

# COLUMN

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when current head coach Andy Bernatow took the reins six years ago, the cupboard was so bare that it took 22 games before the team scored its first victory.

From 2007 to 2009 the team showed signs of making its way back, losing in the conference tourney final in '07 and '09, while sliding backwards in 2008. Each year, the team had been picked fairly low in the league, but managed to outplay their doubters.

This year was no different, picked to finish sixth in its own league, the Lancers scored their first Great Plains Athletic Conference regular season title and a berth in the NAIA Baseball Tournament for the first time in this new format. (MMC had made NAIA regionals under Tereshinski.)

What the 2010 Lancers left in their wake is a host of team records, the biggest of which is 39 victories, and a bar that has been raised to new heights. No more will winning the league be the top goal for the team. This squad has tasted success on a national level and, with the level of talent returning, I expect that they will be working hard to get back there again.

This team, as evidenced by their 23-5 outster against defending national champion Lubbock Christian, still has some things to work on for next year.

They need to build on their powerful offense, replacing three of the top six in their everyday lineup. But there are players in the lineup capable of stepping up. Logan Kortan homered in his one at-bat in Lubbock, scoring off a pitcher that had held MMC scoreless for 5 2/3 innings prior in three appearances. Dillon Lambley was a starter as a freshman, then has seen his at bats slip as other players found their bats. Other young players gained experience this season as well.

The ace of the pitching staff,



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Mount Marty's Nathan Roche celebrates after scoring on a play at the plate during the championship game of the NAIA Baseball Tournament, Bracket 4, Friday at Hays Field in Lubbock, Texas.

11-0 Trey Krier, has thrown his final pitch as a Lancer, but a host of talented pitchers return to build on their success from this past season. Jason Schmidt is already the school's career save leader, and showed he can start a game as well with a solid performance against Texas-Brownsville in the NAIA Tournament. Josh Damewood, who went 9-3 after two losses to LCU, and Nick Huston, who threw an outstanding game in a win over 19th-ranked York Thursday, also return. Allen Hemeyer and Nick Wenande, each of which were regular starters on the mound, also return.

But the team cannot rest on their laurels, as the teams that will be chasing them — both inside and outside the GPAC — will be building to knock MMC off its pedestal. The Lancers have announced some solid young recruits, but will need a couple more, as well as improvement from those already on campus, if they wish to build on this year's success.

# MMC

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LCU scored another run in the seventh and five more in the eighth. Logan Kortan hit a lead-off home run in the ninth for Mount Marty's final run.

The Chaparrals, who were held to seven and two runs in the first two meetings this week, rolled up 24 hits in the victory, led by Dan Neumann's 4-4, four RBI effort, which included a home run and two doubles. Richard Bohlken went 3-5 with two home runs and five RBI. Joe Staley and Ross Blondin also had three hits each. Brett Kazmierski and Reid Chenworth added home runs off the bench in the victory.

"I was confident we would come out with a better approach at the plate," said LCU head coach Nathan Blackwood. "I knew our guys would come out and battle."

Bernatow said that Friday's offensive explosion emphasized even more the job that Krier did on the mound Thursday, when he held LCU to two runs in a 3-2 Lancer win.

"It shows how good Krier was last night," Bernatow said. "It's also kind of a sobering feeling. We're sorry that we had to put our pitchers out there. That is one of the best offensive lineups I've ever seen."

Lambrechts and Damewood each had two hits to lead Mount Marty, which finished with eight hits. Krier, Kortan, Ross Heine and Justin Kemp also had hits.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Mount Marty first baseman Trey Krier stretches to take the throw to retire Lubbock Christian's David Cruz during the championship of the NAIA Baseball Tournament, Bracket 4, Friday at Hays Field in Lubbock, Texas.

Paul Gonzalez struck out 11 batters in five innings to pick up the win. Hunter Scott earned the save, throwing the final three innings. Damewood took the loss.

LCU (46-14) will now defend its national championship in the Avista-NAIA World Series, May 28-June 4 at Lewiston, Idaho.

"Our goal is still the same," Blackwood noted. "In our first meeting of the year, we said we wanted to win the national cham-

ampionship. It won't be as easy this year, since we won't be the top seed."

Mount Marty finishes with a 39-17 mark. A school record for victories is just one of the Lancer marks that were rewritten by the 2010 version of the program. Krier, Andy Turbak and Lambrechts are starters who played their final game for the Lancers.

"It's going to be tough to let go of these seniors," Bernatow

said. "They've been through so much. They're not just great ball players, but great people."

With several players returning, the Lancers will look to continue to build on this season's success.

"We have a good bunch coming back. We're working on bringing in a good bunch as well," Bernatow said. "Expectations will be high, but hopefully they feel like there is unfinished business for them."

# NHL: Blackhawks One Win From Finals SCL

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks are one win away from reaching the Stanley Cup finals for the first time since 1992, thanks to 257-pound playoff dynamo Dustin Byfuglien.

Byfuglien scored his seventh goal of this postseason 12:24 into overtime Friday night and the Blackhawks beat the San Jose Sharks 3-2 to take a commanding 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The Blackhawks can finish the sweep and make the finals with a victory Sunday at the United Center.

Byfuglien went straight down the middle and took a nice pass from Dave Bolland, who was behind the net, to beat Evgeni Nabokov and set off a deafening roar from the crowd of 22,311.

Bolland scored on a breakaway to put Chicago ahead 2-1 in the third period, but Patrick Marleau answered with a rebound goal with 4:23 left in regulation to tie it and force overtime.

Marleau also scored in the second period on a power play,

giving him four goals in two games. Patrick Sharp had a man-advantage goal for the Blackhawks.

Antti Niemi had 44 saves for the Blackhawks, stopping five shots in overtime, including one on Devin Setoguchi from the right circle. Nabokov finished with 35 saves and had stuffed Patrick Kane earlier in overtime when the quick forward skated to the net.

Bolland picked up a loose puck at center ice after Jonathan Toews blocked a shot, skated ahead, and at the last second maneuvered in to beat Nabokov with just under seven minutes remaining in regulation to give Chicago a 2-1 lead.

But the lead didn't last long. About 2 1/2 minutes later, Marleau scored on a rebound with 4:23 to play.

Just as a two-man advantage was about to elapse, Marleau scored his first goal on a rebound shot from the slot. The power-play goal came about four minutes into the second period to put the Sharks ahead 1-0.

The goal came after back-to-back penalties on Bolland and Marian Hossa 33 seconds apart.

But three minutes later with the Blackhawks on a power play, Toews threaded a perfect pass across the crease to Sharp.

An apparent early first-period goal by San Jose's Joe Pavelski was disallowed following a video review.

As Pavelski battled Duncan Keith for a rebound in front of the net during a power play less than two minutes in, the puck went into the net. But after the review, officials ruled that Pavelski directed the puck in with his skate and waved it off.

San Jose coach Todd McLellan shifted his lines to try to shake up the Sharks' offense that managed just three goals in the first two games at home. Setoguchi and Logan Couture were paired with star Joe Thornton to start the game, replacing Dany Heatley and Marleau.

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the win on the mound. Paul Plant was 2-2 with two singles and a run for Scotland. Bryan Fuks pitched six innings in the loss.

TABOR (1-0).....201 061 6 — 16 16  
SCOTLAND (0-1).....100 000 0 — 1 7 0

Logan Tyez, Gary Kortan (7) and Steve Fujlar; Bryan Fuks, Jason Valth (7) and Valth, Derek Wiemann (7)

## Thursday's Games

### Irene 4, Crofton 3

IRENE — Mike Sturm and Adam Rempp each hurled complete game gems, but it was the Irene Cardinals who came out on top 4-3 in 10 innings in the SCL opener for both teams Thursday night in Irene.

Simon Healy was 3-5 with two solo home runs for the Cardinals, who also got three hits from Ben Krush and two hits from Wes Robertson.

Sturm pitched 10 innings in the loss, surrendering single runs in the first, second, seventh and 10th innings.

Gary Redden was with a double for the Blue Jays, who scored all of their runs in the fifth inning.

Irene hosts Tabor on Sunday and Crofton is at Freeman on Tuesday.

CROFTON (0-1).....000 030 000 0 — 3 6 2  
IRENE (1-0).....110 000 100 1 — 4 10 2

Mike Sturm and Gary Redden; Adam Rempp and Jeremy Rempp

# 76ers Name Collins As Coach

BY KATE FAGAN

(c) 2010, The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Confirming what the Philadelphia Inquirer reported Thursday night, Philadelphia 76ers president and general manager Ed Stefanski announced Friday in a news release that Doug Collins has been named the team's new head coach. Per team policy, terms of the agreement were not disclosed. The news conference will be held Monday at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia.

"We are excited to hire a head coach with the level of experience, knowledge and passion for the game that Doug Collins has," said Stefanski. "He has been around basketball his entire life, has experienced success at every step throughout his career and we are confident in his ability to lead our team."

"Doug Collins is a terrific motivator, teacher, and manager," said Comcast-Spectacor President Peter Luukko. "We believe he is the right coach for the Philadelphia 76ers and the one who will lead us back onto the right track."

"The past week has provided us

with a series of events that we believe will be a turning point for the Philadelphia 76ers," said Comcast-Spectacor Chairman Ed Snider. "Doug Collins is a coach that can make an immediate impact. He has all the attributes that we are looking for in a new head coach, and we are happy to welcome him back into the Sixers family."

Collins, 58, last coached in the NBA with the Washington Wizards in 2002-03. He has an overall record of 332-287 in eight seasons. He now serves as an analyst for the NBA on TNT. In eight seasons of coaching, Collins reached the playoffs five times, highlighted by a trip to the Eastern Conference Finals with Chicago in 1989.

Following a standout career at Illinois State, Collins was selected by the Sixers with the first overall pick in the 1973 NBA Draft. He spent all eight of his seasons with Philadelphia, averaging 17.9 points, 3.3 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.25 steals in 415 games played while shooting 50.1 percent from the floor and 83.3 percent from the line. For his career, the four-time All-Star had more steals (518) than turnovers (485).

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