

## TITLE

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“It was a pretty good shot, so I just started running back and just put my glove up. It just happened to go in it,” Knecht said. “I felt it, but I didn’t know if it was in there or not. I thought maybe I dropped it.”

The contest featured a wide range of emotions as a stellar group of athletes on both sides battled to the final conclusion. Groton concluded the season at 33-8, while Vermillion ended the year at 34-9.

“It was two great baseball teams. Neither one of us wanted to quit,” said Vermillion coach Jason Gault. “A whole lot of credit to Travis and his boys over in Groton. I wouldn’t have asked for a better baseball team to play against in a championship setting. That just goes to show you that American Legion baseball at the B level is alive and well.”

Tourney MVP Tanner Anderson of Vermillion had two hits, as did teammates Jayce Huska and Collin Bertram.

Groton received two hits apiece from Drew Planteen, Matt Thorson and Madsen.

The contest was a fitting end to a memorable career for Thorson, who was also a standout in football, wrestling and track and field at Groton.

“Knowing that this is the last one that I’ll ever be a part of for Groton, it’s a big deal,” Thorson said. “In the fashion that we did do this, it’s up there with anything that I’ve ever done in athletics. It was a great accomplishment.”



Members of the Vermillion Red 13 & 14 Teeners find time to celebrate Sunday night after they defeated Dakota Valley 7-1 before Groton’s Drew Planteen swings at a pitch during the first title game against Vermillion on Wednesday afternoon. Vermillion won the game 5-3 to force a second championship contest at Bob Wiley Field in Webster. A hometown crowd at Prentis Park in Vermillion to claim the 2013 Class A VFW South Dakota Teener Championship.

(Photo by Dave Vilhauer/Aberdeen American News)

Thorson, who attends Northern State, almost didn’t come back for another year of Legion ball.

“I wasn’t even sure if I was going to come back after my year of college,” Thorson said, “but I made the decision to come back and I’m so glad I did. It was so worth it. It’s been such a fun year.”

Earlier in the day, Vermillion forced a second championship game by beating Groton 5-3.

Vermillion scored four unanswered runs and then held off a late Groton charge to hand the champs

their first loss of the tourney.

Huska, Chayse Meierkort and Nathan Garrett each had two hits to lead Vermillion, while Madsen had a pair of hits for Groton.

While Vermillion pushed Groton to the limit, the champs still had what it took to be the last one standing.

“The whole tournament we had contributions from everyone, doing little things,” Kurth said. “We work real hard at the little things. Sometimes the baseball gods smile on you

because of it and today I think they smiled.”

### Game notes

The Webster 13-14 Teener baseball squad was honored for its recent state championship before the first title game. . . . Mike Wiley, son of the late Bob Wiley who the field is named after, threw out the first pitch. . . . Female fans of the Vermillion squad wore shirts with a baseball field on them with the words “Diamonds are a girl’s best friend.” . . . Flandreau’s Kyle Scofield won the Big-Stick award for the highest batting

average in the tournament. . . . Tabor won the Team Sportsmanship award.

### First Game

Groton 000 000  
111—3 8 2  
Vermillion 000 202  
01x—5 9 2

Jamie Jorgensen and Kasey Kurtz; Nile Morecroft, Nathan Garrett (8) and Chayse Meierkort. 2B — Groton, Jorgensen, Drew Planteen. 3B — Vermillion, Jayce Huska. LOB — Groton 6; Vermillion 7. Winning pitcher — Morecroft. Losing pitcher —

Jorgensen. Save — Garrett.

### Second Game

Vermillion 203 000  
003—8 9 6

Groton 204 200  
001—9 11 4

Garrett, Jacob Odens (4), Collin Bertram (8) and Meierkort; Planteen, Parker Rossow (5), Dane Campbell (9), Jorgensen (9) and Kurtz. 3B — Groton, Mason Madsen. HR — Vermillion, Bertram; Groton, Jorgensen. LOB — Vermillion, 11; Groton 7. Winning pitcher — Jorgensen. Losing pitcher — Bertram.

## Groth, Bristow at Gayville Jamboree Sat.

Gayville Hall presents its monthly musical variety show, “The Hay Country Jamboree,” at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, in Gayville.

Jim Groth of Valley Springs and Boyd Bristow of Sioux Falls join Jamboree regulars Nick Schwebach and Owen DeJong for a fast-paced evening of old-time popular tunes, country, folk and humor.

Staged the first Saturday each month, Jamborees always feature three or more musical acts on stage together trading old-time tunes by turn, according to show producer Doug Sharples.

Groth, Bristow and Schwebach, who are each highly rated, popular

guitarists and singers associated with such stellar bands as the Stallions, East of Westerville, and Poker Alice, will take turns singing classic songs, accompanied by themselves and the others, including DeJong, who is Poker Alice’s acclaimed fiddler.

Jamborees are two-hours long, with a short intermission midway, and are presented in an alcohol-free, family-friendly atmosphere.

Gayville Hall is located at 502 Washington St. in Gayville. Tickets are \$12.50 at the door, or \$15 reserved. Call (605) 267-2859 for more information.

## Friends of SDPB works to preserve funding for public media

Friends of South Dakota Public Broadcasting, in partnership with advocates for more than 400 public radio and television stations across the country, is re-launching an online grassroots campaign to sustain federal funding for public media under a new name and Web site, “Protect My Public Media” at protectmypublicmedia.org.

The new interactive Web site, formerly “170 Million Americans for Public Broadcasting,” allows users to share their experiences with public media and take action from their desktop, tablet or phone.

The site explains how all Americans benefit from a strong public media system.

For just \$1.35 per person per year, more than 98 percent of the U.S. population can enjoy free, over-the-air and online news, educational and cultural programming.

In addition, local public media stations work with teachers, parents and schools to provide free educational content and resources.

Stations also serve as a communications lifeline during times of emergency and crisis, and they provide citizenship services ranging from local public affairs programming to coverage of state government to the preservation of America’s history and culture.

“SDPB and other public media stations are an

essential part of our local communities,” says Julie Andersen, Executive Director of SDPB, which includes Television, Radio, Online, Education and Outreach. “‘Protect My Public Media’ allows our station’s local supporters to take action more easily on behalf of our local service and the

programs they enjoy.”

The new “Protect My Public Media” Web site features a blog that highlights news and facts about public media stations. The campaign continues to engage supporters on Facebook and Twitter.



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