Gant, Townsend, Sorensen, Alex Withrow, Levi Schmidt and Reid Sawatzke each had hits in the victory.



Yankton Black Sox shortstop Reid Sawatzke, right, reaches down to tag Sioux Falls South runner Charley Illg during their VFW Teener opener Thursday at Riverside Field. Illg was safe on the play.