



Two teams of kids in grades 3-5 race to see which group can pull a fire truck down the parking lot during the Day With the Pros camp in Sioux Center on Monday. Local players with NFL experience helped at the event. Photo by Scott Byers

DAY WITH THE PROS

NFL players help kids pull weight at event

Football pros with ties to area run camp

BY SCOTT BYERS
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SIOUX CENTER—The current and former National Football League players on hand Monday for the Day With the Pros camp put on by Sioux Center's Snap Fitness and ProActive Physical Therapy did not have to look very hard to see a little of themselves in the campers.

After all, Los Angeles Rams linebacker Christian Rozeboom and Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Ko Kleft are Sioux Center High School graduates.

So is Vern Den Herder, who played for

the Miami Dolphins for 10 years and won two Super Bowls. He was a member of the only NFL team to ever finish undefeated in the Super Bowl era.

Current Dolphins linebacker Andrew Van Ginkel took part. He is a Rock Valley High School graduate. Brandon Scherff went to high school in Denison, but the Jacksonville Jaguars guard now makes his offseason home in Rock Valley.

The players were joined by employees of Snap Fitness and ProActive along with high school players from Sioux Center and Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley in leading

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WENT 8-FOR-17 FROM THE PLATE LAST WEEK WITH TWO TRIPLES, A HOME RUN AND SEVEN RBIS WHILE HELPING HIS TEAM GO 3-1.

Would you rather strike out a batter with the bases loaded to win the game or hit a walk-off home run? Hit a walk-off home run.

What is the biggest key to being a quality hitter? Taking B.P. with Nik Wede before the game and not thinking too much at the plate.

What is the phrase or quote you hear most often from your coach? "Something hard up the middle."

What is your favorite ballpark to play a game in? Lewis and Clark Park in Sioux City or The Ballpark in Larchwood.

If you could pick your walk-up music, what song would you chose? "Come and Saw" by YSL.

Do you have any superstitions when it comes to baseball? A lot. I have to go fishing before every game we play, I have to put batting equipment on a certain way and I have

to listen to the same song before every game.

What Major League Baseball stadium would you most like to visit? Petco Park in San Diego.

Who is your favorite Major League team? Oakland Athletics #selltheteam

Who will win the World Series this year? The Tampa Bay Rays.

What is your favorite summer activity besides baseball? Going fishing.

What is your favorite baseball related movie? "Moneyball."

What is a talent you wish you had that you do not possess? Growing facial hair like Austin Oolman or predicting the weather like Blake Aalbers.

If you are grilling out, what is most likely on the menu? Chicken breast, potatoes and Arnold Palmer.

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MOC-FLOYD VALLEY | BASEBALL | SENIOR

FRIDAY SOFTBALL

Wolverines get win in 10 frames

Trinity Christian rallies twice but falls just short

PAULLINA—South O'Brien fended off two Trinity Christian rallies to pull out an 8-7 War Eagle Conference softball victory in 10 innings Friday.

"It was a big win for us," South O'Brien coach Heather Struve said. "We are two evenly matched teams. I felt like we were confident at the plate all the way through the order so that was good to see. It was a good team win."

Trinity Christian coach Dave Van Egdorn said his team was happy with how they battled back.

"We were excited with how the girls came off the diamond in the seventh," he said. "They were really excited. We were competing and having fun. We were really happy with how they battled back."

South O'Brien got an early lead thanks to Maddie Johnson's two-run home run.

The Wolverines had the two-run lead until the top of the fifth inning when Trinity Christian scored two runs to tie the game.

South O'Brien responded in the bottom

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South O'Brien sophomore Abby Nelson fires a throw during a War Eagle Conference softball game with Trinity Christian on Friday in Paullina. It took 10 innings but the host Wolverines ultimately defeated the Tigers 8-7. Photo by Josh Harrell

Change to charge brings ire to IHSSN

The Iowa High School Sports Network made an announcement earlier this week that it plans to begin charging for livestreaming of Iowa High School Athletic Association championship events starting with the 2023 state baseball tournament in July.

That was met with a collective groan in the newsroom. The IHSSN started to take hits on social media right away for the move.

It also sure seemed like people that knew me and knew how hard I went after the IHSSN when it tried to farm out its broadcasts to NBC Sports Chicago were waiting for me to write another scathing column.

This is a totally different situation.

Back when the IHSSN tried to run its broadcasts through NBC Sports Chicago, the major problem with that was, depending on what cable outlet or streaming service you had, that network was not available to over half of the state. That ironically included the town of Emerson, which is where the IHSSN says it is based.

This is different.

In this case, the IHSSN said the championship broadcasts still will be available live and for free through the IHSSN's Iowa cable and broadcast television affiliates. So, you can still watch the championship games on television, for free.

Watching on a computer or a phone or anything other than a television will cost you.

This spring, every round of the IHSA's state soccer tournament was available to stream for free. Not the case anymore, not even for the championship game. You still can get the same coverage of every round, you just have to pay for it.

In my opinion, the IHSSN made the same mistake many newspapers and other media outlets made way back in the 1980s or '90s when the

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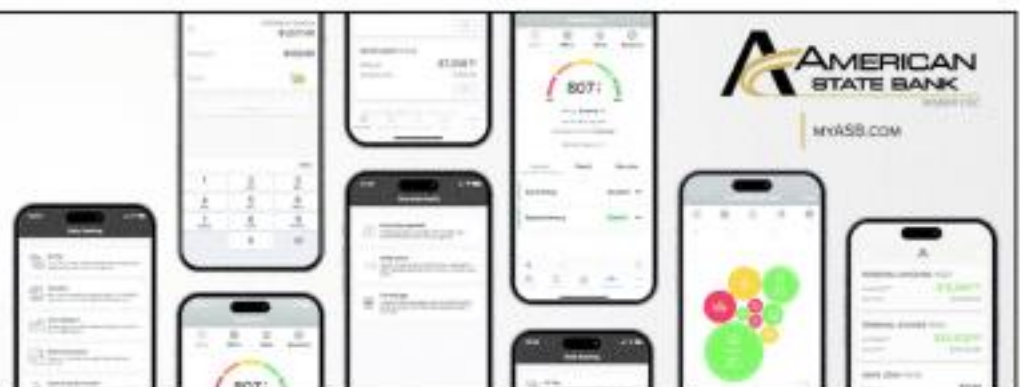


SCOTT BYERS
SPORTS EDITOR

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SPORTS

FRIDAY SIOUXLAND CONFERENCE BASEBALL

Pioneers run away from Generals with big frame

Hosts put seven on board during fifth

MILFORD—Okoboji rode a massive sixth inning to pull away from Sibley-Ocheyedan to win 9-2 in Slouland Conference baseball Friday.

The Pioneers put up seven runs in the bottom of the fifth frame to secure the victory in Milford.

"We were just finding holes — the first-base side, third-base side. We knew good things would happen if we did that," said Okoboji coach Andy Wolf.

The rally started with Okoboji's eighth and ninth batters, Ryan Pyle and Akron Jostand, hitting back-to-back singles. Wolf was pleased to see his whole lineup making an impact.

"We've got to stop waiting for pitchers to make mistakes. We got to pressure on and win a game. That happened for us tonight. We went out an won a game," he said.

Several other Pioneers had strong showings at the plate. Roy Blankers went 3-for-3 with two doubles and two RBIs. Caden Chapman hit a two-run homer as part of the fifth-inning onslaught. Tyler Netsch only had one hit but scored thrice after a walk and reaching on an error.

Sibley-Ocheyedan coach Nate Vos said the Generals kept mistakes to a minimum but could do nothing to stop the big inning.

"It was good game through five innings and then we had a big one where they hit a lot," Vos said. "Tonight, we just didn't have it."

He highlighted his team's



Okoboji sophomore Tyler Netsch rounds third base to score during a Siouxland Conference baseball game against Sibley-Ocheyedan on Friday in Milford. The Pioneers used a seven-run sixth inning to pull away from the Generals and took a 9-2 triumph. Photos by Rylan Howe

strong defensive play throughout the game, which ended with a zero in the errors column.

That streak included the end of the sixth frame with the third out coming from Dalton Wingate.

"We didn't give up. We got a diving catch to end the inning from our backup center fielder. We were making plays where we could," Vos said.

Connor Beltman pitched the

first 4 1/3 innings for Sibley-Ocheyedan. He gave up six runs, five earned, while striking out four and walking three. Javier Martinez came in to face one batter and struck him out. Cole Dykstra finished the game.

Okoboji's starter was Brady Muzney. He struck out two batters in six innings, giving up seven hits but no walks or only allow one earned run.

"He was just throwing strikes and letting the defense work," Wolf said. "If you don't walk people in front of those hits, you're going to be OK."

Wolf said the Pioneers are looking strong as the regular season nears its end.

"It was good to be in some situational baseball with the postseason coming," he said. "It was a win that we won, for sure. It's motivating to have something like this."

Sheldon rallies late to tame Mustangs

GEORGE—Sheldon pushed home two runs in the top of the seventh to cap a late rally as the Orabs downed George-Little Rock 4-3 in Slouland Conference baseball Friday.

George-Little Rock scored a run in the opening frame. The Orabs tied it with a run

in the top of the fifth, but the Mustangs took back the lead with two in the bottom of the inning.

The Mustangs had a chance to make it more in that inning. George-Little Rock had the bases loaded with one out. The ball was popped up and the infield fly rule was called. Mustangs coach Ben McCray sent the runner from third when the pop-up was dropped, but he was called out on a close play at the plate for a double play that ended the inning.

"We got a solid pitching performance. We just didn't score enough runs," McCray said. "Some of that is on me. I sent a few runners that ended up getting caught stealing."

Mustangs pitcher Jack Krull hadn't given up much at all before the fifth. For the game he ended up giving up four runs, one earned, in 6 1/3 innings. He scattered five hits, walked three and struck out four. Drew Denekas finished up on the bump.

"Jack is a big, strong kid who hits the weight room hard, but he plays the game relaxed," McCray said. "He knows the zone well and throws strikes. He doesn't get rattled. He has become a reliable option. Brandon Van Briesen and Jack

have become kind of our 1-2 punch on the mound. He's been reliable."

McCray said the two Sheldon runs in the seventh were unearned.

Micah Jumbek was 3-for-4 and scored two runs for the Mustangs. Charlie Hamilton had two hits. Collin De Leeuw was 1-for-3 with two RBIs.

No statistics or comments for Sheldon were provided by the press deadline.

Lions comeback bid falls shy to Wildcats

ROCK RAPIDS—West Lyon had an opportunity to end the game early, but Central Lyon forced the Wildcats to go the distance Friday before the guests took a 15-6 Slouland Conference baseball win over the Lions.

The Wildcats scored five runs in the third. West Lyon got two in the fifth and three in the sixth to go up 10-0.

The Lions did their best to make it a game by scoring six times in the sixth.

"They booted the ball a couple of times and we started to hit a bit," said Central Lyon coach Jerry Pytleski. "We made them change pitchers, but then we got into the seventh and couldn't stop the bleeding."

"Our guys thrive on hustle and they are going to keep fighting until it is over," Pytleski continued. "They never give up."

West Lyon got five in the top of the seventh.

"The message to our guys is that we have to continue to get better every day. We have to stay hungry and we have to learn from our mistakes," said West Lyon coach Koury Kramer. "Credit to them for being a stingy group, but the lesson for our guys is there is no time limit in baseball and when you have a chance to finish it you have to get it done. Good teams don't let things like this happen. We have to play cleaner baseball."

Carter Ver Meer had two hits, four RBIs and three runs for West Lyon. Jayden Ver Meer had two hits and four RBIs. Ryer Crichton had a single, a double, three runs and two RBIs. Mason Ver Meer drove in three runs.

Spencer Ver Meer gave up one run over 5 1/3 innings and got the win. He struck out seven and was charged with four runs, one earned. He allowed two hits. Evan Faber and Tyler Kock each pitched in relief.

Central Lyon was monitoring pitch counts on all of its hurlers after losing six players to injury at a football camp last week. The Lions wound up issuing eight walks and hitting seven batters. The team used five pitchers to get through the contest.

"We gave them way too many free bases," Pytleski said. "They pitched better than we did and we have some really young guys out there, but we made some elementary errors that shouldn't be made in a high school baseball game."

Cooper Altman started the game for the Lions and went three innings, giving up eight earned runs. He walked four and struck out four. Jayson Huygens was the most successful hurler for the hosts, throwing two innings and allowing no hits or walks. He struck out one.

Sioux Center unable to slow down SB-L

SIOUX CENTER—Sioux Center looked good early but cooled off offensively and dropped a 9-4 decision to Sergeant Bluff-Luton in a battle

of Warrior teams on Friday in a nonconference baseball game.

"We played OK," said Sioux Center coach Chase Rozeboom. "A team like Sergeant Bluff, there's a low margin for error defensively."

The hosts led 2-0 through one inning. Sergeant Bluff-Luton got a run in the second and the top of the third to even the contest at 2.

Sioux Center scored twice more in the bottom of the third to take a 4-2 advantage.

"Top of the order swung it well and executed a couple bunts," Rozeboom said. "That's how we got the early lead. We manufactured runs with bunts and sac flies, then ran out of gas."

Sergeant Bluff-Luton plated one run in the fourth to cut the margin to 4-3 then scored twice more in the fifth to take a 5-4 lead.

The visitors added four runs in the sixth to stretch the lead to 9-4.

"They ended up with 12 hits. We can play defense on that but they had five walks and five hit batters," Rozeboom said. "You can't give a quality hitting team extra bases. We did that too often."

Kole Hooyer pitched three innings for Sioux Center and allowed seven runs, two of them earned, on six hits to get tagged with the loss. He walked two batters and hit two.

Aidan De Jager went 3-for-3 from the plate for Sioux Center and one RBI. Kyle Te Stroete drove in two runs. Hooyer was 2-for-3 with a double. Joseph Molina went 2-for-3.

Sioux Center fell to 9-10 overall with the loss. Sergeant Bluff-Luton improved to 23-10.

MOC-Floyd Valley beat by Tornados

STORM LAKE—MOC-Floyd Valley had a rough start to its nonconference baseball game against Storm Lake in a 9-4 loss Friday.

Storm Lake scored two runs in the first inning and four more in the second to gain an early 6-0 lead on the Dutch.

"We gave up 10 hits in the first two innings," said MOC-Floyd Valley coach Brian Wede. "They hit the ball well and captured momentum early in the game."

MOC-Floyd Valley was scoreless for the first three innings before getting some runs across in the fourth. The Dutch had four runners cross the plate to cut the deficit to 6-4.

That was the only inning the Dutch were able to score some runs.

"Their pitcher did a really good job of mixing things up," Wede said. "We had guys on base every inning. We just couldn't get anything going."

Storm Lake scored three insurance runs in the fifth to put the game away.

Carson Jager led MOC-Floyd Valley's offense with a 1-for-2 effort and a triple, two walks, two RBIs and a run scored. Blake Aalbers was 1-for-3 with a run scored and Austin Solsma was 1-for-2 with an RBI.

Jager got the start on the mound and went 1 1/3 innings. He gave up six runs on 10 hits and struck out three. Austin Oolman pitched the final 4 2/3 innings as he gave up three earned runs on five hits and struck out one.

"He did a good job of keeping us back in it which we did in the fourth," Wede said. "Those three runs in the fifth helped them pull away. Austin attacked the strike zone and credit their guys for being really good."

2023 SUBSTATE BASEBALL

CLASS 1A: DISTRICT 1

Kingsley-Pierson	
Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn	Wed, July 5 at TBD
George-Little Rock	Sat, July 1 at 5 pm at MRCRU
North Union	Sat, July 1 at 7 pm at North Union
Trinity Christian	Sat, July 8 at TBD
MRCRU	Wed, July 5 at TBD
South O'Brien	Sat, July 1 at 7 pm at MRCRU

CLASS 2A: DISTRICT 1

Estherville Lincoln Central	
Sioux Central	Wed, July 5 at 7 pm at Estherville
Emmetsburg	Sat, July 1 at 5 pm at Okoboj
Forest City	Sat, July 8 at TBD
Okoboji	Wed, July 5 at 5 pm at Estherville
Sheldon	Sat, July 1 at 7 pm at Okoboj

CLASS 2A: DISTRICT 2

WEST LYON	
West Sioux	Wed, July 5 at 7 pm at West Lyon
Sibley-Ocheyedan	Sat, July 1 at 5 pm at Central Lyon
Unity Christian	Sat, July 8 at TBD
Central Lyon	Wed, July 5 at 5 pm at West Lyon
Western Christian	Sat, July 1 at 7 pm at Central Lyon



Sibley-Ocheyedan senior Owen Hayenga-Johnson swings at a pitch from Okoboji on Friday in Milford during a Siouxland Conference baseball game. The Generals lost the contest 9-2.

IHSAA and IHSSN taking feud to Polk County District Court

SCOTT

Continued from page C1

internet first caught fire. In their rush to have a presence on the internet and to scoop their competitors with what was provided, they forgot to charge for their work. Then when the pay walls went up, there was backlash because why would anyone want to pay for what they previously had gotten for free?

The IHSSN is in a similar situation. It is a business run by people trying to make a living, and the equipment and talented workers that it takes to produce this stuff don't come for

free. I'm also assuming the IHSAA got a healthy rights fee from the IHSSN. The IHSSN needs to make that back in addition to the cost of the broadcast and still has to pay its people who do this for a living.

Of course, I might be assuming too much.

The IHSAA came out with a statement on Wednesday saying it objected to the IHSSN's plans to charge the public and has filed a Petition for Declaratory Relief in Polk County District Court seeking, among other things, a declaration from the court as to the rights of the parties with respect to charging fees to the public

under relevant media rights agreement.

The statements say moving forward the IHSAA will continue to strive for free public access to broadcasts of its championship events.

Now, if it is proved in court that the IHSAA had written into the contract that the IHSSN could not charge for its work, that's a different deal. Then it's the IHSSN's own fault, as a for-profit company, for entering into an agreement where it could not make a profit after expenses to provide the service.

Otherwise, if the IHSAA had such a problem with it, why didn't it reverse

the process? Instead of selling the rights and letting the IHSSN do the work, why not hire someone to do it for you. Someone like the IHSSN. You could pay its to do the broadcast and maintain your right to the product and provide it to people for free.

Of course, then you would have to sell the advertising and find enough sponsors to cover the cost, with some left over to pay your employees. And maybe you don't have enough staff and have to hire someone to sell those ads. Then you have to pay that person too.

Sound familiar? When you really look at it, two

things stand out. The IHSAA is quickly reacting to public sentiment because it doesn't want the public relations nightmare it had last time. And what the IHSAA won't say and is truly miffed about is, had it known the IHSSN was going to find new ways to make money off this rights agreement, it would have charged more.

And if you believe it isn't about the money for the IHSAA, why wouldn't it try to work a similar deal to the one the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union has with Iowa Public Television?

It's always about the money.