

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 20 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 runs to make it 4-0.



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.

New Ulm Blue 3 - 6 - 4
Mankato National . 9 - 11 - 2

New Ulm Blue 6 - 12 - 3
Fairmont 3 - 10 - 0

New Ulm Blue doubles up Fairmont

Posted July 21, 2011 Fairmont Sentinel

By Charlie Sorrells - Sentinel Sports Editor

NEW ULM - New Ulm Blue first baseman Matt Bergmann and his American Legion Post 132 baseball teammates gave Fairmont Post 36 a case of double vision during Wednesday's postseason opener at Johnson Park.

Bergmann literally had either a hand or a glove involved in all four of the Blue defense's four rally-thwarting double plays during the first game of the Division I, 2nd District tournament in New Ulm.

New Ulm's defensive gems backed right-hander Ben Wolf's complete-game pitching performance, Bergmann went 3-for-4 with one RBI and Jordan Guggisberg unleashed a pivotal bases-loaded double during a four-run third to pace Blue's 6-3 victory over Fairmont.

New Ulm Blue, which dropped a 9-3 second-round decision to No. 1-seeded Mankato, faces Sleepy Eye at 11 a.m. today in a consolation-bracket game back at Johnson Park. Worthington rolled by Sleepy Eye in first-round play, 16-3.

Fairmont (7-8) faces Worthington at 2:30 p.m. today in consolation action in New Ulm. Worthington lost an 18-8 second-round game to No. 2-seeded New Ulm Gold.

"Timing was everything today," said Fairmont head coach Scott Chirpich. "They (Blue) came up with the key two-out hit when they needed it, and then turned double plays (on defense) when we had runners in scoring position."

Bergmann produced New Ulm's initial clutch two-out hit to stake the visitors on the scoreboard to an early 1-0 lead during the top of the first inning.

Brody Peterson set the table by slugging a one-out double to deep right field before advancing 90 feet on Dan Reinke's fielder's choice. Bergmann then cued a chalkline-hugging infield hit near third base to bring home Peterson.

Fairmont starting pitcher Jordan Voss triggered a 1-6-3 double play during Blue's half of the second before New Ulm third baseman Dylan Schreckenber and Bergmann played catch at the corners to turn a 5-3-5 double play during the last of the second frame.

Ahead 1-0, Guggisberg generated another timely two-out hit to engineer New Ulm's four-run outburst during the top of the third.

Reinke legged out a leadoff infield hit before Bergmann launched a towering double to deep left-center to put runners at second and third.

Voss nearly escaped unscathed as he got back-to-back fielder's choices before issuing a walk to Eric Hauser to load the bases.

Guggisberg drilled a three-run double to the outfield gap for a 4-0 edge before crossing the plate on Nate Schoenherr's ensuing RBI single to right.

Fairmont spoiled Wolf's shutout bid during the last of the third when Voss reached on a one-out error before being replaced on base via Tanner Nawrocki's fielder's choice. Nawrocki, who had reached third base on an overthrow, crossed the plate on Logan Peymann's RBI single.

Walks to Reinke and Bergmann, followed by Connor Stark's RBI single, extended New Ulm's lead to 6-1 through three and a half complete frames before Post 36 answered.

Max Waletich beat out an infield hit, swiped second and scored on Logan Peymann's RBI liner just inside the left-field line to narrow Fairmont's gap to 6-2.

Levi Becker followed with a single before Ross Wilken worked out a one-out walk to load the bases, but Wolf assisted his own cause by gloving a comebacker before turning an inning-ending 1-2-3 double play.

Wolf utilized one of his three strikeouts and a groundout to work around another bases-loaded jam in the Fairmont fifth before New Ulm shortstop Nate Schoenherr triggered a rally-ending 6-4-3 double play during Post 36's sixth.

Fairmont finally scratched out a solo run during the last of the eighth before yet another Blue double play limited the damage.

Jon Ellis set the stage for the comeback bid with a leadoff double before taking second on a wild pitch. Becker walked before pinch hitter Spenser Meadows drilled an RBI single to left with one out to close the gap to 6-3.

With Post 36 runners on the corners, Schoenherr triggered another 6-4-3 twin killing to maintain New Ulm's three-run edge through eight completed frames.

Nawrocki and Becker pitched two shutout innings of relief each for Fairmont, while Waletich worked a scoreless ninth frame.

Voss allowed six earned runs on eight hits, walked six and did not record a strikeout in four innings to take the loss.

Wolf gave up three runs - two earned - on 10 hits, struck out three and walked six in nine innings of work to earn the complete-game win.

Reinke went 2-for-3 for New Ulm, while Peymann, Ellis and Michael Forster each supplied two of Fairmont's 10 hits on the day.

New Ulm Blue ...104 100 000 - 6 11 3

Fairmont 001 100 010 - 3 10 2

Ben Wolf (WP) and Connor Stark. Jordan Voss (LP), Tanner Nawrocki (5), Levi Becker (7), Max Waletich (9) and Andy Reiter.

LOB-Fairmont 10; New Ulm Blue 12. 2B-Jon Ellis (F), Brody Peterson (NUB), Matt Bergmann (NUB), Jordan Guggisberg (NUB). SAC-Javen Munce (NUB).

Post 5 splits in first day of Legion tournament

By: **Daily Globe**, Worthington Daily Globe

NEW ULM — Lucas Henning got more than enough run support from his Worthington Legion baseball teammates in the first round of the tournament on Wednesday.

Worthington scored 12 runs in the first two innings and Henning kept Sleepy Eye at bay as Post 5 cruised to a 16-3 victory.

“Lucas threw a heck of a game today,” Worthington head coach Todd Rogers said. “We were hoping we could get him out of there in seven and we didn’t want him to go nine. We hit the ball well. I think we were 15-for-30. We batted .500 as a team. That helped a lot.”

After Henning and the Worthington defense put a zero on the board in the top of the first inning, Post 5 broke the game open early.

Worthington scored six runs in the first, four in the second and two more in the third to take a 12-2 lead.

Post 5 added another run in the fifth and three more in the sixth en route to the 13-run, seven-inning victory.

Henning threw all seven innings and allowed three earned runs on six hits while walking three and striking out six.

Stuart Rogers was 2-for-2 with a double and four RBIs to lead the Worthington offense as nine different players had at least one hit.

Henning was 2-for-4, while Adam Munkel was 2-for-3 with a pair of RBIs.

Joey Kinley was 2-for-3, while Jon Reller was 2-for-4 and drove in two runs.

Tyler Verdoorn was 2-for-3, while Tommy Hayenga had a solo home run and drove in two runs in the game, while Mitchell Jensen had a triple and drove in two. Justin Larson also had a hit.

SE 020 000 1 — 3 6 3
Wor. 642 013 X — 16 15 0

Gold 18, Worthington 8

NEW ULM — The Worthington Legion baseball team ran out of gas.

After a big win early Wednesday, Post 5 ran up against a tough New Ulm Gold team in a 10-run loss.

“I think we were tired,” Worthington head coach Todd Rogers said. “It was a long day and it was hot. It was a long afternoon.”

Worthington and New Ulm battled throughout the first six-and-a-half innings.

But with the score tied at 8-all, Gold scored eight runs in the bottom of the seventh and two more in the bottom of the eighth for the eight-run victory.

Adam Munkel, Stuart Rogers and Jon Reller shared the pitching duties for Post 5.

Munkel was 3-for-5 with three RBIs in the game, while Mitchell Jensen was 3-for-4. Lucas Henning was 2-for-2, while Reller also had two hits. Stuart Rogers drove in two runs for Post 5, which will face Fairmont at 2:30 p.m. today in New Ulm.

R H E
Wor. 103 201 10 — 8 12 4
NU 301 022 82 — 18 17 4

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 Zinniell 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. Zinniell 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.



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.

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

Gold crushes Worthington

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 21, 2011 Johnson Park, New Ulm, Mn

Sleepy Eye eliminates Blue

Posted July 22, 2011 New Ulm Journal

By Alex Berg - Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM- Sleepy Eye defeated New Ulm Legion Blue 1-0 in an elimination game of the District 2 playoffs Thursday at Johnson Park.

"Sean Mathiowetz threw a pretty darn good game today," said Sleepy Eye head coach Alan Woitas. "He was lights out, always getting ahead of hitters and hitting his spots. For a kid to gut out a nine-inning game like that is pretty impressive."

Sleepy Eye opened the game with a pair of infield singles from Adam Sellner and Mathiowetz, but were unable to score.

Sellner finished the game going 2-for-4 with a stolen base.

New Ulm pitcher Matt Linscheid walked Sleepy Eye's Caleb Hillesheim to start the second inning. After a sacrifice bunt from Landon Zinniel, Nolan Helget delivered a run-scoring double to give Sleepy Eye a 1-0 lead.

"We haven't been hitting the ball well all year," Woitas said. "We have to play smallball to try to get an early lead and hold on to it."

New Ulm got its first rally started in the fourth inning when Brody Peterson hit a two-out double. Following a walk to Connor Stark, Mathiowetz was able to retire Ben Wolf to end the inning.

"I haven't faced a lot of those batters before," Mathiowetz said. "So I wanted to establish the fastball early and since I haven't pitched in awhile I had a little more velocity. My curveball and change-up were also working for me."

In the top of the sixth, it was Sleepy Eye that was threatening to score. Nathan Kral and Zinniel each singled with one out, but Linscheid was able to get the final two outs and keep the score at 1-0.

"Matt was pitching on short rest from our tournament last weekend," said New Ulm Blue head coach Bob Skillings. "He gave us maximum effort and mixed up his pitches real well."

Ted Skillings led off the bottom of the eighth inning with an infield single. He was tagged out after he over-slide second base on an attempted steal. Dylan Schreckenber followed with a triple to the left-centerfield gap, he was thrown out at home plate on a bloop single by Jordan Guggisberg. Despite three hits and a hit batter, Sleepy Eye still led 1-0 going into the ninth inning.

Schreckenber went 2-for-4 with a triple and a stolen base for New Ulm.

"He is a good pitcher," Bob Skillings said of Mathiowetz. "Early on, we didn't get much off of him. As the game progressed we started to make better contact, but give the Sleepy Eye defense credit for their execution."

Mathiowetz recovered from a shaky eighth inning to retire New Ulm in order in the ninth to seal the victory.

"My defense saved the game for me," Mathiowetz said. "My catcher, Josh Kopacek threw out two of the fastest kids that I've ever played against and my right fielder, Nolan Helget threw out a runner at the plate to keep the shutout going. The defense is the reason why we won today."

Mathiowetz pitched all nine innings for Sleepy Eye, he allowed eight hits in his shutout. He struck out five and walked two.

"I just wanted to keep my pitch count down," Mathiowetz said of the nine-inning game. "I attacked the hitters and let them hit the ball. I didn't want to go for strike outs, because that means more pitches. I just let my fastball and the defense do the work."

He also went 2-for-3 at the plate.

Linscheid took the loss for New Ulm. He allowed just the one run on eight hits in nine innings of work. He struck out five and walked two.

"This is the third year that I've coached most of these players," coach Skillings said. "It's sad to see the season come to an end, but I wish them all the best of luck in the future."

Sleepy Eye will play the winner Worthington today at 2:30 p.m. at Johnson Park.

"You have always got to go into a game liking your chances," Woitas said. "We've got a few pitchers left who can throw the ball pretty well."

New Ulm Blue ... 0 0 0 - 0 0 0 - 0 0 0 --
Sleepy Eye 0 1 0 - 0 0 0 - 0 0 0 —

Worthington eliminates Fairmont

Worthington 10, Fairmont 7 - Mitchell Jensen batted 3-for-5 and earned the win on the mound as Post 7 scored a 10-7 win over Post 36 Thursday in an elimination game in the American Legion, 2nd District, Division I Tournament at Johnson Park in New Ulm.

Worthington faces Sleepy Eye - a 1-0 winner over New Ulm Blue - at 2:30 p.m. today back in New Ulm.

Fairmont ended its season at 6-8.

Max Waletich batted 4-for-5 for Post 36 with a two-run home run and three RBIs. Logan Peymann was 3-for-4 at the dish with a double, triple, three runs scored and an RBI.

Jon Ellis added a hit and a run scored.

Peymann took the defeat, allowing 10 earned runs on 13 hits in eight frames. He struck out five, walked one and hit two batters.

Fairmont 2 1 2 - 0 1 0 - 1 0 0 — 7 13 2
Worthington 4 0 2 - 3 0 0 - 0 1 x - 10 13 4

Post 5 defeats Fairmont

By: **Daily Globe**, Worthington Daily Globe

NEW ULM — Worthington had all the answers on Thursday afternoon.

Every time Fairmont would take a lead, Post 5 answered en route to a 10-7 victory the Legion baseball tournament.

“We played pretty well,” Post 5 head coach Todd Rogers said. “We hit the ball and when we had runners in scoring positions, we got a key hit. So that really helped out.”

Fairmont had an early lead, but Post 5 (16-5) came right back.

“We had lots of runs early, that really helped,” Rogers said. “We got a jump on them. We gave up two runs right away, but we came back and scored four. That was a big jump.”

Fairmont took a 5-4 lead in the third inning, but Worthington answered with two runs in the bottom of the frame to take a one-run advantage. But Post 5 wasn't done.

Worthington scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth, pushing its lead to 9-5. It then added an insurance run in the eighth inning and held on for the three-run victory.

Mitchell Jensen earned the victory on the hill. He allowed five earned runs on 13 hits while walking four and striking out three in eight innings.

“Mitchell threw well,” Rogers said. “They are an awfully good hitting team. Mitchell threw a good game.” Jon Reller threw the final inning, recording a 1-2-3 frame.

Jensen helped his own cause at the plate. He was 3-for-4 with a pair of RBIs, while Lucas Henning had two hits.

Stuart Rogers was 2-for-4 and drove in two, while Justin Larson was 2-for-5.

If Worthington would win, it would face either New Ulm Gold or Mankato at 6 p.m.

R H E

Fairmont 212 010 100 — 7 13 1

Worthington 402 300 01X — 10 13 4

Gold rallies for win

Posted July 22, 2011 by New Ulm Journal

By Jim Bastian - Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - All season, New Ulm Gold coach Bob Weier said that his team is one that never gives up.

Thursday night was a great example.

Colton Petron's two-out, two-run single in the top of the ninth inning scored both Aaron Pfaff and Zach Hoffmann to give New Ulm Gold a 5-3 lead and Petron then shut down Mankato in the bottom of the ninth as Gold came away with a 5-3 win.

New Ulm Gold now advances to the Second District finals on Saturday at noon and would have to lose twice to be denied a state tournament berth, which would be its first since 2008.

Aaron Pfaff led New Ulm with two hits while Jason Shaul and Colton Petron each drove in two runs. Petron allowed six hits while striking out nine and all three Mankato runs he allowed were unearned thanks to five Gold errors.

Nick Kaus, who took over for National starter Matt Anderson in the top of the ninth with Mankato holding a 3-2 lead, took the loss.

"We seem to have to battle back a lot all summer," Weier said. "We seem to fall behind - we struggle early and make mistakes just at the most inopportune times. But this team does not have quit in them. They seem to use each other's success."

That happened in the top of the ninth inning. Down 3-2 and facing Mankato's closer Kaus with Jory Dove on first after a walk and two outs, Gold staged a comeback.

Aaron Pfaff doubled off of Kaus to put New Ulm runners on second and third. Zach Hoffmann was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Kaus then walked Jason Shaul to force in the tying run and then allowed a 1-2 single by Petron that gave New Ulm the eventual win.

"He (Kaus) hung a curveball to me which was a mistake because he throws pretty hard," Petron said. "I just waited for it and hit it back up the middle."

Weier said that the strategy used by Mankato in the ninth with the intentional walk is a good one.

"But one of the things when you [intentionally] walk a kid to load the bases is, you put a lot of pressure on the pitcher. He lost to the pressure. Then [Petron] comes up and the pitcher wants to make sure that he does not want to walk him so he lays one right down the middle and Colton was able to take advantage of it." And it seemed fitting that Petron got the game-winning hit.

"It is nice to see Colton get that hit," Weier said. "He pitched his heart out and deserved the win. The fate he was getting throughout the game was not his fault."

New Ulm had taken a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Aaron Pfaff and Hoffmann drew back-to-back walks. A wild pitch and a Shaul groundout scored the run.

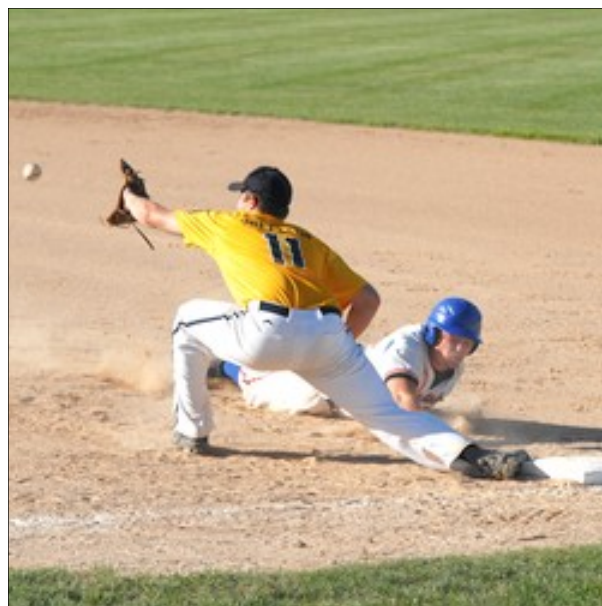
But Post 11, the top seed in the tournament, scored two unearned runs in the bottom of the second. Kaus was hit by a Petron offering with two outs. Seth Allen followed with a ground ball to Hoffmann at first base who had the ball handcuff him as Allen reached.

Adam Geiger walked to load the bases before Jack Mages was hit by a Petron pitch to force in the tying run. Derek Quame's base hit scored Allen for a 2-1 lead. New Ulm tied the game in the fifth when Drew Pfaff singled and eventually scored on Aaron Pfaff's single.

But in the bottom of the eighth, New Ulm's fifth error of the game allowed Mankato take a 3-2 lead. But thanks to Petron, Gold avoided more damage.

"We have battled all year," Petron said. "I have to give credit to [catcher Jason Shaul]. If I would not have him I do not know what I would do. He called my game perfectly. You battle through the errors."

"We do not have quit in us," Weier said. "That was evident tonight."



Journal staff photo by Mark Newsom
New Ulm Legion Gold's Zach Hoffmann waits for the ball at first base to record the out during play against Mankato at Johnson Park Thursday.

New Ulm Gold 1 0 0 - 0 1 0 - 0 0 3 --- 5 - 6 - 5
Mankato National .. 0 0 2 - 0 0 0 - 0 1 0 --- 3 - 6 - 0

Day 3—2nd District American Legion Tournament - July 22, 2011
Johnson Park, New Ulm, Minnesota

National wins way back to finals (Again!)

Mankato National battled back through the elimination bracket Friday to move into the championship game against New Ulm Gold at noon Saturday in Legion and VFW playoff action.

Mankato seeks to avoid to its season end by winning the noon game and forcing a final game against New Ulm Gold Legion just as it was a year ago. Mankato did that and beat New Ulm in the finals to go to the state tournament.

Mankato ends Sleepy Eye's season

Posted July 22, 2011 New Ulm Journal

By Alex Berg - Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - Sleepy Eye defeated Worthington 10-4 before being eliminated by Mankato 12-4 on Friday night in the District 2 Legion playoffs at Johnson Park.

Lucas Henning hit a two-out double and scored on an error to give Worthington an early 1-0 lead in the first elimination game of the day.

Adam Sellner led off the bottom half of the first with a double for Sleepy Eye. He scored on a delayed double steal to even the score.

Sellner finished the game going 2-for-4 with an RBI.

The score remained tied until the bottom of the fourth inning, when Sleepy Eye took advantage of two Worthington miscues and sent 12 batters to the plate. The seven-run inning was highlighted by two-run singles from Scott Salfer and Nathan Kral.

Kral led Sleepy Eye's offensive attack by going 4-for-5 with a run scored.

"We finally pieced together some hits and took advantage of their errors," Sleepy Eye head coach Alan Woitas said. "We needed a big inning to get us going and we were able to hold on to that lead throughout the game."

Sleepy Eye pitcher Caleb Hillesheim struggled with his control in the following inning. After striking out the first hitter, he walked the next three on a combined 12 pitches. Hillesheim was able to bounce back and retire the next two batters and keep the Sleepy Eye lead at 8-1.

"I just did my best to go out and throw strikes," said Hillesheim. "We were hitting the ball well, so I wanted to keep the lead."

Sleepy Eye added another run in the sixth when Sean Mathiowetz drove a leadoff double and scored on a wild pitch.

Mathiowetz went 3-for-4 with two runs scored.

The 9-1 cushion was more than enough for Sleepy Eye pitchers Hillesheim and reliever Brooks Domeier as Sleepy Eye held on for a 10-4 win.

Hillesheim recorded the win for Sleepy Eye. He allowed two runs on four hits in seven innings. He struck out 10 and walked eight.

"Caleb is a kind of guy who is effectively wild," Woitas said. "Today was not one of his best days, but he stayed out there and kept fighting for us. He is a gamer like that, he will give you one hundred percent every time he's out on the mound."

Nate Jensen took the loss for Worthington, allowing seven runs in 3 2/3 innings. He walked three and struck out two. Justin Larson went 3-for-4, with a triple and two runs scored for Worthington.

Worthington .. 1 0 0 - 0 0 1 - 0 2 0 --- 4 6 2 11 LOB
Sleepy Eye 0 0 0 - 7 0 1 - 0 1 x --- 10 13 2 10 LOB

Mankato 12, Sleepy Eye 4

(Continuation of New Ulm Journal story in July 23 posting>

In the second game, it was Mankato that scored in the top of the first against Sleepy Eye. Adam Geiger drove Matt Anderson in with a triple to the gap for the first run, and Drew Weber scored on an error for the second run.

**Day 3—2nd District American
Legion Tournament
July 22, 2011
Johnson Park, New Ulm, MN**

Geiger went 3-for-4 with three RBI.

Mankato added three runs in the third inning thanks to a triple by Weber and a two-run home run from Derek Quame.

Weber finished the game going 3-for-5 with four runs scored. He also had a pair of doubles to go with his triple.

Sleepy Eye picked up its first hit of the game in the bottom half of the third inning when Nolan Helget singled. Helget later scored on a single from Mathiowetz.

Mankato led 5-1 after three innings.

Mankato's fourth inning started with a bunt single that just stayed fair; two errors and four hits later, Mankato led 10-1.

The five-run inning was aided by run-scoring extra base hits from Nick Kaus and Weber.

Kaus went 2-for-4 with a double, triple, and two runs scored.

"That is a really good team," Woitas said of Mankato. "They can hit the ball and they do great things defensively. It's a team like that you can't make any mistakes against and we made a few today."

Down by 10 runs in the seventh inning, Sleepy Eye was able to prolong the game when Kral hit a leadoff single and scored on a sacrifice fly from Matt Zinniel.

"We were down 11-1, and we forced a really good team to go nine innings," Woitas said. "The team didn't quit and that is something you can always be proud of."

After Mankato scored one run in the eighth, Sleepy Eye scored two runs to force a ninth inning. Mathiowetz doubled to drive in a run and later scored on a passed ball.

Mathiowetz went 2-for-4 with a pair of RBIs.

Mankato's pitcher Collin Risting held on for the 12-4 win. Risting pitched all nine innings, allowing four runs. He gave up six hits and struck out four.

Kral was the pitcher of record for Sleepy Eye, he worked three innings and allowed five runs on five hits.

"They're a good group of guys," Woitas said of his team. "We get a lot of these guys back next year so it should be another fun year next year as well."

Mankato moves on to play New Ulm Legion Gold today at noon at Johnson Park in the District 2 championship game. Mankato needs to win twice to advance to state.

Mankato National	2	0	3	—	5	0	0	—	1	1	0	—	12	14	2	5	LOB
Sleepy Eye	2	0	3	—	5	0	0	—	1	1	0	—	4	6	4	4	LOB