



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Andre Metzger chips on to the 9th green Friday during the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course.

Pro-Am: Local Trio Among Amateur Leaders

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

In a field that includes over 200 professional and amateur golfers, a trio of men with area ties set themselves up for what could be a memorable weekend.

All that remains is a repeat performance over the next two days for Adam Walsh and Arron Lickteig.

Walsh, a Yankton native, shot a 72, as did fellow Yankton resident Jay Batcheller. Lickteig, a graduate this spring from Freeman High School, carded a 71 on Friday in first-round action at the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton.

"I really enjoy this tournament," Walsh said after his round. "It's on my home course, so I've gotten really accustomed to the greens and how they play."

Walsh, a 2007 Yankton High School and 2011 Augustana College graduate, lives in Yankton and works at Home Federal Bank. He said his goal for Friday's opening round was a 71.

"I definitely had my chances at it," he said. "I missed a couple putts that could have brought me lower, but I made a few that I didn't expect. It always evens out."

For Lickteig, one of the younger golfers in the field, it was also a rather consistent day. With temperatures barely reaching 70 degrees and persistent wind gusts, his morning round went better than he said he expected.

"The conditions were tough, and the pin positions were tricky," the former South Dakota high school Class B champion said. "You had to play more cautious out there."

"I just tried to get it on the greens and give myself a good shot."

Last year's amateur champion Tad Leistico shot a 70 on Friday, setting him up in good shape for a possible repeat.

"I still like my chances," Walsh said. "It was a grind, but just another day of golf."

Likewise for Lickteig, who later said he plans to attend the University of Wyoming this fall to golf for the Cowboys. His decision, made this spring, was based mostly because of his interest in pursuing petroleum engineering in college.

"I definitely feel good about where I'm at," he said of his chances in the pro-am.

On the professional side, Ian Hessels and Peter Lansburg each shot a 67 on Friday and hold the lead entering today's (Saturday) second round. Andre Metzger, last year's pro champ at Fox Run, said the conditions Friday might life tough for everyone.

"The course played tough today," he said. "I would think a 67 is about as good as it'll be out here. The green speed and the wind makes for a brutal combination."

New Title Sponsor Raises \$15K

In the days leading up to the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am (formerly named the Fox Run Pro-Am), the new title sponsors raised \$15,000 between two events, according to W.D. Metheny.

Metheny, a financial consultant with Thrivent Financial of Yankton, said the money was raised during a corporate golf challenge on Wednesday and an auction Thursday night.

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Iverson Inks International Contract

Turkish Squad Signs Yankton Native, Celtics Draftee

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Colton Iverson signed a contract that would bring him to Turkey, but the door is not completely closed on him playing with the Boston Celtics this coming season, according to his agent.

A Yankton native who was acquired by the Boston Celtics after being drafted in the second round of last month's NBA Draft with pick No. 53, Iverson inked a 1-year deal to play for Besiktas of the Turkish League — which Adam Pensack, Iverson's agent, called "arguably the best league in Europe."

Signing with the Turkish team does not eliminate the possibility that Iverson won't return to the Celtics, Pensack said. If Boston makes a trade by next Thursday to clear a roster space, Iverson could rejoin the team. If not, Pensack said he was certain Iverson would be on the Celtics roster for 2014-15.

"We are able to get out of that deal for the next few days, if things change with the Celtics roster," Pensack told the Press & Dakotan on Friday night. "It's contingent upon them unloading certain players."

"If that happens, we would be in business with Boston this year."

Iverson did not return phone messages Friday night.

The 7-foot Iverson — a former Colorado State standout — averaged 5.0 points and 5.4 rebounds per game for Boston during the NBA Summer League, held earlier this month in Orlando, Fla. On a roster filled with big men, the Celtics would need to make necessary moves for Iverson to eventually play in the NBA in 2013-14.

"We spoke with Boston about this; they've been in the loop about it," Pensack said. "They said, 'Gosh, that'd be the kind of team we would want you to go to, if things don't work out here.'" Besiktas, which is based

in Istanbul, Turkey, made international headlines in 2011 when former New Jersey Nets all-star guard Deron Williams signed with Besiktas during the NBA lockout.

If Iverson does end up in Turkey, he would be one of the focal points of the team, Pensack said — he declined to discuss further contract details, saying only the amount is "substantial."

"If it's not going to be the NBA this year, this is as about as good as it gets," he said. "It's rare to make this kind of money with this kind of team as a rookie."

Rookie or not, the Celtics remain high on Iverson's po-

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Home Cooking



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton players mob teammate Sheldon Gant at home plate after Gant's home run in the Black Sox's 23-9 victory over Sioux Falls Central in the opening game of the South Dakota VFW Teener Class AA 15-16 Minors Baseball Tournament on Friday at Yankton's Riverside Field. Yankton's late game, with Watertown, started at 9:45 p.m. and was not completed by presstime.

AA Varsity Minors | State Tourney Notebook

Field, Volunteers Keep Events In Yankton

BY NICK ROBINSON & JAMES D. CIMBUREK
sports@yankton.net

For the second time in three years the Yankton Baseball Association (YBA) and the town of Yankton are hosting a state baseball tournament.

In order to host a state tournament, officials from each town go to the VFW winter meetings and are required to apply for each age group.

"What they try to do is circulate the tournaments around the state," former YBA commissioner Doug Nelson said Friday during the 15-16 VFW Minors State Tournament at Riverside Field.

The coaches hosting the tournament are in charge of the preliminary with the other coaches and are responsible to keep each

other up to date with information.

Each team usually has a "team mom" that helps all year set up rides to away games and in this case, helps assign volunteers to assignments like: Official scorer, announcers, and front gate.

A key component all summer is keeping the field in top-notch shape.

The past couple of weeks Yankton baseball has put more dirt in areas, edged the baselines, added agrolime, and evened out the field.

"The players and coaches do the majority of the work," Nelson said. "Also, the city does a good job helping. It is a big community effort."

State baseball tournaments help the smaller



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Watertown pitcher Cole Wirkus sends the ball home during the Red Sox's matchup with Brookings at the South Dakota VFW Teener Class AA Varsity Minors Baseball Tournament on Friday at Yankton's Riverside Field. Watertown won 7-4

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Baseball: Walter Walk-Off Give Post 12 Juniors Win

Vermillion, Tabor Legion Squads Suffer 1-Run Losses At State B

STIOUX FALLS — Yankton rallied from a 2-0 deficit to beat Pierre 3-2 in the South Dakota Junior Legion Qualifier on Friday at Harmodon Park.

Adam Walter completed the comeback for the Post 12 juniors, singling home Austin Johnson with the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh.

Johnson finished with three hits and three stolen bases for Yankton. Walter and Brad Ulmer also had hits. Colton Diefenderfer and Landon Withrow drew bases-loaded walks in the sixth as Yankton tied the game.

Brady Hale picked up the win in relief of Johnson, who allowed two runs over five innings of work.

Yankton faces Watertown in the battle of unbeatens

today (Saturday) at 1 p.m.

State B Miner-McCook 6, Vermillion 5

WEBSTER — Miner-McCook made the most of its six hits, edging Vermillion 6-5 in the opening game of the South Dakota State Class B American Legion Baseball Tournament on Friday at Webster's Bob Wiley Field.

Miner-McCook jumped out to a 4-0 lead after two innings. After Vermillion tied the game with two runs in the fifth and another in the sixth, M-M scored two more in the seventh to take the lead for good.

Tyler Genzlinger had three hits, including a triple, two runs scored and a RBI to lead

Miner-McCook. Zach Bies had a hit and two RBI in the win. Chayse Meierkort and Nathan Garrett each doubled and singled, and Tanner Settles and Tanner Anderson had two hits each for Vermillion, which outhit M-M 11-6.

Marshall Miller pitched six innings for the win, with Greg Mehlbrech going the final three innings for the save. Garrett took the loss, allowing one earned run in the final five innings.

Milbank 5, Tabor 4

WEBSTER — Milbank rallied from a 4-0 deficit, scoring four in the eighth and one in the ninth to beat Tabor 5-4 in the first round of the South Dakota State Class B American Legion Baseball Tournament on Friday at Webster's

Bob Wiley Field.

Matthew Stephan doubled and singled, driving in two, and Zachary Waletich had two hits and scored the game-winning run for Milbank. Landon Hammer tripled and Jesse Peschong doubled in the win.

Scott Wieseler had three hits for Tabor. Ross Kortan and Blase Vanecek had two hits each.

Justin Ackerman, who pitched two innings of shutout relief behind Tyler Boerger, picked up the win. Kortan took the loss, striking out 10 while walking one and allowing three earned runs.

Milbank advances to face Flandreau, while Tabor battles Winner-Colome in an elimination game today (Saturday).

Flandreau 7, Winner-Colome 1

WEBSTER — Flandreau scored four runs in the first and didn't look back, beating Winner-Colome 7-1 in the opening round on Friday.

Mitchell Hansen had three hits and Jacob Patterson had a triple and four RBI to lead Flandreau. Austin Ross doubled twice, and Kyle Scofield added two hits in the win.

Sam Naasz doubled and singled, and Tanner Fritz had two hits for Winner-Colome. Reed Harter tripled in the effort.

Patterson struck out 14 over eight innings for the win. Adam Farner took the loss, striking out five in the complete game effort.

Flandreau advances to face Milbank, while Tabor plays Winner-Colome in an elimination game today (Saturday).

Amateur District 6B

Freeman 6, Wynot 2

SCOTLAND — The second game of the District 6B Amateur Tournament saw a mild upset, as No. 7 Scotland upended No. 2 Wynot 6-2 on Friday night in Scotland.

Jake Weier, Brett Scherschligt, Geoffrey Pfeiffer and Nathan Weier all had two hits for the winning Black Sox, who advance to face the winner of Menno and Crofton on Tuesday night.

Scherchligt got the win for Freeman.

In the loss for the Expos, Chase Rolfs had four hits, Eric Hames added two hits and Brett Wiebelhaus took the loss.

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Brett Scherschligt and Allan Scherschligt; Brett Wiebelhaus, Lee Helmes (3) and Scott Heine