

The Gazette



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Four down, twelve to go after first round action

Twelve teams advanced to the second day of the tournament, while four lost both their games Friday and went home.

The four undefeated teams are Woodbury, St. Paul Hamline Purple, Forest Lake and Maple Grove.

The eight teams with 1-1 records who will have to fight their way back through the losers' bracket are Champlin, Waconia, Princeton, Little Falls, Rochester Patriots, Eastview, Wayzata, Grand Rapids.

The four who went home are Edina, Fairmont, Bemidji and host Delano.

Games will be played on three fields today. In the left side of the bracket, Champlin will play Waconia at

9 a.m. at Zitzloff Field in Delano, and also at 9 a.m., Princeton will take on Little Falls at Klaers Field in Loretto.

Rochester will play Eastview at Municipal Field at 9 a.m. and Wayzata will play Grand Rapids at noon at Municipal Field.

In the battle of the unbeaten at Municipal Field, Woodbury plays Hamline at 4 p.m. and Forest Lake takes on Maple Grove at 7.

Complete game summaries are on pages 3 and 4 of this Gazette.

Play will continue through Monday when the championship games are played. Minnesota will send two teams to the American Legion regional in Bismarck starting this Wednesday.



KEEP ON TRUCKIN' -- With dad's help, Will Bauman, 1, takes his turn at driving at Municipal Field.

Patriots fly the victory flag after 16 innings



Zach Smith got a walk-off single for Rochester vs. Waconia in 16 innings.

By John Sherman

For the first 15 innings Friday morning, neither the Rochester Patriots nor Waconia found a way to score a run.

But in the bottom of the 16th, the Patriots Legion team finally flew the victory flag. Zach Smith's two-out single with runners on first and third ended the contest. After rounding first, Smith was mobbed by the entire Patriots team.

It was fortuitous for Rochester that Smith came to the plate at just the right time. He is the Patriots' leading hitter with a .446 batting average.

Talking about his winning hit, Smith said, "I was just looking for a good fastball to hit."

He got the pitch he was looking for and lined it between the left and center fielders.

Ironically, Edina Legion coach Gene Larkin, who delivered the winning hit for the Twins in the 1991 World Series against Atlanta, was in the stands scouting the game.

"I have seen Gene Larkin's hit many times," said Smith. "I am glad the game finally ended. It's tough to play 16 innings because you use so much of your pitching."

Smith pitched the first nine innings before giving way to Logan Saltou, who earned the win in relief.

Patriots head coach Dutch Heiderscheit said, "That's a game I'll never forget. "The kids on both teams made play after play. Eventually, someone had to score."

What advice did Coach Heiderscheit have for Smith before the winning hit?

"Keep things level and hit a line drive," the coach said.

'The Mayor' holds court at Legion tournament

By John Sherman

Minnesota American Legion Baseball's new Hall-of-Famer Walter "Red" Wyczawski might be able to teach Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump a few things about how to win an election.

Over a 24-year period as mayor in New Ulm, Minnesota, Red was re-elected five times.

No doubt every baseball fan in town voted for the personable mayor, who did a good share of campaigning at his home away from home, Johnson Park.

"It was fortunate when I moved to New Ulm," said Red during an interview Friday morning. "I love baseball, and is there a better baseball town in Minnesota than New Ulm?"

"As a community, we have won 17 state baseball championships," Red observed. "We've sent five players to the Major Leagues. That's pretty good for a city of 13,000."

Vern Kitzberger, the District 2 Legion Baseball Director from New Ulm, said, "Red is a real people person. He has an unbelievable memory and can

remember players, what year they played and the names of their parents and grandparents. Red is always upbeat and he is a great promoter of the City of New Ulm."

The most famous New Ulm product, Terry Steinbach, caught in the Majors for 14 seasons. Red can recite Terry's career stats and highlights, dating back to the years he played Legion Baseball for New Ulm.

New Ulm has had two American Legion World Series teams, and baseball is as much a part of New Ulm's heritage as German cuisine.

"I start watching the kids when they're in sixth grade, and I follow them up through VFW, high school and Legion baseball," Red noted.

Before moving to New Ulm, Red was a sportswriter in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and then a public relations man with the Milwaukee Braves.

"I gave more than 300 speeches on behalf of the Braves organization," Red recalled.



Red Wyczawski

The former mayor said he has been watching baseball games for 82 of his 90 years. As a youth, he played Legion Baseball for a small post in Thorp, Wisconsin.

"The youth of Minnesota are lucky to play in one of the best American Legion Baseball programs in the United States," said Red. "I would like to wish

every player in the tournament good luck this week."

While this year's State Legion Tournament has three days remaining, Red is already making plans to attend next year's tournament, which will be played at the home of the St. Paul Saints, CHS Field.

Maple Grove hero comes through in the clutch

By John Sherman

Maple Grove used a big hit from Bubba Horton to advance in the winners' bracket of the State American Legion Tournament with a 6-2 victory over

Princeton Friday night at DeLano.

Horton came up with a big RBI triple that scored the first of four Maple Grove runs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Horton's big hit, which scored Isaac Collins from second, broke a 2-2 tie. He drove a fastball on the outer half of the plate deep into the right-center field gap.

"Earlier this season, I was trying to pull everything," he said. "Before my at-bat, I reminded myself to go with the pitch. Once I hit it, I was thinking triple the whole way."

Winning pitcher Brett Schulze pitched the last four innings in relief of Max Marshall to record the win.

"It is always fun to watch Brett pitch," said Horton. "He has the velocity and the control."

With two wins the first day of the State Tournament, Maple Grove stands 18-5.

Stars of the Day

Nate Martinson of Maple Grove pitched a complete-game, six-hitter to beat Delano 9-0 in a first-round game.

Will Oberg, Wayzata's first baseman, was good for four hits in a 16-1 victory over Fairmont at Loretto.

Brendan Broady scattered seven hits over nine innings in Wayzata's 16-1 win over Fairmont.

Joe Bernard of Princeton had a big day at the plate with three hits, including a home run, as his club defeated Grand Rapids 5-1.

Ronnie Sweeny, Woodbury's catcher, had four hits as his team downed Edina 14-4 Friday afternoon. He went two-for-four in Blue's 4-2 victory over the Rochester Patriots Friday evening.

Zach Smith's walk-off single in the bottom of the 16th gave the Rochester Patriots a 1-0 victory over Waconia.

Leo Lerner of Hamline Purple pitched seven solid innings as the starter in a 6-2 victory over Little Falls.

Cole Albers pitched shut-out baseball for six innings in Champlin's 7-0 victory over Eastview.

Cameron Kline of Forest Lake hit a grand-slam home run to key an 8-1 victory over Champlin.



Bubba Horton of Maple Grove slides in with a triple against Princeton.

Complete summaries from Day 1

Game 1

Waconia 000 000 000 000 000 0 0 4 1

Rochester Patriots 000 000 000 000 000 1 1 7 1

Whittaker, Nichols (8) and Logelin. Z. Smith, Saltou (10) and Devlin. WP Saltou. LP Nichols.

Zach Smith hit the game-winning single with two outs in the bottom of the 16th inning to break the stalemate in a defensive struggle at Zitzloff Field in Delano Friday morning. Smith pitched the first nine innings, while Logan Saltou picked up the win in relief.

Game 2

Edina 100 201 0 4 9 5

Woodbury Blue 202 320 5 14 17 0

Voss, Connell (5) and Boltmann. Gehrt, Trifiletti (7) and Sweeny. WP Gehrt, LP Voss.

Logan Welch and Ronnie Sweeny both went four-for-four in Woodbury Blue's 14-4 victory over Edina in a first-round State Tournament game at Zitzloff Field in Delano. Winning pitcher Nick Gehrt scattered eight hits over six innings. Emerson Egly led Edina's nine-hit attack with a single and a double.

Game 3

Hamline Purple 231 000 000 6 8 0

Little Falls 010 100 000 2 6 1

Lerner, Peterfeso (8) and Weinberg. Jenks and Backowski. WP Lerner. LP Jenks. Home Run: Marod (Little Falls).

Jack Koch, Justin Weinberg, Nick Avran and Anthony Fumuso each had two hits in Hamline Purple's first-round win over Little Falls. Hunter Swanson led Little Falls with a pair of hits. Leo Lerner was the winning pitcher for Hamline Purple.

Game 4

Wayzata 001 222 117 16 20 0

Fairmont 000 000 100 1 7 5

Broady and Marsh. Fritz, Maakestad (6), Lloyd (9) and Schweiger. WP Broady. LP Fritz.

Brendan Broady went the distance on the mound for Wayzata, improving to 6-0 with the win over Fairmont. Wayzata had 20 hits, including four by first baseman Will Oberg. Parker Hlavacek and Griffin Schneider each had three hits.

Game 5

Champlin 011 010 130 7 10 2

Eastview 000 000 000 0 8 4

Albers, Nelson (8), Pikula (9) and D. Smith. R. Johnson, Wilson (8), Kadlec (9) and Granger. WP Albers. LP R. Johnson.

Champlin pitcher Cole Albers was solid for six innings in picking up the win against Eastview. The Rebels scored in five different innings on the way to victory. Aaron Kloppner, Riley Johnson and Joey Simon each had two hits for the winners. Jack Woehler led Eastview with two hits.

Game 6

Forest Lake 320 000 100 6 13 0

Bemidji 100 001 100 2 8 1

Kline, DeSmet (6), Palo (9) and Walker. Morgan, Carlson (5) and Young, Morgan (5). WP Kline. LP Morgan.

Forest Lake scored five runs in the first two innings and had 13 hits for the game to defeat Bemidji. Cam Kline, the winning pitcher, struck out seven in 5 and 1/3 innings. He also had two hits and 3 RBI. Caleb Carlson had three hits for Bemidji.

Game 7

Princeton 000 010 300 5 8 1

Grand Rapids 100 000 000 1 3 1

Barrett, N. Johnson (7), Bachmann (9) and Sheppard. Larson and Rademacher. WP Larson, LP Barrett. Home Run: Bernard (Princeton).

Princeton opened State Tournament play with a decisive win over Grand Rapids at Municipal Ballpark in Delano. Sam Larson pitched a complete game, allowing only three hits, while Princeton's hitting star was tournament Home Run Derby champion Joe Bernard, who had three hits, including a home run. Center fielder John Baker led Grand Rapids with a single and a double.

Game 8

Delano 000 000 000 0 6 4

Maple Grove 011 401 20x 9 5 1

Schramel, Halonen (8) and Carson. Martinson and Lewis. WP Martinson. LP Schramel.

Maple Grove pitcher Nate Martinson pitched a six-hitter to beat the host team from Delano 9-0 in the first round Friday afternoon. The winners took advantage of 11 walks.

Game 9

Waconia 100 000 000 1 6 0

Edina 000 000 000 0 3 0

Nichols, Stoddard (7) and Logelin. Eckland and Boltmann. WP Nichols. LP Boltmann.

Waconia scored only one run over 25 innings on Friday, but came out of the first day's action with a 1-1 record. Adam Nichols and Jack Stoddard combined on a three-hitter in a 1-0 victory over Edina in the late-afternoon game at Zitzloff Field.

Complete summaries, continued

Waconia scored the only run of the game in the top of the first on Dylan Whittaker's sacrifice fly. Will Eckland was the tough-luck loser for Edina.

Game 10

Rochester Patriots 200 000 000 2 6 1

Woodbury Blue 200 200 00x 4 7 0

Davis and Lingen. Trifiletti, Gustafson (6) and Sweeny. WP Trifiletti. LP Davis.

Woodbury Blue advanced to the winners' bracket semifinals with a win over Woodbury Blue Friday evening. Two unearned runs in the bottom of the fourth gave Woodbury the win. Ronnie Sweeny went two-for-four for the winners.

Game 11

Fairmont 000 000 200 2 11 1

Little Falls 010 402 300 8 13 1

Miller and Czajkowski. Tennyson, Schweiger (7) and Schweiger, Tennyson (7).

WP Miller. LP Tennyson.

Little Falls stayed alive in the State Tournament by eliminating Fairmont 8-2. Thomas Miller was the winning pitcher. Third baseman AJ Jenks scored three runs for Little Falls. Jack Waletich led Fairmont with two hits.

Game 12

Wayzata 000 000 021 3 8 0

Hamline Purple 201 000 10x 4 10 0

Stolt, Schroeder (7) and Marsh, Young (7). Peterfeso, J. Johnson (8) and Weinberg.

Hamline Purple upset Wayzata in a winners' bracket game at Loretto. Jake Peterfeso was the winning pitcher, allowing four hits and two runs in seven innings. Jack Johnson picked up the save.

Game 13

Eastview 041 000 002 7 9 0

Bemidji 010 021 000 4 9 4

D. Larson, Miller (7) and Granger. N Larson, Loxtercamp (3), Grimm (8) and Morgan. WP D. Larson. LP N. Larson.

Each team had nine hits in this elimination game at Maple Lake's Irish Field. Eastview took the early lead with four runs in the top of the second and held on for the victory. Cullen Buck led Eastview with three hits in the lead-off spot.

Game 14

Champlin 000 010 000 1 6 3

Forest Lake 100 502 00x 8 13 0

Kloppner, Pikula (7) and Smith, Altonen (7). Wensmann, DeSmet (7) and Walker. WP Wensmann. LP Kloppner. HR Kline.

Cameron Kline hit a grand slam in the fourth inning to boost Forest Lake into Saturday's action as an unbeaten. He ended the game with five RBI, and Gerde had two RBI.

Game 15

Delano 020 000 000 2 4 0

Grand Rapids 001 002 00x 3 10 1

Schneider and Meyers. Gerber and Sheppard. WP Gerber. LP Schneider. Home Run: Schramel (Delano).

In a contest that featured complete games by both pitchers, Lane Gerber of Grand Rapids bested Austin Schneider of Delano. Jordan Schramel hit a two-run homer for Delano. Nick Johnson led Grand Rapids with three hits and teammate Brooks Bachmann had two.

Game 16

Princeton 000 002 000 2 2 5

Maple Grove 100 010 40x 6 10 0

Hallbeck and Oaks. Marshall, Schulze (6) and Lewis. WP Schulze. LP Hallbeck.

The big hit of the evening for Maple Grove was an RBI triple by Bubba Horton in the bottom of the sixth. Isaac Collins had three hits for the winners. Errorless defense helped Maple Grove improve to 18-5. Max Marshall and Brett Schulze combined to pitch a two-



Grand Rapids first baseman Ethan Rajala digs out a throw vs. Delano in a game at Municipal Stadium.