

2011 South Central League Regular Season Schedule

NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Schedule changes will be reported in the Press & Dakotan as we are notified of them.

Thursday, May 19
 Freeman at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
Friday, May 20
 Crofton at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)
 Menno at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, May 22
 Crofton at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
 Lesterville at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Menno at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)

Thursday, May 26
 Avon at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
Friday, May 27
 Irene at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
 Scotland at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, May 29
 Crofton at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
 Freeman at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Irene at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)
 Lesterville at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
Thursday, June 2
 Avon at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Irene at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
 Lesterville at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Menno (7:30 p.m.)

Friday, June 3
 Scotland at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, June 5
 Lesterville at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
 Menno at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
 Scotland at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
Thursday, June 9
 Menno at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
 Scotland at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
Friday, June 10
 Crofton at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Lesterville at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, June 12
 Avon at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
 Freeman at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
 Irene at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)

Tabor at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
Thursday, June 16
 Avon at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
 Crofton at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Freeman at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Menno at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)
Friday, June 17
 Yankton at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, June 19
 Avon at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
 Irene at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Lesterville at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
 Scotland at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
Thursday, June 23
 Avon at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
 Irene at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Scotland at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)

Friday, June 24
 Freeman at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, June 26
 Crofton at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
 Freeman at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
 Lesterville at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)
 Menno at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
Thursday, June 30
 Irene at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
 Menno at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
Friday, July 1
 Wynot at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
Saturday, July 2
 Scotland at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)

Sunday, July 3
 Avon at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
Monday, July 4
 Lesterville at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
 Scotland at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
Thursday, July 7
 Freeman at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)
 Menno at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
Friday, July 8
 Crofton at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, July 10
 Avon at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)
 Crofton at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
 Freeman at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
 Irene at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)

Thursday, July 14
 Crofton at Irene (7:30 p.m.)
 Lesterville at Avon (7:30 p.m.)
 Scotland at Tabor (7:30 p.m.)
 Yankton at Wynot (7:30 p.m.)
Friday, July 15
 Menno at Freeman (7:30 p.m.)
Sunday, July 17
 Avon at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
 Freeman at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.)
 Irene at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
 Tabor at Crofton (7:30 p.m.)
 Wynot at Scotland (7:30 p.m.)

DISTRICTS
 July 21-30 at Lesterville
STATE

The SCL

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the Crows, who folded. Joining the Bluejays will be Seth Erdman, Trevor Arens, Cody Wilken, Tanner Foxhoven and Adam Wiebold.

As evidenced by the fact that the five games at last year's state tournament were decided by an average of 2.8 runs, pitching will again be a key for Crofton. The Bluejays could have as many as eight players see time on the mound, Schieffer said.

"If some of the young guys can all pick up some innings, we could be right back where we were, pitching-wise," he said. "Not that many years ago, we only had one guy who really pitched for us."

Crofton got a jump-start on tough competition this year, as it faced defending state champion Dimock-Emery in the season opener — losing 12-6.

"Hopefully we can do the same thing," Schieffer said. "I've seen some of the better teams not even make it to state. Our goal is to have a good district and get back to state, and go from there. We don't want to set our goals too high."

Freeman Blacksox

There will be an influx of newcomers, some with no amateur baseball experience, for the Blacksox this summer.

Freeman, coming off an 11-5 league record last season, returns key players such as Brett Scherschligt, Geoffrey Pfeiffer, Austin Schmidt and Dustin Tschetter, but the team also recruited a number of prospective players — mostly in the 24-25 year-old — from across town. Another key addition will be Dustin Randall from Platte.

Manager Eric Hortness said his team will need to find ways for the newcomers to fit into the mix.

The Blacksox were the No. 3 seed in last year's District 6B Tournament, but missed out on one of the league's four state tournament bids.

"With us getting five teams into the state tournament, that's our number one goal," said Hortness, who plays infield and pitches. "I've always believed that our district tournament is tougher than the state tournament. It's just such a deep league."

Hortness said he believes Tabor, which also finished 11-5 a year ago, could be the "sleeper" in 2011.

"They have three kids from Mount Marty College that not many people know about, so they'll be tough," he said. "After that, I think everybody is pretty even."



Irene's Simon Healy (10)

Irene Cardinals

After falling in the first round of the state tournament last year, Irene's manager Kendall Johnke said the team lost some good players they'll have to fill in for this season.

The most notable players lost were heavy-hitters Ben Krush and Garrett Gross and pitcher Joe Sees. Johnke said that, due to the losses, the Cardinals will be at a disadvantage because of speed and pitching.

"We have five decent pitchers on the roster this season, but their stamina isn't there — it's tough for them to go all nine innings," Johnke said. "We're also really lacking in speed. With Ben (Krush) gone, we lost a really good runner and hitter."

To try to compensate for the lack of stamina and speed, Irene added Brian Drapeaux, Chase Heland and Ben Sees. Johnke said both Drapeaux and Ben Sees will help the team in pitching and Heland is a pretty solid all-around player.

"Ben (Sees) has been out of the league for about eight years, so we're working to build his stamina up again. He's pitched well so far in the off-season," he said. "Chase is a decent hitter, he doesn't have the power like Krush, but he's a really good catcher and can play almost anywhere in the infield."

Measuring up the competition, Johnke said there are three teams the Cardinals will be on the lookout for.

"I think Tabor and Crofton will be really tough. They always have good pitching and strong fielding to back it up. They hit the ball well," Johnke said. "Wynot could be challenging, too. They always have a bunch of hometown kids." As the Cardinals try to

strengthen their weaknesses, Johnke said their success will rely mostly on how well the team pitches.

Lesterville Broncs

Coming off a three-win campaign in last year's SCL regular season, the Broncs will be relying on a roster filled mostly with newcomers.

Lesterville lost six starters, according to manager Kevin Bloch, and returns key players Darren Svacina, veteran pitcher Mike Pavel and Adam Peterson.

"We're optimistic," Bloch said. "All we can do is play one game at a time, and see what we can get done."

Among the new faces are Lee Heilman, Allen Tirrel, Travis Reed and Booker Tieszen, who all have baseball experience. Trevor Munkvold, who has been with the team over the last few years, is also back for 2011.

Bloch said to fill a full roster, the Broncs looked to former players and others interested around the area. Calling it mostly a "trial and error," Bloch said Lesterville will be looking to see which players can fill certain roles — specifically shortstop, pitcher and catcher.

"They won't be sitting on the bench, they want to get their feet wet and see what amateur baseball is all about," he said.

Bloch said he envisions Crofton, Wynot and Tabor battling it out for the top spot in the SCL this season. Though he did add Irene to the mix, based on their pitching abilities.

"It could depend on how Irene pitches," he said. "They've got the offense to put up some runs, but pitching will be their key."

"Crofton made a great run last

year, and they were playing district champions from other leagues," he added, referencing Crofton's run to the state championship game. "It was good to see for our league."

Menno Mad Frogs

With a dozen players back from last year's team, the Menno Mad Frogs feel up to the challenge of improving on last season's 4-12 league record.

Besides manager Ryan Liebl, the Mad Frogs return Kyle Auch, Jarud Lang, Tyler Miller, Gus Loneman, Mark Guthmiller, Kevin Kunz, Bo Bruckner, Tate Bruckner, Spencer Neuharth, Tom Sattler and Doug Hall.

Macon Oplinger and Tyson Haas join the Mad Frogs after completing their American Legion baseball eligibility. Jeff Eilers moves over to Menno after playing for Lesterville the last few years. Logan Smith returns to action for the Mad Frogs after taking the last couple years off.

Tate Bruckner, Oplinger and Auch will shoulder the bulk of the work on the mound for the Mad Frogs.

"We're hoping that Tate, Macon and Kyle can step up as the anchors of our pitching staff," Liebl said.

Liebl said the eight guys playing around those pitchers will have to do their part in order for the team to continue moving forward.

"Our defense will have to be our strength," he said. "We have a lot of young kids who are fast and have good gloves."

While the Mad Frogs had just four league wins last year, many of those wins came later in the season. Liebl is hoping to see the team continue to improve as the summer progresses.

"If we gel as a team quickly and finish strong, like last year, we could be pretty decent," he said.

Scotland Stingers

It was tough for the Scotland Stingers to find wins last season with a 0-18 record. Experience was an issue that Scotland had to deal with, but with that experience the Stingers are looking to find a couple wins.

"It is possible that we can win at least five games this season," Scotland manager Bryan Fuks said. "We brought in a few quality pitchers that can throw hard and keep the ball around the plate."

The Stingers are looking to only have one big name leave its roster and that is infielder Derek Wieman. Scotland added newcomer to the town of Scotland Blake Gomer, who according to Fuks has been bashing the ball around during batting practice.

Some of the veterans that Fuks look to carry a young team are himself, Paul Plante, Jason Vaith and Mike Kronaizl. The Stingers do a have a few players that have previous South Dakota Amateur Baseball experience including Kraig Kronaizl and Steven Cotton.

"What it all boiled down to last year was the experience," Fuks said. "We had four players that had just came up from legion ball and played regularly for us. It's going to be that one year experience that is going to aid us this season."

It is tough going throughout the season with a win, but Fuks has a motto that the Stingers are going to live by — the only way we can go is up.

"We can go up from here," he said. "I'm hoping that we can find ourselves in the middle of the pack by the time districts come around."

Not only is Fuks going to be doing some of the coaching, but he has picked two coaches with amateur baseball experience to lead the base paths for him. Dennis Kronaizl and Brian Vaith will act as the first and third base coaches for Scotland.

Tabor Bluebirds

The Tabor Bluebirds have many things to smile about in this upcoming season. Tabor ended last year with a solid 13-5 regular season record, but did lose four of their players from last season. There is no cause for concern because help is on the way with a couple regulars from the Mount Marty Lancers.

"We are planning on competing for South Central League title," Bluebirds manager Gary Kortan said. "We lost four players from last year, but we gained five players including three kids from Mount Marty College."

Tabor added outfielder Logan Kortan, starting pitcher Dominic Wieseler and infielder Tyler Edler

from MMC. Kortan posted a .250 average in 42 games with the Lancers, while notching 10 doubles, two home runs and 16 RBI. Wieseler made 11 appearances on the mound and tallied a 5-4 record including 32 strikeouts. Edler saw minimal time with the Lancers in his first season, but should make a direct impact for the Bluebirds this upcoming season.

Other additions for the Bluebirds are Drew Lawrence that previously played for the Wynot Expos last season and Austin Koch, who is coming up from Bon Homme's legion ball team. Players that Tabor lost from last season are Brett Sime, Logan Tycz, Brandon Tycz and Nick Kortan.

"We are quite a veteran team," Kortan said. "But, we are ready to make room for some of the new guys this year. The new players should provide us with something we haven't had in awhile — speed."

The veterans that Tabor will be leaning on this season is the ace of the pitching staff Jon Vavruska, who finished last season with a 4-2 record. Steve Fejfar, who hit for a .370 average, has played many years of amateur ball, but Kortan said Fejfar is still one of the most feared batters in the South Central League.

Wynot Expos

After finishing the regular season with the best record, the Expos fell in the state tournament to Dimock-Emery, who would go on to be the State B Champions. From last year's roster, manager Terry Foxhoven said the team lost some key players.

"Most of (last year's players) are returning, but we did lose a few. We lost our starting catcher and our left-fielder. This is kind of a rebuilding year for us," Foxhoven said.

At last year's District 6B tournament, Wynot took the title as the number one seed. At the state tournament, the Expos fell in the second round to Dimock-Emery. Some returners for the team will be Kyle Wiepen, Aaron Burbach, and then the Heimes — Scott, Steve, Lee and Ryan.

In his 18th season as manager, Foxhoven said the fate of the team will be determined by how well players adjust to new situations.

"Our success depends mainly on whether or not the younger players can step up and meet the challenge," he said. "I hope towards the end of the season we start playing our best baseball and can make it to state again."

Whether the younger players can play at the high level or not, Foxhoven said the team's defense needs to be there no matter what.

"If we've got good pitching and our defense is behind it to back it up, we should be all right throughout the season," he said.

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