



# American Legion Minnesota Division I Tournament

# Gazette



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Eden Prairie, Minn.

Friday, July 29, 2011

## Molitor headlines annual banquet

Paul Molitor, the Hall of Famer and former Minnesota Twins player, was the featured speaker at the American Legion Baseball Division I banquet held at the Marriot Southwest Hotel Thursday night.

Molitor, who had over 3,300 hits in a 21-year major league career, told the players that he hoped that some of them were dreaming about playing in the major leagues.

But no matter where they are playing, the game deserves a player's respect.

"Everytime you put on that uniform, it's a privilege. When you take it off for the last time, make sure you don't have any regrets."

He said that Legion ball for many would be the last time they could play together with friends they had known since grade school.

"It's the last chance to be with that group, to bond with that group. It's certainly a special time."

And Molitor said that the ability to deal with failure and still do your best was a key to being a good baseball player and a good person.

"I had over 3,300 hits, but I also had over 7,000 outs. That's a lot of failure. How we handle that failure determines how we play the game."

Molitor played for the Attucks-Brooks team in St. Paul in the 1980s, and was on a team that won the state champions. He was also an All-American at the University of Minnesota and went to the college world series.

The banquet also featured several awards given out by the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee.

Gail Kalata, volunteer in the program, was elected into the Hall of Fame. Kalata devotes countless hours of time to the state baseball



PAUL MOLITOR

program, including running the Legion Baseball poll, and in the 4th District of St. Paul.

Jeff Schugal, a former New Ulm player who later played minor league ball and who is now a scout for the Los Angeles Angels, was honored as the Graduate of the Year. His award was accepted by his former coach at New Ulm, Jim Senske.

Darwin Berg, state director of Legion Baseball, paid tribute to those who had organized the banquet and said it may have been the best attended banquet ever. About 560 were there.

Drew Bartley was the master of ceremonies, and American Legion Commander Tom Lannon also spoke.

Baseball begins today on four fields in the Eden Prairie area.

## Eden Prairie ranked first in final poll

A statewide poll on the eve of the Minnesota Division I Baseball Tournament in Eden Prairie, lists last year's state champion and this year's host team, Eden Prairie as the team to beat.

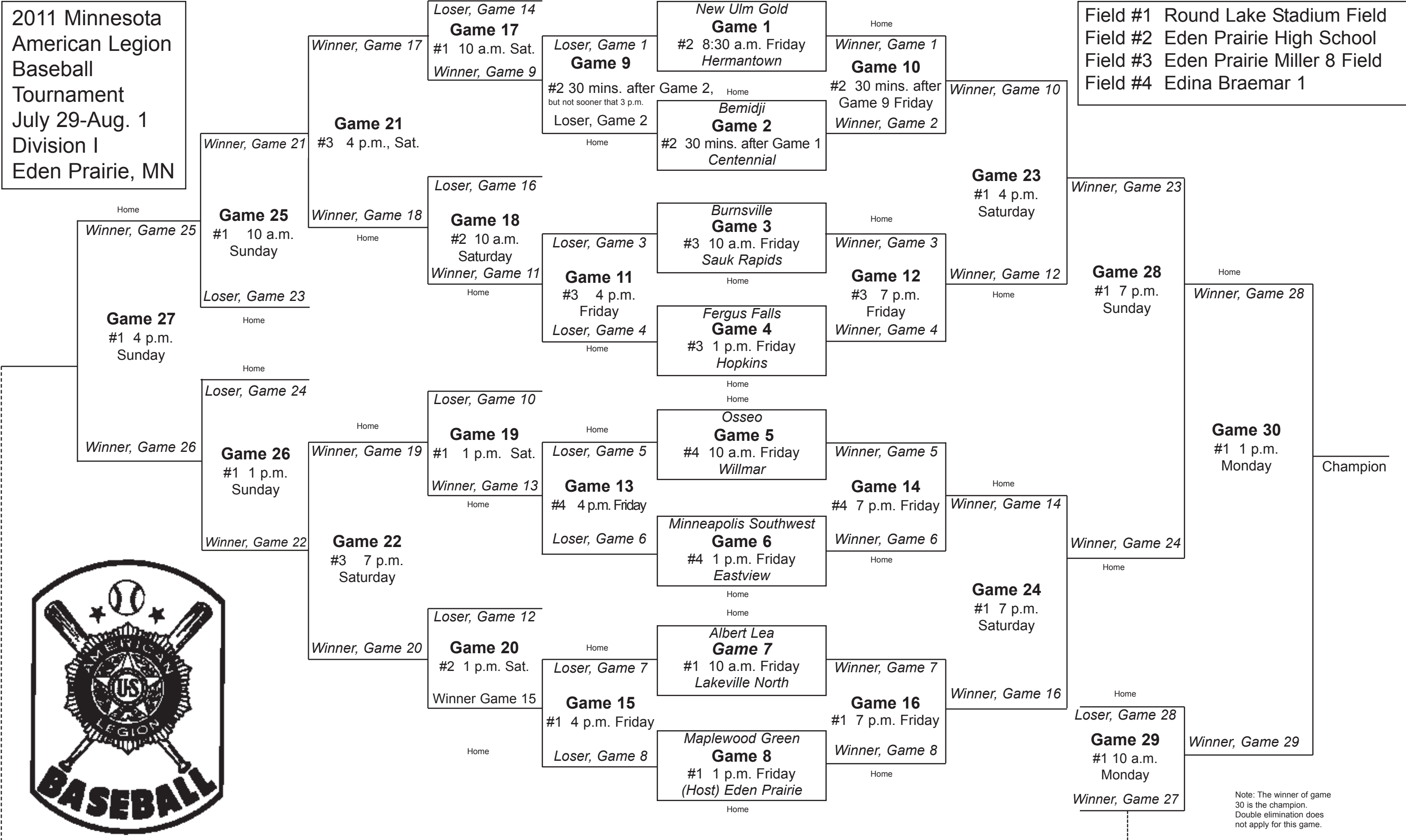
The tourney will be played on four fields in the area, and will conclude with games on Monday at Round Lake Stadium.

The tournament features 16 teams from Minnesota's 10 Legion districts, and it is played in a double-elimination format.

The two top teams will go on to the Central Plains Regional in Dickinson, N.D.

1. Eden Prairie (10)	135
2. Burnsville	124
2. Eastview (5)	124
4. Maplewood Green	94
5. Bemidji	51
6. Coon Rapids	47
7. Wayzata	45
8. Fergus Falls	36
9. Lakeville North	25
10. Lino Lakes	24
11. Albert Lea	23
12. Tri-City Red	17
13. Hopkins	16
13. New Ulm Gold	16
15. Minneapolis SW	14
16. Osseo	11
17. Maple Grove	7
18. Mankato National	6
19. Hermantown	4
20. North St. Paul	2
20. Willmar	2
22. Rochester Patriots	1
23. Sauk Rapids	1
(First place votes)	

2011 Minnesota  
American Legion  
Baseball  
Tournament  
July 29-Aug. 1  
Division I  
Eden Prairie, MN



Note: The winner of game 30 is the champion.  
Double elimination does not apply for this game.