

WAYC Profile

Croatian Archer Looks To Continue International Success



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Domagoj Buden of Zagreb, Croatia, is one of the many archers who will be heading to Yankton later this month for the World Archery Youth Championships. The event begins June 8.

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another installment in our profiles of youth archers who will be traveling to Yankton for the upcoming World Archery Youth Championships (WAYC), which begin June 8.

For being only 17 years old, Domagoj Buden has already built up quite the archery resume.

Buden, who lives in the Croatian capital of Zagreb (with a metro population of over one million residents), is the current World and European Cadet champion, and two years ago won the World title in China.

He answered a few questions by email with the *Press & Dakotan* in advance of the WAYC.

P&D: How long have you been shooting? What do you like most about archery?

Buden: I've been shooting for 10 years now, and what I like most about archery is traveling and superb friends.

How did you get started in archery?

I've got started with archery by watching my sister shoot and travel the world so I was like, 'Hey, I wanna do that.'

What did you have to do to qualify for this tournament?

I had to shoot two times over the score of 693 to qualify for this tournament.

What does this tournament mean to you?

This tournament is my first major tournament as a junior since it is my first junior year and I'm just super happy to be able to attend a shoot like that.

How many people from your team are coming?

There are three archers and one coach coming from

Croatia.

What are you most looking forward to on the trip?

The thing I look forward to is to travel to one of my favorite countries in the world and hopefully buy a lot of beef jerky.

What should people know about archery in your country?

Well, Croatia is a really small country and archery is not really well represented here but we have a small group of amazing archers who keep bringing home the international medals

What are you hoping to accomplish on your trip?

My goals for this week are to be able to say at the end of the week that I made good shots and I had fun. Everything else is out of my hands!

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Baseball | Region 1B

Vermillion Headed To State

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

TABOR — Down six runs, Vermillion did exactly what it saw another team do earlier in the day.

Put together a massive rally.

Vermillion recovered from an early six-run deficit to beat Wagner-Avon 11-6 in Monday night's Region 1B baseball championship game in Tabor.

The victory sends Vermillion to the South Dakota State Class B Baseball Tournament on June 6 in Sioux Falls.

"That's a crazy win, that's all I can say," catcher Nate Robertson said.

In Monday's first semifinal, Vermillion jumped out to a 7-0 lead, only to see Beresford-Centerville climb all the way back to within 7-6 — and had runners on base with the game ended.

The takeaway was obvious for Vermillion: Anything can happen.

"Baseball's a funny sport," Robertson said. "Watching them (Beresford-Centerville) almost come back on us, we wanted to make sure we could do that too."

Wagner-Avon, which had earlier beat Bon Homme-Scotland 2-1 to reach the final, jumped out to a 4-0 lead after four innings against Vermillion. The margin then reached 6-0 midway through the fifth inning.

Drue Soukup, the lefty starting pitcher for Wagner-Avon, had allowed one hit through four innings and appeared in control.

That quickly changed in the bottom of the fifth, when Vermillion finally got things going.

"We just felt like we needed a couple hits," head



The Vermillion Tanagers beat Beresford-Centerville 7-6 and Wagner-Avon 11-6 to win the Region 1B club high school baseball title. Vermillion will face Dell Rapids in the state semifinals on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Ronken Field in Sioux Falls.

ABOVE: Vermillion players celebrate their 11-6 victory over Wagner-Avon in Monday night's Region 1B championship game in Tabor.

LEFT: Wagner-Avon runner Nathan Kucera is called out on this sweep tag by Vermillion shortstop Carter Kratz during Monday night's Region 1B championship game in Tabor.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Tanagers, Wagner-Avon Earn Region Finals Berths

TABOR – Vermillion jumped out to a 7-0 lead and survived a late rally to beat Beresford-Centerville 7-6 in the semifinals of the Region 1B club high school baseball tournament on Monday in Tabor.

Wagner-Avon beat Bon Homme-Scotland 2-1 in the other semifinal. No game information was available at presstime.

Carter Kratz went 3-4 with a double, and Hunter Christopherson had two hits to lead Vermillion. Jefferson Galvin had a double and two RBI, and Cole Anderson, Brandon Mockler, Travis Weber, Jacob Odens and John Benson each had a hit in the victory.

Oliver Doeden, Logan Busch and Hunter Cotton had two hits each for Beresford-Centerville. Jared Lyle and Cotton each had two RBI. Lyle, Hunter Ingwerson and Tyler Kropuenske each had a hit.

Christopherson picked up the win, with Carter Kratz recording the save. Busch went the distance in the loss.

Region 4B Winner-Colome 5, PGDCWLC 1

RAPID CITY — Winner-Colome downed the Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian-White Lake-Corsica Honkers 5-1 in the semifinals of the Region 4B club high school baseball tournament on Sunday in Rapid City.

Brandon Bloeck had a RBI double to lead the Winner-Colome offense. Tanner VanGenderen, Hayden Thiry and Coby Johnson each had a hit for Platte-Geddes.

BASEBALL | PAGE 8

Women's Softball Grows As Exposure, Crowds Increase

BY CLIFF BRUNT
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Carol Hutchins remembers what coaching college softball was like when she began her run at Michigan three decades ago.

She recalls facilities that weren't much different than those at high schools, limited media coverage and little television exposure.

This year, her Wolverines advanced to the Women's College World Series earlier than other teams, giving her a chance to sit back and watch the other Super Regionals on television. That's when she got a clear view of how much the sport has changed.

"Watching all those filled stadiums all across the country and the fantastic TV coverage — it's a dream come true for some

of us who have been around a long time, because this sport has gone through the roof," said Hutchins, who is wrapping up her 31st season at Michigan. "And it's a credit to, of course, the power of TV, and it's a credit to the institutional support that we've all received, and all the great coaches and student-athletes in the game."

Division I softball continues to grow, despite the fact that the sport is no longer played in the Olympics. The number of schools sponsoring the sport has increased from 143 in 1982 to a record 293 this year. The NCAA Tournament had just 16 teams in 1982 and drew 17,740 fans. In 2012 and 2013, the 64-team tournament drew more than 150,000.

The WCWS, which features the top eight teams and is played at Oklahoma City's ASA Hall of

Fame Stadium, has grown, too. Even without a local team in the field, four of the top 10 sessions in event history have come this year. Seating capacity at the stadium was about 2,000 in 1999, but expansion and increased interest has brought crowds above 9,000. Plans are in place to increase capacity to about 13,000 by 2020.

"There's not a better place to be," Alabama coach Patrick Murphy said. "The stadium, the people, the media — the coverage has doubled, tripled since we started. And it is so much fun for us."

Sharon Cessna, the NCAA's director of championships for the past 11 years, said the players have consistently improved and made the NCAA want to promote the sport more.

"Their skill level, their speed

and agility make it a much higher product than was out there 11 years ago," she said. "The bar has been raised, because the student athletes have made us raise it."

Hutchins agreed that incoming players have more advanced skills.

"There's more talent than ever," she said. "There's more dreams for young kids because going to college and playing softball is their dream."

The WCWS has become one of the top showcases for Team USA talent. Eight members of the senior national team made it to Oklahoma City, and seven of the eight teams had at least one player on the national team.

The connection between the Division I game and USA Softball is significant. The U.S. national

SOFTBALL | PAGE 8

Haeger's 3 RBIs Lift Florida Past Michigan 3-2

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Lauren Haeger's three RBIs helped Florida beat Michigan 3-2 on Monday, moving the Gators within one win of a repeat Women's College World Series title.

Michigan (59-7) saw its 28-game win streak snapped. The teams will meet again Tuesday in the best-of-three championship series.

Haeger opened the scoring with a two-run homer in the bottom of the first inning, her third home run of the World Series. In her next at-bat, she doubled in a run to give Florida (59-6) a 3-0 lead in the third inning.

Michigan's Abby Ramirez singled in the sixth to score Olivia Richvalsky and Kelsey Susalla and cut Florida's lead to 3-2.

Michigan had runners at first and third with no outs in the seventh against reliever Delanie Gourley, but did not score.

AP Source: Bulls Plan To Introduce Hoiberg As Coach

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The Mayor is moving to Chicago.

The Bulls plan to introduce Fred Hoiberg as their new coach on Tuesday, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

Hoiberg had long been rumored as the replacement for Tom Thibodeau, who was fired last week after five seasons in Chicago. The person spoke to the AP on Monday night

on condition of anonymity because the contract had not been finalized.

The Bulls said in a release they would make a major announcement on Tuesday.

Hoiberg went 115-56 with the Cyclones, including four straight NCAA Tournament appearances and back-to-back Big 12 tournament titles. He had open-heart surgery in April.

Before flying to Chicago to speak with the Bulls, Hoiberg acknowledged that several NBA teams had

approached him about their vacancies in recent years.

"When this opportunity came about, this was something that interested me greatly," Hoiberg said. "One of my life goals is to coach in that league."

Hoiberg said the speculation over his future had been "extremely tough." Hoiberg grew up in Ames and earned the nickname "The Mayor" while starring for the Cyclones in the 1990s.

Hoiberg joins a team that

entered last season with championship aspirations with Derrick Rose back from his latest knee injury and Pau Gasol in the lineup after signing last summer, only to come up short. The Bulls struggled through injuries to win 50 games and got knocked out by the banged-up Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Their season ended with a listless loss in Game 6. By then, long simmering tensions between Thibodeau and the front office had boiled

over, and the Bulls let him go May 28 even though he took them to heights they had not reached since the Michael Jordan-Scottie Pippen championship era.

Hoiberg played four seasons with the Bulls and has a long history with general manager Gar Forman, who was clearly enamored with the successes enjoyed by Iowa State.