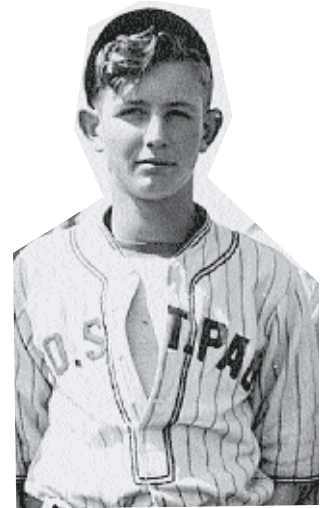




# American Legion Minnesota Division I Tournament

# Gazette



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## Eight teams reach the third day of tournament

In this year's new format, more teams are staying in the tournament longer. Eight teams will still be in the hunt for the 2012 Division I American Legion Baseball title on Sunday.

Action will continue at Chaska Athletic Park and Chanhassen High School.

The two 10 a.m. games will feature New Ulm Gold vs. Lakeview North at Chaska and

Tri-City Red vs. Eden Prairie at Chanhassen.

The 1 p.m. games will feature outstate heroes Grand Rapids and Winona at Chanhassen and the battle of the unbeaten, Burnsville and Edina, at Chaska.

The two later games at Chaska, slated for 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., will be those fighting through the losers' bracket.

The semi-final game on Monday will be at Chaska at 11 a.m. and the championship game will be at 1 p.m.

The two finalists will both advance to the Regional Tournament at Dickinson, N.D.

At the Division II Tournament in Sacred Heart, Plato and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton will play for the championship game on Sunday. Ely will play Stewartville in the third place game of the single-elimination tournament.

In action Saturday, Eden Valley-Watkins won the consolation title.

## Waite Park Silver Stars go for the gold

By John Sherman

Good pitching and fundamental baseball helped the Waite Park Silver Stars to a 4-3 win over Hopkins in an elimination game Saturday afternoon at Chanhassen High School.

Right-hander Josh Wood pitched a complete game, allowing 12 hits. Reese Gregory delivered the winning run with a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth inning. After the game, the Silver Stars rushed to engulf Gregory.

"With bases loaded and one out, my job was to get the ball to the outfield," said Gregory after the game. "I was happy to come up with a man on third because I had

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

**Reese Gregory** of the Waite Park Silver Stars hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth to beat Hopkins 4-3.

**Josh Wood** pitched a complete game to defeat Hopkins 4-3.

**Logan Borg** had four hits as Eden Prairie eliminated Alexandria 6-5.

**Jason Shaul** of New Ulm Gold went two-for-three with three RBIs in a 7-1 victory over Minneapolis Giantvalley.

**David Liebe** of Grand Rapids laid down the game-winning suicide squeeze bunt in a 10-9 victory over Winona LeJetz.

**Nick Leer** of Edina had two doubles and a single as the Hornets rolled past Lakeville North 11-1 in the winners' bracket semifinals.

**Alex Lampert** pitched an 11-1 win over Lakeville North with the help of a strong defensive effort from his teammates.

**Bo Hellquist** of the Burnsville Cobras beat Tri-City Red 2-0 in the winners' bracket semifinals.

**Jake Hanzalik** of Tri-City Red pitched a four-hitter in his team's 2-0 loss to the Burnsville Cobras.



Tri-City Red's Nik Anderson picks off Burnsville's Tyler Hill on Saturday. Brian Nelson photo.

# Grand Rapids squeezes one home, 10-9

By John Sherman

In a game that featured a total of 30 hits, the outcome was decided with a bunt Saturday afternoon at Chaska Athletic Park.

With the score tied 9-9 in the bottom of the tenth inning, Grand Rapids runner Grant Carlisle broke for the plate. His teammate, David Liebe, bunted the ball toward first base and Carlisle beat the toss to Winona catcher Zach Benson for the game winner.

"Talk about emotions," said Grand Rapids head coach Bill Kinnunen after the game.

Rapids gave up two runs in the top of the tenth, but came out hitting in the bottom of the tenth. Jake Bischoff walked to lead it off. Reid Holum doubled. After Winona recorded an out, Carlisle, Billy Hammann and Tyrel Cournoyer hit consecutive singles to set the stage for the winning bunt play.

"I had been in that position before," said Liebe, who hits ninth in Grand Rapids' order. "We practice bunting a lot, and I wasn't surprised when Coach Kinnunen put the play on. I saw that the third baseman was in pretty close, so I figured my best chance was to bunt toward first. I got a lucky hop."

"I was hoping to God that David wouldn't take the pitch," said Carlisle. "David bunts a lot, so I was confident he could get it down. Running toward the plate, I felt like I was on thin ice ... I had to step over the catcher's glove to get in."

"Winning this one was a great feeling, especially since this is my last year of Legion ball," said Liebe. "We aren't ready to go home."

Saturday's win raised Grand Rapids' season record to 22-11. Both Carlisle and Liebe said

## Burnsville Cobra pitcher wraps up a big victory

By John Sherman

The Burnsville Cobras have become one of the top programs in State American Legion Baseball during Greg Nesbitt's eight years as head coach.

Burnsville was ranked No. 1 in the state for most of the year in the state Legion poll, and the Cobras improved to 32-5 overall by beating Tri-City Red in the state winners' bracket semifinals Saturday at Chaska Athletic Park. The Cobras are poised to face Edina in the winners' bracket final at 7 p.m. Sunday.

In their victory over Tri-City Red, the Cobras scratched out two unearned runs. Lefty Bo Hellquist pitched a gem against one of the best hitting teams in the state, while Joe

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Grant Carlisle scores the winning run in Grand Rapids 10-9 victory over Winona as catcher Zach Benson attempts to make a diving tag on a suicide squeeze in the bottom of the tenth.

they love playing for Coach Kinnunen.

"Bill knows what he's talking about," said Carlisle. "He has a strong baseball philosophy and always reminds us that Grand Rapids is a baseball town."

Liebe said, "Bill is an outstanding coach. He keeps us happy and keeps us loose."

Grand Rapids is a good hitting team partly because Kinnunen is skilled in teaching players how to hit. Jake Bischoff came into the State Legion Tournament with a .482 average while

Tyrel Cournoyer and Hunter Shepard were hitting .406.

Andrew Geislinger is Grand Rapids' pitching leader with a 5-1 mark and a 2.33 ERA.

Next year, both Carlisle and Liebe will be playing college baseball. Carlisle, a pitcher and outfielder, will play for the University of Minnesota-Duluth, while Liebe, an outfielder, will play for Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.

## Waite Park digging for gold

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not had a hit in the game. When I got the chance, I made it count."

Gregory led the Silver Stars with a .409 batting average during the regular season. In high school ball at St. Cloud Apollo, he was named St. Cloud Times Player of the Year. He will play at St. Cloud State University next season.

Wood, who will play ball at St. Cloud Technical College next season, is a warrior on the mound. He attacks hitters with a fastball in the high 80s and doesn't give an inch. He knew he would have a challenge on his hands against a Hopkins team with three NCAA Division I signees.

"Hopkins is pretty solid all the way around," he said. "If you throw fastballs over the plate, they'll hit them."

Wood tried to mix it up and his off-speed was effective.

"I was disappointed to give up that run when they tied the score in the top of the ninth," he said. "But I knew we would find a way to win. I was pretty excited when Reese got that hit."

Wood, who is solidly built, said he generates most of his velocity from his legs. He has good stamina, too, and was throwing as hard in the ninth as he did in the first.

"Josh is passionate and works his heart out," said Gregory. "We're a team with good talent and good chemistry. Our defense is solid and we're all good buddies. We have come together as a unit."

In addition to leading the Silver Stars in hitting, Gregory is the pitching leader with a 7-0 record and sterling 1.31 ERA. Wood improved to 5-3 on the mound with Saturday's victory.

Hopkins coach Todd Jahnke said, "It just wasn't meant to be."



# Complete stats from first two days

## Batting Average

1. Cole Sweeney-CHASKA	.667
2. Hayden Laimer-MONT	.625
3. Zach Hoffmann-NUG	.615
4. Cody Wetmore-EP	.556
David Barry-EASTVIEW	.556
Reid Holum-GR	.556
7. Jason Shaul-NUG	.545
8. Michael Blauert-EP	.500
Billy Hammann-GR	.500
Tyrel Cournoyer-GR	.500

## Slugging pct.

1. Zach Hoffmann-NUG	1.000
Jason Shaul-NUG	1.000
Matt Sinderson-HOPKINS	1.000
Cole Sweeney-CHASKA	1.000
5. Reid Holum-GR	.889
6. Peter Gaustad-FF	.714
7. TJ Evanson-LN	.700
8. Cody Wetmore-EP	.667
Zach Frazier-GR	.667
10. Brandon Morgan-LN	.636

## On base pct

1. Cole Sweeney-CHASKA	.750
2. Zach Hoffmann-NUG	.688
3. Jason Shaul-NUG	.667
Reid Holum-GR	.667
BrennanEspindaBanick-EAST-VIEW	.667
Patrick Strey-EASTVIEW	.667
7. Logan Borg-EP	.643
8. Hayden Laimer-MONT	.625
9. Bryan Benson-WP	.615
10. Matt Bergmann-NUG	.600

## Runs scored

1. Zach Hoffmann-NUG	7
2. Grant Carlisle-GR	6
3. Nick Omodt-EDINA	5
Michael Blauert-EP	5
Tyler Hill-BURN	5
6. 6 tied at ...	4

## Hits

1. Zach Hoffmann-NUG	8
2. Michael Blauert-EP	7
3. Ben Alvord-WP	6
Billy Hammann-GR	6
Jason Shaul-NUG	6
6. 15 tied at ...	5

## Runs batted in

1. Jason Shaul-NUG	8
2. Brandon Morgan-LN	5
Dalton Lehnen-LN	5
Matthew Hopfner-EDINA	5
5. 10 tied at ...	4

## Doubles

1. TJ Evanson-LN	3
Reid Holum-GR	3
3. Jason Shaul-NUG	2
Zach Hoffmann-NUG	2
Nick Leer-EDINA	2
Peter Gaustad-FF	2
Dalton Lehnen-LN	2

8. 42 tied at ...	1
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## Triples

1. Tyler Hanson-BURN	1
Brandon Morgan-LN	1
Sam Hentges-TCR	1
Danny Baer-EDINA	1
Matt Sinderson-HOPKINS	1

## Home runs

1. Sam Hentges-TCR	1
Matt Sinderson-HOPKINS	1
Jason Shaul-NUG	1
Zach Hoffmann-NUG	1

## Total bases

1. Zach Hoffmann-NUG	13
2. Jason Shaul-NUG	11
3. Matt Sinderson-HOPKINS	10
4. Reid Holum-GR	8
Sam Hentges-TCR	8
6. Michael Blauert-EP	7
Billy Hammann-GR	7
TJ Evanson-LN	7
Brandon Morgan-LN	7
10. 9 tied at ...	6

## Walks

1. Zach Benson-WINONA	4
Andrew Geislinger-GR	4
Zach Creighton-LN	4
Danny Halloran-EP	4
Nick Omodt-EDINA	4
Kevin Larson-NUG	4
Tyler Hill-BURN	4
Jason Shaul-NUG	4
9. 10 tied at ...	3

## Hit by pitch

1. Patrick Strey-EASTVIEW	3
Logan Kent-BURN	3
3. Nick Omodt-EDINA	2
Matt Sinderson-HOPKINS	2
Bryan Rhode-WINONA	2
BrennanEspindaBanick-EAST-VIEW	2
7. 32 tied at ...	1

## Stolen bases

1. Roger Brosnahan-WINONA	4
Skyler Marks-WINONA	4
3. Nick Omodt-EDINA	3
Ben Mezzenga-TCR	3
Dan Kronebusch-WINONA	3
Matt Pryor-MPLSGV	3
7. 6 tied at ...	2

## Earned run avg

1. Colin Wendinger-NUG	0.00
John Pryor-MPLSGV	0.00
Joel Klinkhammer-LN	0.00
Tyler Hanson-BURN	0.00
Bo Hellquist-BURN	0.00
Jake Hanzalik-TCR	0.00
Jordan Jacobson-LN	0.00
Alex Lampert-EDINA	0.00
Dean Rinnan-CHASKA	0.00
Brian Vanderwoude-BURN	0.00

## Innings pitched

1. Osha Brewer-GR	9.2
2. Tyler Hanson-BURN	9.0
Joel Klinkhammer-LN	9.0
Bo Hellquist-BURN	9.0
Jory Dove-NUG	9.0
Blake Stockert-ALEX	9.0
Josh Wood-WP	9.0
Colin Wendinger-NUG	9.0
John Pryor-MPLSGV	9.0
10. Beau Backhaus-ALEX	8.1

## Batters struck out

1. Joel Klinkhammer-LN	11
2. John Pryor-MPLSGV	9
Osha Brewer-GR	9
Grant Carlisle-GR	9
5. Reese Gregory-WP	8
Max Knutson-TCR	8
7. Marcus Frederickson-EAST-VIEW	7
Jory Dove-NUG	7
Tyler Hanson-BURN	7
Blake Stockert-ALEX	7

## Wins

1. Jake Bischoff-GR	2
2. 20 tied at ...	1

## Saves

1. Mitchell Larson-EDINA	1
Nate Ellis-HOPKINS	1
Cody Wetmore-EP	1
Matt Herringshaw-TCR	1
Nick Knoblach-ALEX	1

## Games in relief

1. Jake Bischoff-GR	2
Nate Ellis-HOPKINS	2
Nick Knoblach-ALEX	2
Reece Johnson-FF	2
Jack Wickstrom-CHASKA	2
Matt Pryor-MPLSGV	2
Dan Loats-EP	2
Mitchell Larson-EDINA	2
Jacob Mihalko-CHASKA	2
10. 28 tied at ...	1

## Sac bunts allowed

1. Hunter Kruse-WINONA	2
Beau Backhaus-ALEX	2
Matthew Hopfner-EDINA	2
Hunter Gamoke-WINONA	2
Andrew Geislinger-GR	2
Osha Brewer-GR	2
Dean Rinnan-CHASKA	2
Jake Hanzalik-TCR	2
9. 19 tied at ...	1

## Sac flies allowed

1. A.J. Anderson-ALEX	2
Reece Johnson-FF	2
Zach Nersten-FF	2
4. 11 tied at ...	1

# Game summaries for day two

Game 17

**New Ulm Gold 101 000 320 7 13 2**

**Mpls. Giantvalley 001 000 000 1 7 0**

Dove and Shaul. Nelson, M. Pryor (7), Peterson (9) and Manion. WP Dove. LP Nelson.

New Ulm Gold defeated Minneapolis Giantvalley 7-1 in an elimination game Saturday morning at Chanhassen High School. New Ulm banged out 13 hits and broke the game open late with three runs in the seventh and two in the eighth. Shortstop Kevin Larson led New Ulm Gold with three hits in four at-bats. Zach Hoffmann, Jason Shaul and Matt Bergmann each had two hits for the winners. Third baseman Matt Pryor went three-for-four for Giantvalley, which finished the season 21-12 after winning its first ever Fifth District title.

Game 18

**Alexandria 020 120 000 5 8 2**

**Eden Prairie 200 010 30x 6 11 6**

Anderson, Knobloch (7) and Leary. Curran, Loats (7), Wetmore (9) and Halloran. WP Loats. LP Anderson. Save Wetmore.

Eden Prairie played its best ball after the seventh-inning stretch in a 6-5 victory over Alexandria Saturday at Chaska Athletic Park. Eden Prairie was uncharacteristically shaky in the field with six errors, but a three-run seventh inning made up for it. Center fielder Logan Borg, who had an RBI single in the seventh, led Eden Prairie with a four-for-five day at the plate. Michael Blauert added two hits for the winners, whose record improved to 28-10. Alexandria, which finished the season 23-14, had hits from eight different players – Nick Knobloch, Grant Becker, Zach Peterson, A.J. Anderson, Gideon Burnham, Beau Backhaus, Pat Leary and Jeff Swedberg.

Game 19

**Hopkins 010 010 001 3 12 4**

**Waite Park 000 210 001 4 9 0**

Wood and Jarosch. Glover, Ellis (8) and Sinderson. WP Wood. LP Ellis.

Reese Gregory, the St. Cloud Times Player of the Year during the spring season, is a gamer in the summer as well. His bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth gave Waite Park a 4-3 win over Hopkins in an elimination game at Chanhassen High School. Right-hander Josh Wood pitched a complete game for Waite Park, which improved to 21-9. Gregory and Ben Alvord each had two hits and two RBIs for Waite Park. Andy Wicklund and Jack Cherry had three hits each for Hopkins, which finished the season with a 23-14 record.

Game 20

**Winona LeJetz 001 212 001 2 9 12 3**

**Grand Rapids 020 030 100 3 10 18 4**

Kruse, Hedin (3), Gamoke (7), Burnikel (8) and Benson. Brewer, Bischoff (9) and Frazier. WP Bischoff. LP Burnikel.

Grand Rapids won over Winona LeJetz with a squeeze play in the bottom of the tenth inning. Center fielder David Liebe put the bunt down toward first base and Grant Carlisle dashed home with the winning run. Reid Holum and Tyrel Cournoyer each had three of Grand Rapids' 18 hits. Catcher Jake Bischoff took off the gear in the ninth inning to record the pitching win. Hunter Gamoke led Winona with three hits. LeJetz finished the season 23-12.

Game 21

**Tri-City Red 000 000 000 0 3 4**

**Burnsville 000 001 01x 2 4 1**

Hanzalik and Anderson. Hellquist and Threlked. WP Hellquist LP Hanzalik.

In a winners' bracket pitchers' duel at Chaska Athletic Park, Bo Hellquist of Burnsville beat Jake Hanzalik of Tri-City Red 2-0. Hellquist had only one strikeout in the game as the Cobras' defense played well behind him. Both of Burnsville's runs were unearned.

Game 22

**Edina 202 241 0 11 12 1**

**Lakeville North 100 000 0 1 4 3**

Lampert and Denn. Petrick, Nonwieler (4), Palmer (4) and Striet. WP Lampert. LP Petrick.

After a slow offensive night on Friday in a 2-1 victory over Alexandria, Edina had a big day at the plate in an 11-1, seven-inning win over Lakeville North Saturday night at Chaska Athletic Park. Shortstop Nick Leer was three-for-four for Edina with three runs scored while right fielder Matthew Hopfner had two hits and four RBIs. Catcher Nick Denn and first baseman Mark Handberg each added two hits. Lefty Alex Lampert pitched a four-hitter for Edina in winning his 11th game of the season against only one loss.

## Cobra pitcher wraps up big game with shutout

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Hanzalik threw a four-hitter for Tri-City Red.

"Although it wasn't pretty, the win tonight is probably the most significant win in the history of the Burnsville Legion program," said Nesbitt. "Bo is a big-game type of player. He got ahead of the hitters right away. The last two games, our pitchers have been very efficient. Tyler Hanson shut out Eden Prairie [6-0] with a two-hitter and struck out 12 Friday, and Bo got the shutout today. It is huge when you're throwing complete games in the tournament."

With 13 seniors and college freshmen,

Nesbitt has the kind of veteran team that won't get rattled in tough situations.

"Depth-wise this might be the best team we've had," he said. "And our pitching staff is right up there with the best we've had."

Nesbitt, 33, said that tough competition in Third District D League play, helped prepare the Cobras for the rigors of state. "Look at the teams in our league," he said. "We battled Eastview all summer, and by the end of the season both teams were exhausted."

Earning his 200th career Legion win earlier this season, Nesbitt hopes for a lot of good

years in the future.

"I have been very fortunate to coach the quality kids we have had in our program," he said.

Burnsville was ranked first in the state Legion poll most of the year, but relinquished the top spot to Eastview in the final week.

In the winners' bracket final against Edina, the Cobras will face a team that tied Eden Prairie and Excelsior for the South Hennepin League championship. Edina played a nearly flawless game Saturday, beating Lakeville North 11-1.