

AREA CALENDAR

Monday, May 21
Tuesday, May 22
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH
SCHOOL Class A Wild Card Game
GOLF, BOYS' S.D. State Class B
Tourn. at Hart Ranch GC, Rapid City

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct GB

Central Division
W L Pct GB

West Division
W L Pct GB

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct GB

Central Division
W L Pct GB

West Division
W L Pct GB

Friday's Games
Chicago White Sox 3, Chicago Cubs 2

Saturday's Games
Cincinnati 5, N.Y. Yankees 5

Sunday's Games
Cincinnati 5, N.Y. Yankees 2

Monday's Games
Boston (Burcholz 4-2) at Baltimore

Tuesday's Games
Washington (Gonzalez 5-1) at Philadelphia

Wednesday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Garza 2-1) at Houston

Thursday's Games
San Francisco (Bumgarner 5-3) at Milwaukee

Friday's Games
San Francisco (Richard 2-5) at St. Louis

Saturday's Games
San Francisco (Richard 2-5) at St. Louis

Sunday's Games
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Monday's Games
San Francisco (Richard 2-5) at St. Louis

Earnhardt Races Way Into Sprint All-Star Race

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Dale Earnhardt Jr. knew he had a free pass into the All-Star race. But he didn't want to get into the \$1 million race that way.

Instead, Earnhardt led all 40 laps of Saturday night's Sprint Showdown to race his way into the main event at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I feel real fortunate to have drove my way into the All-Star race," Earnhardt said. "My fans work hard to vote, and I never assume that I'm going to win the race. The fan support is a gift and I never take it for granted. We feel real lucky to have an opportunity to race. We're going to enjoy it having earned our way in this year."

Earnhardt won the All-Star race in 2000, and with it came a 10-year exemption into the event. It expired last season, and NASCAR's most popular driver used the fan vote to make the race. This time, he battled Martin Truex Jr. around the track for the first lap, surged ahead before the flagstand, and never looked back.

He starts 21st in the 23-car All-Star race field. "We would love to win a million dollars, and we are pumped up," he said. "We think we have a good shot." He thinks he's got the Chevrolet to do it, too.

He squandered the fan vote last year, finishing 14th in the field. Months later, crew chief Steve Letarte admitted to the driver he didn't bring him the best car. "I don't inquire about the cars leading up to the race," Truex said. "I just assume we're taking what he believes to be the best car for that event," he said. "We didn't bring our best bullet to the fight. He told me this year they were going to put a little more emphasis on this event."

Washington Ends Bucks' Season

SIoux FALLS — Sioux Falls Washington ended Yankton's season, blanking the Bucks 6-0 in the opening round of the Region 2A club high school baseball tournament on Saturday at Harmonden Park.

Tom Butler, Sam Wendt, Chris Kanaly and Lane Sawatzke had hits for the Bucks, who finished with a 9-11 record.

Zach Benjamin allowed two earned runs in the loss, with Alex Wagner and Tanner Termansen also throwing for the Bucks.

Amateur

Irene 11, Lesterville 1 (7)

IRENE — Irene won 11-1 victory over Lesterville on Sunday in the South Central League baseball opener for both teams.

Matt Sees went 2-3 and Jeremy Rempp added a double for Irene.

Cameron Schiltz, Cody Ulmer and Darren Swacina had hits for Lesterville.

Brian Drapeau went six innings, striking out eight, for the win. Tyler Edler took the loss.

Irene played a non-league game in Vermillion Wednesday. Lesterville hosts Wynot Friday.

IRENE: 000 001 0 - 1 3 1
LESTERVILLE: 150 041 1 - 11 12 2

Irene: Alec Sprakel (2), Travis Reed (5) and Zach Johnson; Ryan Drapeau, Mike King (7) and Jeremy Rempp.

Crofton 5, Menno 4

CROFTON, Neb. — Crofton pitching combined for 18 strikeouts as the Blue-Jays clipped Menno 5-4 in South Central League action Sunday.

Crofton needed to rally late for the win, scoring one in the eighth to tie the game at three then, after giving up a run in the top of the ninth, scoring two in the bottom for the win.

The tying run in the ninth scored on a wild pitch, with Nick Hegge's third hit of the game plating the game-winning run.

Hegge finished with a double and two singles, driving in three runs, for Crofton. Scot Donner had a pair of hits, driving in a run. Rand Thygeson doubled, and Kyle Mueller, Trevor Arens and Tyler Klein-smitt added hits in the win.

Spencer Neuharth had a hit and a RBI for Menno. Ryan Lieb, Tate Bruckner and Jeremy Wormers also had hits.

Donner earned the win in relief, striking out nine over the final four innings. Seth Erdmann started, striking out eight in his three innings of work. Aaron Losing struck out one in two innings of relief.

Tate Bruckner took the loss, striking out one in a complete game effort.

Crofton hosts Akron, Iowa, in non-league action on Thursday. Menno travels to Avon Tuesday.

MENNO: 000 120 001 - 4 4 1
CROFTON: 002 000 012 - 5 9 2

Crofton: Seth Erdmann, Aaron Losing (4), Scot Donner (6)

Golf

Beresford senior Jessica Christensen, who tied for 79th a year ago, is the only other area athlete who competed at state last year.

The Watchdogs also qualified Nataliee Muhlenkott and freshman Taylor Watkins.

Also qualified in Class A is Bon Homme senior Brittany Cihak.

Class B Girls

After two runner-up finishes in three years, Freeman junior Aaron Lickteig will look to claim his first state title.

Lickteig finished second to Howard's Cal Wiese a year ago, and to teammate Josh Korn in 2009. He also finished 16th in 2010 and tied for 33rd as a seventh grader in 2008.

Platte-Geddes, ranked eighth entering the tournament, was the only area team to qualify a full squad. The Black Panthers, who placed 13th a year ago, were joined by senior Trey Croy, who tied for 34th a year ago. Connor Kuipers, who tied for 102nd, also returns from the 2011 tourney. Junior Tate Van Zee and eighth grader Colton Plooster round out the Black Panthers squad.

Parker sophomore Patrick Gillespie, who tied for 18th a year ago, joins Lickteig as the only area place-winner going returning in 2012. Gillespie is joined in Rapid City by teammate Logan Sanner, a freshman.

Other area golfers returning with state meet experience from 2011 include Freeman Academy's Adam Unruh (Sr., tied for 58th) and Irene-

Transactions

BASEBALL
BOSTON RED SOX—Recalled OF Chuan-Lin Lin from Pawtucket (IL). Optioned 1B Mauro Gomez to Pawtucket.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Placed RHP Brandon McCarthy on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Jim Miller from Sacramento (PCL).

NATIONAL LEAGUE
CHICAGO CUBS—Suspended RHP Kerry Wood on the voluntary placed list.

COLORADO ROCKIES—Recalled RHP Adam Ottavino from Colorado Springs (PCL). Optioned LHP Rex Brothers to Colorado Springs.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Recalled 2B Mark Ellis on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Ivan DeJesus from Albuquerque (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS—Placed OF Emilio Bonifacio on the 15-day DL. Recalled OF Chris Coghlan from Las Vegas. Selected the contract of INF Donovan Solano from Las Vegas.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Reinstated sixth-year pitcher on the 15-day DL. Optioned INF Brock Conrad to Nashville (PCL).

NEW YORK METS—Placed RHP Miguel Batista on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Chris Schwinden from Buffalo (IL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Placed RHP Jason Grilli on the bereavement list. Recalled LHP Jeff Locke from Indianapolis (IL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Placed 1B Lance Berkman on the 15-day DL. Recalled the contract of 1B Matt Adams from Memphis (PCL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Selected the contract of RHP Matt Palmer from Tucson (PCL). Optioned RHP Nick Vincent to Tucson. Transferred RHP LHP Cyle Luebke to the 60-day DL.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Named Rita Benson LeBlanc, vice chairman of the board and Dennis Laussan president.

HOCKEY
AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
NHL—Suspended Oklahoma City LW Tristan Grant one game for an illegal check to the head of an opponent in a May 18 game against Toronto.

SATURDAY'S TRANSACTIONS
BASEBALL
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Placed LHP Everett Rife on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Nate Adcock from Omaha (PCL).

NATIONAL LEAGUE
CHICAGO CUBS—Acquired C Koyie Hill from Cincinnati Reds for cash considerations. Placed C Geovany Soto on the 15-day DL. Recalled OF May 17. Recalled RHP Randy Wells from Iowa (PCL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Placed 2B Mark Ellis on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Ivan DeJesus from Albuquerque (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS—Optioned 1B Gaby Sanchez to New Orleans (PCL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Selected the contract of LHP Juan Perez from Nashville (PCL). Designated RHP Vinnie Chalk for assignment.

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Placed OF Mark Kotsay on the 15-day DL. retroactive to May 13. Recalled OF Blake Tekotte from Tucson (PCL).

Can-Am League
GARY SOUTHWEST RAILCATS—Signed RHP Kyle Wilson.

Williams

It surprises me that he'd get back into coaching like that, but it doesn't surprise me they would work together."

The Press & Dakotan was unable to reach Lavin on Sunday afternoon.

Youngberg said Williams and Lavin, who coached two stints at USD from 1982-86 and from 1998-2008, were in constant contact; always talking on the phone and watching game film together.

Williams' final season as a head coach in 2007-08 was also his best. He guided the Coyotes to a

33-2 record and a berth in the Division II national championship game — though USD lost.

Since his retirement in 2008, Lavin has been conducting private camps and lessons for area players, and has had former USD women's and men's players serve as assistants — including Youngberg.

"It's such a wonderful job, and he gets to work with Lavin, and he said, 'I couldn't be happier for both of them.'"

Colorado State, which graduates just two players from last season's roster, has already established a pipeline from South Dakota.

Among the five women's basketball recruits tied to CSU is Caitlin Duffy, a 5-foot-11 guard

from Rapid City and former standout at St. Thomas More.

Yankton native Colton Mverson is a member of the CSU men's basketball team, after transferring from Minnesota.

As far as who should take over for Williams at USD, which is NCAA post-season eligible next season, Youngberg said the bar has already been set high.

"I obviously feel like we should have standards; they've got some big shoes to fill," she said. "It's a great place to get a job right now, because it's growing and a lot is happening."

"They should be enthusiastic about coaching, and be ready to be part of a great Coyote family."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

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