



P&D FILE PHOTO  
**Jimmy Butler sends a shot out of the rough towards the green on Hole No. 10 during the final round of last year's First Dakota Fox Run Open in Yankton. The tournament, which has been renamed the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am, begins today (Friday).**

## Fox Run's Pro-Am Gets New Look, Name

### Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am Begins Today

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The Fox Run Pro-Am has a new title sponsor and a new name.

An annual stop on the summer-long Dakotas Tour, the 3-day tournament — which begins today (Friday) — is now called the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am and has a new charitable mission.

“Getting Thrivent on board changed this event one hundred and eighty degrees,” said Kevin Doby, PGA Head Pro at Fox Run Golf Course. “Now it’s something where we can give back.”

Money raised from two events — a Wednesday corporate challenge and Thursday auction — will be donated to the Yankton Sack Pack Program and the Yankton Area Special Olympics.

“Getting something like

this off the ground is so hard,” Doby said. “We were looking for a title sponsor, like all these events do, and Thrivent seemed very interested.”

A number of other Yankton and Vermillion-based businesses lended their support, Doby added.

Of the 60 pros entered in the field — which includes a total of 208 golfers per day — is defending champion Andre Metzger of Sioux Falls.

Three other South Dakotans will also compete in the professional division, with Travis Stockholm (Springfield), Tom Carlson (Sioux Falls) and Travis Slaathaug (Wilmot).

Also among the field of pros is Brandon Crick of McCook, Neb.

The 25-year-old former University of Nebraska golfer enters his third year at the Fox Run Pro-Am, and has already had quite a summer. He qualified and competed in the U.S. Open, held last month in Pennsylvania.

“I’m starting to hit the ball pretty well. My game’s been

about as good as it’s ever been,” he said.

The layout of Fox Run should play to his strengths, Crick added, pointing out that the course is “more open” and is “better for a good wedge player.”

Tad Leistico of Omaha, Neb., was last year’s amateur gross champion and returns to Yankton to defend his title.

The former pro golfer on the Dakotas Tour from 2003-05, Leistico has a longer history with Yankton than many of the other pros do — he called it a “golf town.”

“One of the things I’ve really enjoyed is the people,” said Leistico, who has competed in both the Fox Run and Hillcrest Pro-Ams a handful of times. “They’re very inviting and friendly, and really that’s what the pro-am is all about, for the ams to catch up with some of the pros.”

A native of Worthington, Minn., Leistico also added that he attended boy scout camps in Yankton during his childhood.

“That’s why Yankton is a

little more special than the other stops,” he said.

The chance for local and area amateurs to golf alongside pros is naturally a unique experience, Doby said.

“They absolutely love that, knowing they get to play with those guys,” he said. “It’s an eye-opener for so many of these guys; to see the pros up close.”

Tim Kunick, a Fox Run and Hillcrest Pro-Am regular, is now on the Web.com (formerly Nationwide) Tour, and Doby said there are about two or three other Yankton pro-am alums to have made it to the PGA Tour.

“This tour has some value to these guys,” Doby said. “It’s a great proving ground. They can move up the ranks here.”

Tee times begin at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. today and Saturday, while Sunday’s pairings will be based on performances from the first two rounds.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## Baseball | S.D. VFW Teener Class AA 15-16 Minors

# Black Sox Set To Host State

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

A number of VFW Teener championship signs cover the north wall of Yankton’s Riverside Field. Two of those signs are filled with names that dot the Yankton Black Sox 2013 roster.

With the South Dakota VFW Teener 15-16 Year-Old Class AA Minors Tournament coming to that field this year, the members of the Black Sox excited for the chance to do something few Yankton teams have had the chance to do.

Win a state title on their home field.

The tournament begins today (Friday) at Riverside, with seven teams coming in to stand in the Black Sox’s way.

One of the Yankton baseball teams that came close to winning a title at Riverside was the American Legion squad two years ago, when Post 12 made an unexpected run to the title game.

This year’s Black Sox (29-8) were on the Reds that year, and many of them spent that week at Riverside watching the older kids make that surge.

“A lot of them are talking about the Legion state tournament two years ago,” said Yankton Black Sox co-coach Josh Teichroew. “They’re really excited, though not about the field work.”

As with every other baseball team that shares Riverside, the Black Sox will be responsible for field maintenance when they play at home or, in this case, host a tournament.

“Hopefully they’re making sure that, if it gets hot, they’re staying in the shade when they can,” Teichroew said. “Hopefully when they’re not at the park, they’re resting.”

“It’s going to be a long three days. They need to be ready for every moment of it.”

Being “ready for every moment” is something that can be traced back to their days with the Red Sox travel team, according to Black Sox co-coach Derrik Nelson, who has been with this group of kids since they entered the



ABOVE: The Yankton Black Sox VFW Teener baseball team huddles up between innings during a home game earlier this year. The Black Sox, most of which were members of consecutive state VFW Teener baseball championship teams at lower levels, look to win another as they host the South Dakota VFW Teener Class AA 15-16 Minors baseball tournament, beginning today (Friday) at Yankton's Riverside Field.

LEFT: Yankton's Mason Townsend sends the ball home during a home game earlier this season. Townsend is one of six Yankton pitchers with three or more victories on the season.

P&D FILE PHOTOS

## S.D. State Class AA 15-16 Year-Old Minors Baseball Tournament

July 26-28 at Yankton

### Friday's Games

Sioux Falls Central vs. Yankton, 9 a.m.  
Brandon Valley vs. Sioux Falls South, 11:15 a.m.  
Brookings vs. Watertown, 1:30 p.m.  
Aberdeen vs. Pierre, 3:45 p.m.  
Brookings vs. Sioux Falls Central, 6 p.m.  
Watertown vs. Yankton, 8:15 p.m.

### Saturday's Games

Aberdeen vs. Sioux Falls South, 9 a.m.  
Brandon Valley vs. Pierre, 11:15 a.m.  
Sioux Falls Central vs. Watertown, 1:30 p.m.  
Pierre vs. Sioux Falls South, 3:45 p.m.  
Aberdeen vs. Brandon Valley, 6 p.m.  
Brookings vs. Yankton, 8:15 p.m.

### Sunday's Games

SEVENTH: Pool A 4th vs. Pool B 4th, 9 a.m.  
FIFTH: Pool A 3rd vs. Pool B 3rd, 11:15 a.m.  
SEMIFINALS: Pool A 1st vs. Pool B 2nd, 1:30 p.m.  
Pool B 1st vs. Pool A 2nd, 3:45 p.m.  
CHAMPIONSHIP: Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.

## Tabor, Vermillion Begin State 'B' Legion Play Today

### Tabor Returns To State After One Year Away

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

TABOR — The lay-off this time around was not as long for the Tabor legion baseball team.

Two years ago when Tabor qualified for state for the first time in 23 years, it took third place. And then last year, Tabor did not reach the state tournament.

This year, Tabor (11-7) is back and will play in the South Dakota State Class B American Legion Baseball Tournament in Webster. Tabor

opens with Milbank today (Friday) at 5 p.m.

“We don’t have as much overall talent as last year, but they’re shining when they need to shine,” said Tabor head coach Ken Ranek, whose team beat Corsica 7-4 in last Saturday’s Region 4B final.

“If we could have the whole team step up at the same time, we’d be something really special.”

When Tabor advanced to the state tournament back in 2011, it eventually finished third that year.

Last year’s Region

4B representative, Corsica, beat out Tabor for the state berth and also took third place.

The goal for 2013 is to avoid that number, Ranek said.

“Third seems to be the number for our region,” he said. “We’ll try to do at least one better.”

Although its pitching has been the key all summer, Tabor displayed some offensive clout in the Region 4B Tournament in Platte. Tabor won by scores of 10-7, 12-3 and 4-3 before

### Post 1 Looks To Add To Strong Resume

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

The players on the Vermillion Post 1 baseball team have plenty of trophies on their mantel: 13-14 and 15-16 year-old Class A VFW Teener champs, and Class B high school champs, to name a few.

Now the squad looks to add the missing piece: Class B American Legion title.

Vermillion takes a 30-7 record into this week’s S.D. State Class B American Legion Baseball Tournament, which begins today (Friday) in Webster.

“This is a team that expects to win and works hard to make it happen. They have a ton of experience in big games,” said Vermillion head coach Jason Gault. “That’s a credit to

the coaches that had them earlier in their careers.”

The squad’s success has been built on pitching and defense, Gault said.

“If you can keep it close, you have a chance to win,” he said. “We’re not full of power hitters, so it makes it a lot easier if we’re not chasing runs because of walks and errors.”

Collin Bertram has served as a bonified ace for the pitching staff. The Mount Marty College recruit has gone 11-0 this summer after a 3-1 spring high school season, boasting an earned run average of 1.76 and striking out 59 batters over 62 1/3 innings.

“Bertram leads our staff,” Gault said. “Nile Morecraft (6-0, 1 save, 1.91

### Sioux Falls Central

RECORD: 8-22  
PITCHING LEADERS: None listed. Coach noted that all 14 players on the roster have pitched this season.

OFFENSIVE LEADERS: None listed

WHAT DOES YOUR TEAM NEED TO DO TO BE SUCCESSFUL THIS WEEKEND?: “Consistent play. We’ve had games where the pitching was fine, but no hitting or defense; other games where we defended well and/or hit well, but couldn’t throw strikes. If we piece it all together at the same time, we have a solid chance for success.”

### Watertown

NICKNAME: Red Sox  
RECORD: 6-20  
PITCHING LEADERS: Dylan Wirkus (40 IP, 27K); Logan Busch (3.75 ERA)  
OFFENSIVE LEADERS: Connor DeJong (.390); Mason Sheehan (.347)  
WHAT DOES YOUR TEAM NEED TO DO TO BE SUCCESSFUL THIS WEEKEND?: “We need to avoid giving