



Yankton Spitfire shortstop Karlee Kozak dives to stop a grounder during the first game of Thursday night's softball doubleheader with the Wayne Dirt Devils at Riverside Park. The teams split the doubleheader.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

## Softball: Spitfire, Wayne Split

The Yankton Spitfire and Wayne Dirt Devils split a girls' softball doubleheader Thursday night at Riverside Park, with each team controlling each end.

Wayne won the first game 11-2 thanks to a 5-run first inning and Yankton took game two 5-0.

In the opener, Lizzy Bye singled and drove home a run for the Spitfire, while Jess Wirth doubled and scored. Andi Sprakel and Taylor Ruby also singled. Katie Koletzky pitched and struck out one.

In the second game, Bye pitched and struck out 10 batters.

Sprakel was 3-3 with an RBI, while Brooke Loecker went 2-2 with two singles. Koletzky had two RBI, while Ruby and Hailey Hinseth each drove in a run.

Yankton will play in a USSSA "Pitch For The Cure" tournament this weekend in Lincoln, Neb.

**Lightning 11-8, Extreme 5-5**

In a battle between Yankton teams, the Lightning came away with a doubleheader sweep over the Xtreme in softball action Thursday at the Summit Fields. The Lightning won by scores of 11-5 and 8-5.

In the first game for the Light-

ning, Brynn Albers had three hits and four RBI, while Madison Dangler singled and had two RBI. Bailey Kortan added a pair of hits and an RBI, while Abby Bartlett and Ellen Andersen both drove in a run. Kalya Peterka tripled and singled.

For the Xtreme, Bailey Peterka singled twice, while Emily Bye, Lexie McCorkell, Madysen Gilbertson, Madie Cordell, Emily Oswald and Grace Roy all singled. Holly Mines and Kara Ulmer both pitched.

Andersen pitched and struck

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## NCAA: Ducks Set To Host SDSU Tonight In Regional

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — When Oregon was named the No. 8 national seed in this year's 64-team NCAA baseball tournament, former Ducks athletic director Pat Kilkenny told coach George Horton he got goose bumps.

Kilkenny was instrumental in bringing back Oregon's baseball program five years ago after a 28-year hiatus. He lured Horton from Cal State Fullerton to restart the team.

In that short time, the Ducks have been to the postseason three times. This season they're repeating as a national seed and host of a regional.

"He deserves those goose

bumps," Horton told reporters after the selection was made. "It was his brain-storm that started this whole concept."

Oregon (45-15) will open the double-elimination tournament at PK Park with South Dakota State (35-22) on Friday night, after Rice (41-17) plays San Francisco (34-22).

Horton coached at Fullerton for 11 seasons, going to the College World Series six times. The Titans team won the national title in 2004, and he was twice the national coach of the year.

At Oregon, Horton built a program from the ground up in just 17 months, starting with 20 freshmen on a roster of 35. He had the full support of the university, which built PK Park in the shadow of Autzen Stadium.

Horton's record at Oregon is now 177-124-1.

Horton said that the Ducks — who have seen many of their sports programs achieve national recognition in the last decade — have set a high bar.

"You almost feel like if you don't accomplish something like this you're behind the times," he said.

This will be Oregon's fifth overall postseason appearance. The Ducks advanced to the College World Series in 1954 and last season the team also hosted a Super Regional but was eliminated by Kent State.

South Dakota State, which won the Summit League championship, is making its first NCAA tournament appearance. It is the Jackrabbits' first meeting with the Ducks.

Rice, which won the Conference USA championship tournament, is making its 19th straight NCAA tournament appearance. The Owls won the 2003 College World Series under coach Wayne Graham, who is in his 22nd season.

San Francisco, runner-up in the West Coast Conference tournament, won an at-large bid to their third NCAA postseason appearance.

"When you look at the machine that's happening there at Oregon, building the new field, putting \$10-15 million into the facility there for baseball, the backing of 3,000-4,000 fans. Then you look at Rice, who has won a national championship, who has had major league players, who has a hall of fame coach," said Dons coach Nino Giarratano. "There's two Hall of Fame coaches there with George Horton and Wayne Graham. So when you look at the caliber of coaching that's going to be there and the quality of players, it's going to be a very tough regional."

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## Mount Marty College Recruits Hegge Headed To MMC

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Though he was a 4-sport standout at Crofton High School, Ben Hegge thought he would play just one sport in college.

Baseball was pretty much a given, but basketball was a whole other story.

"Basketball was always something I thought I'd like to try in college, but there was a point in the season where I wasn't enjoying it as much," Hegge said Thursday afternoon, hours after his signing to Mount Marty College to play baseball and basketball was announced.

That all changed once Crofton started winning.

Hegge ultimately helped the Warriors reach the Nebraska state boys' basketball tournament for the first time since 1928 — they ultimately lost in the first round to top-seeded Sutton.

"Things turned around and we won some games, and I was having so much fun," Hegge said. "I figured it'd be really tough to give up. I told the coaches I wanted to give it a try."

It was certainly good news for new Mount Marty head men's basketball coach Andrew Baker, who was promoted two weeks ago.

"That was a quick yes on my part; we really wanted him," Baker said Thursday. "I think getting to state made him realize he could keep playing basketball."

The addition of Hegge to the roster puts the Lancers at 15 players for the 2013-14 season, Baker said, adding that he would like to see five more.

With Baker at the helm next season, the Lancers are going to be tough and gritty — styles that fit Hegge's play, Baker said.

"I'm going to be big on competition," Baker said. "I don't care what class you are, you better be in there competing every day. I



Crofton's Ben Hegge, right, drives to drive around a Sutton defender during their Class C2 first-round game in March at the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament in Lincoln, Neb. Hegge signed Thursday to play basketball and baseball at Mount Marty College in Yankton.

P&D FILE PHOTO

**HEGGE | PAGE 9A**

## Vermillion's Bertram Ready For College Level

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Collin Bertram is not a pitcher that strikes fear into hitters with a blazing fastball, but he sure throws strikes.

Control is the name of the game for the Vermillion left-handed pitcher, who earned first team All-State honors as a junior and has some of the best numbers in the state.

"A long-time ago, someone told me that it doesn't matter how hard you throw, you just have to throw strikes," Bertram said Thursday. "That's what pitching is all about."

"That's what I've kept in my mind."

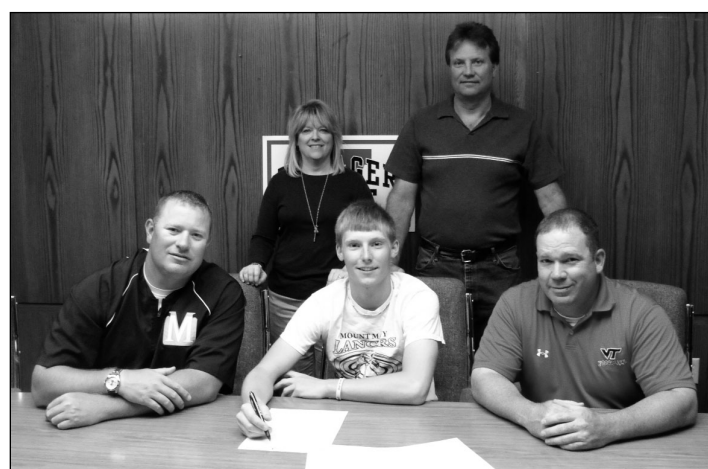
He has also been on the

mind of the Mount Marty College baseball program after attending their camps over the past few years. On Thursday, it all came together, as Bertram was announced as the newest recruit for the Lancers.

Bertram has recorded an 11-1 record over his last two high school seasons, leading Vermillion to the State Class B championship last year. He also plays for the Vermillion American Legion team during the summer.

Bertram was 8-0 with two saves and a 0.79 earned run average as a junior last spring, pitching three shutouts while striking out 73 hitters in 57 innings.

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Vermillion baseball pitcher and outfielder Collin Bertram, front center, signs his letter of intent to play baseball at Mount Marty College. Pictured with him are (front, L-R) Mount Marty coach Andy Bernatow, Vermillion coach Jason Gault, (back) mother Jolynne and father Randy.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## SCL: Irene, Crofton Win At Home

IRENE — George Sees went 4-4 and two Irene Cardinals homered in a 13-2 seven-inning South Central League amateur baseball victory Thursday night in Irene.

Sees tripled, doubled and singled for Irene (3-0), while Ben Krush hit a two-run homer and singled, and Mike King added a 2-run homer. Wes Robertson and Simon Healy both doubled and singled.

Ben Sees struck out seven batters in a complete game win. In three games this season, the Cardinals have allowed a total of one run. They beat Freeman 10-0 in the season opener last Friday and routed Scotland 16-1 on Sunday.

For Lesterville (1-2), seven players had one hit. Jason Bierle pitched one inning and got the loss.

Both teams are in action Sunday, with Irene hosting Tabor and Lesterville hosting Menno.

IRENE (1-2).....200 000 0 — 2 7 2  
LESTERVILLE (3-0).....542 002 X — 13 13 1  
Jason Bierle, Alex Wagner (2) and Ian Powell; Ben Sees and Pat Sees

### Crofton 9, Freeman 3

CROFTON, Neb. — Rand Thygeson doubled twice and singled twice to lead the Crofton Bluejays past Freeman 9-3 in South Central League amateur action Thursday night in Crofton.

Joe Wiebelhaus and Scot Donner each singled twice for the Bluejays (2-1), who scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to pull ahead 6-3.

Trevor Arens pitched five innings to get the win.

For Freeman (0-3), Mitch Wollmann doubled and singled, and Lee Scherschligt singled twice. Austin Smidt pitched the first six innings to take the loss.

Both teams return to action Sunday, with Crofton hosting Scotland and Freeman hosting Avon.

FREEMAN (0-3).....001 020 000 — 3  
CROFTON (2-1).....000 015 21X — 9  
Austin Smidt, Jake Weller (7) and Allan Scherschligt; Trevor Arens, Rand Thygeson (6) and Kyle Mueller, Carl Schieffler (6)



JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
Yankton Tappers shortstop Dave Schmidt, a newcomer to the team this summer, fields a grounder and throws out a Scotland runner during their South Central League amateur game Thursday night at Riverside Field. Results of the game were not available at press time Thursday.

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