Press&Dakotan



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Mitchell's Jared Schmidt, right, slides into home plate while Brandon Valley pitcher Tommy Gardner, 33, awaits the throw during Sunday's championship game of the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic at Riverside Field. Mitchell scored four runs in the top of the seventh inning to rally past Brandon Valley 7-6 for the title.

Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic

Mitchell Rallies For Tourney Title

Sawatzke's Grand Slam Lifts Yankton

between Yankton Post 12 and

outside Yankton's Riverside Field,

plate umpire in Saturday night's

final game, was approached out-

Steve Krier, who was the home

according to witnesses.

BY JEREMY HOECK jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

As soon as the ball left his bat, Lane Sawatzke put his head down and ran to first base.

He knew he did his job and brought home the winning run, with the bases loaded and nobody out. Sawatzke, however, did not expect the ball to carry over the fence for a game-winning grand slam Saturday night.

That's exactly what happened though, as his homer lifted Yank-ton Post 12 over Blair, Neb., 9-5 in an eight-inning affair in the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic at Riverside Field.

"I knew it'd be deep enough to tag up, but I had no idea it went out until I heard people cheering," Sawatzke said later, after get-



Yankton's Lane Sawatzke, center, is mobbed by his Post 12 teammates



BY NICK ROBINSON sports@yankton.net

In an annual tournament that consistently brings some of the best American Legion baseball teams from two states, Mitchell Post 18 battled through unbeaten.

Mitchell rallied in the seventh inning to defeat Brandon Valley Post 131 7-6 in the championship game at Riverside Field in Yankton on Sunday afternoon.

Post 18 (6-0) came out of the Crofton, Neb. region and defeated Brookings 13-4 in the semifinal game earlier Sunday, to advance to the final — which was ulti-mately decided by four Mitchell runs in the top of the seventh in-

ning. "If I had to stop and say any-thing to the guys (about a comefrom the get-go," Mitchell head coach Luke Norden said. "The way I look at it is you don't change your approach, you keep battling. We've had a lot of comebacks through the spring season and a lot of good late rallies.

ting doused with water by his teammates in a post-game celebration.

Yankton's victory gave Post 12 a 3-1 record in pool play action at the American Legion tournament. And although the hometown team did not advance to Sunday's championship round, Sawatzke provided plenty of excitement.

In a tense game on a cool night, the two teams were deadlocked in a 5-5 tie heading into the bottom of the eighth. With two Yankton runners on base

YANKTON | PAGE 9

after he hit a walk-off grand slam to beat Blair, Neb. 9-5 in eight innings Saturday night at the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic at Riverside Field.

Altercation Turns Physical After Game FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

side the ballpark by a Blair parent, who appeared to be intoxi-A tense game Saturday night cated, a witness said. The parent made threatening remarks to Krier, and a Yankton official Blair, Neb., turned ugly when a post-game verbal confrontation stepped in between the two to inbetween a Blair parent and an umtervene. pire led to punches being thrown

Another Blair parent threw a punch at the first parent, according to a witness, and the incident escalated on to the ground. Police were not called to the scene and no serious injuries were reported.

Mitchell's Lakin Neugebauer, left, celebrates as he crosses home plate in the seventh inning of Sunday's championship game at the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic at Riverside Field.

"We just needed to keep doing what we're doing.

In the first inning of the title game, Brandon Valley (4-2) attacked and scored the first two runs.

Cole VanderBeck started the game off with a single and scored off a Jared Mulder sacrifice ground-out. Jacob Adams torched a double and reached on an error for Post 131.

TITLE | PAGE 9

NCAA: San Francisco Ends SDSU's Season

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) - Bob Cruikshank's RBI sacrifice fly in the top of the 13th inning pushed San Francisco to a 4-3 win against South Dakota State on Saturday in an elimination game at the Eugene regional.

San Francisco (35-23) advanced to play against the loser of the night game between host Oregon and Rice.

"I am proud of my kids and their resiliency, they never stopped fighting,' Dons coach Nino Giarratano said. "I also tip my hat to South Dakota State University, they also really stuck with it. I really can't express just how proud I am of my boys, we are all looking forward to tomorrow. We are ready to go.'

South Dakota State (39-21), the regional's fourth seed, tied it at 2 with a run in the eighth on Scott Splett's RBI single.

San Francisco, the third seed, took the lead back at 3-2 in the top of the 10th on Bradley Zimmer's RBI single. But the Dons couldn't hold the lead and the Jackrabbits scored a run in the bottom of the inning thanks to a throwing error on a potential double-play situation.

San Francisco was playing its second extra-inning game in the regional. The Dons lost 3-2 to Rice in 11 innings in Friday's opener.

"It was a tough pill to swallow. That being said, I am very proud of how we battled," South Dakota State coach Dave Schrage said. "We played two tough games and unfortunately lost. This was a good step for the guys returning next year. Now they will know what to expect for next year."

Baseball: Tappers Beat Wynot In SCL Showdown

Trey Krier pitched into the ninth inning and Jared Miller had four RBI to lead the Yankton Tappers past Wynot 10-7 in a South Central League amateur baseball game Sunday night at Riverside Field.

Devin Gullikson had three RBI for Yankton (4-0), while Julian Cutolo added a pair of hits and two RBI. Dave Schmidt, Krier, Derrik Nelson and Jesse Bailey all added two hits for the Tappers.

In the loss for Ŵynot, Chase Rolfes had three hits, Lee Heimes homered as part of his two hits, and Scott Heimes and Matt Hames both had two hits.

.....113 010 001 — 7 ...020 004 31X — 10 WYNOT (3-1)..... YANKTON (4-0)

Minneapolis RiverRats 11, Wynot 7 SIOUX FALLS — Matt Hames went 3-3 in

a losing effort Saturday as the Minneapolis (Minn.) RiverRats beat the Wynot Expos 11-7 at the Border Battle Amateur Tournament in Sioux Falls.

Chase Rolfes and Ryan Heimes both scored two runs for Wynot, while Rolfes, Steve Heimes and Aaron Burbach all had one hit.

Mitchell Bruening pitched into the fourth inning and took the loss.

Tim Duffy was 3-3 with two RBI for Minneapolis.

Junior Legion Yankton 3-14, Valley Springs 0-1

BRANDON — The Yankton Post 12 junior American Legion team swept a doubleheader from Valley Springs on Saturday in Brandon.

YANKTON 3, VALLEY SPRINGS 0: Ben Cameron struck out six in a 4-hit shutout, while Brady Hale had a hit and two RBI.

Adam Walter added a hit and an RBI, while Austin Johnson and Mitch Mueller both had one hit.

YANKTON 14, VALLEY SPRINGS 1: Johnson had three hits, while Walter and Alex Crandall had two hits for Yankton.

Hale, Cameron, Greg Hauer and Mueller each added one hit, while Will Steward, Johnson, Hale, Mueller and Matt Hilson all drove in a run.

Johnson pitched all five innings with four hits allowed and four strikeouts.

BASEBALL | PAGE 9

Softball: Spitfire Finish 2-2 At Pitch For The Cure Tournament

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Yankton Spitfire went 2-2 at the USSSA Pitch For The Cure Softball Tournament this past weekend in Lincoln, Neb.

Yankton won two of three pool play games on Saturday, but was eliminated Sunday.

SPITFIRE 7, NE AFTERSHOCK 2: In Saturday's first game, Lizzy Bye struck 11 batters in a dominant pitching performance. She also added two singles at the plate.

Karlee Kozak went 3-3 with a home run and two singles, while Haley Hinseth also homered with two RBI. Andi Sprakel singled for two RBI, and Taylor Ruby doubled and singled. Katie Koletzky and Jessica Wirth also singled.

SHOCKERS PURPLE 11, SPITFIRE 6: Bye connected for a 3-run home run and also doubled, but it came a losing effort for Yankton on Saturday.

Koletzky pitched and struck out seven batters. Hinseth hit an RBI double, while Wirth, Kozak and Sprakel all hit RBI singles. Koletzky, Brooke Loecker, Paige Thieman and Abby Schulte all added an RBI.

SPITFIRE 8, GRAND ISLAND SCORPI-**ONS 6**: Hinseth hit a 3-run homer and Bye went 2-2 with a solo homer as Yankton beat Grand Island on Saturday.

Koletzky pitched one inning and Bye threw three innings. Wirth and Schulte hit RBI doubles, and Ruby was 2-2 with an RBI.

OMAHA ECHOES ELITE GOLD 6, SPIT-FIRE 4: In Sunday's loss, Yankton got five strikeouts in the pitching circle from Bye. She also tripled.

Koletzky singled twice with an RBI,

Kozak singled twice, and Hinseth and Ruby both added RBI singles. Schulte drove in a run on a walk.

Wayne Dirt Devil Invite

NAYNE, Neb. — A pair of Yankton softball teams competed this past weekend at the Wayne Dirt Devil Invite in Wayne, Neb. The Yankton Lightning went 4-0 and the Yankton Shamrocks were 2-3

LIGHTNING 12, CHARTER WEST 2: In action Saturday, Yankton got seven strikeouts from pitcher Madison Dangler. Heather Hauer and Jenny Feilmeier both singled twice, doubled and drove in two runs, while Jaclyn Arens singled and doubled. Bailey Kortan added two singles, while Kalyn Pe-terka, Brynn Albers had an RBI.

LIGHTNING 15, NORTH BEND 0: Arens and Ellen Andersen combined on the shutout Saturday, while Feilmeier doubled twice and drove in three runs.

Kortan singled twice, tripled and had an RBI, while Sophie

Florida Edges Nebraska 9-8 At WCWS

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Lauren Haeger and Jessica Dámico scored on shortstop Alicia Armstrong's fielding error in the 15th inning, and No. 2 seed Florida eliminated Nebraska from the Women's College World Series with a 9-8 victory Saturday night.

Armstrong was able to get in front of Taylore Fuller's sharp grounder up the middle, but it hopped up and hit her before careening into center field.

The 14th-seeded Cornhuskers (45-16) scored once in the bottom of the 15th, but their chance for a third tying rally ended with Tatum Edwards getting called out at third base when her foot came off the bag after she touched it ahead of the initial tag.

"I don't know that you could ask for anything more if you're a fan and I know that you couldn't ask for anything more as a coach on either side, in either dugout," Cornhuskers coach Rhonda Revelle said. "It's a shame that someone has to lose that, but I don't really feel like anybody lost it because both teams just fought tooth and nail.'

Nebraska had scored three times in the seventh to force extra innings, and Taylor Edwards tied it again in the 10th with a home run to match Briana Little's solo shot in the top half of the inning.