

Amateur Baseball | South Central League

Familiar Faces Have Black Sox Surging In SCL Standings



P&D FILE PHOTO

Freeman's Allan Scherschligt, pictured here during a game last season, has played a role in the Black Sox winning five straight games heading into tonight's (Tuesday) matchup in Tabor.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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FREEMAN — Suddenly, though perhaps not unexpectedly, the Freeman Black Sox have climbed the South Central League standings in a hurry.

Once 0-3 in league action, the Black Sox have reeled off five consecutive wins and are one victory short of matching last summer's SCL output.

The last two wins, though, might be the most impressive. Freeman rallied to beat both Yankton and Irene to continue its winning streak.

"Confidence wise, it's big," manager Brett Scherschligt said Monday. "It's one of those things where you can tell yourself, 'Hey, we can play with anybody in the league.'"

"If nothing else, we know we're not that far off."

Freeman, which travels to Tabor for a 7:30 p.m. makeup game tonight

(Tuesday), has used that mentality to pick up its two most recent wins.

• Last Friday at home against Class A Yankton, Freeman erased a 3-0 hole by scoring four runs in the seventh inning to beat the Tappers 5-3.

• And in Sunday night's home game with Irene, the Black Sox rallied from a 4-0 deficit to win 6-5 in 11 innings.

Another key for the Black Sox? Pitching, and consequently, defense.

"The defensive side of things has come together," said Allan Scherschligt, who primarily plays in the outfield. "We're staying in the games, getting people on base, and being able to get them in."

On the mound, Lee Scherschligt is 2-0 with an earned run average under 1.00, which was helped by a 1-hitter against Scotland two weeks ago, and Austin Smidt has the other league victory.

"For us, our pitching has been

SCL Standings

	W	L	Per	GB
Crofton	10	0	1.000	—
Tabor	6	2	.750	3
Wynot	6	3	.667	3.5
Freeman	5	3	.625	4
Yankton	5	4	.556	4.5
Irene	5	4	.556	4.5
Avon	4	5	.444	5.5
Lesterville	2	7	.222	7.5
Menno	2	8	.250	8
Scotland	0	9	.000	9.5

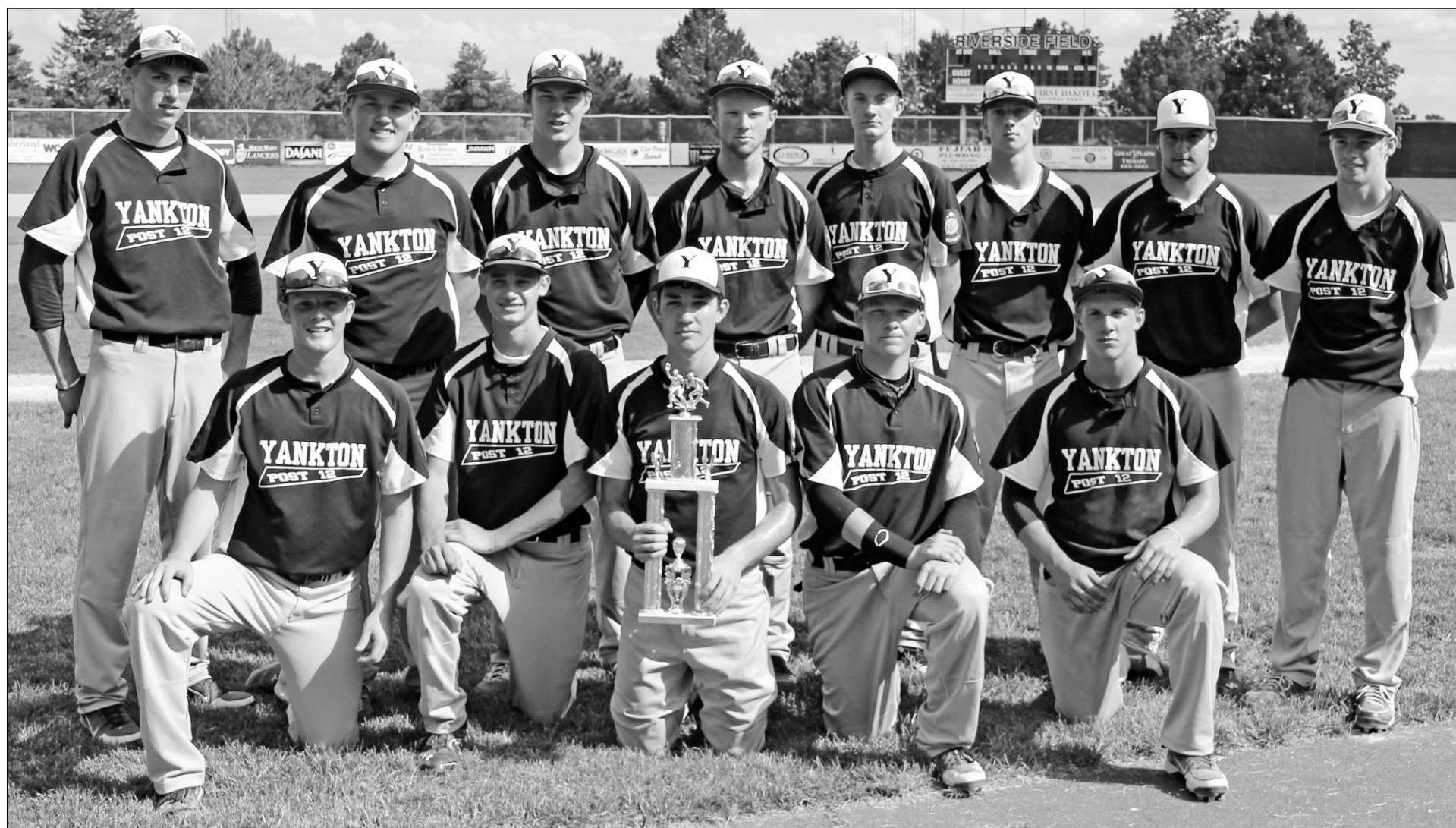
huge," said Brett, who is 2-1 with an earned run average around 3.00 in league games.

"I knew that could be a difference, but for some reason, guys are coming through even more than we thought."

While many of the teams across the SCL have gotten younger in recent years, Freeman — like unbeaten Crofton (10-0) and Wynot (6-3), for example — has kept its same core of

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Yankton Legion Baseball Continues Hot Play



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Yankton Post 12 American Legion team poses after winning its home Daryl Bernard First Dakota Classic on Saturday. Post 12 is now 19-3 on the season. Team members include (front) Tanner Termanson, Mitch Gullikson, Landon Withrow, Colin Muth, Sheldon Gant, (back) Brad Ulmer, Ben Cameron, Lane Sawatzke, Adam Walter, Greg Hauer, Will Steward, Wyatt Adam and Austin Johnson.

American Legion Baseball | Yankton Post 12

Confidence Paying Off For Post 12

BY NICK ROBINSON
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The Yankton Post 12 American Legion baseball team has endured a high amount of success in the team's first half of the season.

"We are playing really loose this summer and having a lot of fun doing it," Yankton pitcher and first baseman Lane Sawatzke said. "Relaxing has been a main focus for us, and with that, we are having more fun and winning baseball games."

The squad is 19-3 so far this season, coming off a 4-0 record at the Daryl Bernard First Dakota Classic this past weekend at Riverside Field, and is led by a mixture of seasoned veterans and first-year legion players.

"We seem to always have one or two guys step up and it seems like it's always someone different," Yankton utility player Sheldon Gant said. "We feed off of that spark and that's what keeps us churning in tight contests."

Confidence was key coming into the season for Post 12, according to head coach Trey Krier. "We had a lot of confidence

"We are playing really loose this summer and having a lot of fun doing it."

LANE SAWATZKE

coming into this summer," he said. "Our key guys weren't contributing in spring, but this summer our one through nine hitters are very solid. We have a great balance which has allowed us to be successful."

It's almost been a 360 for this Yankton team, which didn't qualify for the high school state tournament this spring.

"This summer has been fun coaching these guys, this is my first year from spring to legion connected with them since March," Krier said. "We've grown a lot and it's fun to see our older guys bring the younger guys along and develop them."

The 'younger guys' have accomplished as much for Yankton baseball in three years that teams combined do in a decade, Sawatzke said.

"Those (going-to-be) juniors have won three state titles, so they know how to win and what it takes to win," he said. "When

you combine their attitudes with the older guys experience and attitudes, it's a very good and lethal mix."

Picking up on the game speed was a question coming into the season for the younger crop of players.

"It has been a big change playing at this level of baseball, you go from playing teenager ball to starting for a legion team," Gant said. "I'm playing with 11 new guys basically, so getting to know them and their tendencies was different. But now, we are all on the same page."

Krier said he loves how versatile his budding athletes are.

"Our younger guys have great ability and very versatile, for example, Sheldon Gant has played almost every position for us this summer," he said. "Bringing some of these kids up has been beneficial. They've brought great energy and revived our older guys with little success at the legion

level."

For a core of seniors like Tanner Termansen, Mitch Gullikson, and Sawatzke, who have competed three seasons at the legion level, it was just what they needed to spark the love back into their games.

"Once you get older, you lose focus of what it's all about, Sawatzke said. "Since we've tapped into some of our younger players, we've been able to bring back some of the fun with all the success they have had."

Post 12 is as deep as it's ever been and they're using their tools to their advantage so far, Gant said.

"Being on a team that has always been good and been able to put in the extra time needed to be good and have some extra baseball knowledge, the younger guys are able to add an extra dimension to this squad," he said. "We have a lot of good guys and everyone is equal and contributes just as much, it's not just two or three guys and everyone else hopping on their back and enjoying the ride. Every player



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Post 12 pitcher Lane Sawatzke sends the ball home during Yankton's matchup with South Central in the Daryl Bernard First Dakota Classic on Saturday at Riverside Field.

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Baseball: Tabor Moves To 7-3 With Win Over Wagner

TABOR — Ross Kortan struck out 11 batters to help lead Tabor past Wagner 11-1 in seven innings in American Legion baseball action Monday night in Tabor.

Hunter Young and Kortan both singled twice, while Chase Kortan and Zach Suter tripled.

In the loss for Wagner, Brian Brugier had two hits and Logan Mudder doubled. David Kocer pitched the first six innings, with five strikeouts.

Tabor, now 7-3, plays at Corsica on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Junior Legion

Yankton 9-12, Norfolk 3-2

NORFOLK — Yankton Post 12 Junior Legion swept Norfolk in an American Legion baseball doubleheader on Monday, winning by scores of

9-3 and 12-2 in five innings. In the opener for Yankton, Reid Sawatzke had three hits, Bradey Sorenson had two hits, and Hunter Ryan, Mason Townsend, Jordan Kathol, Nate Hein and Justin Leader all had one hit.

Michael Heine got the win. In the second game, Heine, Tyler Guthmiller and Hein all had two of Yankton's 12 hits. Kathol got the win.

VFW Teener

Renner 5-7, Reds 4-6

RENNER — A pair one-run games went against the Yankton Reds on Monday, as Renner swept a VFW Teener doubleheader. Renner won by scores of 5-4 and 7-6.

In the first game for Yankton, Rex Ryken doubled twice and drove in three runs, while Ethan Wishon had two hits and an RBI. Levi Wiersma chipped in with two hits, and Owen Feser and Michael Frick both had one hit. In the second game, Michael Drotzmann had

three hits and an RBI, and Wiersma and Ryken both had two hits. Wishon, Case Roth and Cole Withrow both had one hit.

Yankton, now 11-10, next plays Friday at a tournament in Brookings.

Amateur

Crofton 4, Yankton 2

Crofton's Aaron Losing hit a home run in the ninth inning to lead the Bluejays to a 4-2 victory over the Yankton Tappers in South Central League amateur baseball Sunday night at Riverside Field.

Crofton took control in the first inning scoring a run. Yankton was up 2-1 in the eighth but Crofton took control in the ninth scoring three runs for the win.

Crofton's Nick Hegge and Scot Donner both went 2-3 with a double.

Jason Miller went 3-4 with a RBI double in the eighth for Yankton.

Donner picked up the win, with Thygeson pitching the ninth for the save. Jason Miller took

the loss. Wynot hosts Yankton on Friday. Crofton is in Scotland on Friday.

CROFTON100 000 003 — 2 7 3
YANKTON000 000 011 — 4 9 4

Scot Donner, Rand Thygeson (9) and Carl Schieffer, Trey Krier, Dave Schmidt (5), Jason Miller (8) and Ross Heine

Wynot 9, Lesterville 5

LESTERVILLE — The Wynot Expos overcame an early 5-0 deficit to defeat Lesterville 9-5 in South Central League action from Sunday night in Lesterville.

Eric Hames came in on relief of David Schenk in the first inning and struck out 12 batters in relief for the Expos (6-3).

Lee Heimes homered and singled in the win, while Ryan Hames doubled and Cliff Kephart singled twice.

For the Broncs (2-7), Brandon Nickolite doubled and Zach Johnson singled twice. Alex Wagner went the distance in the loss.

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Softball: Shamrocks Take First In Mitchell

MITCHELL — The Yankton Shamrocks won a thrilling championship game to take first place in the silver division of their age group at the Lowell Rang girls' softball tournament, which concluded on Sunday in Mitchell.

Yankton, which went 4-2 on the weekend, edged the Sioux Falls Diamonds Destruction 13-12 in Sunday's extra-innings championship game. Bernatow hit a three-run home run, while Kelsey Oswald drove in the tying run and eventually scored the winning run on a hit by Jessica Reinhardt.

Every Shamrocks player had at least one RBI on the weekend, while Brooklyn Bernatow, Gabby Pietila and Carissa Salvatori all had wins in the pitching circle.

Noel Kusek drove in seven runs in the tournament.