

Organizers Planning Charity Football Game

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Brett Van Gilder wasn't ready to hang it up. The Yankton man wanted another chance to run up and down a football field. And so, Van Gilder is hoping his latest endeavor catches on across the region and former players – who may have been out of the game for years – join him for a goodwill game. “We’d all like to play one more game,” he said this week. “And if we’re going to do that, let’s do it for a good cause.” Van Gilder is among a group of organizers that are planning to hold a charity football game on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Yankton Middle School field. Money raised from players go to the local Boys & Girls Club.

The plan, Van Gilder said, is to entice enough players to be able to field a full team, which will call itself the “Old Stars.” That squad – with already 26 committed players – will playing a 9-man game against the Tri-State Buffaloes (Hills, Minnesota), an amateur team that plays in the Southern Plains Football Conference in Minnesota. Players from the former Dakota Warriors semipro team in Yankton (they played for two full seasons, in 2010 and 2011) will join the “Old Stars,” as will players from former teams in Sioux Falls and Norfolk, Nebraska, according to Van Gilder – himself a 14-year veteran of amateur football. Each player is asked to donate \$100 to cover field rental, officials and uniform/equipment costs. And extra money raised

will be given to the Boys & Girls Club, which will be constructing a permanent home to the north side of Yankton Middle School. “It’s a great organization and I’m glad they’re expanding,” Van Gilder said. “It’s a great opportunity for kids who may not have a lot to be involved in if they don’t play sports.” The idea for one game, rather than a full season, was based in part on some of the challenges Van Gilder and other amateur football teams frequently face. “I know it can be hard to commit to a full season,” Van Gilder said. “During the summer, we all have so many things going on.” “This way, football will be on everyone’s mind already.” A number of Yankton residents have already committed

to the game, according to Van Gilder, including Shane Toupal, who son, Alex, is the quarterback for Tri-State. The game will be official in the sense that score will be kept, it will be played over four quarters and will have high school officials. “The guys that have committed to it are real players,” Van Gilder said. “They’ll want to win.” “It’ll be a real game.” The first practice will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the YMS field, and is open to anybody interested in playing or coaching. For more information, contact Van Gilder at (605) 760-7720 or blvg@gmail.com

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Brett Van Gilder of Yankton is helping to organize a charity football game to benefit the local Boys & Girls Club on Sept. 12 at the Yankton Middle School field. Interested players are encouraged to contact Van Gilder.

Legion Baseball I Region 2A

Guthmiller Lifts Yankton To Win



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Tyler Guthmiller, center, watches as his game-winning hit flies over the Harrisburg shortstop's head, ending a 7-6 Post 12 victory in the Region 2A American Legion Baseball Tournament on Tuesday in Valley Springs.

Post 12 Will Play S.F. West Today

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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VALLEY SPRINGS – Yankton Post 12 defeated Harrisburg 7-6 in walk-off fashion on Tuesday night at the Region 2A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Valley Springs. Yankton advances to the winners bracket where it will play Sioux Falls West today (Wednesday) at 11 a.m. The winner plays again at 2 p.m., while the loser plays at 5 p.m. Harrisburg looked like it had things going good early scoring four runs by the top of the fifth, capped off by a home run from designated hitter, Jace Saxon. The bottom of the fifth is where things started to go Yankton's way. After Sheldon Gant was hit by the first pitch of the inning, Mason Townsend, who gave up Saxon's homer on the mound, took the very next pitch out of the yard to put two runs on the board for Yankton. “It felt pretty good,” Townsend said. “It didn't really bother me but it's a good way to get it off your back after you give one up.” Townsend then followed up by hitting a two-run single, in part thanks to a throwing error from the right fielder, in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game up at four apiece. Yankton then took the lead in the seventh with a two-run single from Austin Johnson. Harrisburg was able to tie the game

Region 2A Wednesday's Games

GAME 5: S.F. West vs. Yankton, 11 a.m.
GAME 6: Harrisburg vs. Brandon Valley, 2 p.m.
GAME 7: Game 6 winner vs. Game 5 loser, 5 p.m.

Thursday's Games

CHAMPIONSHIP: Game 5 winner vs. Game 7 winner, 2 p.m.
IF NECESSARY: 5 p.m.

back up a six in the top of the ninth, thanks to a two-run double from center fielder JT Miller with one out in the inning. Johnson was able to force the next two hitters to ground out to end the inning. With one out in the bottom half of the inning Yankton's Levi Schmidt reached base with a double, putting him in scoring position. Jordan Kathol was able to advance Schmidt to third base with a single bringing Tyler Guthmiller to the plate. In his first at-bat of the game after being put in as a pinch runner in the seventh, Guthmiller drove in the games winning run with a walk-off single. Guthmiller has been injured for most of the Legion season and the walk-off hit came in just his eighth at-bat of the year. “It was something big and it's every kids dream to have a walk-off hit in a region tournament or even the state tournament,” Guthmiller said. “Hopefully

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Levi Schmidt celebrates after getting a one-out double in the bottom of the ninth of Post 12's matchup with Harrisburg in the Region 2A American Legion Baseball Tournament on Tuesday in Valley Springs. Tanner Watts, running for Schmidt, scored the game-winning run on a Tyler Guthmiller single for a 7-6 Yankton victory.

Baseball: BV Eliminates S.F. East 4-2

VALLEY SPRINGS – Payton Livingston had two hits and pitched into the eighth inning to help lead Brandon Valley past Sioux Falls East 4-2 in an elimination game Tuesday night at the Region 2A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Valley Springs. Brandon Valley, which scored three runs in the bottom of the eighth, also got two hits from Cal Kedik. Josh Nevin had two hits for East, which was eliminated.

Harrisburg 13, S.F. East 8

VALLEY SPRINGS – Drew Andela went 4-6 with three RBI as Harrisburg defeated Sioux Falls 13-8 in Tuesday's first game at the Region 2A American Legion Tournament in Valley Springs. Caleb Deist and Clay Miller both drove in two

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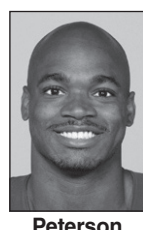
Wrestling: Bye Wins Greco National Title

FARGO, N.D. – Vermillion High School graduate Brett Bye became the first South Dakotan junior wrestler to capture a Greco-Roman national title. The two-time South Dakota high school state champion won the 160-pound title on Tuesday at the Cadet/Junior National Championships in Fargo. Bye, a South Dakota State University recruit, defeated Riley Jaramillo of Oregon by technical fall (10-0). In other results from South Dakota wrestlers, Regan Bye of Vermillion finished fourth at 170 pounds and Dan Stibral of Bon Homme-Scotland was seventh at 285 pounds. All three wrestlers earn All-American honors.

Peterson, Vikings Agree To Redo Last 3 Years Of Deal

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Adrian Peterson and the Minnesota Vikings agreed Tuesday to restructure the final three years of his contract, giving the six-time Pro Bowl running back \$20 million in guaranteed money. The Vikings announced the agreement four days before players will report to training camp, clearing away any lingering haze that surrounded their relationship with Peterson. Initially disinterested in returning to the team following his reinstatement by the NFL, Peterson softened this spring and took part in several offseason practices with the Vikings last month. Peterson and his lead agent, Ben Dogra, didn't appear to have

any leverage in negotiations once Vikings general manager Rick Spielman stood firm in his intent to keep Peterson on the team rather than trade him. But despite the drama of the past several months, Peterson got the guaranteed money he sought, another sign of the organization's widespread appreciation of him. In a statement distributed by the Vikings, Peterson said he was pleased by the team's good-faith effort. On Twitter, he posted simply, “Amen,” next to an emoji of a pair of praying hands.



Peterson

“I appreciate the Vikings for working together on this restructured contract, which provides additional security for me but also allows opportunities for me to further prove my value to the team and within the NFL,” Peterson said in the statement. “It was important for me to continue my career in Minnesota, and I cannot wait to get on the field in front of Vikings fans again.” Peterson, out of action for all but one game last year because of the child abuse charge he faced involving his young son, came back from his personal conduct policy suspension with \$45 million left on his existing contract. None of that money, however, was guaranteed. According to a person with

knowledge of the situation, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the terms of the contract, Peterson will be guaranteed \$20 million for signing the new deal. That's the \$13 million he was previously scheduled to make this season, plus \$7 million next year to cover him in case of injury. By next March, he can make another \$5 million with a roster bonus. Peterson's salary cap hit will be a bit lower the next two seasons, but he can earn back more money with performance incentives. The revamped contract clearly is designed for him to be in Minnesota's backfield when US Bank Stadium opens in 2016.