

Baseball

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honors as a freshman.

"It was a lot of hard work and learning baseball through the years," Miller said, who was a part of the Lancers' 2012 GPAC tournament championship team. "But it would have been better to win. I'd rather have four GPAC championships."

Miller, who graduates on Saturday, will coach baseball in Yankton this summer and hopes to remain in the area, possibly to continue at MMC as an assistant coach.

"My brother's coming here this fall," said the business administration and recreation management major. "It would be cool to get to coach him." Juniors Derrik Nelson and

Derek Blumenstock were each named to the second team, Nelson as a utility infielder and Blumenstock as a designated hitter.

Nelson, who was a first-team and Gold Glove selection at third base two years ago, batted .331 with a team-best four home runs and a school-record five triples on the season. He drove in 32 runs, ranking second on the team in that category, and led the team with 40 runs scored.

"Derrik played through injury. If we could have given him three, four weeks off, he could have been 100 percent, but we needed to find a way to keep him in," Bernatow said. "He's potentially a five-tool player. He has the potential to be one of the better players in the conference."

Blumenstock batted .319 with six doubles and 19 RBI, bouncing between designated

hitter and two outfield positions.

"He has the right attitude. He just wants to be in the lineup. He would play anywhere if we asked him to," Bernatow said. "He's paid his dues. He's a product of our JV program."

Senior reliever Jon Hass, junior outfielder Zac Hollenback and freshman pitcher Alex Mogensen were named honorable mention selections for the Lancers.

Hass pitched in 14 games, going 1-1 with a 3.12 earned run average in 17 1/3 innings of work. All but one of the runs he allowed on the season were in one outing, to NCAA Division I South Dakota State.

"He's a great story," Bernatow said of the senior. "He probably chose Mount Marty for baseball, but last year he had an opportunity academically and didn't know if he

could balance both academics and baseball. He stepped away from the game, and his time away reenergized him.

"He wanted to relish every moment this year. I'm tickled that he received some recognition."

Hollenback, who was a first-team selection a year ago, batted .282 with 11 doubles and 17 RBI. He stole a team-best 10 bases in 12 attempts and scored 38 runs out of the leadoff position.

"He was in a similar situation to Nelson. He had a heal injury, but we just couldn't afford to have him out of the lineup," Bernatow said of the junior. "The kid works hard and he loves the game."

Mogensen thrust his way into the Lancers' conference rotation, going 5-4 with a 3.55 earned run average. In 13 appearances (nine starts), he pitched 58 1/3 innings with 29

strikeouts and 18 walks.

"He was a tough-luck loser in a couple of games but, as a freshman, what he put together was impressive," Bernatow said. "He is a left-hander with size and velocity. He has the potential to be the total package."

"I'm excited for what the next three years could bring. He could be one of the better pitchers in the conference really soon."

Senior third baseman Michael O'Connell, who was a second-team selection a year ago, repeated as a Gold Glove honoree. He posted a .936 fielding percentage, making eight errors in 120 chances. He also batted .308 with nine doubles and 27 RBI.

MMC finished 24-23 overall, 7-13 in the GPAC.

Doane's Elliott Engle was named the league's Pitcher of the Year, with coach Jeremy

Jorgensen earning top honors for leading the Tigers to an undefeated regular season in GPAC play. Northwestern's Mitch Peschon was named the league's Player of the Year.

Doane and Midland have automatic berths into the NAIA Opening round, with pairings to be announced on Friday. Northwestern, which was ranked 20th in last week's NAIA poll, may get into the tournament as an at-large.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

GPAC

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this," Fitts said. "It really helps when you have good competition on your own team."

That's exactly what DWU has, too.

Following Fitts and Bur-

back was junior Jenna Winkler (a Lake Andes native) in a tie for fourth place, while freshman April Barnett took 10th place.

"To get four in the top ten is pretty awesome," Anderson said. "That's how you win by 50 strokes; you have to have depth and play consistent."

Morningside (1419), Mount Marty (1437) and Nebraska Wesleyan (1474)

rounded out the top five team finishes in the GPAC race.

Dawn Chapman of Briar Cliff finished third overall at 326, six shots in front of Concordia's Amy Ahlers and DWU's Winkler. The Northwestern tandem of Emma Wynja and Taylor Malenke were 6-7, respectively.

Logan Wagner, a freshman for Mount Marty, finished in a tie for eighth place, while freshman teammate Kellie

Winkler tied for 18th.

"We had a chance at third (place), but we at least held our spot," MMC coach Tom Schlimgen said. "That's all you can ask for."

The Lancers also got a solid performance out of senior Caitlyn Roth, who closed her career with an 83 to finish in 21st place.

"We've been so happy with Caitlyn, and we couldn't be prouder of the way she fin-

ished up," Schlimgen said.

Mount Marty will return all but two golfers for next season, and will have a solid chance to climb even higher up the GPAC ladder.

"The future looks really good for us," Schlimgen said.

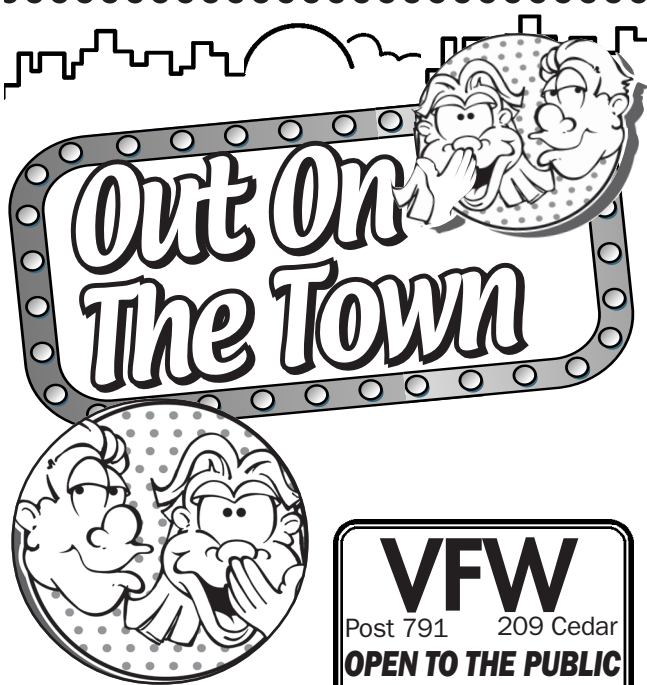
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