

# Twins' Rally Comes Up Short In 5-3 Loss

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Torii Hunter and the Minnesota Twins made it close.

Hunter homered during a ninth-inning rally that fell short, and the Twins lost to the Milwaukee Brewers 5-3 Sunday.

Ryan Braun and Adam Lind hit two-run homers in the eighth that put Milwaukee ahead 5-1.

Facing Brewers closer Francisco Rodriguez, the Twins gave themselves a chance. Hunter, who homered twice Saturday, hit a two-run homer.

Two quick outs followed, but then the Twins got a pair of singles to put runners at the corners. Brian Dozier, who had hit safely in all nine previous career games at Miller Park, took a called third strike to end the game and help the Brewers take the three-game series.

"He knows how to pitch," Hunter said of Rodriguez. "We just tried to fight him the best we could, and it the end, he prevailed."

Will Smith (4-0) retired the Twins in order in the eighth.

The Brewers pushed a run across off reliever Blaine Boyer in the seventh. Aramis Ramirez led off with a double and left for pinch-runner Hector Gomez, who advanced on a sacrifice and scored when Gerardo Parra, batting for starter Mike Fiers, lined a single.

It was tied at 1 when Jonathan Lucroy opened the Milwaukee eighth with a walk from reliever Casey Fien (2-3). Braun followed with his 15th home run.

"There's strikes and then there's quality strikes and I didn't throw enough quality strikes,"

Fien said. "The strikes I did throw, they hit."

Carlos Gomez then singled, stole second and scored on Lind's 11th homer.

Twins manager Paul Molitor urged caution with his bullpen, not blame.

"You can't overreact to the game where guys that have been doing the job don't have their best days," Molitor said. "Obviously, the margin of error was really small. Today, they kind of got bit."

Twins starter Tommy Milone cruised through the first five innings with seven strikeouts and one hit, a bloop single by Hernan Perez in the second.

Milone went six innings and allowed two hits.

Molitor was impressed with the left-hander's effort.

"He was solid," Molitor said. "He put up a lot of zeros for us and gave us a chance. I was hoping when he came out of the game, we could get him a run and maybe get him a win. It was looking good, but the Brewers have played us tough."

Brewers starter Mike Fiers was just as effective through six, retiring 16 of the first 20 batters, and holding the Twins to two hits. In the seventh, Joe Mauer and Trevor Plouffe reached on singles. One out later, Kurt Suzuki walked and Eduardo Escobar's sacrifice fly into left was just deep enough for Mauer to beat the throw home.

Fiers went seven innings, allowed four hits, struck out four and walked three.

**TRAINER'S ROOM**

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## Baseball

# Lakers Win Classic Title



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton Lakers runner Cole Sawatzke, right, and the Mitchell shortstop look up for the call after Sawatzke was tagged out during their game Saturday night at the Bob Tereshinski Classic, held at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

## VFW: Yankton Reds Fall In Brookings Tournament Final

The combination of a balanced offense and dominating pitching led to a championship for the Yankton Lakers.

Yankton won all four of its games during the Bob Tereshinski Classic, a VFW Teeners baseball tournament that concluded Sunday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside.

Over the tournament, the hometown Lakers out-scored opponents 42-9.

In Sunday night's winner-take-all championship game, Rex Ryken pitched three hitless innings as Yankton blanked Runner 12-0 in a three-inning contest.

Ryken and Levi Wiersma both drove in two runs, while Ethan Wishon, Michael Drotzmann, Cole Sawatzke and Peyton Mueller both had one RBI. Owen Feser, Kieran Lullman and Sam Mooney all chipped in with one hit.

Yankton improves to 14-8 on the season.

**LAKERS 14, S.F. CENTRAL 6:** Levi Wiersma had three hits and Michael Drotzmann drove in three runs as Yankton moved to 3-0 in the tournament with the Sunday morning win. Wiersma also pitched a complete game, while Ethan Wishon and Rex Ryken both added two hits. Owen Feser, Sam Mooney, Cole Sawatzke and Peyton Mueller all chipped in with a hit and an RBI.

**LAKERS 11, HARTINGTON (NEB.) 1:** Owen Feser pitched a complete game 1-hitter as Yankton won its first game Saturday. Rex Ryken, Levi Wiersma, Michael



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton Lakers runner Levi Wiersma slides into third base just ahead of the tag from a Mitchell player during their game Saturday night at the Bob Tereshinski Classic, at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Drotzmann and Kieran Lullman all drove in two runs, while Ethan Wishon doubled.

**LAKERS 5, MITCHELL 2:** Kieran Lullman threw a complete game 3-hitter with seven strikeouts as Yankton won the Saturday night game. Rex Ryken and Michael Drotzmann both had two hits and an RBI, while Sam Mooney drove in a run and Owen Feser added a hit.

**Brookings Tourn.**

**BROOKINGS** – Brandon Valley blanked the Yankton Reds 5-0 in Sunday's championship game of a VFW Teeners baseball tournament in Brookings.

Yankton, now 12-10 on the season, travels to Sioux Falls East

on Tuesday.

In Sunday's championship game, starting pitcher Ryan Eihacker allowed four runs in four innings, and was relieved by Bradley Howe. Chris Steffen tripled, while Cayden Peterson, Matthew Mors, Andy Knapp, Christian Curran and Eihacker all added a hit.

**REDS 6, S.F. SWAT 5 (9):** Matthew Mors had three hits and three runs scored as Yankton won Sunday's semifinal in nine innings. Mors also pitched the first seven innings, and was relieved by Wil Pease who got the win.

Cayden Peterson and Brad Howe both had two hits, while Pease, Andy Knapp, Ryan Eihacker and Princeton Vollmer all had one

hit.

**BRANDON VALLEY 4, REDS 0:** In Saturday's first game, Cayden Peterson pitched all seven innings, and Wil Pease and Princeton Vollmer both had a hit.

**REDS 7, BROOKINGS 1:** Chris Steffen had two hits and two runs scored in Saturday's win, while Justin Payer had two hits, and Cayden Peterson and Christian Curran added a hit.

**REDS 10, PIERRE 0:** In Friday's win, Andy Knapp had two hits and three runs scored, while Princeton Vollmer and Chris Steffen had two hits apiece. Cayden Peterson, Matt Hein, Gavin Raabe, Grant Nelson and Nick Lindsey all had one hit.

## In The Zone



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton Twins pitcher Trent Herrboldt delivers to the plate during Sunday's U-12 National League division final against West Central, at the Yankton Twins Invitational at Sertoma Park. Results from the game were not reported. Look for those in a future edition of the Press & Dakotan and online at www.yankton.net.

## Amateurs: Mad Frogs Beat Grey Sox 15-7

MENNO – Macon Oplinger singled three times as the Menno Mad Frogs pounded out 14 hits in a 15-7 amateur baseball victory over the Vermillion Grey Sox in non-league action Friday night in Menno.

Josh Berndt, Jared Nelson and Kyler Pekarek all doubled twice for Menno, which jumped out to an 11-3 lead after three innings. Doug Hall pitched five innings for the win.

For the Grey Sox, Mike Moran singled three times, and Tanner Anderson and Jayce Huska both doubled and singled. Eric Muskee pitched the first three innings.

Menno is off until Saturday when it hosts Scotland.

VERMILLION	300	002	101	-7	9	2
MENNO (7-6)	227	200	02X	-15	14	2

Doug Hall, Kyler Pekarek (6), Josh Berndt (6) and Jared Nelson; Eric Muskee, Nick Anglin (4) and Jayce Huska

## Softball: Fury Xtreme 0-3 At USSSA Tourn.

SIOUX FALLS – The Yankton Fury Xtreme softball team lost all three of its games at the USSSA State Tournament over the weekend in Sioux Falls.

The Fury Xtreme suffered losses to Diamonds Edge (8-5) and South Dakota Flash (13-2) on Saturday, and were then handed a 9-4 loss to Brookings in Sunday's lone game.

Yankton, now 24-21-2 on the season, hosts the Smash at Tuesday night for a doubleheader starting at 6:30 p.m. at Riverside Park.

**DIAMONDS EDGE 8, FURY XTREME 5:** In Saturday's first game, Liz Suing had two hits and two RBI, while Alix Peterka, Bailey Peterka and Lexie McCorkell added hits for Yankton. Hanna Cummins pitched four innings and recorded two strikeouts.

**S.D. FLASH 13, FURY XTREME 2:** Megan McCorkell and Holly Mines each had two hits for Yankton in Saturday's loss, while Mines drove in both Fury runs. Bailey Peterka and Britney Davis had the other hits. Holly Mines pitched four innings.

**BROOKINGS OUTLAWS 9, FURY XTREME 4:** Megan McCorkell had two of Yankton's five hits in Sunday's loss, while Alix Peterka, Holly Mines and Hanna Cummins had the other hits. Mines drove in a pair of runs and Cummins was the losing pitcher.

# Baseball Squad Makes History With First Openly Gay Pro

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — Baseball history was made in Northern California when the sport's first active professional player to come out as gay pitched a shutout before an enthusiastic crowd that seemed more impressed with his performance than his role as a pioneer.

Sean Conroy, 23, led the Sonoma Stompers to a 7-0 victory Thursday night during his first start with the 22-man team that is part of the independent Pacific Association of Baseball Clubs. The right hander struck-out 11 players and allowed three hits over nine innings.

"He wanted to be that guy, and coming out here and doing this shows you what kind of man he is,"

Tim Livingston, the team's radio broadcaster, said after a ground ball ended the game and Conroy's teammates jogged over to hug him. "To see this little field here in the middle of nowhere, when we look back it will have been the perfect setting for this."

The atmosphere at Arnold Field, the Stompers' 370 seat home field, was low-key, with no obvious signs it was a historic game or even gay pride night at the ballpark — except for the rainbow-striped socks and arm warmers some players — but not Conroy — wore.

The Stompers did not make a special announcement or call attention to the milestone so

Conroy could focus on his pitching, General Manager Theo Fightmaster said.

When the starting lineup was announced, however, Conroy got the loudest cheer.

"We've had gay people here forever, it's not like it's a big deal," said Barry Bosshard, who along with his wife, Laura, is putting up Conroy and another player at their home during the Stompers' 78-game season. "But it's major pressure on him because he's never really broadcast it and he is a very humble, private person."

The Stompers recruited the upstate New York native out of college in May. Fightmaster says

Conroy privately shared his sexual orientation with teammates and management before agreeing to come out publicly in time for the team's home field gay pride night.

"His goal has always been to be the first openly gay baseball player, so he was very much in favor of telling the story, of carrying that torch," he said.

Nancy Dito, 67, attended the game with 25 friends from a local group for LGBT seniors and was one of three fans picked to throw out a first pitch.

"It's great they cheered for him," Dito said of the warm reception for Conroy. "I think it's courageous and wonderful he's doing this."

Major League Baseball historian John Thorn confirmed that Conroy is the first active professional to come out as gay. Glenn Burke, an outfielder for the A's and Dodgers, and Billy Bean, a utility player with the Tigers, Dodgers and Padres, came out after they retired.

"While this pitcher who was unknown to me before your call may not be a prospect for Major League Baseball, he certainly deserves our applause," Thorn said.

Conroy, who had earned four saves as a closer for the Stompers before taking the mound as a starter for the first time, said he told his