Baseball: Yankton Juniors Sweep South Sioux Teams Across The Majors

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. -The Yankton Post 12 American Legion junior squad improved to 7-1 on the season with a doubleheader sweep at South Sioux City, Neb., on Thursday.

In the opener, Jordan Lightner went 2-4 with a double to lead Yankton to an 8-6 decision. Also for Post 12, Brady Hale had a hit and two RBI, and Adam Walter recorded a double. Will Steward, Mitch Mueller and Greg Hauer added hits in the victory.

Steward picked up the win, with Alex Crandall earning the save.

Matt Hilson's third hit of the game, a two-run triple, broke a 3-3 tie and lifted Yankton to a 5-3 vic-tory in the nightcap.

Hilson also doubled for Post 12. Steward, Hale and Ben Cameron added hits.

Colton Diefenderfer picked up the win in relief of Wyatt Adam. Hale pitched the seventh for the save.

The Yankton junior squad hosts Hartington on Sunday.

Amateur

Wynot 13, Irene 5 IRENE — The Wynot Expos squelched an Irene comeback attempt with a six-run ninth, icing a 13-5 victory over the Cardinals in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday night.

Wynot led 6-1 after five innings, but Irene scored in the sixth and seventh innings to cut the margin to three, 6-3. The Expos added an insurance run in the eighth, then exploded for six more in the ninth to cap the victory.

Lance Heine went 3-6 with a double to lead Wynot. Lee Heimes and Matt Hames each doubled and singled. Scott Heine added two hits for the Expos.

Mike King went 3-4 with a home run and a double to lead Irene. Ben Crush and Adam Gale each had two hits.

Brett Wiebelhaus picked up

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Japan Baseball Boss Apologizes For Ball Switch

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese baseball commissioner apologized on Friday for the confusion caused by introducing a new, livelier ball this season without notifying play-

Nippon Professional Baseball commissioner Ryozo Kato held a meeting with representatives of the 12 teams and issued an apology for his handling of the situation.

'I've caused a lot of trouble for the fans, players and people connected to the game," Kato said. "Baseball is very important in

Japan's sporting culture and I have to carefully reflect on my responsibility to the game."

Japan's $1\overline{2}$ teams agreed to have a third party investigate the issue of why NPB secretly made its baseballs livelier.

Kato, a former Japanese ambas-sador to the United States, indicated he would not resign and vowed to work toward reform within his organization.

NPB acknowledged this week for the first time that a new ball was introduced at the start of the season, resulting in a sharp increase in home runs. Many players in Japanese baseball have criticized NPB for a lack

of transparency. There were 939 home runs in 2011 and 881 in 2012. This season's tally stood at 512 as of Tuesday, on pace for a season total of 1,297.

NPB previously denied this year's increase in home runs had anything to do with changes to the baseball.

NPB secretary general Kunio Shimoda said the issue was kept secret in order "to avoid confusion.

ESPN To Kill 3-D Broadcasts By

A busy sports weekend in Yankton

got going with baseball in the Bob

Deery Classic VFW Teener baseball

tournament at Riverside Field.

Game information was not made available by presstime. Photos from the tournament will be available on-

line at spotted.yankton.net later this

ABOVE: Yankton Lakers baserunner

Nate Stephenson, behind, gets off

the base as Blair Sluggers pitcher

Travis Krumwiede sends the ball

LEFT: Vermillion Reds right fielder

Trey Hage dives after a sinking line

drive during the team's matchup

home during their matchup.

weekend.

with Blair.

launched with great fanfare but

The sports network said there were too few viewers to make 3-D broadcasts worth it. It didn't say

Pushed To Extra Innings

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Josh Reddick rushed out of the ballpark, more eager than ever to get home from yet another extra-long work

day. Extra innings, that is. And a lot of them.

Who could blame Reddick for his swift departure? He had played the equivalent of a day-night double-header, minus the break in between. Oakland teammate Brandon Moss followed closely behind en route to the Coliseum exit Thursday night after a 3-2 victory in 18 innings over the New York Yankees that gave the A's a hard-earned series sweep.

Clubs across the major leagues have been going the distance this year in some memorable, downright exhausting performances from coast to coast.

There were three extra-innings games Thursday alone — each last-ing at least 13 innings — to bring the season total to 110.

"Is a lunar eclipse coming?" Reddick quipped. "I have no idea. Probably more of a coincidence than anything. That's how the game goes sometimes.

The topic of extra innings has been trending on Twitter, often with the hash tag freebaseball. Yes, many fans are getting far more baseball bang for their buck, despite being drowsy at work the

next day. The Marlins and Mets played for 20 innings — and 6 hours, 25 minutes — last Saturday in New York, the same day the Blue Jays needed nearly 5 1/2 hours to beat the Texas Rangers 4-3 in 18 innings at home in Toronto.

On Thursday, the AL West-lead-ing Athletics remarkably won their second game this year of 18 or more innings. Oakland outlasted the AL West rival Los Angeles Angels in 19 innings on April 29, a game that ended at 1:41 a.m. on the West Coast.

The game time of 6 hours, 32 minutes, wasn't far off from the time it would have taken for the Angels to return from the Bay Area to Orange County by car. Depend-ing on traffic, of course.

There also was that wild 7-5, 16inning win by the Chicago White Sox in Seattle last week. It went 5 hours, 42 minutes, and featured the teams combining for 10 runs and 10 hits in the 14th inning alone after the game was scoreless through nine.

Of the 110 extra-innings games played this season through Thursday, 14 had gone 14 or more in-nings. That was tied for the most 14-plus-inning games in any season through June 13 since 1920, according to STATS.

There were also 14 such games in 1976 and 1983. Since 1920, the 110 extra-inning games are second-most at this stage of the season be-hind 114 in 2011.

The A's sure seem to have a

knack for going long. "Fortunately, we're coming out on top of them," Reddick said of Oakland, which has five walk-off wins after leading the majors with

Yost Follows KC Game At His Daughter's Wedding

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) Kansas City Royals manager Ned Yost could have been excused for missing his team's game on the night his daughter got married.

But he didn't. Yost was in Sugar Hill, Ga., on Thursday night with one eye on the wedding ceremony of his daughter, Jenny, while the Royals were playing the Tampa Bay Rays about 500 miles away.

"I had the phone out, sitting on the pew right next to me, during the whole process," Yost

said Friday afternoon. It was a big night all the way around. With bench coach Chino Cadahia acting as manager, the Royals won 10-1.

"I was looking the whole time until the sixth inning came, and then I saw two runs, and I was relieved," Yost said. "Then I saw four and I saw seven, and eight. I just got a big smile on my face thinking they can handle it from there.

Yost had made out the Roy-als lineup on Wednesday before leaving the team for one day. Kansas City's eighth victory in nine games came on a day the manager is not likely to forget. "It's my only daughter," he said. "I've got three boys and a

girl so it was very special."

"You know, all of a sudden now you're in the 12th or 13th inning and you have nobody to pinch-hit if somebody gets hurt or somebody goes down," Mets manager Terry Collins said Friday, reflecting back to the 20-inning game. "But then you've got to say, 'Hey, here's a chance in the ninth inning to win,' so you might have to use the guy that you don't really want to. But, you know, I don't think anybody prepares to go 18 or 20 innings, I can tell you that."

Indeed, managers and players can hardly anticipate the grueling effort it takes to get through extra, extra innings — not to mention all the moves and substitutions that end up getting made.

"I don't think you ever think about anything more than, you know, 10, 11 innings. Other than that, then you've got to start ad-libbing and seeing what's going on and understanding what you have in your bullpen," said Cubs manager Dale Sveum, whose team beat Cincinnati 6-5 in 14 innings Thursday — the longest game at Wrigley Field since May 8, 2007.

"You don't really plan on it, you

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

End Of Year

NEW YORK (AP) — ESPN will stop broadcasting in 3-D by the end of the year, the network said Wednesday, dealing a major blow to a technology that was

has been limping along for years.

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Phill Collins pulls his boat to shore on Friday afternoon during the Hobie 17 North Americans regatta at Lewis & Clark Lake.

Regatta

From Page 10

For veteran boaters like Stephen Acquart, that's part of the charm of a regatta.

Acquart, a retired firefighter from San Antonio, Texas, finished second at the North Americans this week. Calling the wind on the lake "a killer," Acquart — like the other boaters — pointed to the location as a major draw.

'This place is fantastic," he said. "The Larson family (from Storm Lake, Iowa) talked us into coming up again. I've made extra trips up here for pleasure. It's a place you want to come back to."

On finishing second, Acquart smiled and said, "I'm glad I survived and held on to that."

Like Collins and Acquart, Jane Sherrod made the lengthy trip north to South Dakota. Sherrod, a resident of Galveston, Texas, was, however, the only female boater in the North Americans regatta.

Sherrod, who works on an oil rig off the coast of Brazil, said she was also impressed with the location of this year's event.

"It's so beautiful here," she

said. "I've been trying to imagine Lewis and Clark coming through this area. Before I came up here, I bought some books on them, but I had no idea how gorgeous it is up here.'

Last year's North Americans event was held in Nevada, and was in Mississippi in 2011. The Upper Midwest, however, has some of the best action, Sherrod said.

'This is a hotbed for these boats," she said. "A lot of the

best boaters are up in this area."

On the idea of being the only woman in the male-dominated regatta, Sherrod pointed to the assistance of families and other organizers.

When you're on the water, you're all alone," she said. "Everyone needs help, and I've had some great people helping me along the way."

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

exactly how many viewers had, but the number was "extremely

limited and not growing.' Last year, only 2 percent of TVs in the U.S. were able to show 3-D programming, according to the most recent data from research firm IHS Screen Digest.

ESPN 3D launched in 2010 as one of nine 3-D channels that followed on the release of James Cameron's "Avatar." TV makers rushed to introduce 3-D sets as well. ESPN said then that it expected a "3-D tsunami" in the industry.

But few consumers proved willing to pay the extra \$200 or so for a 3-D-capable set. The sets also required viewers to wear glasses, and many people felt the 3-D effect didn't add that much to the viewing experience.

Optometrists say as many as one in four viewers have problems watching 3-D movies and TV. either because the technology causes tiresome eyestrain or because they have problems perceiving depth.

TV makers have turned their focus to increasing the resolution of their sets to the "Ultra HDTV" level and getting broadcasters to take advantage of that.

ESPN said it would be ready to provide the broadcasts again "if or when 3D does take off.

ESPN is owned by The Walt Disney Co.

14 last season.

Those victories sometimes come with a price, though.

After that 10-8, 19-inning win over the Angels, Oakland put three players on the disabled list - all with injuries sustained in the game: center fielder Coco Crisp, lefty starter Brett Anderson and outfielder Chris Young.

Yankees catcher Chris Stewart stayed in the game Thursday even after a hard collision at the plate to save a run in the 15th inning, and long after his body began telling him he had been down in a crouch for far too long.

'The energy was there because it was an exciting game," Stewart said. "I started feeling a little sore there toward the end. After the 15th I think everybody was running on fumes, trying to do everything they could to win the game."

Many of this season's marathon games have sent team travel secretaries scrambling to adjust schedules

In Thursday's 5-hour, 35-minute game between the Yankees and A's longest with a daytime first pitch in Oakland Coliseum history - four of the 14 pitchers went more than five innings. That included winner Jesse Chavez, who tossed 5 2-3 scoreless innings of relief. New York's Adam Warren pitched six extra innings of shutout relief.

"There's nothing easy about it," said Oakland's John Jaso, who started the tiebreaking rally and scored the winning run.

In all, 510 pitches were thrown and 137 batters came to the plate. In the long Marlins-Mets and Angels-A's games, it was 156 batters.

just wing it when it gets 13, 14 m nings."

The A's became the first American League team to play two 18-inning games in one season since Oakland and the Washington Senators did so in 1971.

The Yankees stranded 11 of their 13 baserunners from the 10th through 14th innings, when they missed scoring opportunities in each of those frames.

"Pitching's really good, and it's hard to score runs," Moss said. You're seeing a lot of fresh arms coming out of the bullpen, and the later in the game you get, you're getting tired. I feel like almost all extra-inning games happen on day games, because you're starting to wear down toward the end of the game, they're bringing in fresh arms and the offense just shuts down."

The Mariners lost a 14-inning game to Detroit in April, then beat Texas in 13 innings in May. Seattle also has played five 10-inning games.

Might there be more long baseball this weekend when the Mariners play at Oakland? The AL West-leading A's were

41-27 heading into Friday night's series opener. How many regulars will be recovered by then from the 18-inning affair a day earlier remained to be seen.

By that time it was, basically, a game of attrition," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "After the 15th or 16th, vou're delirious. We had guys playing out of position at the end of the game. Derek Norris caught the whole game and he was still running as hard as he could to first base and blocking two-strike balls in the dirt. All I had to do was sit there.'





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