

District 2
Division 1
American Legion
Baseball Tournament

SCRAPBOOK

July 20-23, 2011
Johnson Park
New Ulm, Minnesota

Day 1—2nd District American Legion Tournament - July 21, 2011

Johnson Park, New Ulm, Minnesota

TOP SEEDS SURVIVE FIRST ROUND IN DISTRICT 2 LEGION

NUSC, Posted July 21, 2011

Top seeds Mankato and New Ulm Gold won in the first day of District 2 baseball eliminations at Johnson Park Wednesday.

The remaining four teams go into loser's bracket games at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Winners of the Sleepy Eye/New Ulm Blue and Fairmont/Worthington pairings will advance in the double elimination while losers are done.

Gold out-slugged Worthington with 17 hits and an eight-run seventh inning which set up the 10-run rule with a pair of runs in the eighth. Both teams were combined scoreless in only one inning. At one point Worthington had taken a 6-4 lead.

New Ulm Blue upset Fairmont 6-3 in the tournament opener before losing to Mankato 9-3 after leading 3-0. Sleepy Eye fell to Worthington 16-3.

Worthington 1 0 3 - 2 0 1 - 1 0 --- 8 12 4
New Ulm Gold ... 3 0 1 - 0 3 3 - 9 2 -18 17 4

New Ulm Blue goes 1-1

Posted July 21, 2011 New Ulm Journal

By Jeremy Behnke - Journal Sports Editor , The Journal

NEW ULM - With the District Two Legion baseball playoffs underway, New Ulm Legion Blue's Ben Wolf wanted to give his team a good outing and help preserve pitching in what could be a long tournament.

Wolf did that and then some, going all nine innings and allowing 11 hits and three runs as Blue defeated Fairmont 6-3 in the opening game of the District Two playoffs at Johnson Park.

With the win, Blue moved on to face Mankato and lost 9-3, sending Blue to the elimination bracket.

In the loss to Mankato, Mankato scored six unearned runs in the fifth inning. Mankato out-hit Legion Blue 11-6 and Blue had four errors in the game.

Blue will now face Sleepy Eye in an elimination bracket at 11 a.m. today at Johnson Park.

In the first game, Wolf went the distance, surviving both the excessive heat and humidity and the Fairmont bats. And after a battle like that, he admitted his arm was pretty sore.

"It hurts," he said. "This heat really wears you out, it wears everybody out. It's great to get runs on the board when you're in this heat because it can wear you down quick."

Blue scored in the top of the first after Brody Peterson doubled and scored on an RBI single by Matt Bergmann.

Then Blue's bats opened the game up a bit in the top of the third. Still clinging to a 1-0 lead, Jordan Guggisberg came up with the bases loaded and two outs. He didn't disappoint, driving a Jordan Voss offering in the gap in left-center, scoring three



Journal Staff Photo by Steve Muscatello
New Ulm Legion Blue third baseman Dylan Schreckenbergl looks to put the tag on Fairmont's Michael Forster during Blue's playoff win Wednesday at Johnson Park in New Ulm.

Guggisberg later scored on Nate Schoenherr's line drive single up the middle and Blue gave Wolf a bit of a cushion.

"It felt good, the wind was blowing out today so it got a little extra carry," Guggisberg said. "I hit it solid and it felt good. Everybody was just hitting the ball today."

The five-run lead was also big for Wolf.

"That's great, I mean to see that, it just drives up your confidence even more," Wolf said. "You can make a few mistakes out on the mound and these guys can back you up."

Fairmont got on the board in the bottom of the third, but scoring runs became tough for Fairmont with Blue's defense turning four double plays in the game.

"We turned a lot of double plays and Ben pitched well today," Guggisberg said. "He got the complete game and I'm proud of him for that too."

Blue scored again in the fourth inning when Connor Stark drove in Dan Reinke to put Blue up 6-1 and Fairmont answered with a run of its own in the bottom of the fourth.

Fairmont scored one last time in the eighth inning for the final 6-3 margin.

Wolf didn't really mix it up too much and he seemed to get out of jams when he needed to. He struck out three and walked two.

"I didn't throw much off-speed pitches, I was really consistent with my fastball today and just relied on that," Wolf said. "They were hitting my curveball pretty well in the beginning."

Voss took the loss for Fairmont. He went four innings, allowing six runs on nine hits.

Offensively for Blue, Reinke was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Matt Bergmann had three hits, including a double and he scored a run and had an RBI. Guggisberg had three RBIs while Schoenherr and Stark also had an RBI.

Fairmont plays an elimination bracket game at 2:30 p.m. today against Worthington. Worthington dropped to the elimination bracket with a 18-8 loss to New Ulm Gold.

In the loss to Mankato, Travis Kretsch took the loss. He went 4 2/3 innings, allowing seven runs and seven hits. Only two of those runs were earned runs.

Guggisberg had an RBI double in the first and Bergman also added a double and an RBI.

Sleepy Eye falls in opener

Posted July 21, 2011 - The Journal

NEW ULM - With the heat index reaching well in to the 90s, the Worthington bats were hot from the start as it roughed up Sleepy Eye 16-3 in the opening round of the District 2 Legion Playoffs Wednesday at Johnson?Park.

Worthington sent 10 batters to the plate in the bottom of the first as it scored six runs on four hits. Worthington was also aided by two Sleepy?Eye errors.

Sleepy Eye looked like it was going to be the hot team early on. Adam Sellner and Scott Salfer both walked to lead off the game but Worthington starter Lucas Henning got Nathan Kral and Caleb Hillesheim to strike out and Landon Zinniel grounded out to end the threat.

Henning threw 26 pitches in that inning and never threw more than 13 pitches in any given inning the rest of the game. He threw a complete game and allowed three runs on six hits with six strikeouts and three walks.

Sleepy?Eye scored two runs in the second when Nolan Helget led off the inning with a double, Kyle Krzmarzick walked and Josh Kopacek reached on an infield single to load the bases.

Sellner drove in Helget with a single and Salfer hit a sacrifice fly to right that scored Krzmarzick. That made it 6-2 Worthington but Sleepy Eye never got closer.

Worthington added four runs in the second inning and the rout was on. It added two more in the third, a single run in the fifth and three runs in the sixth to make it 16-2.

Sleepy Eye added a single run in the seventh for the final 16-3 score.

Worthington pounded out 15 hits with seven for extra bases. Henning, Adam Munkel, Joe Kinley, Joe Reller and Tyler Verdoon each with two hits. Tommy Hayenga had a solo home run.

Sellner took the loss for Sleepy Eye as he went one plus inning and allowed 10 run on seven hits with two strikeouts and three hit batters. Matt Helget pitched four innings and allowed three runs on five hits with two strikeouts and two walks. Zinniel pitched the final inning and allowed three runs on three hits.

Sleepy Eye had six hits in the game. Sellner and Brady Hansen had two RBIs.

Sleepy Eye 0 2 0 - 0 0 0 - 1 — 3/6/?
Worthington ... 6 4 2 - 0 1 3 - x — 16/15/?



Journal staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Sleepy Eye catcher Josh Kopacek tags out Worthington's Adam Munkel during Worthington's District 2 playoff win Wednesday at Johnson Park in New Ulm.



Journal staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Kevin Larson of New Ulm Legion Gold is congratulated by teammates after hitting his second home run of the game during Gold's playoff win against Worthington Wednesday at Johnson Park in New Ulm.

Gold crushes Worthington

Posted July 21, 2011 New Ulm Journal

NEW ULM - One thing is for sure, New Ulm Gold's District 2 American Legion playoff game with Worthington won't win any beauty pageants.

Two New Ulm pitchers were guilty of seven walks while the Gold defense had four errors as New Ulm and Worthington were tied at eight going into the bottom of the seventh inning.

But that's when Gold's offense put the game away.

New Ulm sent 12 batters to the plate and scored eight runs before tacking on two more in the bottom of the eighth to put the 10-run rule in effect with an 18-8 win over Worthington.

Jory Dove got the win for New Ulm Gold. He pitched the final 1 2/3 innings. Stuart Rogers took the loss for Worthington .

Zach Hoffmann led New Ulm's offense with four hits and five RBIs including a three-run home run in the seventh inning. Aaron Pfaff and Kevin Larson each had three hits with Larson belting two home runs and driving in four runs. Drew Pfaff added three RBIs.

For New Ulm coach Bob Weier, it was a game that saw New Ulm's offense lead the way for a Gold pitching staff that struggled along with the defense.

"I was happy with our hitting," said Weier, who saw his team bang out 17 hits. "We did a nice job of hitting and executed some nice things on offense. But our pitching had a lot to be desired and on defense we had some veterans make some poor decisions. But as a team we stuck together and battled back."

New Ulm took a 3-1 lead after one inning when Zach Hoffmann doubled in two runs and scored on an error.

Worthington scored three runs in the third on just one hit. But three walks and two errors gave Worthington a 4-3 lead.

New Ulm tied the game in the bottom of the inning on a Dove sacrifice fly.

Worthington came back with two runs in the fourth before Gold kept pace with two runs in the fifth, with Larson's solo homer and an error added the second run.

After Worthington scored a run in the top of the sixth, New Ulm countered with two more runs when Michael Schlottman tripled and came home on Larson's second home run of the game which gave New Ulm an 8-7 lead.

"He (Larson) struggled in the field but he made up for it offensively," Weier said. "We tell the kids that baseball is a game of redemption and he did carry us offensively."

That lead was shortlived as Worthington tied the game in the top of the seventh before New Ulm blew the game open.

A hit batsman, a wild pitch and a two-run double from Drew Pfaff gave New Ulm a 12-8 lead.

An RBI single from Larson and Hoffmann's three-run homer made it a 16-8 game.

Gold put the game away in the bottom of the eighth when Pat Bock singled in two runs.

Worthington 1 0 3 - 2 0 1 - 1 0 --- 8 12 4
New Ulm Gold 3 0 1 - 0 2 2 - 8 2 -- 18 17 4

Day 2—2nd District American Legion Tournament - July 22, 2011
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