

Back In Black ... And On Top

Yankton Players Win VFW Title For Third Straight Season

BY NICK ROBINSON
sports@yankton.net

For the third consecutive year, the same group of players has won a state title for the Yankton Baseball Association.

also

Find Over 2,400 Photos From The State Tourney Online at **spotted.yankton.net**

The most recent was on Sunday as the Yankton Black Sox capped off an undefeated run in the 2013 15-16 'Minors' State Tournament at Riverside Field in Yankton.

The Black Sox defeated the Brandon Valley Border Cats 11-3 to clinch the title.

"Wow, this feels really good," Yankton third baseman Sheldon Gant said. "It doesn't even seem real yet. During the last couple of innings it kind of hit me that we had a really good shot at winning this."

Yankton came out of the gate roaring, scoring seven runs in the first inning to set the tone.

Lead-off batter Hunter Ryan started things off with a single, then proceeded to steal second and third base. Pitcher Mason Townsend helped his cause in the first inning with a two RBI double. Colin Muth, Alex Withrow, and Brady Sorensen all contributed with hits in the mon-strous first inning.

Yankton capitalized on mental errors in the first to give them a commanding 7-0 lead after the top of the first inning.

The Border Cats came right back at Yankton with an aggressive first inning with the bats. However, a throwing error got Brandon Valley on the scoreboard at 7-1.

After the first inning, Yankton did not allow Brandon Valley to have any life.

In the third inning Muth slapped a single up the middle to bring the game to an 8-



Yankton Black Sox players make sure co-coach Derrik Nelson gets wet, getting him with both a water cooler and a hose, after clinching the South Dakota VFW Teener Class AA Varsity Minors Baseball Tournament title with an 11-3 victory over Brandon Valley on Sunday in Yankton. This group of young men has won three straight titles

Weekend Recap: Black Sox, Brandon Valley Advance To Finals

The Yankton Black Sox advanced to the championship of the South Dakota VFW Teener Class AA Varsity Minors Baseball Tournament with an 11-1 rout of Sioux Falls South in the semifinals on Sunday afternoon.

Colin Muth helped his own cause with a 3-4 effort at the plate, driving in two runs. Alex Withrow had three hits, including two doubles, and four RBI. Hunter Ryan had three hits, including two doubles, three RBI and two runs scored. Sheldon Gant doubled and singled, driving in a run, in the win.

Dylan Tams had a hit and scored South's run.

Muth allowed two hits in the five-inning contest, striking out three, for the win. Charley Illg took the loss.

Brandon Valley 1, Watertown 0

Brandon Valley's Taylor Gannon tossed a complete game shutout, striking out four, as the Border Cats earned a spot in the finals with a 1-0 victory over Watertown Sunday afternoon. Watertown's Dylan Wirkus was nearly as effective, striking

out three and allowing one run on two hits in the contest. Parker Grieme's run-scoring double was all Brandon Valley needed. It had only one other hit in the game, as Watertown out-hit the Border Cats 4-2, but committed three errors. Cole Wirkus had two of Watertown's four hits.

Fifth: S.F. Central 7, Aberdeen 6

Sioux Falls Central broke a 6-6 tie by scoring on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh, claiming a 7-6 victory over Aberdeen in the fifth place game on Sunday.

Jimmy Utne doubled and singled, driving in a run, to lead Central. Bo Berke went 2-2 and reached base four times in the win.

Isaac Fredrick went 2-2 with a RBI for Aberdeen. Matt White picked up the win. Bailey Hauge took the loss.

Seventh: Brookings 15, Pierre 11

Parker Todd went 3-4 with a double, four RBI and three runs scored to lead Brookings to a 15-11 victory over Pierre in the seventh place game on Sunday.

Jacob Pharis had two hits, two walks and two RBI for Brookings. Hunter Zink had a hit and three RBI in the victory.

Stephen Rae went 4-5 with two RBI to lead Pierre. Josh Albright went 3-5 with two RBI in the effort.

Matt Mason picked up the win. Albright took the loss.

Pool Play

YANKTON 7, BROOKINGS 6: Yankton rallied from deficits of 3-0 and 5-2 to beat Brookings 7-6 to finish unbeaten in Pool A play at the South Dakota State VFW Teener Baseball Class AA Varsity Minors on Saturday at Yankton's Riverside Field.

Reid Sawatzke went 3-3 with two walks and a RBI for Yankton. Tanner Frick pushed in the game-winning run with a bases-

loaded walk in the seventh.

Carter Krogman went 3-4 with a double and a stolen base for Brookings. Chris Lerdal added two hits and two RBI.

Levi Schmidt allowed three earned runs in the complete game victory. Quentin Mason took the loss.

BRANDON VALLEY 11, ABERDEEN 8: Brandon Valley secured the top spot in Pool B with an 11-8 victory over Aberdeen on Saturday.

Brandon Valley led 8-2 before Aberdeen scored six runs in the top of the fifth to tie the game. The Border Cats responded with three runs in the bottom of the frame to secure the victory.

Cole Christensen went 3-4 with a double and two RBI to lead Brandon Valley. Ethan Homer went 3-5 with two runs scored in the win.

Logan Karst had a hit and three RBI for Aberdeen. Christian Graber picked up the win. Karst took the loss.

S.F. SOUTH 11, PIERRE 1: Charley Illg had two doubles, three RBI and two runs scored to lead Sioux Falls South to an 11-1 victory over Pierre in Pool B play on Saturday.

Dylan Tams had two hits and two runs scored for South. Ryan Scholten added a triple and two RBI in the win.

Jack Wollman and Dustin Van Hunnik had hits for Pierre. Jordan Gesling struck out five in the five-inning complete game win. Hunter Jockheck took the loss.

WATERTOWN 8, S.F. CENTRAL 6: Three different players had two hits each as Watertown edged Sioux Falls Central 8-6 in Pool A play on Saturday afternoon.

Jared Weber went 2-3 with a double and two RBI for Watertown. Connor DeJong and Dylan Wirkus each had two hits and two runs scored, with Wirkus driving in a run and DeJong stealing a base in the win.

Spencer Olson went 2-3 with two runs scored and a RBI for Central. Josh Tomow had a double and a RBI, and Burke Nielsen went 1-1 in the effort.

Josh Fox picked up the win, with Cole Wirkus earning the

save. Nielsen took the loss.

BRANDON VALLEY 23, PIERRE 11: Kyle Horner went 4-5 with a RBI, and Ethan Homer and Kyle Bailey had three hits each as Brandon Valley downed Pierre in Pool B play on Saturday.

Ethan Homer had a triple, a double, a single, four RBI and four runs scored for BV. Bailey scored four runs and drove in a run. Parker Grieme doubled and singled, driving in three. Tyler Hintz had two hits and two RBI in the win.

Jack Wollman and Josh Albright each had a double and two singles for Pierre. Albright also drove in two runs, with Wollman driving in one. Colby Wagoner had a double and two RBI in the effort.

Ethan Homer picked up the win. Wollman took the loss.

S.F. SOUTH 11, ABERDEEN 8: Sioux Falls South's Evan Rasmussen struck out eight in a complete game effort as it beat Aberdeen 11-6 in Pool B play Saturday morning.

Ryan Scholten had two hits and two RBI, and Storm Golan and Charlie Illg had a double, a single and a RBI for South. Cameron Kleinsasser had a hit, three walks and two runs scored in the win.

Logan Karst doubled and singled for Aberdeen. Jonas Hopper added a two-run homer.

Rasmussen allowed two earned runs in the win. Hopper took the loss.

YANKTON 10, WATERTOWN 0: Reid Sawatzke tossed a complete game two-hitter, striking out nine, as Yankton blanked Watertown 10-0 in pool A play late Friday night.

Sawatzke helped his cause, going 2-3 with a double and two RBI. Colin Muth went 3-4 with two RBI. Mason Townsend doubled and singled, driving in three. Sheldon Gant added a steal of home in the victory.

Noah Hanson had both Watertown hits.

Dylan Wirkus took the loss.

Legion Baseball: Yankton Juniors See Season End

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Post 12 junior American Legion baseball squad saw its season end at the hands of Sioux Falls West with an 8-6 decision in the South Dakota Junior Legion Qualifier on Saturday at Harmodon Park.

Yankton committed five errors in the game, but rallied for three runs in the seventh and had the tying run on second base when the game ended.

Ben Cameron had three hits and a run scored, and

Greg Hauer and Brad Ulmer each had two hits and a run scored to lead Yankton. Brady Hale also had two hits. Adam Walter had a double and two RBI, Jordan Lightner had a hit and a run scored, and Landon Withrow added a

hit in the effort.

Hale took the loss.

WATERTOWN 5, YANKTON 2: SIOUX FALLS — Watertown scored five unearned runs on two Yankton errors, beating the Post 12 squad 5-2 on Saturday.

Brad Ulmer had two triples and two runs scored for Yankton. Austin Johnson had a hit and a RBI. Jordan Lightner, Adam Walter, Brady Hale and Colton Diefenderfer added hits.

Greg Hauer took the loss. Hale pitched two in-

nings of scoreless relief.

Watertown advanced to Sunday's championship with the victory. Start time is noon.

S.D. State B Vermillion 16, Milbank 1

WEBSTER — Vermillion Post 1 used big in-

LEGION | PAGE 9

Spitfire Fall At NAFA Tourney

CHASKA, Minn. — The Yankton Spitfire went 1-2 in gold bracket play, ending their run at the NAFA 18-Under girls' softball tournament on Saturday.

The squad went 3-3 in the tournament.

SPITFIRE 8, S.D. FUSION SILVER 5: Andi Sprakel went 4-4 with a double and four RBI to lead Yankton to an opening round victory. Haley Hinseth had two hits and two RBI. Jessica Wirth also had two hits. Karlee Kozak doubled, Abby Schulte and Jaclyn Arens had hits, and Katie Koletzky drove in a run in the victory.

Koletzky earned the win, striking out three.

ST. CLOUD (MINN.) 80, DDDLEYS 10, SPITFIRE 3: Jaclyn Arens and Abby Schulte had RBI singles for Yankton. Andi Sprakel, Brooke Loecker and Taylor Ruby had hits.

Arens took the loss, striking out two in three innings of work.

MINNESOTA MOOSE 9, SPITFIRE 1: Haley Hinseth had a RBI single and Jessica Wirth added a hit for Yankton.

Katie Koletzky took the loss.

David To Get Fewer Cracks At Goliath

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — College football's Davids will get fewer chances to knock off the Go-liaths in the coming years.

Part of the fallout of the sweeping changes coming to college sports will be a decrease in so-called guarantee games in football, where a power conference school pays hundreds of thousands of dollars to have a team from a lesser league play at its stadium.

The result will be far fewer opportunities for embarrassing blowouts (Oklahoma State 84, Savannah State 0) and startling upsets (Appalachian State 34, Michigan 32). Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said it would be good for college football and that he is "not very sympathetic" to the potential loss of revenue to the schools on the receiving end of the checks.

PAYDAY | PAGE 9



Professional Peter Lansburgh swings on the No. 2 fairway Sunday during the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course.

Wins Thrivent Financial Pro-Am 5 Days After Missed Cut

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

For only a handful of days, Peter Lansburgh sure experienced the two extremes of the golf world.

Last Tuesday, he missed the cut at a tournament in Marshall, Minn. Five days later, he was celebrating a win at the Thrivent Financial Charity Pro-Am at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course.

"It's had its ups and downs, that's for sure," he said Sunday evening after winning the professional title by four strokes over two other golfers.

Lansburgh, a 25-year-old from Sacramento, Calif., earned \$7,730 for his victory in the 3-day tournament.

After being tied with Ian Hessels at 144 after two rounds, Lansburgh carded a 70 on Sunday — Hessels shot a 74 and Christopher Evans also finished at 208.

There wasn't much pressure for Lansburgh, who shot a 32 on the front nine Sunday and built a substantial lead on the back nine.

"I was so exhausted after Marshall; felt burned out," he said. "After a couple days of rest, and actually staying in one location, I felt confident."

Even without hole-to-hole knowledge of where he stood,

also

Dakotas Tour Makes Its Annual 10-Day Layover In Yankton. **PAGE 1**

lead was, but I felt pretty comfortable," he said. "They don't have any leaderboards out there, so you don't have too much of an update."

Sometimes a leaderboard isn't necessary to know where you stand, Hessels said.

"I had a rough start; not the way you want to get going," said the Dakotas Tour veteran, who was four over par after the first six holes.

"It was nice to be back in the hunt, though," he said. "It had been a while. To even have a chance felt really good."

In the case of Tad Leistico, he was able to hang on and defend his amateur title.

The golf salesman from Omaha, Neb., out-last-ed Freeman's Arron Lickteig by three shots to win the crown. Leistico, with a 6-shot lead after two rounds, shot a 72 on Sunday — Lickteig carded a 69 to make it close.

Leistico, however, walks away with another title.

"It was just fun to come back here," he said. "I always feel comfortable here, because I know so many of the guys. Plus, the course is always in great condition."

Known for its real lack of trees and speedy, spacious greens, Fox Run has proven to fit Leistico's style, he said. "The greens here are fantastic," Leistico said. "Last year, they were the best I had seen to that point, and they might have been even better this year."

Yankton residents Adam Walsh (214) and Jay Batcheller (215) finished third and fourth, respectively, in the amateur division.

Considering the field, Lickteig was understandably happy with his performance.

"All you can ask for is a chance," Lickteig said. "I just didn't capitalize on some opportunities."

As one of the youngest amateurs in the field, Lickteig was suddenly thrown into a field that included veterans and professionals.

Did he learn anything? "It taught me to be confident," Lickteig said. "I realize that I can actually play with almost anybody."

Lickteig will his pro-am experience to North Carolina, where he will compete in the Big-I Junior Championship next weekend in Pinehurst. The event is listed as the third-largest junior tournament in the nation.

Many of the same amateurs and pros will travel a few blocks east for the Hillcrest Pro-Am, which begins Friday at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club in Yankton.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck