

# Hoeck: 'Unfair' State Decision Upsets SCL Teams

Baseball: Move Leaves League With Lowest Percentage Of State Qualifiers

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Jeremy HOECK

Amateur baseball in South Dakota is flawed.

Try as it might to say otherwise, the long-standing and primarily small-town based game needs some help. From dwindling numbers, to at times confusing and inconsistent release player rules, amateur baseball can produce its fair share of head-scratching moments. Just ask the South Central League.

The historically-competitive league – which features nine teams across both South Dakota and Nebraska – has annually produced title contenders at the Class B State Tournament, yet always

seems to lack respect at the state level.

A recent controversy has fueled that perception, and South Central League managers, players and officials find themselves frustrated and angry over the dispersal of state tournament bids.

"It's just complete bias," said Menno manager Ryan Lieb.

The problem began when the Rosebud TMT League folded, leaving the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Association seven districts – instead of eight – from which to sort out 32 spots for the state tournament.

When the dust had settled and all the dominoes were seemingly in place, there was one last spot to dole out:

Would it go to District 4, which is

the Cornbelt League (Canova, Colman, Dell Rapids PBR, Dell Rapids Mudcats, Flandreau, Humboldt-Hartford, Lennox Only One, Madison, Salem)?

Or would it go to District 6, which is the South Central League (Crofton, Freeman, Irene, Lesterville, Menno, Scotland, Tabor and Wynot. Yankton is a Class A member)?

District 4 already had five state tournament bids, with District 6 at four. Logic would dictate that you would just give the SCL that last spot, to even things out, right?

Nope. That final spot – following names being pulled out of a hat – was given to the Cornbelt League, which will now send six of its nine teams to the state tournament. That's 67 percent; the highest percentage among the seven districts. The South Central League will now send four of its eight teams to state. That's 50 percent; the lowest percentage among

## Redrawing The Map

A recent ruling by the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Association took one bid from District 6B (South Central League) and added it to District 4B (Cornbelt League) despite both leagues having one fewer team than a year ago.



Two other leagues have eight Class B members (like the SCL) but get five state tournament bids while the SCL will only get four. Six of nine teams from the Cornbelt will qualify for state.

### Current Alignment For 2015

District (League)	Qual.	Perc.
District 4B (Cornbelt)	6 of 9	.667
District 3B (Pony Hills)	5 of 8	.625
District 5B (Sunshine)	5 of 8	.625
District 7B (State Line)	4 of 7	.571
District 1B (Eastern Dakota)	4 of 7	.571
District 2B (Northern Plains)	4 of 7	.571
District 6B (South Central)	4 of 8	.500

33 percent difference between highest and lowest leagues

### If Bid Were Returned To 6B

District (League)	Qual.	Perc.
District 3B (Pony Hills)	5 of 8	.625
District 5B (Sunshine)	5 of 8	.625
District 6B (South Central)	5 of 8	.625
District 7B (State Line)	4 of 7	.571
District 1B (Eastern Dakota)	4 of 7	.571
District 2B (Northern Plains)	4 of 7	.571
District 4B (Cornbelt)	5 of 9	.556

12.5 percent difference between highest and lowest leagues

PHOTO: JEREMY HOECK; GRAPHIC: JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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# Post 12, Brookings Split DH



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton Post 12 first baseman Mason Townsend fields a pickoff throw as Brookings runner Kyle Krogman dives back during their American Legion game Wednesday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

## Baseball: Vermillion Tops DV

Yankton Post 12 and Brookings split an American Legion baseball doubleheader on Wednesday at Yankton's Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Yankton (now 19-6 on the season) won game one 6-1 and Brookings won game two 8-2.

In the first game, Yankton pitcher Jordan Kathol allowed one run on five hits over six innings, and was backed up by two hits and two RBI from Collin Muth, as well as two RBI from Landon Withrow.

Brookings scored a run in the top of the first inning, but was limited to two hits the rest of the game.

Adam Walter and Withrow added a hit for Yankton, while Seth Fraser drove in the only run for Brookings and was the losing pitcher.

In the second game, Brookings took a 1-0 lead into the top of the fifth inning, and added single runs in the fifth and sixth, before score five runs in the seventh inning to pull away.

Kyle Krogman had two hits and two RBI for Brookings, while Jared Tschetter and Jacob

Meyer both drove in two runs.

For Yankton, Sheldon Gant, Brad Ulmer, Mason Townsend, Muth, Levi Schmidt and Ben Cameron all had hits, while Muth drove in two runs. Muth took the loss after allowing three runs (two earned) over five innings. He was relieved by Gant and Wyatt Adams.

Yankton is off until next Monday when it hosts Sioux Falls Post 307 for a single game at 6 p.m.

**Vermillion 6, Dakota Valley 4**  
NORTH SIOUX CITY – Hunter Christopherson had two hits and two runs scored, and Nate Robertson drove in two runs as Vermillion held on to beat Dakota Valley 6-4 in American Legion action Wednesday night in North Sioux City.

Vermillion jumped out to 5-2 lead after three innings and overcame four errors. Ethan James pitched five innings for the win, and Carter Kratz pitched two innings in relief.

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton Post 12 pitcher Jordan Kathol delivers to home plate during the first game of Wednesday's American Legion doubleheader against Brookings at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

## Softball: Fury White Picks Up Road Sweep

NORFOLK, Neb. – The Yankton Fury White softball team improved to 32-4 on the season with a doubleheader sweep Wednesday over the Norfolk Golden Girls, in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Yankton won by scores of 13-11 and 9-4.

In the first game, Emma Yost pitched a complete game with seven strikeouts, and at the plate recorded a double, single and three RBI. Ellie Karolevitz hit a grand slam, while Elle Feser posted two hits, two RBI and two runs scored. Taryn Fitzgerald added a pair of runs.

In game two, Behrns pitched a complete game with six strikeouts, and also scored two runs. Hailey Oswald chipped in two runs scored, while Karolevitz and Yost both had an RBI.

Yankton hosts the Sioux City Pride today (Thursday) at the Summit Fields.

## Hughes Goes 8 As Twins Beat Chicago

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Phil Hughes and the Minnesota Twins were undeterred by Chris Sale's strikeout streak for the Chicago White Sox.

Why would they be, with all due respect to the lanky left-hander? Sale has become one of baseball's best pitchers, but not against the Twins this year.

Hughes pitched eight strong innings on his birthday and Minnesota beat Sale for the third time this season, overcoming 10 more strikeouts by the three-time All-Star in a 6-1 victory Wednesday.

"He's definitely pitched very well against us a lot of times, so it's hard to say you have his number — but this year obviously we've had some success," said Kurt Suzuki, who had two hits and an RBI for the Twins.

Sale (6-4) reached double digits in strikeouts for the seventh straight game, the longest stretch since Randy Johnson in 2001. Sale was trying to become the first pitcher in modern major league history with

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# Coyote Duo Heads To USA Track Championships

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Summer has officially arrived, and the University of South Dakota has not completed its outdoor track season.

Megan Glisar (a recent graduate) and Kenna Wolter (a graduate assistant coach) will compete at the USA Track & Field Outdoor Championships, which will be held today (Thursday) through Sunday in Eugene, Oregon.

For Glisar, a Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, native, it marks the likely end to a standout college high jump career that began at the University of Iowa, continued at Morning-side College and concluded at USD.

"I think it'll hit me more when I'm done," she said this week. "Part of me is looking forward to graduate school and being a mom."

"There are pros and cons to being done," she added. "At some point, you have to move on."

Glisar, who will compete Sunday, is seeded 10th in the high jump but hasn't participated in a track meet for nearly a month – since the NCAA West Preliminaries on May 29 in Texas.

There's a lot of faith required that her training in those four weeks have kept her at a high level.

"You have to trust what we've been doing and trust that my consistency will be there," Glisar said.

This will mark Glisar's third trip to the USA Championships – she was ninth last year – but also comes at a location (Hayward Field in Eugene) where she has previous experience.

"I'm familiar with the warmup area, where to check in, and I know that my long approach will fit on there," she said. At most of her meets, Glisar's run-up starts on grass.

The top qualifying mark in the women's high jump is 6 feet, 5 1/2 inches by Nike's Chaunte Lowe.

Glisar might very well change her mind this fall and want to continue jumping unattached at various meets, much like Wolter is doing now.

Wolter, a former conference champion triple jumper for the Coyotes, finds herself in the "interesting" – her words – position as a coach and athlete. She has to plan ahead, to determine which meets she would like to com-



P&D FILE PHOTO

University of South Dakota graduate Megan Glisar, shown here during an outdoor meet this season, will compete at the USA Track & Field Outdoor Championships, which begins today (Thursday) in Eugene, Oregon.

pete in and which meets she has to make sure to attend for her jumpers.

"I learned that it's a little difficult to juggle, and focus on my own competition," Wolter said this week.

The opportunity to train right alongside her jumpers is certainly unique, she said.

"They're cool with it," Wolter said. "They think it's fun and interesting. They get

to learn from me, because I'm doing the drills with them."

Wolter, unlike her athletes, does not compete as much during the season. For example, she hasn't jumped at an outdoor meet since the Drake Relays in April.

"It's a little hard to find meets around here," Wolter said.

She was second at the

USA Track & Field Indoor Championships in March, and enters the Outdoor Championships with the ninth-best mark (44 feet, 2 1/4 inches) in the triple jump.

The top mark is 46 feet, 5 1/4 inches by Keturah Orji from the University of Georgia.

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