

SCL 2010

From Page 2

Scherschligt (C/OF/P, .512), Al Haar (IF, .438), Derek Waltner (OF, .318) and Geoffrey Pfeiffer (C/IF, .298) in starting roles.

The team will also get contributions from Drue Aman, Lance Edwards, Lawson Graber, Josh Krull, Allan Scherschligt, Dustin Tschetter (OF), Jake Weier and Mitch Wollmann.

Hortness said the team will once again lean on its offense, but will still need to get solid pitching in order to make a run at the state tournament this year.

"Our hitting will always be there, it's just a matter if we can get the other team out," he said. "We have one less team going to state from the District this year, so pitching is definitely going to be a priority."

Irene Cardinals

Irene's pitching problems finally caught up to the team last year.

Fortunately it wasn't until the second round of the state tournament against a team which assaulted even the best of pitching.

The Cardinals put together a 9-8 record last year and lost to 10-2 to Redfield in the state tournament.

Last year, injuries got to the Cardinals, who gave up 9.39 runs per game. Matt Rempp had some trouble, which has carried over to this year as he is already out with a shoulder tear.

Irene's second pitcher, Simon Healy, also ran into some injury concerns, and the Cardinals third pitcher was part time player Joe Sees.

"We just had some injuries to our pitching last year," manager



IRENE: Simon Healy (10)

I think that gave him the itch," Johnke said.

Irene also added Brian Drapeaux to the rotation, who pitched a bit for the USD club baseball team.

"Brian has good stuff and he will eat up innings for us," Johnke said.

Johnke also said Joe Sees has told him he can play a bit more this season, which will help with Matt Rempp unable to pitch for much of the year.

"He was a young kid who had started to realize you can't just overpower people," Johnke said. "That will put a big hole in our

"Jeremy really had a breakout year," Johnke said. "He really hit the ball all season. He really stepped up when we needed it."

Johnke added even though the team's offense will be there, in order to make another run this year, the team will have to excel in all parts of the game.

"Our offense is the plus side of our game," Johnke said. "We need to eliminate the errors and have better pitching this year."

Also back on Irene's team this year is Henry Hauger (1B/OF), Pat Sees (OF/C/P), Brett Jensen (IF), Adam Gale (IF/OF), George Sees (OF/P), Matt Sees (IF/P), Adam Rempp (P/2B/3B), Robert Hauger (OF), Don Rempp (1B), Brett Mellem (OF/1B) and Wes Robertson (1B/DH).

Newcomers besides Drapeaux will be Ben Kursh (UTIL), Brian McLaughlin (OF) and Seth Fuher (IF/P).

Lesterville Broncos

Lesterville started the 2009 season off with a bang.

A year after going 2-18, the Broncos got off to a 4-1 start last season.

But the rest of the teams in the South Central League started to take notice and knocked Lesterville of its pedestal as the Broncos lost 11 of their next 30 games to finish with a 6-12 record.

"We started the year off well and we surprised some teams, but we started seeing better pitching and we weren't sneaking up on teams anymore," manager Kevin Bloch said. "We have to get in the batting cage and learn how to adjust to the different pitching styles in the league."

Last year Bloch said the team was a little younger than usual and said the team may have gotten even younger this year.

But the youth is starting to get infused on the team with most of the core of the team back from last year.

"I think the players are starting to get used to one another," Bloch said. "Last year we had a solid 10 players and hopefully we have that this year. The core that we have is very positive and I think we are going to build on that."

Even though the team is relying on its youth, the team will still rely on a few veterans this year.

Back for the Broncos is veteran

pitcher Mike Pavel.

The team will also get some help from Tim Kotalik, Bill VanDriel and Jim Fitzgerald.

"They played a bit last year and they are trying to stay in shape for the over-40 state tournament," Bloch said. "Hopefully I can get a couple more of those guys to play this year to add depth to the roster."

Lesterville will need more consistent pitching if it hopes to improve in the SCL standings.

Last year the Broncos gave up a league high 13 runs a game.

Pavel is back on the staff along with Brandon Auch. Adam Goeken can also eat up some innings along with Darin Svacina.

On offense, Bloch said the team is lead by the fourth and fifth hitters — first baseman Jeff Eilers and outfielder/infielder Ian Powell.

Two years ago Eilers was the team's leading power hitter, but last year, Eilers saw a renaissance his game.

"Jeff changed his swing and went for more contact instead of more homers," Bloch said. "He hit .300 for us and that was a big surprise for us. He took it on himself to get runners instead of just hitting the long ball. He's one of our veteran players and is realizing that putting the ball in play is more important than the long ball."

Lesterville didn't totally give up on the long ball as the Broncos still get consistent power from Ian Powell who led Lesterville in homers last year.

"I usually put those two four and five in the order," Bloch said. "They complemented one another and put the pressure on themselves to get runners in."

Some of the other returners for the Lesterville are Trevor Munkvold (IF), Nathan Goeken (IF/OF), Adam Peterson (IF/OF) and Matt Bennett (C/OF), who Bloch said was key behind the plate last year.

"We struggled to find a catcher and when Matt stepped in, it was a big plus for us," he said.

Also joining the team this year are Christian Tieszen (UTIL), Booker Tieszen (UTIL) and Eric DeWaard (C/IF).

Menno Mad Frogs

Menno's slow start to the year didn't seem to affect the Mad Frogs in the long run.

Menno was able to rebound before losing in the quarterfinals

of the state tournament to Redfield despite having just a 9-9 record.

"We had a slow start, but once we got everyone going, especially our bat, we had a good second half and made a good push at the end of the year," manager Ryan Liebl said.

But for the second year in a row, Menno lost one of its top hitters. This time Robb McClemons left the team and last summer Brian Van Driel wasn't able to play.

But it's not the hitting that

ing will hurt this year."

The team still has Kent Sattler and Josh Berndt, but the Mad Frogs will look to a few young arms to pitch some big innings this year.

Tyler Miller is a holdover from last year who will see some more time on the mound.

Two newcomers to the team will be two familiar faces to Menno from the Legion ranks — Tate Bruckner and Kyle Auch.

"We have a couple young guys who will step in big time," Liebl said. "We don't really know what to expect. We hope to be pleasantly surprised."

Liebl added with pitching being a relative unknown this year, Menno's offense will have to carry the team this year.

The good news is Kunz will still be able to play on offense. Kunz will bat lead-off and play first base, which will shift the regular first baseman Sattler to the outfield to help make up for the loss of McClemons.

Also rejoining the team this year is Gus Loneman (OF), Jarud Lang (C/IF), Mark Guthmiller (CF), Bo Bruckner (3B/P) and Tom Sattler (P/1B).

Bruckner and Aush won't be the only newcomers as the Menno added two more with Tyson Hasz (OF) and Spencer Neuharth (OF).

"They are good young players who were well coached in Legion," Liebl said. "If they have good discipline, then they are going to be good for us."

Scotland Highlanders

Scotland's youth movement will continue for one more year.

Last year the Highlanders finished 2-16, and while Scotland is looking to improve on that record, they will have to do it with more than a few new faces on the team's roster.



LESTERVILLE: Mike Pavel

Kendall Johnke said. "If your pitching isn't there, that really affects your team."

Irene looked for pitching help this past off-season and found it in the form of a familiar face — Mike King.

The veteran hurler returned to Irene after about a six year absence and will fill one of the top two spots in the Cardinals' rotation.

"Mike pitched pretty well in the 40 and over tournament, and

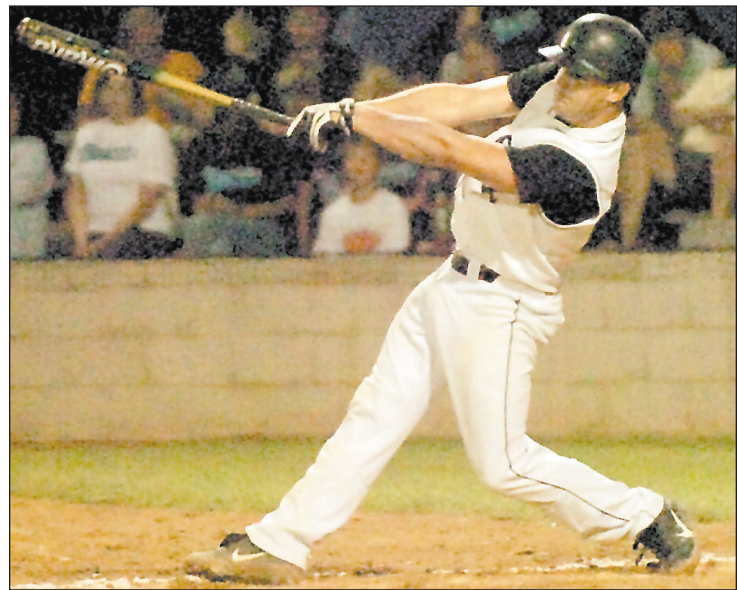
rotation."

The good news is Irene's offense was up to the task in scoring the runs it needed to win games.

Even though Irene gave up 9.39 runs a game, the Cardinals also scored 9.39 runs a game.

"We have no worries with our offense," Johnke said. "We even have some guys on our bench who can hit."

Irene's offense was led by catcher Jeremy Rempp last year.



FREEMAN: Brett Scherschligt

worries Liebl.

The Mad Frogs have already lost two of their top pitchers before the year started.

Mount Marty standout Trey Krier will be playing for the Yankton Tappers this year, as will McClemons, and Kevin Kunz won't be able to pitch until at least July because of an injury.

"We are going to be down a bit this year," Liebl said. "We have our core back, so we should still be good with our hitting and defense, but our pitch-

"We are going to be very young this year," manager Bryan Fuks said. "We've got four Legion players that are coming up. They've produced well in the Legion ranks and I think they can contribute for us right away, along with a couple other new faces."

Leading the group of newcomers will be Jason Vaith (P/UTIL) along with Paul Plante (P/UTIL), Mike Kronaizl (IF),

■ SCL 2010, Page 4 please

Freeman Black Sox

Wynot Expos

Menno Mad Frogs

Need Quick Cash? Call the P&D Classifieds 665-7811.

Menno Food Market
234 South 5th St. • Menno, SD
(605) 387-5159
Monday-Saturday 7:30am-8pm
Sunday 11am-4pm

P&D: Your Sports Source

MERCHANTS STATE BANK
Freeman Hurley • Viborg
Your Hometown Bank Since 1899
www.msb-sd.com
Member FDIC

CEDAR SECURITY BANK
Wynot, NE
402-357-2324

GEMAR'S MARKET
• Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
• Meats & Groceries • In-Store Bakery • Fresh Deli Pizza & Restaurant
Scotland, SD
583-2236

Farmer's Union Insurances
Gary & Marsha Schelske
1-800-638-6860
Menno, SD

MENNO STATE BANK
105 S. 5th St. • PO Box 345
Menno, SD • 387-5111
MEMBER FDIC Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm
Saturday 9am-Noon

Freeman Shopping Center
PO Box E • Freeman, SD
(605) 925-4782

HERITAGE PHARMACY
Freeman (605) 925-4510
Bridgewater (605) 729-2744
Menno (605) 387-5641

Green Diamond
Where Pavement Ends and Gravel Begins
St. James, NE
For More Information: 402-357-2340
Come In for Our Great Weekly Specials
NEW HOURS
Monday - Closed
Tuesday - 11am-11pm
Wednesday - 11am-11pm
Thursday - 11am-1am
Friday - 9am-1am
Saturday - 9am-1am
Sunday - 9am-11pm

BLUE DEVIL BAR & GRILL
Daily Lunch Specials
Monday-Friday 11am-1:30pm
417 St. James Ave.
Wynot, NE
402-357-2792

The Beer Garden
"Where the Good Times Grow!"
Menno, SD
Stop in after the game for a bite to eat!
www.gocities.com/thebeergarden/index.htm

Menno-Olivet Care Center & Assisted Living
402 S. Pine
Menno, SD
605-387-5139
Good Luck Menno Mad Frogs