



July 3, 2015 www.plaintalk.net

Post 1 Survives Late Comeback

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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Vermillion Post 1 survived a late comeback attempt by Dakota Valley Post 319 for a 6-4 win in Legion Baseball action last Wednesday, June 24 at Dakota Valley.

Vermillion started the scoring early by jumping to a 2-0 lead in the first inning from RBIs by Jack Brown and Hunter Christopherson.

Nate Robertson's sacrifice fly in the second scored Travis Weber for a 3-0 lead.

In the bottom of the second, Dakota Valley's Grant Meier hit a two-run homerun to left field to bring Vermillion's lead to one.

Post 1 answered back with two of their own in the top of the third when Jake Odens and Robertson drew back-to-back bases loaded walks.

Dakota Valley's Cody Sexton doubled in the fifth inning to score Brady Dam making it a 5-3 game.

Both teams scored their final runs in the seventh inning with Vermillion's Travis Weber's sacrifice fly scoring Cole Anderson and Dam's RBI single scoring Bryce Schroeder for Dakota Valley.

Ethan James picked up the win for Vermillion pitching five innings with three runs on five hits, three strikeouts and one walk. Carter Kratz earned the save pitching two innings with one run on one hit and three strikeouts.

Cody Sexton recorded the loss.

Dakota Valley visits Vermillion Friday night at 6 p.m. at Prentis Park for the rematch.

Vermillion's game against Canton that was scheduled for Tuesday night was postponed due to weather. No make-up date has been made.

Grey Sox Drop Three

Vermillion 2, Larchwood 6

Patrick Sinnema picked up the win for the Larchwood Diamonds as they downed the Vermillion Grey Sox 6-2 in State Line League action last Wednesday night, June, 24.

Tanner Anderson recorded a two-run single in the sixth inning for Vermillion's only runs of the game.

Jay Thaler, Colin Olson and John Merrigan all recorded singles in the game.

Merrigan picked up the loss pitching eight innings and Mike Moran came in for final three outs of the game.

Vermillion 7, Menno 15

Macon Oplinger singled three times as the Menno Mad Frogs pounded out 14 hits in a 15-7 amateur baseball victory over the Vermillion Grey Sox in non-league action Friday night in Menno.

Josh Berndt, Jared Nelson and Kyler Pekarek all doubled twice for Menno, which jumped out to an 11-3 lead after three innings. Doug Hall pitched five innings for the win.

For the Grey Sox, Mike Moran singled three times, and Tanner Anderson and Jayce Huska both doubled and singled. Eric Muskee pitched the first three innings.

Vermillion Grey Sox 2, Garretson 4

Patrick Whetham struck out 12 in a complete game performance as the Garretson Blue Jays beat the Vermillion Grey Sox 4-2 in State Line League action Sunday in Garretson.

Garretson scored all four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning, highlighted by a misplayed fly ball that resulted in three runs scoring.

For Vermillion, Mike Moran went 4-for-5 with an RBI, while Josh Merrigan took the loss with five strikeouts and one earned run in five innings.

Vermillion's final home game of the season is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8 at Prentis Park starting at 7:30 p.m. against the Akron Rebels.

Walk Off Single Puts Vermillion Over Canton



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Riley Johnson throws to first for a double play during the Varsity Teeners' 6-4 win over Canton Monday night at Prentis Park.

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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Cole Christopherson's walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the fifth inning scored the winning run as the Vermillion Varsity Teeners baseball team downed Canton 14-4 Monday night at Prentis Park.

With a 2-0 lead going into the bottom of the second, Vermillion scored five more runs in the inning. Parker Goblirsch hit a single, stole second and came around to score on two passed balls.

Later in the inning, Riley Johnson drew a bases loaded walk with two outs for a 4-0 lead. Wyatt Markee was hit by a pitch to walk in another run.

Gabe DeJong scored on a passed ball and Johnson also came around to score on another passed ball to end the inning 7-0.

In the third, Canton scored a run, but Vermillion quickly answered in the bottom on the inning when Rylan Pratt and Johnson were hit by pitches back-to-back with the bases loaded. Markee had an RBI groundout followed by Devin

O'Neill who lined a two-run single to left field.

Vermillion added another in the bottom of the fourth.

Canton scored two in the top of the fourth and one in the fifth to extend the game.

Christopherson then ended the game in the bottom of the fifth with an RBI single that scored O'Neill.

"I thought we played well. When you get out to a big lead it's easy to let up, and I was pleased that we did not," said Vermillion head coach T.J. Beacom.

Christopherson, Goblirsch and Carter Larson combined on the mound for the win.

"Our pitching is pretty thin right now, so it was nice to see Cole Christopherson, Parker Goblirsch and Carter Larsen give us some quality innings," Beacom said.

Last Wednesday, the Varsity Teeners traveled to Brookings for a double header.

Vermillion lost the first game 14-11, but didn't go down easily as they rallied back from 14-2 after three innings.

Johnson, O'Neill,



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Cole Christopherson on the mound in the Varsity Teeners 6-4 win over Canton Monday night at Prentis Park.

Goblirsch, and Pratt each recorded two hits and DeJong added a double.

Vermillion kept the momentum going into the second game as they topped Brookings 6-5.

Trey Hage's RBI single gave Vermillion the go-ahead run in the sixth. Goblirsch went 3-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. O'Neill added

two hits and a run scored.

Johnson pitched a complete game and allowed zero earned runs.

Vermillion is back in action on Thursday, July 9 at Prentis Park with a double header against Norfolk, Nebraska. Game times are scheduled for 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Bluffs Welcomes First Stop Of Pro-Am Tour

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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Golfers from around the country were at The Bluffs Golf Course Friday for the South Dakota Open, the first stop of the Dakotas Golf Tour.

"This is the very first event of the season," said Dennis Chandler, the executive director of the tour and an assistant pro golfer at The Bluffs. "The Bluffs kind of sets precedent for the season with 'this is appropriate behavior', 'this is appropriate attire', that kind of thing."

This pro-am event puts local amateur golfers with professionals traveling from all across the country together for a three-day event.

"It's all good preparation for (qualifying) school which is in October, November, December and it's an opportunity to make money," said Thomas Campbell, a professional golfer originally from New Zealand.

The qualifying school is the tournament golfers play in to qualify for the PGA Tour.

Campbell plans on being at most of the tour stops, with the exception of the one day tournaments, and mentions that The Bluffs is one of the more unique courses he's played on.

"It's quite unique with the first

12 holes being kind of flat and the back nine with (hole) 13, you go down the bottom (of the bluffs), it's quite the test," he said.

Each of the stops has a professional component and an amateur component. Each stop has teams of four that usually sees three amateurs with one professional, though some teams consist of four professionals.

"This event is the first event of 19," Chandler said. "There are 64 pros and 90 ams, which means there are some groups that don't have ams, they just play as pro only groups. We'll have about 200-225 players over the course of the summer that play in our events from all over."

Team scores and individual scores are kept at each tournament.

"The pro plays his own ball and works for his own score, and the ams do that as well, but there's a team component where the team on each hole will take the three best scores of the four players and play against every other team on the golf course," Chandler said. "At the end of the day there's that team score as well as individual score."

Campbell finished the tournament in second place with score of 68, 67, 66 and a total of 201 putting him and 15 under par and two

strokes behind the leader Brad Merek.

Merek shot a tournament best 62 on the first day of play and had a 68 and 69 on the second two days for a total of 199.

The amateurs play scratch with their handicap and the professionals play scratch with no handicap.

The professional golfers play for a prize purse of approximately \$750,000 over the course of the nine week tour. They also have the opportunity to win a bonus pool of \$40,000 that's split among the top 10 golfers on the tour.

"To get part of that bonus pool, they have to play in eight of the 11 three or four day events," Chandler said. "We have some one and two day events that we call satellite events that happen in midweek and they don't have to play in those to qualify for the bonus round."

Campbell finished this weekend's tournament in second place on the leaderboard

The tour travels across several Midwest state including North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wyoming and Nebraska. Local stops include Fox Run Golf Course and Hillcrest Golf Course in Yankton, Bakkers Crossing in Sioux Falls and Dakota Dunes Country Club.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Professional golfer Riley O'Neill tees off at the first hole of Friday's first round at the first stop of The Dakotas Golf Tour at The Bluffs Golf Course in Vermillion.