



# American Legion Minnesota Division I Tournament

# Gazette



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## 12 press on toward Sunday's finals

After a grueling first day of action at four fields, 12 teams advanced in the Minnesota American Legion Division I Baseball Tournament at New Ulm.

In the double elimination format, four teams advanced unbeaten, eight teams split their games on the first day, and four teams went home.

The four unbeaten are Apple Valley, Wayzata, the Academy Stars and Rochester Patriots

They will play in the two late games at Johnson Park on Friday. Wayzata will take on the Academy Stars at 4:30 p.m. and Rochester Patriots will play Apple Valley at 7:30 p.m.

The teams with 1-1 records are Egan, Mankato Nationals, Willmar, Grand Rapids, Fergus Falls, Buffalo, Hamline Purple and New Ulm Gold.

In Friday games, Egan will play Mankato at 10 a.m. at Johnson Park, Willmar will play Grand Rapids at 10 at Mueller Field.

Fergus Falls will take on Buffalo at 1 p.m. at Johnson and Hamline Purple will play New Ulm at 1 p.m. at Mueller.

The teams with two losses who were eliminated from the tournament were Hopkins, Excelsior, St. Paul Park and Waite Park. Hopkins and Excelsior were both ranked in the top five in the final Legion Baseball poll.

The scores of Thursday's games were much lower than last year's scores from the first round, indicating either better pitching or less hitting, or both.

There were several classic games during the day including a 10-inning game at

Essig Field with Grand Rapids edging Excelsior 12-11. Keith Kleinendorst hit two homeruns for Grand Rapids and ended up with seven RBI. The Rapids team won on a walk-off single by Jake Bischoff.

There were 28 hits and nine errors in the game.

There were four one-run games during the day.

Andy Johnson and Billy Soule pitched Wayzata victories the first day. Soule struck out 11 in six innings of an 8-1 victory over Fergus Falls.

The Rochester Patriots stayed in the winners bracket as Brian Anderson pitched a three-hitter with nine strikeouts in an 8-1 win over Egan.

Matt Miller had three hits to lead Rochester's attack.

Mankato Nationals eliminated St. Paul Park 6-5 with Brock Lloyd pitching a complete game.

Play will continue through Sunday. The winner and the runner-up will both qualify for national regional tournaments being held at Minnetonka and at Appleton, Wisconsin.

The World Series this year will be in Fargo, North Dakota.

Division II play begins today in LeSueur/Henderson.

Teams involved in the Division II tourney are Jordan, last year's champion, Pipestone, Royalton, Hayfield, Pelican Rapids, Esko, Eden Valley/Watkins and host LeSueur.

The regional tournament for Division II will be in Milbank, South Dakota.

## After 75 years, Manderfeld still a champ

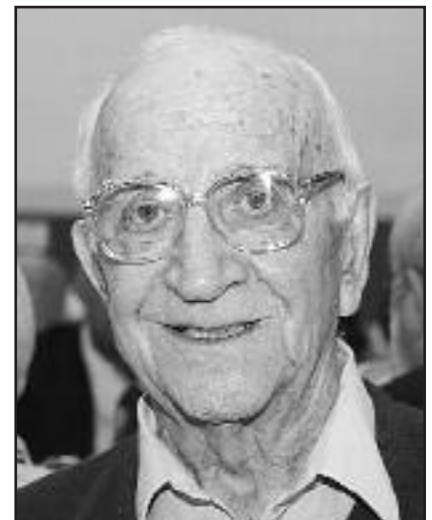
By John Sherman

A smile came to Ray Manderfeld's face earlier this week as he recalled the State American Legion Baseball title he and his New Ulm teammates won in 1934.

Manderfeld, now 88, was the youngest player on the '34 team at 13 and ½ years old. He played in two more state tournaments during his Legion career and for years stayed in touch with his teammates.

"They're all gone except for two of us," said Manderfeld. "We had great camaraderie on that team ... and four

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Ray Manderfeld

# Stars shine early and late at Essig

Dawn came early on Thursday for the Minneapolis Academy Stars.

"It's been a while since most of us have seen 5:30 a.m.," said pitcher-infielder Kris Kwak. "We got up early and took a long batting practice at Essig Field. This is definitely the earliest we have played this summer."

Once the first-round 8:30 a.m. game with Excelsior got underway at Essig, it was apparent that pitching would decide the outcome. Excelsior starter Mark Ulrich threw a complete game, holding the Stars in check for the most part. The Stars got home runs from Kwak and Jack Hogan in a 2-0 victory.

Meanwhile, Academy Stars pitchers Steven Maher and Kwak combined to pitch a three-hitter.

"Even when you have to get up this early, it's not hard to get excited about a state tournament game," said Maher.

What challenges did the Excelsior lineup pose?

"I was wary of their big guys (Josh Mensch and Taylor Nelson)," said Maher. "And they have a couple other guys in the line-up who are hitting .400."

"My mindset was to come in and throw strikes," said Kwak, who came on in the seventh inning. "We might be the youngest



## Star performers

Kris Kwak and Steven Maher have led the Academy Stars and Holy Angels this year.

team here and one of the smallest, but we have a good pitching staff."

Maher, who will play Division I ball at Illinois State next season, is 7-0 following Thursday's win and Kwak, who will play Division I at North Dakota, is 7-1 with seven saves.

Holy Angels head coach Mike Budin acknowledged that it's an advantage to have a couple Division I pitchers at the top

of the rotation.

"We have very good pitching and defense, and that's how we've been winning," said Budin, whose team moved to 26-3 with the win over Excelsior. "We didn't have a home run until our 17th game, but we've been hitting with power the last few weeks."

# Manderfeld stayed in New Ulm

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sets of brothers."

New Ulm had to win only three games in the 1934 state tourney. "We beat the host team, Cokato, 12-10 in the finals," said Manderfeld. "There was some controversy during the tournament because our coaches gave us instructions in German, and some people didn't think that was fair."

Manderfeld said he was not a star on the 1934 team.

"I was the youngest and the smallest," he noted. "Because I was small, they played me kind of shallow. I pinch hit in one game and got a base hit to right field, only the right fielder was playing shallow and threw me out. That was a dubious distinction."

Manderfeld said winning the state title was a thrill, especially since it was only the second year New Ulm fielded a Legion team. For years, the '34 team was the gold standard in New Ulm baseball. Then in 1978, the New Ulm Legion club made it all the way to the World Series. The boys of '78 were known as the Lumber Company.

While New Ulm baseball has gone through its share of changes since the 1930s when Manderfeld and his brothers Stan and Ted played, one thing hasn't

changed.

"New Ulm is still the baseball capital of Minnesota," said Manderfeld.

After his playing career concluded with amateur ball, Manderfeld decided to turn to umpiring.

"Ray was a good player and even better as an umpire," said one New Ulm old-timer. "He did a lot of the big games."

In addition to devoting himself to baseball, Manderfeld had a successful career as a public servant. He was a rural mailman for 35 years, doing routes in excess of 100 miles for part of his career.

Manderfeld's daughter Mary was one of the best athletes in the New Ulm area and went on to become the girls' basketball coach at Edina High School where she is now a principal. She keeps in touch with her mom and dad on a daily basis.

Manderfeld marvels at the quality of the baseball facilities in New Ulm, especially Johnson Park, which is headquarters for the 2009 State Legion Tournament.

"When I was playing we didn't have Johnson Park, but we had a nice field out at the Fairgrounds," he said.

Born and raised in New Ulm, Manderfeld said he never wanted to live anywhere else. His love for baseball had something to do with that, of course. After all, this is the baseball capital.

## \*\*Stars of the Day\*\*

**Keith Kleinendorst** of Grand Rapids hit two home runs in a 12-11 extra-inning victory over Excelsior.

New Ulm Gold pitcher **Garrett Fischer** struck out 13 as his team stayed alive in the tourney with a 4-1 victory over Hopkins.

**Brandon Peterson's** double in the bottom of the ninth lifted Apple Valley to a 5-4 victory over New Ulm Gold.

**Kris Kwak** of the Minneapolis Academy Stars hit a home run, and then picked up the save in a 2-0 victory over Excelsior. He added a pitching win against Hamline Purple.

**Ryan Sward** of Eagan went four-for-five and scored two runs in a 7-3 victory over Buffalo.

Willmar pitcher **Jordan Smith** threw a complete game and also delivered the winning hit in a 5-4 victory over Hopkins.

Mankato National pitcher **Brock Lloyd** hurled all nine innings of a 6-5 victory over St. Paul Park.

Third baseman **Matt Miller** went three-for-four with three RBI in the Rochester Patriots' 8-1 victory over Waite Park.

Catcher **Josh Althaus** went three-for-four and scored a run in Waite Park's loss to the Rochester Patriots.

# Line scores, summaries from Thursday

## Game 1

St. Paul Park 001 000 000 1 6 2  
Fergus Falls 230 000 00x 5 4 1

Marks and Nordtvedt, Heck and Mithaugen. WP Heck, LP Marks.

Fergus Falls pitcher Jake Heck threw a complete game Thursday morning at Mueller Park, out-dueling Jaryd Marks, who pitched a four-hitter for St. Paul Park. Brian Short went three-for-five with a double for St. Paul Park. Kyle Shaikoski had two RBI for Fergus Falls.

## Game 2

Mankato 101 110 000 4 5 2  
Wayzata 011 021 24x 11 18 0

Allan, Weber (7), Kopel (8) and Kleist. Johnson, Brau (9) and Trygstad, Poppitz (9). WP Johnson, LP Allan.

Wayzata pounded out 18 hits in a win over Mankato National at Mueller Park. Lucas Steinbach supplied the power for Wayzata with a double and a triple, as Wayzata scored in all but two innings. Zach Trygstad went three-for-five for the winners.

## Game 3

Excelsior 000 000 000 0 3 0  
Mpls. Stars 000 101 00x 2 7 2

Ulrich and Oakes. Maher, Kwak (7) and P. Sullivan. WP Maher. LP Ulrich.

The Minneapolis Stars opened the state tournament with a 2-0 victory over Excelsior at Essig Field Thursday morning. Steven Maher and Kris Kwak combined to pitch a three-hitter for the Stars, whose season record improved to 26-3. Kwak hit a long home run over the trees that surround the right-center field fence at Essig. Jack Hogan also hit a home run for the Stars. Mark Ulrich pitched a complete game for Excelsior and his teammates backed him with errorless play in the field.

## Game 4

Hamline Purple 000 140 172 15 20 1  
Grand Rapids 400 000 000 4 6 1

LP Monson, Kinne (5) and Lulic. WP Kleinendorst, Shaw (8) and Bischoff, Dorholt (9).

Grand Rapids scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning, but after that it was all St. Paul Hamline in a first-round game at Essig Field. James McGuire swung the big bat for Hamline with a home run and two doubles. Jon Kinsel had two triples and a single for the winners, who had a total of 20 hits.

## Game 5

Buffalo 010 101 000 3 12 6  
Eagan 200 020 03x 7 13 2

Eckstein, Druar (7), Kiphuth (8) and Beilke. Kunik, Olson (8) and Morgan. WP Kunik. LP Eckstein.

Eagan first baseman Ryan Sward went four-for-five at the plate and scored twice, while second baseman Alex Johnson added three hits in a game played Thursday morning in Sleepy Eye. Six Buffalo errors contributed to Eagan's good fortune.

## Game 6

Rochester Patriots 330 010 100 8 8 1  
Waite Park Stars 000 100 000 1 8 4

Moen, Heilskov (8) and Nelson. Frericks and Althaus. WP Moen, LP Frericks.

The Rochester Patriots scored three runs in each of the first two innings in their win over the Waite Park Stars at Sleepy Eye. Matt Miller was the key hitter for Rochester with a three-for-four day and three RBI. Jordan Stokes of Rochester hit the game's only home run. Josh Althaus went three-for-four for Waite Park.

## Game 7

Hopkins 130 000 000 4 5 3  
Willmar 001 030 001 5 8 3

Rowley, Chez-Shaw (6) and Page. Smith and Sawatzky. WP Smith. LP Chez-Shaw.

Jordan Smith of Willmar was the player of the game Thursday morning at Johnson Field. He pitched a complete game, holding Hopkins to five hits. In the bottom of the ninth inning with no one out, he singled home the winning run. Smith was three-for-five and drove in two runs. Second baseman Kyle Dalton went four-for-four for Hopkins.

## Game 8

New Ulm Gold 000 100 120 4 7 2  
Apple Valley 000 102 011 5 10 2

Kyle E. Fischer and Domeier. Prichard, Hermes (8) and Gretz. WP Hermes, LP Kyle E. Fischer.

The Apple Valley 76ers got two base hits in the bottom of the ninth to break a 4-4 tie with New Ulm Gold in a first-round game at Johnson Park in New Ulm. Kris Goodman led off the inning with a hit, moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Matt Gurtcheff and scored on a double over the right fielder's head by Brandon Peterson. Boomer Hermes got the pitching win in relief of starter Dylan Prichard. Hermes hit a triple and teammate Andy Schwantes hit a double. Wade French and Taylor Rolloff hit doubles for New Ulm Gold.

## Game 9

St. Paul Park 200 100 020 5 8 1  
Mankato 111 300 00x 6 12 4

Gonzalez, Benson (5) and Nordtvedt. Lloyd and Kleist. WP Lloyd. LP Gonzalez  
Dan Quame went three-for-five with a double to lead Mankato's 12-hit attack.  
Brock Lloyd pitched a complete game for the winners, scattering five hits.  
St. Paul Park's Tom Swanson went two-for-three with two RBI.

## Game 10

Fergus Falls 000 010 000 1 5 3  
Wayzata 410 020 10x 8 10 3

Kidder, Anderson (6) and Mithaugen. Soule, Brau (7) and Poppitz. WP Soule, LP Kidder.

Wayzata scored its second win of the day with Billy Soule notching the victory on the mound. He allowed four hits and struck out 11 in six innings. Lucas Steinbach went two-for-two to lead the Wayzata attack. Dylan Kent had three RBI for the winners.

## Game 11

Excelsior 002 060 003 0 11 17 4  
Grand Rapids 031 104 002 1 12 11 5

T. Nelson, Miller (5), Host (9) and Oakes. Sutherland, Mike Olson (5) and Shaw. WP Mike Olson, LP Host.

In a wild game at Essig Park Grand Rapids outlasted Excelsior 12-11. The game featured 28 hits and nine errors as both teams consistently put the ball in play. Kyle Kleinendorst hit two home runs to lead Grand Rapids, while Billy Shaw and Mike Halling also homered. Elliot Powell and Mitch Oakes hit home runs for Excelsior, which finished the season 35-12-1 overall.

## Game 12

Mpls. Stars 010 001 112 6 9 3  
Hamline Purple 300 010 010 5 9 0

Long, Kwak (7) and P. Sullivan, W. Pagel (6). Gregory, Bettenburg (8) and Lalic. WP Kwak, LP Bettenburg.

Lucas Long hit his second home run of the game in the ninth inning to help the Stars to win at Essig Field. Patrick Sullivan and Kris Kwak also had homers. Dave Bettenburg hit a single and a double for Cretin Purple.

## Game 13

Waite Park 022 000 000 4 13 2  
Buffalo 006 000 02x 8 12 1

Haakenson and Althaus. Druar and Beilke. WP Druar, LP Haakenson.

Buffalo stayed alive by winning this elimination game at Sleepy Eye. Casey Druar was the winning pitcher, allowing 13 hits. Aaron Duske led the way at the plate, going two-for-five with a triple. Brady Matzke also hit a triple.

## Game 14

Eagan 000 100 000 1 3 5  
Rochester Patriots 400 120 01x 8 10 0

Harris, Substad (8) and Dorgan. B. Anderson and Rysavy, Nelson (4).

Brian Anderson pitched a three-hitter and struck out nine to lead Rochester to victory at Sleepy Eye. Matt Miller went three-for-four to lead Rochester's attack, while Eric Roble added a triple.

## Game 15

Hopkins 000 000 010 1 5 3  
New Ulm Gold 003 000 10x 4 5 0

Borman and Erickson. Garrett Fischer and Domeier. WP G. Fischer, LP Borman.

Garrett Fischer kept New Ulm Gold's hopes alive in a game at Johnson Park Thursday afternoon. He pitched a five-hitter and struck out 13 with only three walks. Zach Fischer hit a home run to lead the New Ulm attack. Matt Rowley had the only RBI for Hopkins.

## Game 16

Apple Valley 200 100 600 9 10 2  
Willmar 001 000 000 1 6 2

Fangel and Gretz. Sawatzky, A. Adamson (7) and Saunders. WP Fangel, LP Sawatzky.

Apple Valley scored six runs in the top of the seventh inning to break open a close game with Willmar in the winners' bracket at Johnson Park. Matt Gurtcheff and Scott Splett each had two hits for the 76ers and Andy Schwantes drove in two runs.