

# Amateur Baseball: Non-League Games Boost Teams



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Dimock-Emery shortstop Jason Schmidt throws on to first base to complete a double play during Saturday night's non-league game in Wynot, Nebraska.

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WYNOT, Neb. – Phil Johnson grew up hearing about the baseball tradition in little Wynot, Nebraska, a town with a population of 191 residents. He remembers names like Heimes and Foxhoven. It's not very often Johnson, now one of the leaders for the Dimock-Emery amateur team, gets an opportunity to play Wynot, because the two squads are members of different leagues. But whenever he does get an opportunity, which he had Saturday night, Johnson relishes it. "It's nice to play other good teams," Johnson, a former Dakota Wesleyan standout, said after his Raptors held on to beat Wynot 11-7 on a muggy night. "These guys down here play really hard." Dimock-Emery, as do many teams across the South Dakota amateur baseball landscape, knows that first-

hand. The Raptors (24-4), ranked No. 2 in the latest Class B poll, won both games against defending state champion Wynot this season, and after Saturday's win are now 4-0 against teams from the South Central League – Dimock-Emery has also beaten Crofton and Class A Yankton. In part to add more games to their schedule, the Raptors – members of the Sunshine League – play non-league games because they also know there's probably a good chance they'll run into a South Central League team like Wynot down the road in the state tournament. "Playing top-notch non-league games like these only make both teams better," Dimock-Emery manager Brad Bartscher said after Saturday's win. Whereas teams like Dimock-Emery or Wynot may not get to see teams from, say, the Pony Hills League or the Eastern Dakota League during the regular season,

any chance they get to see a title contender before the state tournament is a plus. "It's good to see different competition, to measure yourself," Wynot manager Lee Heimes said. "It gives you a chance to see some things you don't know." The down side to a non-league game like Saturday night, however, is that neither team was throwing an 'ace' pitcher – those would be saved for league games. Dimock-Emery, which had 10 players for Saturday night's game, pitched Josh Schmidt, who went the distance, improving to 5-0 on the season. He is part of a regular Raptors rotation that also includes Johnson (7-0, 0.41 ERA), Josh Engquist (5-1, 1.65 ERA) and Kyle Larson (5-2, 0.86 ERA). "Our top three guys are legit," Bartscher said. "They always give us a chance. We'll be in every game with those guys out there." And that depth is a key

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# Fury Red Claim State Title

Softball: Two Other Yankton Teams Advance To Finals

SIOUX FALLS – The Yankton Fury Red won the 10-under 'Rec' division title, and two other Yankton teams played for state championships on Sunday as the South Dakota Amateur Softball Association's state girls' fast-pitch tournament concluded on Sunday in Sioux Falls. The Yankton Fury Red beat the Brookings Blast Red in Sunday's final. In the 12-under 'C' division, the Madison Rage edged Yankton Fury Black 6-5 and 6-4 to avenge Yankton's 12-6 victory on Saturday. In the 10-under 'A' division, Brandon Valley's Midwest Dirt Devils bounced back an 11-0 loss to Yankton Fury White on Saturday to win 9-3 and 14-2 for the championship. The Yankton Fury Xtreme (16-under 'B') and Fury Crush (14-under 'B') were each eliminated on Saturday evening. The Yankton Fury Wildcats (12-under 'B') were eliminated earlier in the tournament. Here is a look at the Yankton teams participating in the tournament. Not all coaches reported their results after the tournament.

## 16-Under

The Yankton Fury Xtreme went 2-2 at state, playing all four of their games on Saturday. The Xtreme conclude the summer season with a 30-26-2 record.

**DAKOTA VALLEY 5, FURY XTREME 3:** Traia Hubbard went 3-3 with a double and a RBI, and Holly Mines went 2-3 with a home run and two RBI to lead Yankton in its final game. Liz Suing doubled, and Alix Peterka, Megan McCorkell and Lexie McCorkell each had a hit in the effort.

Holly Mines took the loss, with Hanna Cummins pitching 1 2/3 innings of shutout relief.

**FURY XTREME 11, MITCHELL ADRENALINE 1:** Yankton used a pair of big innings to roll past Mitchell, scoring five runs in the first and six in the fifth.

Bailey Peterka went 3-4 with a double and two RBI, and Traia Hubbard went 2-3 with a double and three RBI to lead Yankton. Megan McCorkell and Dani Dvorak each had two hits. Liz Suing had a double and two RBI, and Alix Peterka and Merlye Mason each had a hit in the victory.

Hanna Cummins struck out six batters in five innings to pick up the win.

**FURY XTREME 5, BRANDON VALLEY STINGERS 4:** Yankton rallied from a 4-0 deficit, scoring the game-winner on Holly Mines' triple in the bottom of the fifth.

Megan McCorkell and Britney Davis each had two hits for Yankton. Bailey Peterka doubled, and Liz Suing added a hit in the victory.

Hanna Cummins got Yankton out of a jam in the fifth to pick up the victory in relief.

**DIAMONDS ICE 11, FURY XTREME 9:** The Diamonds Ice used three big innings to overpower Yankton in the Xtreme's opening game.

Holly Mines doubled and singled, and Traia Hubbard went 2-2 with three RBI to lead Yankton. Alix Peterka had a double and three RBI. Liz Suing also doubled, and Bailey Peterka and Lexie McCorkell each had a hit in the effort. Hanna Cummins took the loss.

## 14-Under

The Yankton Fury Crush finished 2-2 in the tournament, scoring double digits in each of their first three games: 16-2 over S.D. Fusion Power, a 15-12 loss to the S.D. Rush and a 15-1 win over Diamonds Eclipse. The score of the Fury Crush's second setback was not available.

## 12-Under 'B'

The Yankton Fury Wildcats went



**ABOVE:** Yankton Fury Red first baseman Paige Hatch takes a throw at first base to retire a batter during Saturday's action in the South Dakota Amateur Softball Association's state girls' fastpitch tournament in Sioux Falls. Backing up on the play, right, is Camryn Zoeller. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)  
**BELOW:** Yankton Fury White's Hannah Sailer, right, is congratulated by teammate Thea Chance after scoring during her team's matchup with the Midwest Dirt Devils on Saturday in Sioux Falls. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)  
**RIGHT:** Yankton Fury Black pitcher Lexi Madson sends the ball home during her squad's matchup with River Ridge on Saturday in Sioux Falls. (Dylan Huggins/P&D)



# Homegrown Catcher Leads US Over World 10-1 In Futures Game

CINCINNATI (AP) — A homer in Cleveland. A triple in Cincinnati. From top-to-bottom in his home state, Kyle Schwarber is demonstrating he can pretty much hit anything. Schwarber hit a two-run triple on Sunday that got the U.S. team rolling toward a 10-1 victory in the All-Star Futures Game, managed by two stars on Cincinnati's Big Red Machine. The Cubs catcher appreciated the significance — the Reds were his favorite team growing up in nearby Middletown, Ohio. He had dreamed of one day stepping on the field at hitter-friendly Great American Ball Park and seeing what he could do. He got the chance on Sunday. "It was awesome going up those steps and stepping on that field where I grew up watching the Reds," Schwarber said. "My eyes lit up! But when it's time to go, it's time to go." The 22-year-old Cubs catcher estimated that he had more than 100 relatives and friends scattered around the stands. Many of them were in Cleveland last month for yet

another big moment. The Cubs called up their 2014 top pick for a one-week stint as a designated hitter during interleague play in June. He went 8 for 22 overall and homered in Cleveland. Then he was sent back to the minors, making him available to play in the Futures Game. "I wasn't disappointed at all to go back down," he said. "One of the benefits is being able to play in this game. This is awesome." The U.S. team — managed by former Reds outfielder Ken Griffey Sr. — piled up 13 hits, including a two-run homer by the Pirates' Josh Bell. The game's only homer was another unexpected moment for the first baseman, who figured to be fresh out of college right about now. Bell showed power as a switch hitter in high school. Both of his parents were college professors, and he intended to go to Texas. He was so determined to finish his education that his family sent a letter to all 30 teams telling them not to bother drafting him. The Pirates took him in

the second round and offered him a \$5 million deal that changed his mind. Next step: making the majors. "It's getting closer and closer with every game that you play," Bell said. "You try to get a little bit better so you get a little closer to the big leagues." There weren't many good moments for the World team managed by Hall of Famer Tony Perez, who was the first baseman on the Big Red Machine. Leadoff hitter Ketel Marte from the Mariners had a pair of singles and drove in a run. The 21-year-old Marte is batting .343 at Triple-A Tacoma this year. **WIDE RANGE** The rosters included 13 first-round picks and those who waited a long time to get chosen. Right-hander Carl Edwards went to the Rangers in the 48th round in 2011 and was later traded to the Cubs in the deal for Matt Garza. **NICE PLAYS** Left fielder Michael Conforto of the Mets threw out Marte when he tried to

score from second base on a single, making a perfect peg to Schwarber. Later, World shortstop Orlando Arcia of the Brewers went up the middle to get to a grounder, then did a 360-degree spin before throwing to first for an out. **IT NEVER ENDS** Griffey was asked whether there was any personal incentive in winning the game against his former teammate known as Doggie. "I want to beat Doggie," Griffey said. "I don't want to hear about it for the next 20 years, because you know Doggie can rub it in." **MANAGING IN CINCY AGAIN** Perez was fired as the Reds' rookie manager after only 44 games in 1993. He quickly accepted the offer to manage the Futures Game in Cincinnati, where he is still a beloved figure. "It feels like I've got a second home," Perez said. "Every time I come back here, I'm coming home. People on the street yell my name. They're really happy when they see me."

## Post 12 Goes 2-3 At Gopher Classic

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – Yankton Post 12 went 2-3 in pool play at the 96-team Gopher Classic. Pool play concluded on Sunday at sites around the Twin Cities. Yankton, 23-13, finishes the regular season with three road games, at Renner on Tuesday, at Brandon Valley on Thursday and at Mitchell on Friday. **MANKATO NATIONAL 17, YANKTON 9:** Three different Yankton players had three hits each. Landon Withrow had three hits, two runs scored and two RBI. Jordan Kathol had three hits and two runs scored. Colin Muth had three hits, a RBI and a run scored. Also for Yankton, Mason Townsend had two hits, a RBI and a run scored; Tanner Watts had a hit, a RBI and a run scored, and Hunter Cameron had a hit and a RBI.

Ben Cameron took the loss, with Levi Schmidt throwing in relief. **YANKTON 11, ROSETOWN 0:** Mason Townsend tossed a one-hit shutout in the five-inning game, striking out three.

Adam Walter had three hits and two RBI, and Jordan Kathol had a triple, two singles, two RBI and two runs scored to lead the way. Sheldon Gant doubled and singled, driving in three. Levi Schmidt had a double, a RBI and a run scored. Colin Muth had a hit and two runs scored. Landon Withrow had a hit and a RBI, and Tyler Guthmiller and Austin Johnson each had a hit and a run scored in the effort.

**CHASKA 2, YANKTON 0:** Yankton managed just two hits in Saturday's game, singles by Adam Walter and Tyler Guthmiller.

Austin Johnson took the loss. **YANKTON 5, BLOOMINGTON GOLD 0:** Jordan Kathol tossed a shutout, striking out six, for a Post 12 victory on Friday night.

Ben Cameron had a hit, two RBI and a run scored, and Mason Townsend had a hit and two RBI to lead Yankton. Austin Johnson had a hit, a RBI and a run scored, Brad Ulmer had a hit and a run scored, and Levi Schmidt had a hit in the victory.

**MILLARD WEST 5, YANKTON 4:** Millard West rallied late to beat Yankton in Friday's opener.

Colin Muth doubled and singled, scoring once, and Landon Withrow had a double, a RBI and a run scored for Yankton. Levi Schmidt had a double and a run scored. Sheldon Gant had a double and a RBI. Austin Johnson had a hit, a RBI and a run scored, Adam Walter had a hit and a RBI, and Brad Ulmer and Mason Townsend each had a hit in the effort.

Hunter Cameron took the loss in relief of Muth, who struck out seven in six innings of work.

## Vermillion 1, Beresford 0

BERESFORD – Hunter Christopher-son's sacrifice fly in the fourth inning was all Vermillion would need in a 1-0 victory over Beresford in American Legion baseball action on Saturday.

Carter Kratz finished with two hits and a run scored for Vermillion. Christopher-son and Joe Miller each had a hit in the victory.

Kory Diefendorf, Logan Busch and Hunter Ingwersen each had a hit for Beresford.

Jake Odens went the distance for the win in the seven-inning contest, striking out six in the three-hit shutout. Busch took the loss despite striking out nine and allowing just four hits.

Vermillion, 10-10, finishes the regular season with a doubleheader at Canton on Monday.

## Junior Legion Area C-2

### North Bend Central 11, Stanton 1

WEST POINT, Neb. – North Bend Central pounded out 10 hits on the way to an 11-1 rout of Stanton in an elimination game in the Area C2 Junior American Legion baseball tournament on Sunday.

Trevor Nelson doubled for North Bend Central. Henry Bohac doubled for Stanton.

Matt Ortmeier picked up the win. Dayton Lierman took the loss.

### Crofton 7, Hartington 1

WEST POINT, Neb. – Crofton used a seven-run sixth inning to claim a 7-1 victory over Hartington in an elimination game in the Area C2 Junior American Legion baseball tournament on Sunday.

Jalen Wieseler put Crofton ahead for good with a three-run double, and had a single for Crofton. Dawson Sudbeck and Justin Lange also doubled and singled. Noah McFarland, Tanner Crosley, Ethan Poppe and Trevin Mowery each had a hit in the victory.

Austin Greamer and Kelly Schommers each doubled for Hartington.

Trevor Gartner pitched three innings of relief, striking out two, for the win. McFarland started, allowing one run and striking out four in four innings of work.

Crofton advances to play either Battle Creek or West Point today (Monday). Start time will depend on the opponent.

### Battle Creek 8, North Bend Central 4

WEST POINT, Neb. – Battle Creek used a pair of three-run innings, taking advantage of eight North Bend Central errors in an 8-4 decision in the Area C2 Junior American Legion baseball tournament on Saturday.

Bailey McLean picked up the win. Colton Mittels took the loss.

### West Point 12, Hartington 2

WEST POINT, Neb. – West Point

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