

# The Gazette



AMERICAN LEGION

DIVISION I TOURNAMENT

Volume 23, No.2

Cold Spring, Minnesota

Friday, Aug. 2, 2019

## 16 games in the books, four teams undefeated

Half of the games in the tournament are over, and the power four have emerged.

Excelsior, Tri-City Red, Edina and New Ulm made it through the first day of the four-day tournament with no losses.

In the final two games at Cold Spring Baseball Park today, Tri-City will take on Excelsior at 3:30 p.m. and Edina will face New Ulm at 6 p.m.

Eight teams went 1-1 in the Thursday action and will have to fight their way through the tournament in the losers' bracket.

Anoka will play Minneapolis Southwest at Paynesville at 10 a.m. St. Cloud will take on Woodbury at 10 a.m. at Cold Spring.

In the 12:30 games, Eastview will play Buffalo at Paynesville

and Lakeview will play Ham Lake at Cold Spring.

Host Cold Spring, East Grand Forks, Rosetown, and Austin lost both of their games and departed the tournament.

Eight games will be played today, four at Cold Spring on Saturday, and the final two games Sunday.

Minnesota's final two teams will advance to the national regional tournament at Sioux Falls, and the winner of that tournament will advance to the American Legion World Series in Shelby, North Carolina.

The Division II Tournament featuring the smaller schools in the state will begin today in Ely.

## Mike Sturek leads Excelsior 5-2 over Woodbury

By John Sherman

Two big hits and solid pitching helped top-ranked Excelsior win its State American Legion Tournament opener 5-2 over Woodbury Blue Thursday morning at Ray Weber Field in St. Martin.

Mike Sturek's bases-loaded triple in the bottom of the first inning scored teammates Jarod Wandersee, Jack Hanson and Will Sturek, who had all drawn walks. It was Mike's fourth triple of the year. His twin brother Will leads Excelsior with 13 homers and Jack Hanson has eight.

The second big hit of the day for the Fire Club came in the bottom of the third when right fielder Nick Thimsen launched a 370-foot homer over the left-center field fence.

Mike Sturek pitched a scoreless first five innings, allowing only one hit, before handing duties off to the bullpen. In the top of the sev-

enth Woodbury Blue scored twice and had bases loaded when Excelsior reliever Aaron Wukmir recorded the final two outs.

Commenting on his big hit in the first, Mike Sturek said, "My coach, Rob Hager, talked to me about hitting it the other way, and I was able to send it to right."

When Sturek saw the ball roll to the fence, he wasn't going to hesitate rounding second base.

"I was confident going into the game today," Sturek said. "It was a team victory."

Thimsen's impression of the game was similar.

"We're playing together as a team and keeping a stout heart," he said, referring to one of the key elements of American Legion Baseball's Code of Sportsmanship.

Thimsen got the fastball he was looking for on his home-run swing.

"Their pitcher had just thrown a changeup," he said. "And I was pretty sure he would throw a fastball. The ball came in at belt level, and when I hit it, I figured I'd have at least a double."

Excelsior's win was its 48th

of the season against only 2 losses. The Fire Club added its 49th win later on Thursday against Duluth Lakeview with home runs from Hunter Wehling, Hanson and Thimsen. Sam Tyrpa improved to 9-0 as the winning pitcher.



Mike Sturek reaches back for a little extra in Thursday's opening game. His pitching and hitting led his team to a victory over Woodbury.

Lastest scores. stats. updates: [Go to legionbaseballhub.com](http://Go to legionbaseballhub.com)

# New Ulm strikes 'Gold' in tourney opener

By John Sherman

New Ulm Gold is having of the best American Legion baseball seasons in history this summer, and with all the success the team has had in the past, that's saying a lot.

Coach Chris Peters' team improved to 32-4 with a 10-0 win over the host team from Cold Spring Thursday afternoon at Cold Spring Baseball Park. New Ulm Gold pitchers Mark Schommer and Cole Backer combined for the shutout in a solid effort. Schommer had two strikeouts and Backer added four.

Eight of New Ulm Gold's nine starters contributed at least one hit, with Josh Seidl, Hunter Ranweiler, Braden Zimmerman and Christopher Knowles getting two each. Jaden Domeier, Aaron Portner, Mason Cox and Colten Schaefer each had one hit.

After the game, Backer and Cox shared some of their thoughts on New Ulm Gold's success.

"We came together after we won our home tournament," said Backer, who will be a senior at New Ulm High School this fall. "And then we finished second in the [96-team] Go-

pher Classic, which is the highlight of our season so far."

One of New Ulm's strengths is hitting depth. The team has an aggregate batting average of .356. Some of the most exceptional averages belong to Hunter Ranweiler (.531), Portner (.440), Knowles (.435), Cox (.404) and Schaefer (.394).

"We have a lot of talented players who want to play after high school," said Cox, who will be a senior at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High this fall. "Everyone did their part today. Coach Peters always wants us to win every inning."

Cox and Backer are convinced that Peters is one of the best baseball coaches in the state.

"I had him as my coach in VFW," Cox said. "He is very wise about the game and a great guy."

"I love playing for Coach Peters," Backer said. "He is my high school coach at New Ulm Public."

New Ulm Gold advanced to the semifinals of the winners' bracket with a 4-1 win over St. Cloud Chutes. Left-hander Aaron Portner pitched a complete game.



New Ulm Gold right fielder Mason Cox is one of the key men for a 33-4 team that has advanced to the winners' bracket semi-final.

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

**Mike Sturek** of Excelsior pitched five innings of scoreless one-hit ball, striking out eight, and also drove in three runs with a first-inning triple in a 5-2 win over Woodbury Blue.

**Nick Thimsen**, Excelsior's right fielder, hit a 370-foot home run in the Fire Club's 5-2 win over Woodbury Blue at Ray Weber Field in St. Martin. Later in the day, Thimsen homered again in a 12-1 win over Duluth Lakeview.

**Chris Sampson** of Duluth Lakeview emerged as the hero in a 5-3 win over Rosetown. The center fielder hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the seventh for the win.

**John Solfest** of Tri-City Red experienced the thrill of a lifetime, pitching a no-hitter to beat Austin 1-0 Thursday morning. Solfest struck out 12.

**Carter Chell** of Anoka went two-for-four with a run scored and an RBI in a 6-3 victory over East Grand Forks in Watkins.

**Jonathan Bell** of St. Cloud Chutes pitched three innings of scoreless, hitless relief to finish a 2-1 victory over Ham Lake Thursday morning in Cold Spring Baseball Park.

**Parker Hagebock** of Eastview swung a hot bat in a 9-4

victory over Minneapolis Southwest. He went three-for-four with a pair of RBIs. Hagebock was also the winning pitcher.

**Christopher Knowles** of New Ulm Gold had two hits, including the game-ending single in the bottom of the sixth as his team beat Cold Spring 10-0 at Cold Spring Baseball Park.

New Ulm Gold pitchers **Mark Schommer** and **Cole Backer** combined to shut out Cold Spring 10-0.

**Lucas Flemming** of Edina was the winning pitcher as the Hornets beat Buffalo 8-1 Thursday afternoon. He struck out eight and allowed five hits in six innings.

**Jonathan Bunce** of Edina smacked a home run in leading his team past Buffalo 8-1 in a first-round game Thursday at Watkins. Later in the day, Bunce was two-for-two with three with an RBI in a 3-0 win over Anoka.

**Aaron Portner**, New Ulm Gold's 6-3, 240-pound lefty was in control during a 4-1 complete-game win over St. Cloud Chutes Thursday evening at Cold Spring. He allowed three hits and struck out five.

**Will Sturek**, Excelsior's center fielder, hit a double and a triple in the Fire Club's 12-1 win over Duluth Lakeview.

# Hitting statistics for first day

## Average

Name	Team	Avg
Sam Malec	Woodbury Blue	0.667
Johnathan Bunce	Edina	0.600
William Sturek	Excelsior	0.600
Matthew Enck	Edina	0.571
Cam Schmidt	Edina	0.571
Nicholas Thimsen	Excelsior	0.571
Jack Puder	Ham Lake	0.571
Several Tied at .500		
Based on a minimum of		

## OPS

Name	Team	OPS
Nicholas Thimsen	Excelsior	2
Johnathan Bunce	Edina	1.914
William Sturek	Excelsior	1.914
John Hanson	Excelsior	1.571
Evan Glunz	Woodbury Blue	1.500
Adam Mazur	Woodbury Blue	1.357
Maxwell Hansen	Cold Spring	1.350
Jack Puder	Ham Lake	1.339
Sam Malec	Woodbury Blue	1.333
Michael Sturek	Excelsior	1.300

## Slugging

Name	Team	SLG
Nicholas Thimsen	Excelsior	1.429
Joseph Vos	Lakeview	1.400
Johnathan Bunce	Edina	1.200
William Sturek	Excelsior	1.200
John Hanson	Excelsior	1.000
Evan Glunz	Woodbury Blue	1.000
Adam Mazur	Woodbury Blue	0.857
Michael Sturek	Excelsior	0.800
Maxwell Hansen	Cold Spring	0.750
Matthew Enck	Edina	0.714

## RBI

Name	Team	RBI
Chrisopher Knowles	New Ulm Gold	4
Michael Sturek	Excelsior	4
Nicholas Thimsen	Excelsior	4
Isaac Mezzenga	Tri-City Red	3
John Solfest	Tri-City Red	3
Johnathan Bunce	Edina	3
John Hanson	Excelsior	3
Hunter Wehling	Excelsior	3
Christopher Sampson	Lakeview	3

## Home runs

Name	Team	HR
Nicholas Thimsen	Excelsior	2
Hunter Wehling	Excelsior	1
Joseph Vos	Lakeview	1
Jackson Trousil	East Grand Forks	1
Johnathan Bunce	Edina	1
John Hanson	Excelsior	1
Evan Glunz	Woodbury Blue	1
Earl Michael	Mpls SW Lakers	1
Adam Mazur	Woodbury Blue	1
Christopher Sampson	Lakeview	1

## Stolen Bases

Name	Team	SB
Hunter Ranweiler	New Ulm Gold	3
Damien Biegert	Buffalo	3
Carter Chell	Anoka	2
Noah Johnson	Anoka	2
Eric Faust	St. Cloud Chutes	2
Jakob Kouneski	Mpls SW Lakers	2
Luke Brings	Buffalo	2
Calvin James	Buffalo	2

## Hits

Name	Team	Hits
Cam Schmidt	Edina	4
Sam Malec	Woodbury Blue	4
Matthew Enck	Edina	4
Jack Puder	Ham Lake	4
Nicholas Thimsen	Excelsior	4
Several tied at 3		

## Runs

Name	Team	Runs
Hunter Ranweiler	New Ulm Gold	4
Nicholas Thimsen	Excelsior	4
Andrew Enck	Edina	3
John Hanson	Excelsior	3
Michael Sturek	Excelsior	3
Jarod Wandersee	Excelsior	3
Owen Dauk	Eastview Thun-	3

# Complete summaries opening day

**GAME 1**

AUSTIN 000 000 0 0 0 0  
 TRI-CITY RED 100 000 X 1 4 2  
 WP Solfest, LP Bothun, 2B Solfest, Tri-City Red.

**GAME 2**

MPLS. SOUTHWEST 000 103 0 4 7 1  
 EASTVIEW 000 603 X 9 11 4  
 WP Hagebock, LP Olsen.

**GAME 3**

WOODBURY BLUE 000 000 2 2 5 0  
 EXCELSIOR 401 000 X 5 5 1  
 WP Mike Sturek, LP Frisk, Save Wukmir, HR Thimsen, Excelsior, 3B Mike Sturek, Excelsior, 2B Hoyer, Woobury Blue.

**GAME 4**

ROSETOWN ROCKETTS 000 110 1 3 4 2  
 DULUTH LAKEVIEW 011 000 3 9 9 2  
 WP T. Wepola, LP Olsen, HR Sampson, Duluth Lakeview, Vos, Duluth Lakeview, 2B Grindahl, Duluth Lakeview.

**GAME 5**

ANOKA 100 022 1 6 9 1  
 EAST GRAND FORKS 000 012 0 3 4 2  
 Wp Culley, LP Corbid, 2B Beck, East Grand Forks, Mushitz, East Grand Forks.

**GAME 6**

EDINA 100 322 0 8 13 0  
 BUFFALO 001 000 0 1 5 1  
 Wp Flemming, LP Hansen, HR Bunce, Edina, 3B Andrew Enck, Edina, Nathan Buscher, Buffalo, 2B Ethan Soeffker, Buffalo.

**GAME 7**

HAM LAKE 000 010 000 1 6 3  
 ST. CLOUD CHUTES 001 000 001 2 5 1  
 WP Bell, LP Richmond, 2B Wilson, Ham Lake, Larson, St. Cloud Chutes.

**GAME 8**

COLD SPRING 000 000 X 0 6 5  
 NEW ULM GOLD 511 003 X 10 12 1  
 WP Schommer, LP Klehr, 2B Portner, New Ulm Gold, Distel, Cold Spring.

**GAME 9**

AUSTIN 010 000 0 1 8 2  
 MPLS. SOUTHWEST 001 100 X 2 3 0  
 WP Blumenfeld, LP O'Connor, HR Earl Michael, Mpls. Southwest, 2B Bothun.

**GAME 10**

TRI-CITY RED 037 000 0 10 8 1  
 EASTVIEW 100 100 0 2 6 3  
 WP Kettelhut, LP Nelson, 2B Mezzenga, Tri-City Red, Stenstrom, Tri-City Red, Carroll, Eastview.

**GAME 11**

EAST GRAND FORKS 000 100 1 2 5 3  
 BUFFALO 110 012 X 5 11 2  
 WP Weber, LP Osowski, HR Hjelle, East Grand Forks, 2B Biegert, Buffalo, Brisk, Buffalo.

**GAME 12**

EXCELSIOR 332 31 12 12 2  
 DULUTH LAKEVIEW 000 10 1 1 2  
 WP Tyrpa, LP Vos, HR Hanson, Excelsior, Thimsen, Excelsior, Wehling, Excelsior, 3B Will Sturek, Excelsior, 2B Will Sturek, Excelsior, Vos, Duluth Lakeview.

**GAME 13**

ROSETOWN ROCKETTS 000 011 1 3 11 2  
 WOODBURY BLUE 121 020 X 5 8 2  
 WP Mazur, LP Heikke, HR Mazur, Woodbury Blue, Glunz, Woodbury Blue, 2BHawksford, Woodbury Blue.

**GAME 14**

ANOKA 000 000 0 0 5 0  
 EDINA 200 000 X 2 6 0  
 WP Hopkins, LP H. Smith, 2B Matthew Enck, Edina.

**GAME 15**

HAM LAKE 000 110 0 2 8 3  
 COLD SPRING 000 100 0 1 3 2  
 WP Carey, LP Rudy Notch, 2B Puder, Ham Lake, Hansen, Cold Spring.

**GAME 16**

NEW ULM GOLD 000 020 2 4 5 0  
 ST. CLOUD CHUTES 100 000 0 1 3 2  
 WP Portner, LP Neu, 3B Jangula, St. Cloud Chutes, 2B Christopher Knowles, New Ulm Gold, Domeier, New Ulm Gold.