



American Legion Minnesota Division I Tournament

Gazette



Volume 19, No. 4

Chanhassen, Minn.

Monday, August 3, 2015

The final day: Wayzata, EP and New Ulm

Wayzata punched its ticket to Bismarck, but must wait until 1 p.m. today to play for the state title.

The Wayzata team outlasted Eden Prairie 7-6 in a classic American Legion baseball game Sunday at Chanhassen Field.

By making the final game, Wayzata will be one of the two teams from Minnesota's Division I that will go on to the national regional.

Eden Prairie had gone ahead 5-4 late in the game, but Wayzata rallied to take a 7-5 lead. In the bottom of the ninth, Eden Prairie pushed one run across but left a man on second as the game ended.

Eden Prairie dropped into the losers' bracket and will play New Ulm at 10 a.m. today at the Chanhassen Field. The winner of that game will advance to the championship game at 1 p.m.

New Ulm defeated host Chanhassen

10-4 to advance to Sunday's semi-final. They will play Eden Prairie at 10 a.m. at Chanhassen.

The national regional games will begin in Bismarck on Wednesday. The winner of that tournament will advance to the Legion World Series the following week in Shelby, N.C. Minnesota will have two of the eight teams in the Bismarck tournament.

Wayzata earns first-ever regional

By John Sherman

For the first time in the history of the program, a team from Wayzata American Legion Post has qualified to play in a Regional Tournament.

Later this week the Trojans will open Central Plains Regional play in Bismarck, N.D., and they will make the trip with a full head of steam.

In the Division II Legion Tournament in Morris, for the smaller schools, Moose Lake defeated LaCrescent 6-5 in nine innings and Foley edged Minneapolis Giantvalley 1-0 to advance to the title game.

Foley defeated Moose Lake 6-2 for the championship Sunday afternoon.

The winner will go on to a national regional at LeSueur this week.

Wayzata held off its South Hennepin League rival, Eden Prairie, 7-6 in the State Tournament winners' bracket final Sunday afternoon.

Both teams showed an ability to come back from deficits during the contest, but Wayzata's ace relief pitcher, Jake Marsh, had the final say.

The last out of the game was a fly ball to right that appeared to be drifting away from outfielder Connor Trygstad, but luckily Trygstad tracked it down and made a two-handed catch about 25 feet in front of the fence.

"It was an even game that either team could have won," said Wayzata head coach Adam Goethke.

Asked about his decision to use Marsh in relief for the third straight day, Goethke said, "If it's close, we go with Jake."

Wayzata starter Michael Bohlke put his club in position to win before Marsh came in to work his magic.

"You can't be afraid of Eden Prairie," said Bohlke. "I wanted to throw a ton of strikes today ... the defense behind me was amazing."

Bohlke took the first six innings and Marsh the last three.

"My teammates have given me great opportunities," said Marsh. "Everyone on the team has rallied behind the pitchers. I wouldn't have



Celebration

Wayzata players mob pitcher Jake Marsh (36) at the end of a 7-6 victory over Eden Prairie Sunday afternoon. Wayzata will now advance to the national regional tourney.

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Chanhassen hosts

Tournament Host Directors Steve Smith, Mike Mattson and Paul Harris visit with American Legion Baseball Director Mike Perry Sunday at Chaska Athletic Park.

Host trio is not fazed by challenge

By John Sherman

The magnitude of running the State American Legion Baseball Tournament didn't faze Chanhassen's local committee, led by Paul Harris, Mike Mattson and Steve Smith.

Their experience as youth baseball coaches, as well as their experience in running youth tournaments, helped them get organized early and stay on task during tournament play.

"Many of our volunteers come from Chanhassen baseball families," said Mattson in an interview Sunday morning.

"We have been one of the sites for the Gopher Classic the last five years, with the same volunteers who are helping us with the State Tournament," said Harris.

One of the objectives prior to the tournament was to spruce up the main field for the tournament, Chanhassen High School.

"We painted the dugouts and the railings," said Mattson. "And we rebuilt the mound. Jeff Olson takes a lot of pride in the field."

The host committee had run tournaments before, but there were new aspects of a big tournament like the State Legion event.

"We had not organized a banquet before," said Harris.

"We had not had an opening ceremony before, either," said Mattson. "The awards presentations went well and we had great speakers - Dick Jonckowski [the emcee] and Patrick Ruisse [the keynote speaker]."

Jonckowski, Minnesota's Toastmaster General, told a few of his favorite jokes. He described a swimmer who wanted to cross the Minnesota River, but turned back at the

halfway point when he became tired.

Harris said the host committee is more concerned about "providing a great experience for the ballplayers" than making money.

"If you do a good job, the money will take care of itself," he observed.

Smith's job on the committee was "mostly financial."

"I have to worry about the revenue - managing expenses and fund-raising," he noted. "Mike [Mattson] and I have helped coach some of the kids on the team since they were 10. The neat thing about our Legion team is that any

Stars of the Day

Jake Marsh of Wayzata picked up his third relief win of the State Tournament when his team beat Eden Prairie 7-6 in the winners' bracket final Sunday afternoon. Marsh went three-for-three at the plate.

Jeff Athey of Eden Prairie continued his State Tournament dominance with two doubles in a 7-6 loss to Wayzata.

Joe Fahning's 375-foot three-run homer was not enough to lift Eden Prairie to victory against Wayzata.

Brandon Beranek of New Ulm Gold had five RBIs in his team's 13-5 victory over Hutchinson Sunday morning at Chanhassen High School.

Jake Arlt of Hutchinson went four-for-five at the plate in his team's loss to New Ulm Gold.

Jack Mattson of Chanhassen had a huge hitting day in his team's 12-4 win over Austin. He went five-for-five and scored two runs. Mattson added a home run in Chanhassen's second game of the day, a 10-4 loss to New Ulm Gold.

Jake Tirevold pitched Chanhassen to its 12-4 victory over Austin. He had four strikeouts and his teammates played errorless ball behind him.

boy on any day could be the one with three hits."

Wayzata

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any of these wins if my teammates weren't scoring runs.

"This has been a crazy ride. We started slowly this summer, and coming to the park almost felt like a job. Then we started to play better. We realized that this is fun. After all, it's a kids' game."



Safe at home

Wayzata's Connor Trygstad scores on a wild pitch vs. Eden Prairie at Chanhassen. Pitcher Charlie Sheehan applies the tag a moment too late.

Statistics for first three days

Team Batting Average

1. Eden Prairie	.407
2. Alexandria	.385
3. Tri-City Red	.368
4. Chanhassen	.326
5. Woodbury Blue	.316
6. North St. Paul	.313
7. Princeton	.310
8. Grand Rapids	.295
9. Hutchinson	.286
10. Wayzata	.280

Batting Average

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	.813
2. Nick Zeroth-PRINCE	.700
3. Alec Abercrombie-TCRED	.667
Ben Mezzenga-TCRED	.667
5. Nick Lovdahl-TCRED	.556
6. Bo Lovdahl-TCRED	.545
7. Josh Liberko-EDENP	.533
8. Kal Lunde-EDENP	.529
9. Jack Mattson-CHAN	.500
Wesley Young-EDENP	.500

Slugging Percentage

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	1.563
2. Nick Zeroth-PRINCE	1.000
3. Alec Abercrombie-TCRED	.917
4. Ben Mezzenga-TCRED	.889
5. Jack Mattson-CHAN	.818
6. Noah Hittle-ALEX	.789
7. Jake Arlt-HUTCH	.750
8. Bo Lovdahl-TCRED	.727
9. Kevin Sampson-CHAN	.714
10. Kal Lunde-EDENP	.706

On base Percentage

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	.875
2. Ben Mezzenga-TCRED	.800
3. Alec Abercrombie-TCRED	.750
Nick Zeroth-PRINCE	.750
5. Ross Indlecoffer-TCRED	.667
6. Josh Liberko-EDENP	.611
7. Parker Hlavacek-WAYZATA	.600
Bo Lovdahl-TCRED	.600
Nick Lovdahl-TCRED	.600
10. Michael Bohlke-WAYZATA	.583

Runs scored

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	12
2. Nick Smith-CHAN	10
Judd Davis-NEWULM	10
4. Jack Mattson-CHAN	8
Ross Indlecoffer-TCRED	8
Tyler Safgren-EDENP	8
7. Casey Hammerback-ALEX	7
Bo Lovdahl-TCRED	7
Ty Denzer-CHAN	7
Marcus Hahn-HUTCH	7

Hits

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	13
2. Nick Smith-CHAN	12
3. Jack Mattson-CHAN	11
4. Ty Denzer-CHAN	10
Judd Davis-NEWULM	10
Jake Arlt-HUTCH	10
Wesley Young-EDENP	10

8. Noah Hittle-ALEX	9
Travis Krueger-ALEX	9
Kal Lunde-EDENP	9

Runs batted in

1. Kevin Sampson-CHAN	11
2. Joe Fahning-EDENP	8
Alec Abercrombie-TCRED	8
Wyatt Peterson-NEWULM	8
Jeff Athey-EDENP	8
Brandon Beranek-NEWULM	8
Jack Mattson-CHAN	8
Ty Denzer-CHAN	8
9. 5 tied at ...	7

Doubles

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	6
2. Nick Zeroth-PRINCE	3
Jared Davidson-CHAN	3
Nick Smith-CHAN	3
Brayden Amundson-ALEX	3
Connor Olson-WAYZATA	3
Jake Dickmeyer-WOODBURY	3
Noah Hittle-ALEX	3
9. 11 tied at ...	2

Triples

1. Ty Denzer-CHAN	2
Nick Smith-CHAN	2
3. 11 tied at ...	1

Home runs

1. Jack Mattson-CHAN	2
Brandon Beranek-NEWULM	2
Jeff Athey-EDENP	2
4. 15 tied at ...	1

Total bases

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	25
2. Nick Smith-CHAN	19
3. Jack Mattson-CHAN	18
4. Jake Arlt-HUTCH	15
Noah Hittle-ALEX	15
Kevin Sampson-CHAN	15
Ty Denzer-CHAN	15
8. Jared Davidson-CHAN	14
9. 3 tied at ...	12

Walks

1. Ryan Nickel-TCRED	5
Ben Mezzenga-TCRED	5
Dan Bollingberg-AUSTIN	5
Tanner Kluis-NEWULM	5
Parker Hlavacek-WAYZATA	5
Ty Denzer-CHAN	5
Jack Mattson-CHAN	5
Jimmy Bothwell-NSTPAUL	5
9. 7 tied at ...	4

Hit by pitch

1. Jeff Athey-EDENP	5
2. Ross Indlecoffer-TCRED	3
3. 9 tied at ...	2

Stolen bases

1. Ben Mezzenga-TCRED	4
Matt Piechoski-HUTCH	4
3. Jake Arlt-HUTCH	3

Alec Abercrombie-TCRED	3
5. Dylan Foote-NSTPAUL	2
Ryan Nickel-TCRED	2
Adam Hildebrandt-NSTPAUL	2
Max Meyer-WOODBURY	2
Jared Davidson-CHAN	2
Jake Steckler-NSTPAUL	2

Team Earned Run Average

1. Wayzata	2.75
2. North St. Paul	2.77
3. Chanhassen	3.12
4. New Ulm Gold	4.60
5. Eden Prairie	5.50
6. Princeton	5.54
7. Alexandria	5.91
8. Tri-City Red	6.00
9. Hutchinson	6.21
10. Sartell	6.28

Individual Earned run average

1. Jimmy Larson-PRIORLK	0.00
Brendan Broady-WAYZATA	0.00
Jake Drew-ALEX	0.00
Logan Graves-CHAN	0.00
Alex Ciola-AUSTIN	0.00
Charlie Jensen-CHAN	0.00
Jamin Hesby-WAYZATA	0.00
Brett Schulze-MPLGROVE	0.00
Josh Gaworski-TCRED	0.00
10. Wyatt Peterson-NEWULM	1.00

Opposing bat average

1. Alex Guggisberg-NEWULM	.056
2. Jimmy Larson-PRIORLK	.071
Josh Gaworski-TCRED	.071
4. Jamin Hesby-WAYZATA	.118
5. Alex Ciola-AUSTIN	.143
Brett Schulze-MPLGROVE	.143
7. Jayden Fleck-HUTCH	.156
8. Charlie Jensen-CHAN	.158
9. Hunter Even-CHAN	.167
10. Zach Lauzon-NSTPAUL	.174

Innings pitched

1. Jake Tirevold-CHAN	10.0
2. Jake Marsh-WAYZATA	9.1
Nik Gasner-AUSTIN	9.1
Charlie Sheehan-EDENP	9.1
5. Lawson Zenner-PRIORLK	9.0
Jimmy Larson-PRIORLK	9.0
Quinn Gibson-ALEX	9.0
Damon Rademacher-PRINCE	9.0
Wyatt Peterson-NEWULM	9.0
10. 3 tied at ...	8.2

Batters struck out

1. Gus Varland-NSTPAUL	15
2. Jake Marsh-WAYZATA	11
Jimmy Larson-PRIORLK	11
4. Charlie Sheehan-EDENP	10
5. Jake Drew-ALEX	9
Lawson Zenner-PRIORLK	9
Nick Hanson-PRIORLK	9
Damon Rademacher-PRINCE	9
9. Jake Reinartz-AUSTIN	8
Hunter Even-CHAN	8

Game summaries for Day Two

Game 25

New Ulm Gold 203 003 140 13 15 2
 Hutchinson 100 040 000 5 10 3

Helget, Blatt (5) and Kannegiesser. Baumetz, Theis (7), Ellenson (8), Coorow (8), J. Arlt (9) and C. Arlt. WP Batt, LP Baumetz.

Collin Helget and Bailey Batt split the pitching duties, with Batt getting the win as New Ulm Gold eliminated Hutchinson Sunday at Chanhassen High School. Right fielder Brandon Beranek led New Ulm Gold with five RBIs, while teammates Gabe Knowles and Wyatt Peterson each drove in three runs. Grant Kannegiesser and Jack Schwartz did their part with three hits each. Hutchinson's stand-out was Jake Arlt, who went four-for-five. Hutchinson finished the season 22-9.

Game 26

Chanhassen 000 052 050 12 16 0
 Austin 000 100 210 4 9 0

Tirevold, Davidson (9) and Kressler. Rein, Kempen (4), N. Gasner (5), Hart (8), Conner (8) and D. Gasner. WP Tirevold, LP Kempen.

Two five-run innings lifted the Chanhassen Cavaliers over Austin in a game Sunday morning at Chaska Athletic Park. Jack Mattson's five-for-five hitting show was one of the keys for Chanhassen. The Cavs had two hits each from Nick Smith, Ty Denzer and Jared Davidson. Alex Ciola went three-for-four to lead Austin's attack.

Game 27

Chanhassen 001 210 000 4 6 1
 New Ulm Gold 030 000 43X 10 10 2

Schnettler, Jensen (2), Even (7), Harris (8) and Kressler. Forbrook, Guggisberg (5), Davidson (9) and Kannegiesser. WP Guggisberg, LP Jensen. Home Run: Mattson (Chanhassen).

A valiant effort by the host team from Chanhassen fell short in a game with New Ulm Gold Sunday at Chaska Athletic Park. Judd Davis, Grant Kannegiesser and Gabe Knowles each had two hits for New Ulm Gold. Nick Smith led Chanhassen with two hits.

Game 28

Wayzata 000 040 021 7 13 2
 Eden Prairie 100 003 101 6 14 2

Bohlke, Marsh (7) and Olson. Sheehan, Kaufmann (8), Christensen (9) and Safgren. WP Marsh, LP Kaufmann. Home Run: Fahning (Eden Prairie).

Jake Marsh of Wayzata picked up his third relief win of the State Tournament Sunday afternoon at Chanhassen High School. Marsh also went three-for-four at the plate to help Wayzata win a Central Plains Regional berth. Wayzata came from behind twice against its South Hennepin League rival. The big inning for Wayzata was a four-run fifth. EP responded with three runs in the sixth on Joe Fahning's homer, which tied the game. Jeff Athey continued to star for EP with a pair of doubles.

New Ulm, EP battle for national regional trip

By John Sherman

One team will pack its bags for Bismarck, N.D. The other will return to either New Ulm or Eden Prairie following the last day of the American Legion State Tournament Monday at Chanhassen High School.

Wayzata has already earned a berth at the Central Plains Regional in Bismarck later this week. The Trojans, 7-6 winners over Eden Prairie on Sunday, will be accompanied on the trip by one of these two tough contenders.

By the way, part of the suspense for Monday is that any of the three teams could win the state title.

"This will hurt for a little bit, and then we'll turn the page," said Eden Prairie head coach Scott Hackett following the loss to Wayzata. "Credit Wayzata for making the plays when it needed to. The way I look at it now is, we're one win away from extending our season."

EP will be tough to beat the way it has been hitting the ball, however, New Ulm Gold is on a hot streak after winning two games on Sunday – 13-5 over Hutchinson and 10-4 over Chanhassen.

New Ulm Gold has shown a very deep pitching staff and is also playing solid defense.

One of the subplots in the 10 a.m. New Ulm Gold-Eden Prairie game will be New

Ulm's ability to hold EP slugger Jeff Athey in check. The big left-handed-hitting third baseman has 13 hits in the State Tournament, going into Monday's action.



Ripping a single

Ty Danzer of Chanhassen follows the flight of the ball as he knocks a single vs. Austin.