

Post 1 swept by Sioux City in doubleheader

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

After two wins in which Post 1 scored 52 runs, the harsh reality of Vermillion's predominantly Class "A" American Legion baseball schedule returned Tuesday night when South Sioux City swept Post 1 in a pair of seven-inning contests at Prentis Park, 13-3 and 10-3.

Post 1 took its 6-5 record into a twinbill in Yankton last night (Thursday) against Huron and Yankton. This weekend in a tournament at South Sioux City, Post 1 will play Arlington at 11:30 a.m. and Wisner-Pilger at 2 p.m. Saturday and take on South Sioux City again at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vermillion will also have a later game Sunday. Next Wednesday Post 1 returns home against Rapid City Post 320 at 6 p.m.

Tuesday's opener saw South Sioux City score four in top of the first and never look back although Post 1 was down by only 5-3 after three and 7-3 after five innings. Vermillion's three runs came together in the third when Chayse Meierkort singled, Tanner Anderson walked, and both scored on Stormy Mirtz's double. Mirtz then scored on a Tanner Settles grounder.

Meierkort had two of Vermillion's six hits off winner Austin Groth, who struck out seven and walked seven, and reliever Scott Manley, who threw three innings of scoreless ball. As a batter Groth drove home four runs on two doubles.

Nate Garrett went five-plus innings to take the loss, allowing 11 hits and seven earned runs. Collin Bertram surrendered five runs and five hits in two innings of relief.

The visitors also never trailed in the second game after scoring three times in the first although Post 1 was down by only 6-3 with two innings left. Losing pitcher Tanner Settles, going 5 1/3 innings, struck out two and walked five, giving up 10 hits and seven runs. D'Andre Fore pitched the final 2/3 stanzas, allowing two hits and three runs.

An Anderson ground-out in the first scored Bertram, who had walked. In both the second and third innings Jayce Huska doubled and scored on grounders off Garrett's bat. Fore also had two hits for Vermillion.

Post 1 - 24, Irene 14
The good news is that Post 1 won the game at Irene Monday night, blasting 28 hits in 56 at-bats (that's a batting average of .500!), but the bad news is that

they almost learned the hard way that whoever once said you never have enough runs wasn't just blowing smoke.

Vermillion led 15-0 after four innings and 17-2 after 5 1/2 innings, comfortable enough leads, one would think. But in the ugliest half-inning of this--and probably any other--season, Irene found a way to score 12 runs against a superior Post 1 team in an inning in which the first two batters were retired. The 17-2 lead became 17-14, and any thoughts of ending the game via the 10-run rule vanished.

To Post 1's credit, they went back to work on offense, scoring seven runs in the final three innings while the fourth Vermillion pitcher, Nile Morecraft, held Irene scoreless.

Starter Chayse Meierkort threw four innings of one-hit shutout baseball, accounting for eight of the 12 outs with strikeouts. With eight games coming within six days from Tuesday through Sunday, a 15-0 lead seemed safe enough to retire Meierkort at that point and let the rest of the staff finish it off.

The first reliever, Jayce Huska, gave up two walks and two singles as Irene got on the board with two runs in the fifth. He retired the first two batters

in the top of the sixth, but unbelievably the next 13 Irene batters all reached base safely.

The first four of those 13--two singles and two walks--came on Huska's watch. Then in came Joe Mazour, who deserved a better fate. He faced eight batters--the first two got hits, the next four all reached base on Vermillion errors, and the last two got hits. That brought in Morecraft, who gave up a two-run double, completing Irene's 12-run outburst. But he struck out the final batter of the inning, and then he retired nine of the 11 batters he faced in the last three innings, four of them on strikeouts.

Leadoff man D'Andre Fore, who reached base safely seven times, led off the game with a single and scored on Tanner Anderson's RBI single. In a five-run second inning Fore slugged a two-run triple, and Collin Bertram had an RBI single. Morecraft's third-inning single drove in a run.

The 7-0 lead became 15-0 after an eight-run fourth during which Stormy Mirtz batted twice, driving in a run with a single and later plating another tally with a double. In between Meierkort laced a two-run double, and Morecraft batted home another run.

In the seventh after Irene had crept back to within 17-14, Fore got things started again with a single. Anderson's triple, one of his four hits, scored two runs, and Mirtz had his third RBI hit of the night. Mazour singled home a run in the eighth.

Just in case the roof would cave in again, Vermillion added three runs in the ninth when Mirtz tripled, and then Huska had an RBI single, Settles and Morecraft singled, and Fore's fifth hit of the game scored the last two runs.

So of Vermillion's 28 hits, Fore had five; Anderson, Mirtz and Settles four apiece; Morecraft three; Bertram, Meierkort and Huska two each, and Mazour and Nate Garrett one each. Besides Anderson's five RBIs and Fore's four, Mirtz drove in three; Huska, Morecraft and Meierkort two apiece, and Bertram, Mazour and Settles one each.

Post 1 - 28, Lennox 1
The score last Friday at Lennox could easily have been 40-1 if Coach Jason Gault and Post 1 had not stopped trying to steal bases, stopped trying to score on wild pitches and stopping advancing more than one base at a time even on extra-base hits.

Almost every Post 1 batter

went to bat eight times. Five Lennox pitchers had no clue where home plate was located, walking 15, allowing 16 hits and hitting three batters. Their defense committed five official errors and several other mental ones.

Vermillion led 7-0 after two innings, 12-0 after three, and 17-0 after four. Because it was scheduled as a nine-inning game, the 10-run rule didn't kick in until the seventh. But first the teams and the fans had to endure a 16-batter top-of-the-seventh as Post 1, trying not to score any more than necessary, still scored 10 more times and won 28-1.

Collin Bertram started on the mound and went four innings, striking out six, walking two and allowing two hits and no runs. Joe Mazour pitched the final three stanzas, fanning a pair and allowing three hits and one unearned run.

Of Vermillion's 16 hits, Chayse Meierkort had four, Tanner Anderson three and Stormy Mirtz, Jayce Huska and Bertram two each. Huska had six RBIs, Meierkort and Mirtz four each, Anderson three, Bertram two, and Nile Morecraft, D'Andre Fore and Damarius Cheeseman one apiece.

Vermillion woman pedaling for American Heart Association

By Karen Nissen-Boryczka

Team 242 will bicycle nearly 1,800 miles in 18 days from Grand Portage, MN to Grand Isle, LA June 24-July 11 to raise funds for the American Heart Association in memory of a dear friend. The group has been riding for 10 years and has raised more than \$150,000 for American Heart Association. Team 242 began after a group of college friends lost their friend, David Browne, to an undetected heart defect in 1997.

"We were all in our early 20s and didn't really know how to deal with a loss like this. A few of us liked to bike and we wanted to do something to honor Dave. We didn't know what we were starting then, but we sure are glad we did!" said Andy Boryczka, one of the

riders.

Since the first Dave Browne Ride in 2003, Team 242 has embarked on one to two week bicycle trips each summer. The group has ridden around Lake Michigan, and along various routes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, sleeping in school and church basements along the way. The ride is a chance to celebrate the life of David Browne and raise awareness about heart disease. The group hopes the funds they raise will help prevent future deaths related to stroke and cardiovascular disease.

Participating in this ride will be Karen Nissen-Boryczka, a 1995 graduate of Vermillion High School and daughter of Dick and Kathy Nissen of Vermillion. Karen was born with a congenital heart defect

called a ventricular septal defect that was surgically repaired in 1979 at the age of 2. She has had no limitations since and was also a member of the VHS Track and Cross Country Teams.

"This ride means so much to me, supporting a great cause and showing that heart disease is something can affect someone at any age," she said.

The 10th Anniversary David Browne Ride will retrace much of the original route through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The goal is to raise an additional \$25,000 for American Heart Association this year. To make a donation or to find out more information, please visit www.team242.com.



Buell, Grove earn First-Team All-American

Facing the nation's best competition, University of South Dakota track and field athletes Bethany Buell, Emily Grove and Alexa Duling each rose to the occasion Wednesday at the NCAA National Championships.

Buell set a school record and placed third in the pole vault, while Grove placed seventh in the pole vault as both earned First-Team All-American honors. Duling earned Second-Team All-American honors in the 400-meter hurdles to give the Coyotes three athletes to attain that feat.

Buell, a sophomore, is the first Coyote to place in the top three at the Division I national meet, while Grove is the first Coyote true freshman to earn First-Team All-American honors.

The three All-American honors are the most the Coyotes have earned at the NCAA Division I National Championships, as are the eight team points that the team scored.

"This is the greatest day in South Dakota track and field history," South Dakota women's head coach Lucky Huber said. "This was something no one thought we'd be able to do at the Division I level."

Buell (St. Louis, MO), who was Second-Team All-American in 2011, surpassed that mark and then some in Wednesday's competition. She cleared a height of 14-5 1/4 - breaking the school record she set in April - to finish third. She set a personal-best mark in the process.

"The last practice, I figured out something on my run," Buell said. "It helped me feel more confident. I was excited to go out and jump again and put it all together. I had a few scares, but after that, I was able to get on a roll."

For Buell, the goal was to attain First-Team All-

American status after earning second-team honors a year ago.

"It's very exciting," Buell said. "That was a goal I had last year, and to be able to go out there and accomplish that this year was a relief. It was definitely exciting."

Grove (Pontiac, IL) had an impressive debut at her first national championship meet. She cleared a height of 13-11 1/2 - a second-best mark of her career - to take seventh overall.

"I wanted to get in the top

eight," Grove said. "That was one of my goals. I was happy with seventh. I never usually jump 13-11; I usually in the mid 13-8 range, so I was happy with 13-11."

"It's a relief. I am happy right now. It was really fun."

Duling (Gregory, SD), competing in her first national meet, had a strong run in the hurdles, taking 12th overall with a time of 57.70, just .30 seconds away from the record of 57.40 she set at the NCAA West Preliminaries in Austin, Texas on May 25.

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