

# Area Neb. Golfers Set For State Tournament Today

## FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

Three area teams and select other area golfers will compete in the Nebraska State Boys' Golf Tournament, which begins today (Wednesday) at sites across Nebraska.

Teams from Hartington Cedar Catholic and Laurel-Concord-Coleridge will compete in the Class C Tournament at Mahoney Golf Course in Lincoln. Hartington Public will compete in the Class D Tournament at Kearney Country Club.

Here is a look at the area competitors qualified for the event, which runs through Thursday.

### Class C

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge lost one 18-hole tournament in 2014, a runner-up finish by one stroke in districts. With a two-time state champion and three other sen-

iors in tow, the Bears look for a strong finish at state as well.

Mitchell Klooz, who was a state champion for Plainview as a freshman and sophomore, and senior Jamy McCoy went 1-2 in the District C-2 Tournament as the Bears finished one stroke behind David City. Seniors Cory Peterson and Brendan Groene, and sophomore Nolan Casey also return from a Bears squad that finished third at state a year ago.

Klooz was third a year ago, with McCoy tied for 19th. Groene tied for 66th a year ago, but is battling a hand injury this season.

Hartington Cedar Catholic also takes a veteran squad to Lincoln, with four seniors and a junior for a squad that finished fifth at state a year ago. Senior Logan Schumacher led the Trojans at districts, with senior Dalton Lam-

mers also breaking 90. Seniors Jared Burbach and Grant Howell, and junior Dalton Lammers fill out the HCC tournament roster.

Howell was the Trojans' top finisher at state a year ago, tying for 23rd. Dalton Lammers tied for 32nd. Kathol tied for 39th. Schumacher tied for 42nd.

Bloomfield-Wausa and Crofton each send one golfer to state. Crofton will send junior Brock Mueller, while Bloomfield-Wausa will send junior Quinn O'Brien. Mueller shot an 82 at districts to qualify, while O'Brien shot an 84.

### Class D

Hartington, which finished fourth in Class D a year ago, brings two seniors and three juniors to Kearney. Seniors Trey Morten and Ethan Steiner, and juniors Chase Dendinger, Kolby



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Mitch Klooz of Laurel-Concord-Coleridge watches his tee shot during Wednesday's Randolph Golf Invitational at the Randolph Community Golf Course in Randolph, Nebraska.

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# Junior Legion Nets Split

Yankton Post 12 and Mitchell split a Junior Legion baseball doubleheader on Tuesday at Riverside Field.

Yankton won the opener 8-1 behind a solid pitching performance from Reid Sawatzke, but Mitchell won the second game 8-4.

In the first game, Sawatzke struck out 10 batters and allowed three hits. Michael Heine was 2-3 with an RBI, while Jordan Kathol and Levi Schmidt both had a hit and an RBI. Sawatzke chipped in with a hit.

In the second game, Kade Larson was 1-3 with an RBI, while Tanner Watts, Justin Leader, Hunter Cameron, Chase Vogt, Nate Hein, Heine and Kathol all added hits.

Yankton Post 12 Junior Legion returns to action today (Wednesday) for a 5 p.m. doubleheader against Sioux Falls West at Riverside Field.

### VFW Teener

#### Yankton Reds 15-7, Brandon Valley 12-4

BRANDON — The Yankton Reds opened their season with a doubleheader sweep over Brandon Valley on Tuesday in VFW Teener action in Brandon.

Yankton won the first game 15-2 and later won game two 7-4.

In the first game, Rex Ryken had three hits and three RBI, while Mike Drotzman had two hits and three RBI. Sam Mooney, Ethan Wishon, Cole Sawatzke and Jack Robb each had one hit.

Sawatzke got the win, with Ryken earning the save.

In game two, Ryken had two hits and one RBI, while Mike Frick, Levi Wiersma, Kyle Withrow, Cole Withrow and Drotzman all had one hit.

Wiersma got the win, with Ryken again earning the save.

Yankton (2-0) will play in a tournament in Mitchell on Saturday.

### Amateurs

#### Irene 11, Canton 1

IRENE — Mike King drove in three runs and struck out seven on the mound to lead the Irene Cardinals past Canton 11-1 in a seven-inning non-league game Tuesday night.

King doubled and singled, while Mitch Dunbar singled twice for Irene.

Irene returns to South Central League action on Thursday night, hosting Tabor at 7:30 p.m.

CANTON .....000 000 1 — 1 4 2  
IRENE .....002 225 X — 11 6 2  
Zach DeJong, Nick Versteeg (6) and Conrad Dahl; Mike King and Kirby Nitzchke

### American Legion

#### Vermillion 11, Elk Point 0

ELK POINT — Vermillion Post 1 scored three runs in the top of the second inning and three more in the fourth to build a lead it wouldn't relinquish. Vermillion blanked Elk Point 11-0 in American Legion action Tuesday.

Jayce Huska and Billy Mount both had two hits for Vermillion, while Collin Olson drove in two runs.



## Watching It Into The Glove

ABOVE: Yankton catcher Adam Heine collides with the backstop as he tries to catch a foul ball during the second game of Post 12's Junior Legion baseball doubleheader with Mitchell on Tuesday at Riverside Field.

RIGHT: Yankton shortstop Nate Hein corrals a ground ball during Post 12 Junior Legion game with Mitchell on Tuesday at Riverside Field.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



## Softball: Fury Extreme Third At Vermillion Summer Slam Tourney

VERMILLION — The Yankton Fury Extreme went 2-2 to finish third at the Vermillion Summer Slam softball tournament held last weekend.

**XTREME 12, WAYNE DIRT DEVILS 3:** Holly Mines pitched a complete game with four strikeouts for Yankton.

Alix Peterka went 3-3 with a single, double, and triple, while Traia Hubbard went 3-3 with two singles and a home run. Madie Cordell went 2-3 with a triple and a home run, and Mines tripled and singled.

Emily Oswald, Megan McCorkell, Bailey Peterka, Lexie McCorkell, and Merlye Mason all had a single.

**SIoux FALLS SMASH 7, XTREME 5:** Peterka had three

hits including a home run and Mines was 3-3 in the loss.

Mines pitched another complete game, with two strikeouts. Cordell went 2-3 with two singles and McCorkell had a single.

**XTREME 4, SD RENEGADES BLACK 3:** Bailey Peterka went 3-3 with three singles for Yankton, while McCorkell was 2-3 with two singles.

Mines struck out one batter in another complete game effort. Hubbard and Oswald each added a single.

**SIoux FALLS SMASH 3, XTREME 0:** Bailey Peterka and Mines each had a single for Yankton, while Mines pitched another complete game with two strikeouts.

# Baseball's New-Age Epidemic: Tommy John Surgery

BY DERRICK GOOLD

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CINCINNATI — The St. Louis Cardinals' four starting pitchers without the tell-tale scar of membership on their pitching elbow sat recently on their side of the Busch Stadium clubhouse discussing with a reporter something they hope they never have.

That was when Joe Kelly pierced the conversation with one word.

Tommy John surgery, he said, is inevitable.

"Everyone is going to get it one day," Kelly explained, leaning back in his chair as Shelby Miller, Michael Wacha, and Lance Lynn looked at him. "In the end, Tommy John is like death. It's going to get you."

Once a novel and miracle surgery that saved a few careers, the ligament replacement procedure that baseball knows as Tommy John surgery has become a ubiquitous presence in the game, as familiar as it was once revolutionary, just like

the designated hitter or sabermetrics.

The parade of pitchers going for the operation already this season has become so long that baseball writers have used words such as "epidemic" to describe it, free of hyperbole. Hardball Times tabulated more than 30 pitchers who have had the surgery in the past nine months, and at least seven of them are having it for a second time.

The ligament replacement surgery and its 12-month recovery period have robbed the game of two of its brightest young pitchers, the Mets' Matt Harvey and just this month the Marlins' Jose Fernandez. Harvey started last year's All-Star Game and Fernandez won the National League's rookie of the year award. In between those honors, the Cardinals' Wacha, every bit as decorated as the other two young lions, won the National League championship series MVP award. Only he remains on the mound.

The Cardinals built last year's run for the National League pennant

### What Is It?

Surgeons take a tendon from another part of the body — the wrist, for example — and use it to replace a torn or ruptured collateral ligament.

around young pitchers, and the organization has positioned itself as one of the industry leaders in developing and deploying young pitchers, from Wacha to Miller, Trevor Rosenthal to Carlos Martinez, and prospects Marco Gonzales and Alex Reyes on their way.

Young pitchers are their future, and not Wacha or Miller, Martinez or Reyes has had Tommy John surgery.

Inevitable is unpalatable. "It is something that the industry cannot ignore," Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said. "Putting resources to find ways to prevent it should be an all-hands-on-deck strategy. ... I think the last thing an organization wants to do is

be in a position where they're not trying to protect the pitcher, but I don't know if we truly understand how to protect the pitcher."

### In The Beginning

The surgery was invented by Dr. Frank Jobe and first performed in 1974 on Dodgers pitcher Tommy John. The concept was taking a tendon from another part of the body — the wrist, for example — and using it to replace a torn or ruptured ulnar collateral ligament. The ligament helps stabilize the joint and when it goes the pitcher used to go with it. Tommy John, the surgery, changed that.

So too did the rehab, which compared to the unknowns of shoulder surgeries and their recoveries is a predictable schedule of about 12 months.

The surgery, like any surgery, isn't foolproof. Experts suggest that 20 percent of the professional pitchers who have Tommy John surgery do not return to their previous abil-

ity. The Cardinals have in the past week seen the extremes of the procedure: Former closer Jason Motte returned successfully to the mound almost exactly 12 months after surgery and prospect Jordan Swagerty had to have a third procedure done because he's been unable to return from 2012 surgery. The Cardinals have five pitchers on their current staff, including ace Adam Wainwright, who have had ligament replacement surgery and returned to the majors. A sixth Cardinal, outfielder Matt Holliday, also has had Tommy John.

The Braves had three pitchers before mid-April need it this season.

That is anecdotal evidence of the alarming spike in Tommy John surgeries baseball has had in the last decade, and especially in the past five seasons.

In the seminal Game 6 of the 2011 World Series, the Cardinals got more than half of their 11 innings from pitchers who had or would