

Teeners prevail over Hartington, Beresford

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

A triple play instituted by shortstop Peter Haught was the highlight of an 8-5 win for the Vermillion 15-16 Teeners at Hartington Sunday.

A single, a walk, a stolen base and a wild pitch had put runners at third and second with none out. A shot off Jared Wiebelhaus' bat was caught by Haught as he glided left toward base. He stepped on the bag there for the second out. Meanwhile, the Hartington runner at third had gone halfway to home plate and was easily doubled off third base, completing the triple play.

The Teeners will be home Saturday for a pair of games not listed on original schedules. Vermillion will take on Harrisburg at 2 p.m. and Scotland at 5. Vermillion hosts Irene on Monday for games at 6 and 8 p.m.

In Sunday's game Hartington gained a 2-0 first-inning lead, but Vermillion erupted for four runs in

the third, three in the fourth and one in the fifth. Hartington closed the gap to 8-5 with two in the sixth. Starter Colin Olson, who went six innings, allowing six hits, striking out six and walking four, was relieved by Justin Bendesky. He hit the first batter of the bottom of the seventh but then set down Hartington on a fielder's choice, an outfield fly and a pop-up to third to end the game.

Jake Odens drove in two runs and Ben Houser one in the four-run third. A bases-loaded single by Ty Iverson scored two, and an infield grounder off Jack Brown's bat produced another run in the fourth. Ethan James had an RBI hit in the sixth.

Finding the strike zone was a challenge for pitchers on both teams last week in a game in which nobody could hold a lead. The Teeners prevailed over Beresford, 17-16.

Down 3-0 after 1 1/2 innings, Vermillion enjoyed a 15-batter second inning that featured three walks, five hit batters, Regan Bye's

RBI hit to tie the game and Ty Iverson's two-run single that broke the 3-3 tie. The 9-3 lead lasted less than two innings, however.

Ben Houser's two-run double in the fourth made it 11-9 in Vermillion's favor, but minutes later Beresford's Caleb Johnke's two-out bases-loaded double gave his team a 12-11 edge. Justin Bendesky's hit tied the game at 12-12, and hits by Colin Olson and Jake Odens gave Vermillion a 14-12 advantage in the fifth.

Beresford went ahead 16-14 in the top of the sixth, but in the bottom half of the inning Beresford pitching walked five of the first six Vermillion batters, helping a three-run inning that featured no basehits. The 17th and deciding run scored from third on an error at second base on a stolen base attempt.

Vermillion's 10 hits were divided among nine players with Peter Haught getting two of them. Bendesky, Olson, Iverson, Odens, Houser and Bye all drove in two runs in the win. Eli Orr, Hunter

Cotton and Rory Diefendorf each had three of Beresford's 13 hits.

Bye, Olson and Odens shared pitching duties for Vermillion. Odens got the win in the seventh after struggling through a nine-batter four-run sixth by Beresford. In the seventh Odens sacrificed his body to knock down a vicious line comebacker and get a crucial second out. Two batters later an outfield fly chased down by Jay Munger in left field ended the game with Beresford's tying run on base.

On Monday night Dakota Valley arrived in town late, but once they got ready to play, they did, sweeping Vermillion 9-6 in the seven-inning varsity game and 11-5 in the three-inning "B" game.

Odens went the distance in the first game, allowing six hits, three earned runs and four walks while striking out eight. The most damage was done by a six-run fourth inning for Dakota Valley, accomplished on two costly errors at second base along with two walks, a hit batter and two hits.

One of the latter was a three-run double by pitcher Isaac Faldmo, who had two hits and four RBIs.

Bendesky, Haught, Iverson and Seth Heine had RBI hits for Vermillion. The final two runs in the bottom of the seventh, which cut the final margin to three, came on a wild pitch and an error.

In the second game Dakota Valley scored three times without any hits in the first inning and six times on seven hits in the second, all off starter Ryan Schuster. Schuster did pick two runners off base, but that was of little consolation because both teams the infielders, while chasing the wayward runners back and forth between first and second, allowed runs to score from third.

Ethan James pitched the third inning in which the visitors picked up two more runs and three more hits.

Odens, Travis Weber and John Benson had the only three Vermillion hits, but only Odens' hit drove in a run. One Teener run scored on an infield out, and three

Independence Day travel expected to increase 5 percent over last year, AAA says

Consumers are reaping the benefits of the recent steady decline in gas prices as South Dakotans enter the middle of the summer driving season. AAA predicts that lower gas prices will help motivate a record 42.3 million Americans to journey 50 miles or more from home during the Independence Day holiday weekend, a 4.9 percent increase over the 40.3

million people who traveled last year.

The expected 2012 Independence Day holiday travel volume will tie the past decade's previous high mark set in 2007 and represents a near 42 percent increase from 2009.

AAA projects 128,700 South Dakotans will travel over the holiday, a five percent increase over last year's holiday period. Eighty-

nine percent of South Dakota travelers will be getting there by private motor vehicle (up four percent over July 4, 2011), five percent by air (a ten percent jump over one year ago), and six percent by other means, such as bus or train.

Concern about the global economy, particularly the sovereign debt crisis in Europe and a slowdown in

growth in large emerging market economies such as Brazil, India, and China, continues to act as a drag on expectations for future oil demand, putting downward pressure on prices.

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors last week decided against an additional round of quantitative easing, which has helped boost the value of the dollar. The central bank

also revised downward its short and medium-term projections of both inflation and economic growth, adding additional strength to the dollar as well as reducing demand expectations. A stronger dollar relative to other currencies reduces oil prices in the U.S., as oil is traded in dollars.

While prices are lower this week, they continue to reflect an implicit risk premium associated with geopolitical instability in the Middle East and North Africa. Traders continue to be concerned about potential supply disruptions should the violence in Syria spread to neighboring countries, or should the political transitions in Egypt or Libya impact the global supply chain.

Today's national average

price for a gallon of regular self-serve gasoline is \$3.40. This is ten cents cheaper than the price one week ago, 25 cents cheaper than one month ago, 18 cents cheaper than one year ago, and 54 cents cheaper than the year-to-date peak price of \$3.94 in early April. The national average price at the pump has now dropped 14 days in a row and 69 of the previous 71 days. The nationwide average price has not been this low since January 27, 2012, almost five months ago.

South Dakota's least expensive gasoline today is found once again in North Sioux City, where the citywide average is \$3.272 for regular self-serve. The state's most expensive gasoline is in Pine Ridge at \$3.899.

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