



Irene's Mike King drives the ball during a game in the 2013 season. While King and the Cardinals' other veterans have kept the team's high-powered offense rolling, several newcomers have contributed to the team's improved speed and defense. Irene is 4-0 so far in the South Central League amateur baseball season.

P&D FILE PHOTO

Baseball | South Central League Notebook

Speed, Defense Have Irene Off To Fast Start

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first South Central League notebook of the 2013 season.

IRENE — A quick, and unbeaten, start to the summer has the Irene Cardinals feeling pretty good about their changes in the always-balanced South Central League.

Four games, four lopsided wins, sixty-one runs scored.

The Cardinals, tied with Yankton for first place, have dominated each of their first four league games this summer, winning by scores of 10-0 (Freeman), 16-1 (Scotland), 13-2 (Lesterville) and 22-2 (Tabor) on Sunday night.

"On any given night, any team can beat anyone in our league, but we're hitting the ball really well right now," Irene manager Kendall Johnke said Monday.

Offense has never really ever been a concern for the Cardinals — they led the league in runs scored per game at 9.28 last summer and already average over 15 this season, but so far this season they've displayed some newfound strengths.

An improved defense and more team speed have been pleasant additions, Johnke said.

"Speed makes your team so much better," he said. "We haven't had speed in years, and when you get a little speed, it makes you look a lot better. That's kind of always been our downfall."

Newcomers Ben Krush, Pat Sees, Brett Jensen and Eric Anderson have not only brought youthful energy, they all give the Cardinals more options in the field and on the bases, Johnke said.

SCL STANDINGS				
	W	L	Per	GB
Irene	4	0	1.000	—
Yankton	4	0	1.000	—
Avon	3	1	.750	1
Crofton	3	1	.750	1
Wynot	3	1	.750	1
Lesterville	2	2	.500	2
Menno	1	3	.250	3
Freeman	0	4	.000	4
Scotland	0	4	.000	4
Tabor	0	4	.000	4
Thursday, May 30				
Avon 19, Menno 9				
Crofton 9, Freeman 3				
Irene 13, Lesterville 2				
Wynot 11, Tabor 5				
Yankton 10, Scotland 0				
Sunday, June 2				
Avon 8, Freeman 0				
Crofton 10, Scotland 0				
Irene 22, Tabor 12				
Lesterville 11, Menno 1				
Yankton 10, Wynot 7				
Thursday, June 6				
Avon at Irene				
Crofton at Wynot				
Menno at Scotland				
Yankton at Lesterville				
Friday, June 7				
Freeman at Tabor				
Sunday, June 9				
Irene at Yankton				
Lesterville at Avon				
Menno at Wynot				
Scotland at Freeman				
Tabor at Crofton				

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Cardinals Outgun Tabor 22-12

IRENE — The Irene Cardinals stayed unbeaten by routing Tabor 22-12 on Sunday night in a high-scoring game in the South Central League. The teams combined for 27 hits and eight errors.

Wes Robertson was 3-6 with a double for Irene (4-0), while Ben Krush homered and doubled. Matt Sees, George Sees and Pat Sees all doubled.

Josh Homme pitched the first three innings for Irene, and was backed up by a 9-run bottom of the first inning for the Cardinals.

Rob Keppen was 2-4 with a double and five RBI for the Bluebirds (0-4), while Nathan Kloucek doubled and singled, and Doug Vanecek singled twice.

TABOR (0-4)102 540 0 — 12 12 7
 IRENE (4-0)920 614 X — 22 15 1
 Jon Vavruska, Greg Rothschild (2), Chris Sultera (6) and Wes Kloucek; Josh Homme, Matt Sees (4) and Pat Sees

Crofton 10, Scotland 0

CROFTON, Neb. — Scot Donner and Aaron Losing combined on a 3-hitter as Crofton blanked Scotland 10-0 in eight innings Sunday night in South Central League action.

Kyle Mueller singled twice and doubled for the hometown Bluejays (3-1), while Donner doubled and singled, and Cody Wilken singled twice.

Bryan Fuks pitched the first six innings for Scotland (0-4).

Both teams return to action Thursday, with Crofton at Wynot and Scotland hosting Menno.

SCOTLAND (0-4)000 000 00 — 0 3
 CROFTON (3-1)010 023 04X — 10 11
 Bryan Fuks, Paul Plante (7) and Jordan Pravacek; Scot Donner, Aaron Losing (7) and Carl Schieffer

Lesterville 11, Menno 1

LESTERVILLE — Tyler Edler and Cody Ulmer combined on a 3-hitter to lead the Lesterville Broncos past Menno 11-1 in South Central League action Sunday night in Lesterville.

Cameron Schiltz homered and singled twice for the hometown Broncos (2-2), while Mike Pavel doubled and singled twice. Zach Johnson and Tim Sternhagen both added a pair of singles.

Kevin Kunz doubled for Menno (1-3).

MENNO (1-3)010 000 00 — 1 3 1
 LESTERVILLE (2-2)022 006 01 — 11 13 2
 Doug Hall, Will Johnke (7) and Jay Thaler; Tyler Edler, Cody Ulmer (7) and Zach Johnson

Two Aces On Same Hole On Same Day At The Bluffs

VERMILLION — The Bluffs Golf Course in Vermillion had an unusual occurrence on Sunday, as two different golfers made a hole-in-one on the same hole during the day.

Both golfers found the cup on their first shots on Hole No. 12, but from different tee boxes.

Playing from the blue tees, Matt Semmler made the 153-yard shot with a pitching wedge. From the gold tees, Mat Trotzig made the 172-yard shot with a 5-iron.

The National Hole-In-One Registry lists the odds of an average golfer making a hole-in-one at 12,000 to 1, and the odds of two players from the same foursome aching the same hole as 17 million to 1. There are no odds listed for two individuals from different foresomes aching the same hole.

High-Flying Duo Lead USD Entries

Track & Field: Buell, Grove Represent 'Pole Vault U' In NCAA Championships

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — When she was asked about her school perhaps being dubbed 'Pole Vault U,' Bethany Buell had to do a double-take.

"What?" she asked the reporter.

She quickly understood the reference, though. Buell, a junior, and University of South Dakota pole vaulting teammate Emily Grove, a sophomore, are seeded first and second, respectively, heading into the Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championship in Eugene, Ore.

Buell, who finished third in the national outdoor meet last spring, seeks her third consecutive All-American honors after finishing 13th two years ago. Grove, meanwhile, was seventh a year ago.

The duo are not resting on their history, however. No, they realize the challenge in front of them for Friday afternoon's event, Buell said.

"There are a lot of good jumpers; a lot of girls over 14 feet," she said Monday, during a media gathering at the Dakota-Dome.

"You definitely can't go in there thinking it'll be easy; it won't be at all."

For Buell, especially, it's not been an easy spring. She tore a ligament in her left shoulder and has been strengthening the area for the past few weeks — she is putting off surgery until after nationals.

Despite the injury, Buell was able to finish second at the Summit League Indoor Championships last month.

"A month or so ago, I wasn't even sure if I could finish the season," she said. "But now knowing that it's at least strong enough that I can get down the runway, I'm super excited and blessed."

Along the way, though, she has spent the spring as the top vaulter in the country, with a No. 1 qualifying mark of 13-feet-5.75 — well below her personal best of 14-7.5

"To think that the University of South Dakota has the top-ranked pole vaulter in the country, I'd be lying if I told you that was all part of the plan," women's

track coach Lucky Huber said.

"We knew some day we'd get to that spot, but to have it happen this quick — it's been a little bit of a surprise."

Not only do the Coyotes have the top vaulters in the nation, they advanced four of their women's vaulters to the NCAA Preliminary Round two weeks ago in Texas. Freshmen Hunter Wilkes and Madison Mills finished 27th and 28th, respectively.

Grove, like Buell, cleared 13-5.75 to qualify for nationals.

And naturally, there is a friendly rivalry between the two vaulters, Grove said.

"We're pretty good friends, so that helps all the time," she said. "We push each other through the weight room, like 'OK, let's put five more pounds on' or running faster in warmups. We try to beat each other all the time."

Most of the time, Buell — the veteran of the vaulting group — has gotten the best of Grove. But once Grove also earned All-American honors last spring, her expectations changed.

"Last year was like, 'Oh I qualified, let's see what I can do,' there were no expectations," Grove said. "I want to do better this year. I just want to jump as well as I can, honestly, and see what place it gets me."

Duplicating, or even besting, their performances from last year's national meet in Oregon won't be easy, though. The top 11 entrants in the event all come in with the same 13-5.75 qualifying mark.

North Dakota State senior Leslie Brost, a Watertown native, is seeded third behind the USD tandem. And Texas freshman Kaitlin Petrillose comes in fourth. She also happens to be a former Coyote — she transferred after last season.

The deep field is nothing new for Buell and Grove, according to Huber.

"Honestly, I'm not sure they would look at this and say, 'Wow, this is a big meet,'" he said. "They've been to nationals before, they've been to the Olympic trials before, and Emily's been to the World Junior Championships. I think our kids are handling



High-Flying 'Yotes Headed To Eugene

South Dakota pole vaulters Bethany Buell (above) and Emily Grove (right) are two of the five individuals the Coyote track and field team will take to the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, which begin on Wednesday in Eugene, Ore.

Both placed in the NCAA Outdoor Championships a year ago, Buell third and Grove seventh. Buell comes into the meet with the top mark in the nation, at 14 feet, 7 1/2 inches. Grove is tied for the tenth-best mark at 14 feet.

Freshman thrower Meghan Dennis (javelin), junior thrower Cody Snyder (discus) and junior high jumper Megan Glisar will also be competing this weekend. There will be a feature on these athletes in Wednesday's *Press & Dakotan*.

P&D FILE PHOTOS



Jason Kidd Retiring From NBA After 19 Seasons

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Kidd became one of the best by making others better.

He turned around a longtime-losing franchise, guided another to a championship, and helped his last one to its first division title since the year he came into the NBA 19 years ago.

Teammates loved him. The U.S. national team needed him.

But he looked more burned out than brilliant in the final weeks of the season, and on Monday he decided to end one of the greatest careers for a point guard in league history.

"My time in professional basketball has been an incredible journey, but one that must come to an end after 19 years," Kidd said in a statement released by the New York Knicks. "As I reflect on my time with the four teams I represented in the NBA, I look back fondly at every season and thank each and every one of my teammates and coaches that joined me on the court."

Kidd won an NBA title and two Olympic gold medals, is second on the career list in assists and steals, and was a 10-time All-Star. But he missed 22 of his 25 shots in the post-season and was scoreless in his final 10 playoff games shortly after turning 40, and decided to walk away with two years and more than \$6 million

left on the deal he signed last summer.

His retirement comes two days after fellow 40-year-old Grant Hill, with whom Kidd shared Rookie of the Year honors in 1995, announced his retirement.

Kidd went on from there to have big impacts on every team he joined. He led the Nets to two NBA Finals in 2002-03, helped the Dallas Mavericks win the 2011 title, and was on the first Knicks team to reach the second round of the playoffs since 2000.

He averaged 12.6 points, 8.7 assists, 6.3 rebounds and 1.93 steals in a career that also included a stop in Phoenix. Kidd had numerous ways to make his mark on games, ranking third on the career list with 107 triple-doubles while finishing third all-time in 3-pointers made, despite being considered a poor outside shooter when he came into the league.

Dirk Nowitzki, who played with Kidd on the Mavs' title team, wrote on Twitter that Kidd was "one of the best point guards ever and one of the fiercest competitors I have ever played with."

"Amazing career," Nowitzki wrote. "He always put the team and winning first. All the best to him in retirement."

The Knicks signed Kidd away from Dallas last summer with a

three-year deal, and he helped them flourish with a lineup that often featured two point guards. They won 54 games and their first Atlantic Division title since 1994, which was just before Kidd was drafted by Dallas with the No. 2 overall pick.

"Jason's value to the Knicks and the National Basketball Association cannot be quantified by statistics alone," Knicks general manager Glen Grunwald said. "Everyone here in New York saw firsthand what a tremendous competitor he is and why Jason is considered to be one of the best point guards, and leaders, the game has ever seen."

He got off to a rocky start with the Knicks, arrested on a drunken-driving charge shortly after signing last July — Kidd was also arrested on a domestic violence charge while playing with Phoenix in 2001, acknowledging he struck his former wife — but he turned out to be the leader the team sought.

He averaged 6.0 points, 3.3 assists and 4.3 rebounds in 76 games for the Knicks but lost his likely Hall of Fame-bound game in the postseason. He missed all 17 shots across the final 10 games, seeing limited minutes in the last two games of the Knicks' loss to Indiana in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

LIGHTNING WIN IN WAYNE



The Yankton Lightning went undefeated to win their division at the Dirt Devil Invitational softball tournament, which concluded on Sunday in Wayne, Neb. Team members include (front) Bailey Kortan, Heather Hauer, (middle) Ellen Andersen, Morgan Rothschild, Julie De Witt, Jaclyn Arens, (back) Kalyn Peterka, Sophie Drotzmann, Brynn Albers, Jennifer Feilmeier and Madison Dangler.