

The Gazette



AMERICAN LEGION

DIVISION I TOURNAMENT

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Cold Spring, Minnesota

Thursday, Aug.

Cold Spring hosts 94th Legion Tournament

Aug. 1, 2019

Cold Spring, noted for granite and beer, this weekend becomes a baseball mecca.

The Minnesota American Legion Division I Tournament will be played on four fields in the Cold Spring area beginning today.

The tourney will wind up Sunday at the Cold Spring Baseball Park, and the top two teams from Minnesota will advance to the Central Plains Regional at Sioux Falls.

The winner of that tournament will go on to the World Series in Shelby, North Carolina.

Teams from across Minnesota will compete. The line-up includes: Austin, New Ulm, Edina, Excelsior, Woodbury, Eastview, Roseville, Tri-City Red (New Brighton), Ham Lake, Duluth Lakeview, Anoka, St. Cloud Chutes, Minneapolis Southwest, East Grand Forks, Buffalo and host Cold Spring.

Sixteen games will be played today at fields in Cold Spring, Paynesville, St. Martin and Watkins.

It's a double-elimination tournament.

The Division II tournament will begin Friday in Ely.

Tourney kicks off with banquet in St. Cloud

Over 500 young men and their families gathered Wednesday night at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud to hear Dick Jankowski tell groaner jokes.

Well, there was more.

Jankowski, once the public address voice of the Minnesota Gophers and the emcee of the Division I banquet, also introduced a variety of speakers.

Rob Fornasiere, who recently retired as the Gophers assistant baseball coach, used the moon landing as metaphor for his keynote speech.

"President Kennedy told us in 1962 that America was going to the moon not because it was easy, but because it was hard," Fornasiere said.

He assured the players from the 16 teams gathered to do battle the next four days, "This weekend will be difficult."

"But champions overcome adversity. It's not whether we get knocked down, it's whether we get up."

Like the moon program, which he said took 400,000 Americans working behind the scenes to allow two Americans to set foot on the moon, the na-

tion had to persevere in its goal.

"Do you have the will to follow through and win. Do you have an attitude of success that's bigger than your fear?"

He urged the players to stay in the present moment, and take each game pitch by pitch.

"The championship teams we had at the University of Minnesota were the ones with the most will to win, not necessarily the most talent."

"Let's shoot for the moon," he said.

The banquet also featured the state Legion Baseball program, the largest state program in the nation, giving out two awards.

Bruce Barron of Edina/Excelsior was given a plaque for joining the organization's Hall of Fame.

Barron used his time at the microphone to challenge the Legion Baseball organization to make itself even better.

A couple of his ideas were to break the Division I program into two programs and to have sub-state all star games.

He said a major threat to Legion Baseball is the creation of club and travel teams that steal players from the Legin program.

"We're not fighting back, but Legion Baseball is worth it."

Howard Nathe, who was an All-American playing for the Minnesota Gophers, was named the Graduate of the Year.

He told of his experience playing American Legion Baseball and how his Melrose team got to the championship game only to lose 15-0.

At the "U" he said Coach Dick Siebert had a nickname for him, "All it's worth," for his attitude when he took the field.

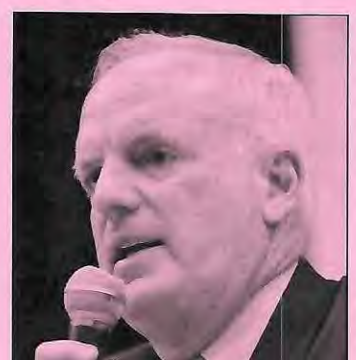
The banquet group was welcomed by Minnesota State Commander Darrel Redepening who reminded the players that this weekend would be one they'd remember the rest of their lives.



HOWARD NATHE



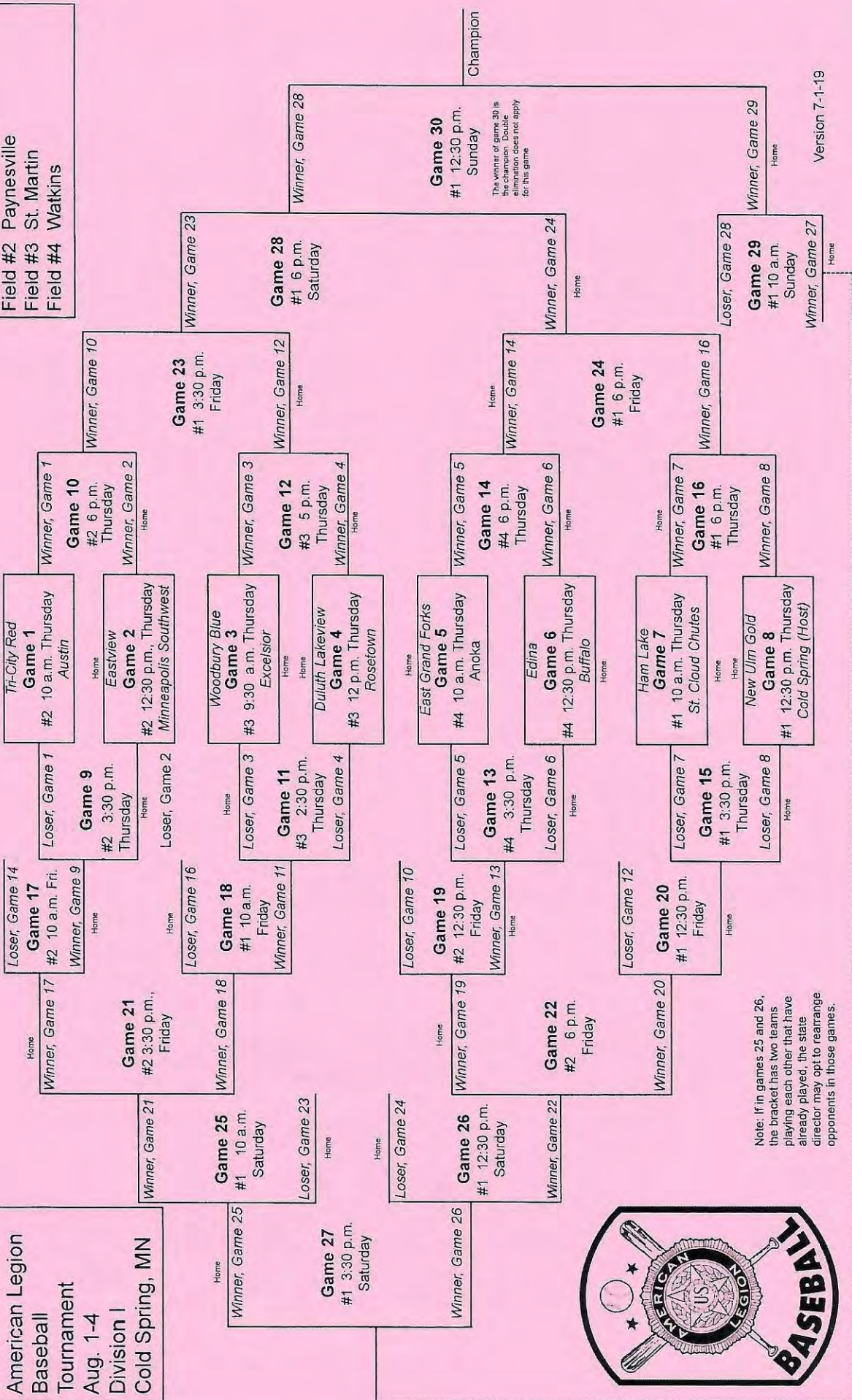
BRUCE BARRON



ROB FORNASIERE

2019 Minnesota
American Legion
Baseball
Tournament
Aug. 1-4
Division I
Cold Spring, MN

- Field #1 Cold Spring
- Field #2 Paynesville
- Field #3 St. Martin
- Field #4 Watkins



The winner of game 30 is the champion. All location codes listed apply for this game.

Note: If in games 25 and 26, the bracket has two teams playing each other that have already played, the state director may opt to rearrange opponents in those games.

