



American Legion Minnesota Division I Tournament

Gazette



Volume 15, No. 2

Eden Prairie, Minn.

Saturday, July 30, 2011

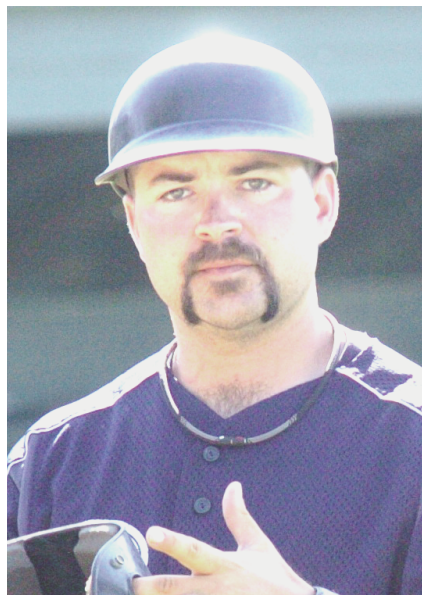
Butterflies disappear for Hermantown

By John Sherman

Jesse Olson, Hermantown's 6-foot-3, 220-pound lefty, was excited when he learned he'd be pitching the first game of the State American Legion Baseball Tournament against New Ulm Gold Friday morning.

"Playing here is absolutely amazing," said Olson after he beat New Ulm Gold 11-8. "This is such a great environment for baseball. I had butterflies, of course, but I trusted my stuff. My first objective was to establish the fastball."

His fastball got him into the ninth
Continued on Page 2



HERMANTOWN COACH KARNAS

Four gone, 12 teams carry on in tourney

Day one at the American Legion Division I Baseball Tournament featured some surprising results.

Hermantown, Sauk Rapids, Osseo and Eden Prairie finished undefeated and will play on today in the winners' bracket. Maplewood Green, Burnsville, Bemidji and Willmar lost two games and exited the tournament.

New Ulm, Hopkins, Eastview, Lakeville North, Lino Lakes (Centennial), Fergus Falls, Minneapolis Southwest, and Albert Lea split their games and will play on today in the losers' bracket.

Eden Prairie, last year's champion and host of this year's tourney, advanced easily but was joined by surprising Sauk Rapids and Hermantown in the winners' bracket.

The tournament will continue through

Monday with top two Minnesota teams advancing to the regional tournament in Dickinson, N.D. next week.

Games today will be played at Round Lake Stadium, and at Eden Prairie High School in the morning and Eden Prairie Miller 8 Field in the afternoon and evening games.

The World Series this year will be played in Shelby, N.C. beginning Aug. 12.

In Ely Friday, the Division II Tournament played its second day. The results included: La Crescent 3, Holdingford 0; Eden Valley-Watkins 14, Marble 6; Luverne 7, Hawley 6; Ely 12, Kenyon 1; Holdingford 8, Marble 0; Kenyon 7, Hawley 6. Holdingford defeated Kenyon 7-1 for the consolation championship. EV-Watkins topped La Crescent 10-4 to advance to Saturday's title game.

Stars of the Day

Jack Schneider of Minneapolis Southwest hit a home run and had two other hits in his team's 12-8 upset win over Eastview.

Travis Evanson hit two home runs as Lakeville North eliminated Maplewood Green 10-8.

Tyler Peterson had three hits, including a homer, as tournament host Eden Prairie defeated Maplewood Green 12-2 in seven innings.

Aaron Klatt pitched a four-hitter to lead Albert Lea past Lakeville North 5-2.

Zach Rengel was the winning pitcher and also hit the game-winning triple as Fergus Falls outlasted Hopkins 10-5 in 10 innings.

Grant Sealock of Osseo drove in five runs in his team's 13-3 victory over Willmar.

Abbot Aho, center fielder for Fergus Falls, had three hits in a 10-5, 10-inning victory over Hopkins at Miller Park.

Jason Hoppe had three hits and also threw a complete game as Sauk Rapids defeated Burnsville 4-2.

Mike Robertson of Hermantown went four-for-four in an 11-8 victory over New Ulm Gold.

Tyler Ruemmele of Eden Prairie pitched his team to a 13-1 victory over Albert Lea.

Jordan Smith of Eden Prairie had three hits and scored two runs in his team's win over Albert Lea.

Hermantown

Continued from Page 1

inning, when he tired. Reliever Kevin Stocke, another Hermantown lefty, came in and got the last two outs.

Mike Robertson went four-for-four to lead Hermantown's offense.

"I tried to relax and drive the ball the other way," said Robertson. "We were confident with Ole pitching because he throws strikes and knows how to get out of tough situations."

Hermantown head coach Jimmy Karnas, whose team is 17-8, said, "The state tournament is a fantastic experience. I played at state with Richfield when I was in Legion ball. I knew we had a good group this year, but we weren't favored to win our district. Teams like Duluth Lakeview and Grand Rapids were ranked ahead of us.

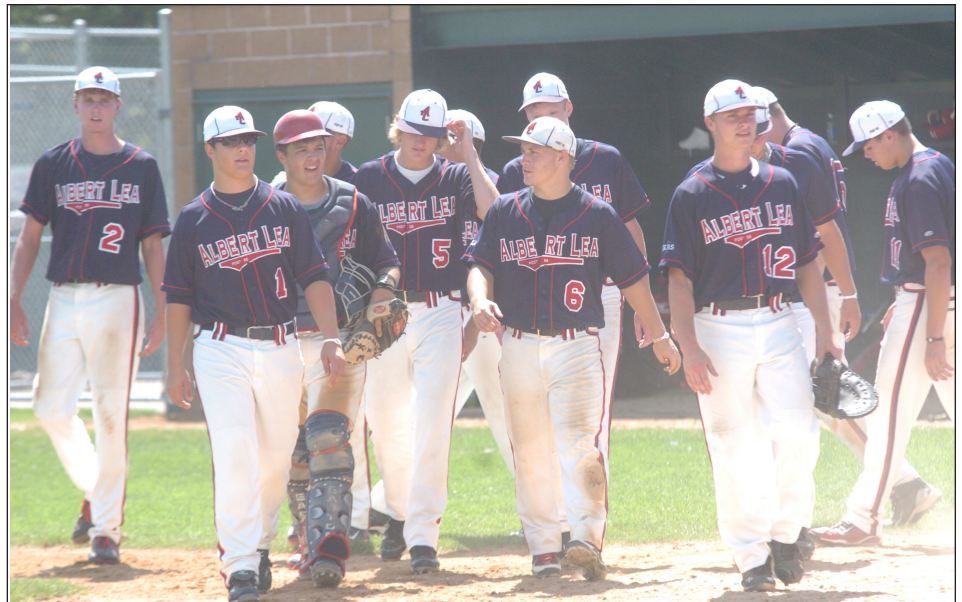
"It is special for me to be here. My grandfather [George Karnas] coached in the state tournament and took a team to the American Legion World Series. My dad [Mike] coached me in the state tournament. Since I've been [in Eden Prairie], I'll bet 35 people have come up to me and said, I know your grandfather or I know your dad."

George Karnas, a former State American Legion Baseball Director, was on hand for Hermantown's victory over New Ulm Gold, and so was Jimmy's older brother Matt, who is on the coaching staff at St. Olaf College.

The Hermantown players are well aware of the Karnas family tradition. "Jimmy is a great coach and he knows a lot about the game," said Olson. "I trust everything he tells me."

Hermantown finished off its day by defeating Lino Lakes 8-7 and the team advanced to Saturday as one of the four undefeated teams in the double-elimination tournament.

Different heroes emerged for Hermantown in the game with Centennial. Jeff Paczynski had two hits, as did Robertson. Tyler Carlson and Michael Stocke pitched the game for Hermantown. They gave up 12 hits but made big pitches when tough situations arose.



Albert Lea players head for the hotel after the team's 5-2 win over Lakeville North in Friday's action.

Albert Lea's defense backs Klatt's superb pitching effort

By John Sherman

Albert Lea right-hander Aaron Klatt had some help from his defense during a 5-2 win over Lakeville North Friday at Eden Prairie's Round Lake Stadium.

Cole Sorenson supplied two of the web gems when he ran down a pair of fly balls to deep center field in the first inning. Second baseman Justan Bellrichard took over from there, piling up six assists during Klatt's nine-inning four-hitter.

Albert Lea coach Jack Kortan said Klatt was up to the challenge of pitching the state opener. "Aaron has been solid all year long," said Kortan. "During the high school season, he was named Big Nine Conference Player of the Year. This morning, he threw strikes when it counted."

The win Friday morning gave Albert Lea a 23-14 season record. It was an ordeal for Albert Lea to get through a tough First District Tournament last week. In the finals, Albert Lea lost the first game to the Rochester Redhawks, but won the second game handily, 16-5.

"We were seeded fifth in the district," said Kortan. "When you think of our district, you think of the three Rochester teams, and you throw in Owatonna and Winona. Those are all good teams."

Albert Lea relies on balance and depth. Conner Kortan catches, with Cody Haaland at first, Bellrichard at second, Ethan Abben at short and Tyler Woodside at third. In the outfield are Sorenson in center, Mkael Lunning in right and Dylan See-Rockers in left.

On a hot day, the Prairie doesn't break a sweat

By John Sherman

This is the time of year when the Eden Prairie American Legion team traditionally plays its best baseball.

In its first two state tournament games Friday, EP made quick work of Maplewood Green (12-2) and Albert Lea (13-1).

Two guys named Tyler led the way. Tyler Peterson, the South Hennepin League's 2011 MVP, went three-for-four with a home run in each game. Tyler Ruemmele hit a home run against Maplewood Green and pitched the win over Albert Lea.

"It's great to play the state tournament at our home park," Peterson said after the second game. "The home crowd definitely gives us a boost."

"Pitching tonight under the lights in front of all our fans was exciting," said Ruemmele.

"We have great arms on our pitching staff and a lot of depth."

"Our hitters, 1-9, can swing it," said Peterson. "Our strength is depth in the lineup."

Eden Prairie was ranked first in the final state American Legion poll. Two other top-five teams, Eastview and Burnsville, struggled in their state games Friday. Burnsville lost two and is done. Eastview lost to Southwest 12-8 and stayed alive by beating Willmar 9-8.

How did the EP players feel about Burnsville and Eastview's misfortunes?

"A part of you is smiling," said Peterson. "But the main thing for us is to stay focused on our goal - winning the state championship."

Tyler Peterson and Tyler Ruemmele led the way to Eden Prairie's first day success.



The Gazette, Page 3

Game summaries for Day One

Game 1

Hermantown 124 200 101 11 18 1

New Ulm 000 011 114 8 11 4

Olson, Stocke (9) and Baker. Petron, Gieseke (4) and Shaul. WP Olson. LP Petron.

Hermantown jumped to a 9-0 lead in a first-round game at Eden Prairie High School Field. New Ulm Gold rallied late, scoring four runs in the bottom of the ninth inning. Kevin Folman and Mike Robertson each had four hits win Hermantown and Joe Muench added three. Aaron Pfaff, Jason Shaul and Tim Kehren had two hits each for New Ulm Gold.

Game 2

Centennial 010 000 006 7 15 3

Bemidji 100 100 100 3 5 4

Piette, Faiad (8) and Irlbeck. Baker and Leif, WP Piette. LP Baker.

Centennial scored six runs in the top of the ninth inning to slip past Bemidji 7-3 Friday afternoon at Eden Prairie High School Field. Alex Marolt, who had three hits in the ballgame, drove in three of Centennial's runs in the ninth inning. Austin Malinowski had a key double in the ninth. Nick Conner and Cody Rutledge had two hits each for Bemidji.

Game 3

Burnsville 010 010 000 2 10 3

Sauk Rapids 000 100 30x 4 8 1

Quinn Johnson, Lambrecht (7) and Threlkeld. Hoppe and Bjork. WP Hoppe. LP Quinn Johnson. Home runs: Hanson (Burnsville), Hoppe (Sauk Rapids).

Jason Hoppe went three-for-four with a home run as Sauk Rapids upset the Burnsville Cobras 4-2 in a first-round game at Eden Prairie High School Field. Hoppe also pitched a complete game, scattering 10 hits. Dan Motl, Bo Hellquist and Tyler Hanson each had two hits for Burnsville.

Game 5

Willmar 000 102 0 3 6 0

Osseo 054 103 x 13 11 0

Bangen, Rambow (3) and Swoyer. Ben Johnson, Wagner (7) and Lursen. WP Ben Johnson. LP Bangen.

Sam Christofferson of Osseo got the offense rolling with a two-run double and the hitting never stopped in a 13-3, seven-inning Oriole victory. Ryan Gangestad had three hits and five RBI for the winners while teammate Matt Contreras scored four runs.

Game 4

Fergus Falls 000 003 011 5 10 16 2

Hopkins 101 000 003 0 5 9 1

Stanislawski, Rengel (9) and Lee. Hamilton, Dale (9), Gingerich (10) and Sinderson. WP Rengel. LP Dale.

Starters Darin Stanislawski of Fergus Falls and Jack Hamilton of Hopkins both pitched into the ninth inning, however, neither was involved in the decision. Zach Rengel was the winning pitcher and also hit the game-winning triple in Fergus Falls' 10-5, 10-inning victory. Hopkins was down 5-2 going into the bottom of the ninth, but pulled even on Kyle Dalton's two-run single. Abbot Aho, Alex Hensch and Boyden Lee each had three hits for Fergus Falls. Matt Sinderson paced Hopkins with three hits.

Game 6

Mpls. Southwest 040 310 121 12 9 0

Eastview 112 010 12x 8 13 1

Kuhlmann, Baker (8) and Hupp. Matt Larson, Trusty (6), Jerle (8) and Matt DeCovich. WP Kuhlmann. LP Matt Larson. Home run: Schneider (Minneapolis Southwest).

Jack Schneider swung a big bat for Minneapolis Southwest in a first-round game against Eastview at Edina's Braemar Park. He went three-for-six with a home run in Southwest's 12-8 upset win. Nick Kuhlmann was the winning pitcher for Southwest and Cole Baker came on to record the save. Taylor Branstad led Eastview with three hits.

Game 7

Lakeville North 000 100 001 2 4 1

Albert Lea 021 002 000 5 9 1

Moore, Klinkhammer (8) and Streit. Klatt and C. Kortan. WP Klatt. LP Moore.

Aaron Klatt pitched a four-hitter as Albert Lea improved to 23-14 on the season. Ethan Abben and Conner Kortan each had two hits for Albert Lea. Travis Evanson and Zach Creighton had the RBIs for Lakeville North.

Game 8

Maplewood Green 020 000 0 2 7 6

Eden Prairie 100 605 x 12 8 1

Youngdahl, Schwartz (6) and Neubeck. Bray and Blasy, WP Bray. LP Youngdahl. Home runs: Ruemmele (Eden Prairie), Peterson (Eden Prairie). Home runs by Tyler Ruemmele and Tyler Peterson carried the host team, Eden Prairie, to a 12-2 victory over Maplewood Green in a first-round game at Round Lake Park. Adam Bray pitched a complete game, scattering seven hits and striking out seven. John Phillippi and Travis Neubeck had RBIs for Maplewood Green.

Game 9

New Ulm 136 012 0 13 5 2

Bemidji 100 101 0 2 6 2

Wendinger and Schaul, Bock (6). Stalislawski, Rengel (9) and Lee.

WP Wedinger. LP Solheim.

Adam Pfaff had five RBI as New Ulm routed Bemidji 13-2 in an elimination game at Eden Prairie High School Field. Meanwhile, Colin Wedinger pitched a six-hitter in the seven-inning game. Kevin Larson went four-for-five at the plate for New Ulm.

Game 10

Centennial 004 000 120 7 8 6

Hermantown 100 201 121 8 12 4

B. LaMere, Faiad (7), A. LaMere (8) and Kallevig. Carlson, Stocke (8) and Baker. WP Stocke. LP A. LaMere.

Hermantown scored its winning run on a walk in the bottom of the ninth inning. Both teams had trouble in the field in this 10-error game. Joe Muench and Jared Thomas each had two hits for Hermantown. Sam Alt led Centennial with three hits.

Game 11

Burnsville 100 010 100 3 7 1

Hopkins 000 010 021 4 9 3

VanderWoude, Hellquist (8) and Threlkeld, Shannon, Gingerich (8) and Sinderson. WP Gingerich. LP Hellquist.

Hopkins knocked Burnsville out of the state tourney in an elimination game at Miller Park. Michael Larson and Joey Brettingen sparked Hopkins with two hits apiece. Hopkins scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the ninth. Dan Motl and Matt Stemper each had two hits for Burnsville.

Game 12

Fergus Falls 000 110 120 5 9 4

Sauk Rapids 301 410 01x 10 9 2

Gaustad, Nersten (4) and Lee. DeGagne, Cervenka (8) and Bjork. WP Nersten. LP DeGagne.

Mitch Gwost and Alex Schueller led Sauk Rapids with triples as the first-time state qualifier advanced to the winners' bracket final four with a win over Fergus Falls. Alex Hensch led Fergus Falls with three hits.

Game 13

Eastview 000 003 024 9 10 2

Willmar 000 101 600 8 9 1

Strey, Daily (6), Foss (7), E. DeCovich (9) and Wobschall, M. DeCovich (7), Swoyer and Gunvalson. WP Foss. LP Swoyer. Home run: E.

DeCovich (Eastview).

A three-run homer by Evan DeCovich in the top of the ninth gave Eastview the lead, and then he picked up the save with a scoreless ninth. Dean Stier had four hits for Willmar.

Game 14

Osseo 020 011 000 4 13 2

Mpls. Southwest 010 001 00x 2 6 2

Windle and Lursen. Baker and Hupp. WP Windle. LP Baker.

Home run: Sam Christofferson (Osseo).

Sam Windle of Osseo won a pitchers' duel with Cole Baker of Minneapolis Southwest. Windle threw a six-hitter with 11 strikeouts. Matt Contreras went four-for-four to lead Osseo's attack and teammate Sam Christofferson hit a home run.

Game 15

Maplewood Green 010 122 200 8 14 1

Lakeville North 221 001 31x 10 12 3

Kosmalski, Tonianto (8) and Neubeck. Brekke, Klinkhammer (5), Jacobson (8) and Streit. WP Klinkhammer. LP Kosmalski. Home runs: Evanson (Lakeville North) 2, Morgan (Lakeville North).

First baseman Travis Evanson of Lakeville North hit two homers and drove in three runs as Lakeville North defeated Maplewood Green 10-8 in an elimination game at Eden Prairie's Round Lake Stadium Friday afternoon. Nick Elemes had four hits for Maplewood Green and Cory Quinlan added three.

Game 16

Albert Lea 100 000 0 1 5 1

Eden Prairie 433 300 x 13 16 1

Haaland, See-Rockers (2), Anderson (4) and C. Kortan. Ruemmele, King-Forman (5) and Blasy. WP Ruemmele. LP Haaland. Home run: Peterson (Eden Prairie).

Eden Prairie dominated with a 16-hit attack and solid pitching from Tyler Ruemmele and Anthony King-Forman. Tyler Peterson, Jordan Smith and Ryan Maenke each had three hits for the winners. Tony Skjefte added two hits.