Midwest Baseball Classic

July 1-4, 2010 New Ulm, Minnesota

Sponsored by American Legion Post 132 with Games at Essig, MN

Pool A
New Ulm Gold
Sioux Falls, SD
Rochester
Apple Valley
Las Vegas, NV
Sleepy Eye

Pool B
New Ulm Blue
Burnsville
Eastview
Duluth
Creighton, NE
Plover, WI

Under Construction

UPPER MIDWEST CLASSIC 2010

New Ulm, Minnesota
July 1-4, 2010

TOURNAMENT RESULTS BY DAY

Results Thursday, July 1, 2010

Upper Midwest Baseball Classic
Pool A
(2) New Ulm Gold 16, Sleepy Eye 4 (5 innings)
Pool B
(1) Plover, WI 14, New Ulm Blue 4 (5 innings)

Results Friday, July 2, 2010

Upper Midwest Baseball Classic
Pool A
(4) Apple Valley 17, Sioux Falls 7 (5 innings)
(6) Rochester 6, Las Vegas 5
(8) Sleepy Eye 6, Apple Valley 5
(10) Las Vegas12, Sioux Falls 2 (6 innings)
(12) Rochester 9, New Ulm Gold 6

Pool B
(3) Eastview 3, Burnsville 0
(5) Creighton 7, Duluth 2
(7) Eastview 11, Plover 6
(9) Creighton 6, Burnsville 2
(11) New Ulm Blue 6, Duluth 5

Results Saturday, July 3, 2010

Pool A
(14) Rochester 10, Sioux Falls 3
(16) Las Vegas 18, sleepy Eye 0
(18) Apple Valley 2, New Ulm Gold 1
(20) Rochester 10, Sleepy Eye 0
(22) Apple Valley 4, Las Vegas 1
(24) New Ulm Gold , Sioux Falls

Pool B
(13) Burnsville 15, Duluth 2
(15) Creighton 10, Plover, WI 0
(17) Eastview 9, New Ulm Blue 0
(19) Eastview 15, Creighton 3
(21) Duluth 11, Plover, WI 6
(23) Burnsville 10, New Ulm Blue 0

RESULTS BY POOL PLAY

Pool A

(2) New Ulm Gold 16, Sleepy Eye 4 (5 innings)
(4) Apple Valley 17, Sioux Falls 7 (5 innings)
(6) Rochester 6, Las Vegas 5
(8) Sleepy Eye 6, Apple Valley 5
(10) Las Vegas12, Sioux Falls 2 (6 innings)
(12) Rochester 9, New Ulm Gold 6
(14) Rochester 10, Sioux Falls 3
(16) Las Vegas 18, sleepy Eye 0
(18) Apple Valley 2, New Ulm Gold 1
(20) Rochester 10, Sleepy Eye 0
(22) Apple Valley 4, Las Vegas 1
(24) New Ulm Gold , Sioux Falls

Pool B

(1) Plover, WI 14, New Ulm Blue 4 (5 innings)
(3) Eastview 3, Burnsville 0
(5) Creighton 7, Duluth 2
(7) Eastview 11, Plover 6
(9) Creighton 6, Burnsville 2
(11) New Ulm Blue 6, Duluth 5
(13) Burnsville 15, Duluth 2
(15) Creighton 10, Plover, WI 0
(17) Eastview 9, New Ulm Blue 0
(19) Eastview 15, Creighton 3
(21) Duluth 11, Plover, WI 6
(23) Burnsville 10, New Ulm Blue 0

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We would, however, appreciate hearing from you to help us plan for next year's coverage of the Classic. .

nusc@newulmtel.net

Upper Midwest Classic kicks off today

POSTED New Ulm Journal

By Jim Bastian — Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - One thing is for certain, the Las Vegas American Legion Baseball team is one that does a lot of traveling.

Las Vegas, coached by former New Ulmite Paul Buboltz, is in the middle of an 18-day trip that will take them from a tournament in Reno, Nevada to a tournament in Billings, Montana to the Upper Midwest Classic here in New Ulm.

From here, Las Vegas which lost to New Ulm Gold last night, will head to Omaha, Nebraska for a tournament and then head west to a tournament in Denver.

Las Vegas, which played in the Upper Midwest Classic two years ago, was 28-6 going into its final game at Billlings.

The team is led by Brooks Klein, who is hitting .475 with 10 home run and 35 runs batted in.

Matt Holman has five home runs along with a .450 batting average.

Las Vegas will open play in the Upper Midwest Classic on Friday against Rochester and then play Sioux Falls later that same day.

Saturday it will meet Sleepy Eye and Apple Valley.

The Sleepy Eye team that it will meet is currently 0-3 on the young season and have been outscored 3-10 in those three losses.

Leading Post 7 this year in hitting is Derek Skovbroten, who is hitting .444. Clint Haala is at .286 while the team is hitting .224.

Matt Helget leads the Sleepy Eye pitching staff with five strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings while Nathan Kral has the lowest ERA on the team at 3.82.

Sleepy Eye opens up tournament play tonight with New Ulm Gold at 8:30 p.m. at Johnson Park.

New Ulm Blue opens the tournament with Plover, Wis. at 6 p.m. tonight at Johnson Park.

Plover (15-6), is led by third baseman Josh Barnes, who is batting .492 with 35 hits and 13 RBIs and 23 stolen bases. Nick Nalbach is batting .439 with 29 hits and 15 RBIs. The team has five players batting over .400.

Kelvin Stroik leads the pitching staff with a 3-0 record, 18 strikeouts and 3.15 ERA.

Meanwhile Duluth Lakeview comes in with a 4-2 record and is led at the plate by Parker Olson, who is hitting .442 with a home run and 10 RBIs. Olson is currently playing college baseball at the University of Minnesota-Duluth as is Adam Zwak. Tyler Olin plays college baseball at St. Scholastica.

Two other players on the Lakeview team have committed to colleges for baseball in Riley and Max Medin, both to the University of Wisconsin-Superior while Tanner Murray is currently undecided.

Sioux Falls comes in with a young squad at 7-19 and are led by Augustana College player Tony Viger with a .380 batting average. He is also 2-0 as a pitcher.

Jace Bunkers is hitting .369 and is undecided about his college choice.

Coach Josh Merrigan said that his team has struggled this year as he has 12 new players on the team. They have 11 players hitting

Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Sleepy Eye's Landon Zinniel puts the tag on New Ulm Legion Gold's Kyle E. Fischer (19) as he slides safely into second during Gold's Upper Midwest Classic win Thursday at Johnson Park in New Ulm. Looking on is Sleepy Eye shortstop Clint Haala. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Gold rolls by Sleepy Eye

POSTED July 2, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Jim Bastian — Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - When you give a team 10 walks and the same amount of hits in a game, you are playing with fire.

And Thursday night, Sleepy Eye Post 7 got burned.

Three Sleepy Eye pitchers issued 10 walks and New Ulm Gold banged out 10 hits.

Toss in two costly errors in the same inning and you have a blowout.

New Ulm sent 14 batters to the plate in the fourth inning and scored 10 runs before the first out was recorded and went on to a 16-4 win over Sleepy Eye in the Upper Midwest Classic.

The game was stopped after 4 1/2 innings because of the 10-run rule.

Dalton Deinhart got the win for New Ulm. He struck out three and walked three while allowing five hits. Matt Helget took the loss for Sleepy Eye.

Jason Shaul was a one-man wrecking crew for Gold, pounding out three hits including a single, double and triple while driving in five runs.

Zach Hoffmann and Adam Loose each had two hits. Kyle E. Fischer, Hoffmann, Loose and Kevin Larson each drove in two runs.

Derek Skovbroten provided the offense for Sleepy Eye with two hits including a double and drove in all four runs.

Gold coach LeRoy Flor felt that his team did not take advantage of what Sleepy Eye pitchers gave them in the first few innings.

What that was was four first inning walks that resulted in just two runs coming on Shaul's two out triple.

In the second inning, New Ulm could not take advantage of an error and a hit batter as Matt Helget worked out of that second - inning jam.

That seemed to spark Sleepy Eye as it erased that 2-0 New Ulm lead in the top of the third with one swing of the bat.

Deinhart opened the inning by walking Scott Salfer before Clint Haala singled. Deinhart fanned Brandon Streich for the first out before an infield single by Craig Fischer loaded the bases.

Deinhart got the second out when he got Landon Zinnel on an infield pop-up. He then got two strikes on Skobroten before Deinhart tried to sneak a fastball by him. Skovbroten laced a three-run double to center field for a 3-2 Post 7 lead.

That lead was short-lived as New Ulm scored four runs in the bottom of the third after there were two outs.

Colton Petron reached on a fielder's choice before Helget walked Aaron Pfaff. Loose reached on an infield single to load the bases. Larson then laced a two-run single to right field for a 4-3 New Ulm lead.

Kyle E. Fischer followed with the third straight single of the inning for a 6-3 lead.

Then in the bottom of the fourth inning, the relatively close game changed.

Hoffmann led off with a single,took second on a passed ball and raced home on Zach Fischer's triple. Shaul followed with and RBI single. Walks to Petron and Pfaff loaded the bases. A Loose single, two infield errors and a walk to Kyle M. Fischer upped the lead to 12-3 with still no one out.

Hoffmann's second single of the inning scored two more runs before Zach Fischer drew the 10th walk of the game. Shaul followed with his second hit of the inning, a two-run single for a 16-3 lead.

"You cannot afford to give a team like Gold those extra bases without earning them," Sleepy Eye coach Bruce Woitas said. "They took advantage of that and some of our mistakes in the field in that (fourth) inning."

"That was discipline at the plate," said Flor about the walks. "But they were not afraid to get two strikes on them and swing the bat."

And outside of what Flor felt was one bad pitch - the fastball to Skovbroten in the third - Deinhart pitched well.

"He did well," Flor said. "He had been having some shoulder problems but now it is better."

Woitas, whose team will face Apple Valley, Las Vegas and Rochester in their next three games, said that they "will see very good competition all weekend. But you can always learn something from those games."

New Ulm Blue drops opener

POSTED July 2, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Jeremy Behnke — Journal Sports Editor

NEW ULM - For a half inning at least, New Ulm Blue was able to hang in there with Plover in the opening game of the Upper Midwest Classic.

But by the fourth inning, Plover was in complete control as it won the tournament opener 14-4 in five innings at Johnson Park.

Blue plays Duluth at 5 p.m. today at Johnson Park and while Plover plays Eastview in Essig at 3 p.m.

Blue scored the first two runs of the game in the top of the first inning when Brandon Johnson doubled home Aaron Wenninger and Jordan Lilleodden.

But Plover answered in the bottom of the first with two runs to tie the game off Blue starter Michael Schlottman. Schlottman last ed 3 1/3 innings, allowing nine runs on eight hits.

Plover's Dylan McHugh earned the win. He allowed four runs on four hits in five innings.

Staff photo by Mary Roufs
New Ulm Legion Blue third baseman Cole Cihak tags out Plover runner Branden Hunkins during the Midwest Classic American Legion baseball tournament at Johnson Park in New Ulm on Thursday night. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Plover took a 4-2 lead in the bottom of the second inning and Blue scored in the top of th third when Johnson singled home Wenninger to make it 4-3.

Plover scored another run in the bottom of the third to go up 5-3 then, in the bottom of the fourth, Plover put the game away by scoring nine times.

Braden Hunkins hit a two-run home run to put his team up 8-3 and later in the inning, Kelvin Stroik hit a three-run double to make it 14-3. Erik Curry scored Blue's fourth run of the game in the top of the fifth.

For Plover, Josh Barnes scored four runs and had two RBIs. He had two doubles and a single. Stroik had three RBIs and Hunkins finished with two RBIs.

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Braden Hunkins hit a two-run home run to put his team up 8-3 and later in the inning, Kelvin Stroik hit a three-run double to make it 14-3.

Erik Curry scored Blue's fourth run of the game in the top of the fifth.

For Plover, Josh Barnes scored four runs and had two RBIs. He had two doubles and a single. Stroik had three RBIs and Hunkins finished with two RBIs.

Eastview opens tourney with win over Burnsville, Apple Valley defeats Sioux Falls

POSTED July 3, 2010 New Ulm Journal

Eastview 3, Burnsville 0

NEW ULM - Eastview opened the Upper Midwest Classic with a shutout over Burnsville at Mueller Park.

Ty McDevitt was the winning pitcher as he went all seven innings. He allowed five hits with eight strikeouts.

Matt Larson was 2-for-2 with a double and RBI.

Jacob Threlkeld took the loss. He went six innings and allowed seven hits with a strikeout.

Cody Aasen had a double.

Apple Valley 17, Sioux Falls 7, 5 inn.

NEW ULM - Apple Valley defeated Sioux Falls in five innings at Mueller Park.

Sam Dunn took the loss for Sioux Falls. He struck out two and walked two.

Ryan Zwolensky earned the win. He struck out four and walked three.

Apple Valley scored six runs in the bottom of the second to take a 7-0 lead and then it scored five more runs in the fourth inning and three in the fifth to take the 17-7 win. Apple Valley finished the game with 16 hits and Sioux Falls had eight hits on the game.

Omaha Creighton 7, Duluth 2

NEW ULM - Omaha Creighton defeated Duluth in the Upper Midwest Classic at Johnson Park.

For Omaha, Mike Pritchard had three hits and four RBIs along with a stolen base.

Mason Raburn had a no-hitter through four innings for Creighton and allowed three hits and two runs. Mickie Keuning took the loss for Duluth.

Rochester A's 6, Las Vegas 5

NEW ULM - Rochester scored four runs in the top of the first en route to the win at Johnson Park.

For Rochester, Josh Benson was 2-for-4 with a triple and a run and Jordan Martini was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run. He also had two stolen bases. Michael Hartman was 2-for-4 with a stolen base.

For Las Vegas, Brooks Klein was 2-for-3 with a home run and an RBI. He scored two runs and also had a stolen base. Blair Goldsack was 1-for-3 with a home run, two RBIs, and a run scored.

Jordan Krause earned the win. He pitched seven innings and allowed five runs on eight hits. He struck out seven and hit a batter.

Klein took the loss. He pitched three innings and allowed five runs on four hits. He struck out two and walked three. Dakota Roehl pitched four innings and allowed a run. He allowed five hits and he struck out three and walked two.

Eastview 11, Plover 6

ESSIG - Eastview defeated Plover at Essig. No game statistics were available.

Creighton 6, Burnsville 2

NEW ULM -Creighton scored all six runs in the final two innings to beat Burnsville at Mueller Park.

Andrew Hook got the win as he went 6 1/3 and allowed two runs with four strikeouts. Zach Leighton was the top hitter going 2-for-4.

Adam Lambrecht took the loss for Burnsville. He allowed six runs on six hits. Billy Vermeer was 3-for-4 with an RBI.

Las Vegas 12, Sioux Falls West 2, six innings

NEW ULM - In the final game of the day, Las Vegas beat Sioux Falls West 12-2 at Mueller Park.

Las Vegas scored 10 runs in the second inning to run away with the win.

Klein was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and Alex Estrella was 3-for-4 with two runs scored for Las Vegas.

Ben Nelson took the loss. He walked five and allowed six hits and eight runs. Deron Davis pitched six innings and earned the win. He struck out three and allowed four hits while walking two.

Sleepy Eye stops Apple Valley

POSTED July 3, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Jeremy Behnke, Journal Sports Editor

ESSIG - In order to have any shot of beating heavily favored Apple Valley in the Upper Midwest Classic, Sleepy Eye legion needed ace pitcher Derek Skovbroten to be on top of his game.

And Sleepy Eye, which lost its opener 16-4 the night before to New Ulm Gold, got just that out of Skovbroten as he shut down the Apple Valley bats for the most part in the 6-5 win over the 76ers.

Skovbroten went the distance, allowing nine hits and five runs. He struck out two. Nate Reagles took the loss for Apple Valley. He pitched all seven innings, allowing 11 hits and six runs. He struck out one.

"He came out and threw well for us," Sleepy Eye coach Bruce Woitas said. "He went out and scored four runs [in the second inning] and we got some clutch hits too."

Sleepy Eye scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the first when Craig Fischer led off with a single and took second on a passed ball. He scored on Landon Zinniel's single.

Then, in the bottom of the second, Sleepy Eye scored four times to go up 5-0. Nathan Kral, Scott Salfer and Matt Helget and all had hits to start the inning and Brandon Streich drove in two runs when he hit a grounder up the middle that was misplayed by the Apple Valley second baseman, scoring two runs.

Craig Fischer followed with an RBi single and later Skovbroten drove home the team's fifth run with another single.

Apple Valley began to chip away in the top of the third, scoring three runs.

Casey Killebrew and Joe Kerlin singled to lead off the inning and Scott Splett had an RBI single that scored Killebrew.

Kerlin later scored on a wild pitch and Kris Goodman scored Apple Valley's third run of the inning, also on a wild pitch.

Sleepy Eye scored a run in the bottom of the third and the 76ers added another run in the fourth to make it 6-4.

Staff photo by Mary Roufs
Sleepy Eye Legion Post 7 pitcher Derek Skovbroten delivers a pitch against Apple Valley during the Upper Midwest Classic American Legion tournament in Essig Friday. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Apple Valley scored one more run in the sixth inning to cut the gap to 6-5, but they 76ers were unable to tie the game in the seventh as Sleepy Eye picked up the win.

Fischer had three hits for Sleepy Eye and Skovbroten had two hits.

Tyler Briggs and Matt Bodin had two hits for Apple Valley. Killebrew also finished with two hits.

Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Duluth pitcher Dougie Lewis catches the ball as New Ulm Legion Blue's Cole Chiak slides safely into home during the Upper Midwest Classic Friday at Johnson Park in New Ulm. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Legion Blue rallies back

POSTED July 3, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Michael Gassett

NEW ULM - Who knew how New Ulm Legion Blue would react after losing to Plover, Wis. 14-4 in the Upper Midwest Classic Opener Thursday. It appears Blue bounced back just fine.

Thanks to five extra-base hits and strong pitching performance by starter Dan Blackstad, New Ulm evened its record in the Classic with a 6-5 victory over Duluth Lakeview.

"It was nice to get the win after getting 10-runned [Thursday]," said Shane Traulich, who had two of those extra-base hits. "Now we are back to five hundred. It's nice to show the fans that we can actually win some games."

Except for Duluth taking a brief 1-0 lead in the top of the first, Blue dominated the rest of the way.

"Every time that they scored, we answered and that was big," Blue coach Jonathon Curry said. "Every inning was kind of a microcosm of last night's game, we got down, we came back and answered. The way they bounced back was big. That is going to help us later on."

New Ulm left just four runners on base, including bases loaded in the second. So it got the key hits when it needed to.

"Those extra-base hits came in handy when we needed them," Traulich said. "We haven't really had that happen too much this year. It was nice getting all of those runs and it helps the pitchers out."

After Duluth jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, Blue countered with three runs in the second and never trailed again.

Traulich and Blackstad singled to start the inning and designated hitter Cole Cihak drove them in with a double left. Erik Curry reached on an error which moved Blackstad to third, and he scored on a wild pitch.

Duluth cut the lead to 3-2 in the top of the third as Adam Zwack reached on an error and scored on Tyler Olin's single.

But New Ulm bounced back again in the bottom half of the inning.

Brandon Johnson hit the first of his two doubles of the game and Traulich tripled to make it 4-2. Cihak, who bats in the seventh spot in the order, again came through with a single to left to make it 5-2.

"Up and down the order we are really getting contribution from one through nine," Curry said. "That is key because sometimes you get to 7-8-9 and you stop hitting. But we are getting those clutch hits."

Duluth started to make it interesting in the top of the fifth. Parker Olson was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning and Olin drove him in with a single to deep center. Olin later scored when Brody Olson reached on an error to make it 5-4.

Blue got big insurance run in the bottom half of the inning. Johnson doubled and Traulich drove in pinch runner Nate Roeder with his third hit of the game and second extra-base hit in as many at bats.

That was all New Ulm needed for the win.

Duluth got its final run in the seventh and had the tying run at first when the game ended.

Dougie Lewis took the loss for Duluth. He pitched the first two innings and allowed five runs on five hits with two strikeouts and two hit batters.

Olson was 3-for-3 with a run scored and Olin had two hits and two RBIs.

Duluth is 0-2 in the Classic and will play Burnsville at 9:30 a.m. today at Essig. It will then play Plover at 4 p.m. at Mueller Park.

Blackstad pitched five strong innings for the win.

He allowed four runs, two earned on five hits with four strikeouts, two walks and three hit batters.

"Dan was great," Curry said. "Sometimes he struggled with his control but when it mattered, he beared down and he got us outs. Him going five innings allowed us to shorten the bullpen a little bit and that was nice."

Matt Linscheid pitched the final two innings for the save.

Traulich was the big bat as he went 3-for-3 with a triple, double and two RBIs.

Cihak was 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs. Brandon Johnson was 2-for-3 with two doubles.

Rochester tops Gold

POSTED July 3, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Jim Bastian

Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
New Ulm Legion Gold's Jason Shaul drops down a bunt during the third inning of Gold's Upper Midwest Classic Game against Rochester Friday at Johnson Park. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

NEW ULM - In Thursday's win over Sleepy Eye, New Ulm Gold got a solid pitching performance.

Less than 24 hours later, that pitching staff did a complete 180-degree turn.

Two Gold pitchers walked eight Rochester batters, hit three and uncorked four wild pitches as Rochester scored four runs off of those miscues and topped New Ulm 9-6 Friday night in the Upper Midwest Classic.

Jared Samuelson got the win for Rochester, the only unbeaten team in Pool A. He went 5 2/3 innings and allowed all six runs while striking out two. Blaine Evans pitched the final 1 1/3 innings.

Colton Petron took the loss for New Ulm, now 1-1 in the UMC.

He lasted 2 2/3 innings and permitted five runs. He walked four and hit two batters and uncorked three wild pitches. Colin Wendinger went the final 3 1/3 innings. He walked two, hit one batter and tossed one wild pitch.

Jordan Martini, Jordan Kangas and Blaine Evans each had two hits with Evans, Eric Sheridan and Brad Pastika each driving in two runs.

Kyle E. Fischer, Kyle M. Fischer, Zach Hoffmann, Zach Fischer and Aaron Pfaff each had two hits as New Ulm outhit Rochester 10-8 in the near three-hour contest. Zach Fischer drove in two runs.
"The walks that we allowed you are not going to win baseball games with," Gold coach LeRoy Flor said. "They only had eight hits for their nine runs. Giving up eight hits is not that bad. But once you have your defense on their heels with all of those walks - I do not understand it. The pitchers that I threw tonight usually do not throw balls."

But they did Friday.

New Ulm took a short-lived 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Kyle E. Fischer singled and eventually came around to score on a Zach Fischer double.

But Rochester quickly erased that with three runs in the bottom of the first off of Colton Petron. Josh Benson and Martini each doubled before Kangas singled in a run. A walk to John Meyer loaded the bases before Evans singled in the second run of the inning. An Eric Sheridan sacrifice fly scored the third run.

Gold countered with three runs in the top of the third. Kyle E. Fischer singled, stole second and took third on a balk. Zach Hoffmann reached on an infield single. Zach Fischer's single scored a run before an error and a Jason Shaul squeeze bunt added two more runs.

But the wheels started to come off of the New Ulm pitching staff in the third and fourth innings.

In the third, Petron walked Kangas who was then sacrificed to second by Meyer. Petron hit Evans before a passed ball and a walk to Sheridan loaded the bases. Pastika was hit by a pitch to force in a run. Bryan Kehren dropped a fly ball to allow another run to score. Petron then walked Matt Pesrson ending his night with 85 pitches in just 2 2/3 innings.

Colin Wendinger entered and got the final out.

In the fourth, Wendinger also had control trouble as the A's scored two more runs on just one hit, that being a lead-off infield single from Martini.

After Wendinger struck out the next two batters, he walked Evans and hit Sheridan to load the bases. A walk and a wild pitch added two more runs. In the third and fourth innings, Rochester scored four runs on just one hit.

Meanwhile, New Ulm tried to come back with single runs in the fourth and sixth innings on a Zach Hoffmann single and a Kyle M. Fischer base hit.

Rochester tacked on two insurance runs in the sixth on a double, an error and two more singles.

"We also had some errors that cost us," he said. "We really need to win our game with Apple Valley (at 1 p.m.). "We have to get better," he said.

Staff photo by Mark Newsom
Sleepy Eye Legion Post 7's Landon Zinniel looks for the ball as Las Vegas American Legion's Daniel Gonzales slides safely into second during their game Saturday afternoon at Mueller Park in New Ulm. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Rochester and Eastview are perfect in pool play

Las Vegas and Creighton also advance

POSTED July 4, 2010

Creighton 10, Plover 0

NEW ULM - Pete Macke allowed one hit as Creighton beat Plover, Wis. 10-0 in five innings at Mueller Park.

Macke struck out six and allowed five walks with a hit batter.

Creighton had five runs in the second and four in the fourth to blow the game open.

Zack Cloud took the loss for Plover. He went four innings and allowed 10 runs on eight hits with four walks.

Chase Dudzinski was 2-for-3 with two home runs and three RBIs for Creighton.

Derek Petrich had a homer and two RBIs. Mike Pritchard had a triple and RBI and Zach Leighton was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs.

Las Vegas 18, Sleepy Eye 0, 5 innings

Las Vegas scored at least three runs in each inning but the first as it beat Sleepy Eye at Mueller Park.

Billy Santiwan earned the win as he pitched all five innings and allowed three hits with three strikeouts.

Brooks Klein was 2-for-4 with a grand slam and five RBIs.

Matt Holmen was 2-for-4 with a homer and two RBIs. Santiwain, Connor Klein and Blair Goldsack each had two hits for Las Vegas.

Caleb Hillesheim took the loss for Sleepy Eye. He pitched 2 2/3 innings and allowed nine runs on eight hits with three strikeouts.

Brandon Streich pitched an inning and a third and allowed four runs on two hits. Scott Salfer pitched an inning and allowed five runs on three hits.

Sleepy Eye also lost to Rochester 10-0 in Game 20 played in Essig.

Duluth 11, Plover 6

Duluth earned its first win of the Upper Midwest Classic with its victory over Plover at Mueller Park.

Plover jumped out to a 6-0 lead through the first four innings before Duluth tied it with a six-run fourth.

Duluth then scored three in the fifth and two in the sixth for the win.

Duluth out-hit Plover 11-6 in the contest.

Josh Wasieleski took the loss for Plover. He struck out four and walked two.

Adam Zwack picked up the win for Duluth with six strikeouts and three walks.

Las Vegas 4, Apple Valley 1

Las Vegas moved on to play on Championship Sunday with the win over Apple Valley at Mueller Park.

Las Vegas scored three runs in the bottom of the first and that was all it needed for the win.

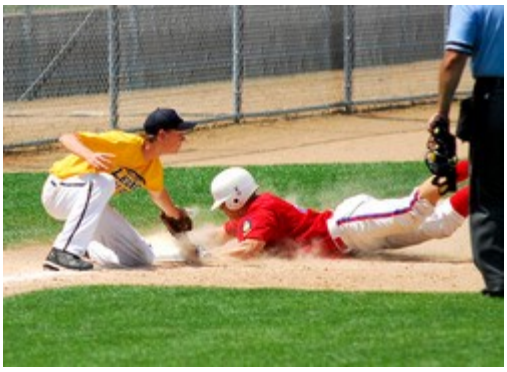
Goldsack, Scott Tomassetti and Julian Cutolo all had RBIs in the inning.

Apple Valley scored its lone run in the top of the fourth when Kris Goodman singled and scored on an error.

Las Vegas added its final run in the bottom of the inning.

Goldsack earned the win as he struck out six and walked one.

Ryan Geary took the loss for Apple Valley. He allowed three earned runs and walked five



Staff photo by Mark Newsom
New Ulm Legion Gold's Kevin Larson tries to get a tag down on Apple Valley American Legion's Scott Splett during their Saturday afternoon Upper Mid-west Classic game at Johnson Park in New Ulm.For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Fischer loses no-hitter then game

POSTED July 4, 2010

By Jim Bastian — Journal Sports Writer
NEW ULM - For six innings, New Ulm Gold's Kyle E. Fischer was as good as gold on the mound in the game with Apple Valley.

The righthander had faced 18 batters, the minimum amount of batters in that span, and hadn't allowed a hit.

The only two 76er players to reach base had been on a first-inning walk and a sixth-inning error.

Both runners had immediately been picked off first by Fischer.

But in the top of the seventh inning, Apple Valley got its only two hits of the game and it cost New Ulm.

Scott Splett led off the top of the seventh with a triple - the first hit of the game for Apple Valley - and it led to a two-run rally as the 76er's snuck by Gold 2-1.

The loss by Gold eliminated it from play on Championship Sunday.

Josh Johnson got the win for Apple Valley. He went the distance and allowed one run and six hits while striking out six.

Kyle E. Fischer took the hard-luck loss for Gold, allowing just those two hits and two runs while striking out five. At one time in the game, Fischer set down 14 straight Apple Valley hitters.

Splett and Tyler Briggs had the only two hits for the 76ers. Briggs drove in both runs in the bottom of the seventh to take a victory away from New Ulm.

Kyle M. Fischer and Zach Hoffmann had doubles for New Ulm with Zach Fischer driving in the lone run for New Ulm.

For New Ulm Gold coach LeRoy Flor, it was a tough way for his team to lose a game especially with the performance of Fischer.

"Kyle pitched a hell of a ballgame," said Flor who has seen his pitching staff have a Jekyll and Hyde performance in the tournament. "He pitched terrific. There are no two ways around it. It does not get any better than how he pitched."

While Fischer pitched well for New Ulm, Apple Valley's Josh Johnson also had a strong game. He and Fischer were hooked up in a scoreless game through five innings.

Unlike Fischer, who allowed just a one-out walk to Kris Goodman in the first before picking him off, and having Casey Killebrew reach on a one-out error in the sixth before adding his name to the list of runners picked off first, Johnson has to battle through some New Ulm threats.

In the third inning, Kyle M. Fischer stroked a two-out double and Hoffmann followed with a walk.

But Johnson struck out Zach Fischer for the third out.

In the sixth, when Gold scored its lone run, he again was able to keep New Ulm to that lone run.

Hoffmann led off that seventh inning with a double before a balk by Johnson moved him to third base. Zach Fischer's sacrifice fly to center field scored Hoffmann for a 1-0 lead.

After Johnson fanned Jason Shaul for the second out of the inning, Aaron Pfaff singled to center, promptly stole second and raced to third when Apple Valley Briggs, the catcher had is throw sail into center field.

Johnson retired Kaleb Juntunen on a lazy fly ball to left to end the threat.

"We are not executing," Flor said. "We get runners on first and second [in the third inning] we need to get them in. We are not doing that now. We had threats but we are getting some bad at-bats when we need better at-bats.

"With runners on base, you should always get better at-bats. There will be holes open in the infield and the pitcher will pitch differently." That is what Apple Valley did in that seventh inning.

After Splett's lead-off triple, Fischer hit Goodman to place runners on first and third with no outs. Nathan Mowry was retired on a groundout - the eighth groundout of the game coaxed by Fischer - Gold decided to intentionally walk Bryce Hoffa to load the bases and set up a force at any base or a potential inning-ending double play.

But Briggs spoiled that when he drove an 0-1 offering from Fischer into the gap in left-center, scoring both Splett and Goodman for the win.

"We should not have lost this game," said Flor, who saw his team strand eight men on base in the game. "We need to get back on the right foot."

Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Burnsville's Dan Motl slides safely into home as New Ulm Legion Blue catcher McKenzie Reinarts waits for the ball during Blue's Upper Midwest Classic loss Saturday at Johnson Park in New Ulm. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Legion Blue drops both games

POSTED Ju;ly 4, 2010 New Ulm Journal

NEW ULM - After pounding out eight hits and seven runs in its win Friday, New Ulm Legion Blue struggled to find its offense Saturday.

In two games, Blue combined for 10 hits and no runs as it lost twice in the final day of the Upper Midwest Classic.

Eastview beat New Ulm 7-0 in the first game Saturday and Burnsville won the second game over Blue 10-0 in five innings.

In the first game with Eastview, New Ulm kept it close until Eastview put together five runs in the final three innings to pull away with a 7-0 victory.

Joseph Voss earned the win for the Thunder as he pitched a complete game and allowed five hits with four strikeouts.

Matt Decovich, David Barry and Alec Knop each went 2-for-3.

Ted Mohr took the loss for Legion Blue. He went 5 2/3 innings and allowed seven runs on eight hits with two strikeouts.

Cole Cihak had two of Blue's five hits in the game.

Erik Curry, Aaron Wenninger and Jordan Lilleodden each had a hit as well.

In the second game with Burnsville, New Ulm starter Collin Clyne started strong.

He held the Cobras scoreless for the first two innings but they finally got to him in the third.

Billy Vermeer led off the inning by reaching on an error and he scored when John Loeffler doubled off the fence in left. Loeffler later scored on a fielder's choice by Jon Heim.

That broke the tied game and put Burnsville up 2-0.

But it was fourth Burnsville really did its damage.

Tom Hallgren walked, Garrett Walters singled and Hallgren scored when Dan Motl reached on an error.

After a Vermeer singled, Loeffler made it 5-0 when he deposited a Clyne offering over the fence in right.

That ended Clyne's night as he allowed seven runs on 10 hits. Nate Roeder came in relief and Derek Johnson greeted him with a double to center. Johnson later scored on an error.

Burnsville ended the game in the bottom of the fifth when Motl singled and Vermeeer walked and Michael Grosulak hit a double off the fence in left-center to make the final 10-0.

Hayden Baker picked up the win for Burnsville. He pitched five innings and allowed five hits with two walks.Burnsville had 10 hits in the game. Motl, Loeffler and Johnson each had two hits for the Cobras. Loeffler had four RBIs.

Curry, Wenninger, Lilleodden, Shane Traulich and Cody Baumgartner had the hits for Blue.

Sleepy Eye stops Apple Valley

POSTED July 4, 2010

By Jeremy Behnke, Journal Sports Editor

Staff photo by Mary Roufs
Sleepy Eye Legion Post 7 pitcher Derek Skovbroten delivers a pitch against Apple Valley during the Upper Midwest Classic American Legion tournament in Essig Friday. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

ESSIG - In order to have any shot of beating heavily favored Apple Valley in the Upper Midwest Classic, Sleepy Eye legion needed ace pitcher Derek Skovbroten to be on top of his game.

And Sleepy Eye, which lost its opener 16-4 the night before to New Ulm Gold, got just that out of Skovbroten as he shut down the Apple Valley bats for the most part in the 6-5 win over the 76ers.

Skovbroten went the distance, allowing nine hits and five runs. He struck out two.

Nate Reagles took the loss for Apple Valley. He pitched all seven innings, allowing 11 hits and six runs. He struck out one.

"He came out and threw well for us," Sleepy Eye coach Bruce Woitas said. "He went out and scored four runs [in the second inning] and we got some clutch hits too."

Sleepy Eye scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the first when Craig Fischer led off with a single and took second on a passed ball. He scored on Landon Zinniel's single.

Then, in the bottom of the second, Sleepy Eye scored four times to go up 5-0. Nathan Kral, Scott Salfer and Matt Helget and all had hits to start the inning and Brandon Streich drove in two runs when he hit a grounder up the middle that was misplayed by the Apple Valley second baseman, scoring two runs.

Craig Fischer followed with an RBi single and later Skovbroten drove home the team's fifth run with another single.

Apple Valley began to chip away in the top of the third, scoring three runs.

Casey Killebrew and Joe Kerlin singled to lead off the inning and Scott Splett had an RBI single that scored Killebrew.

Kerlin later scored on a wild pitch and Kris Goodman scored Apple Valley's third run of the inning, also on a wild pitch.

Sleepy Eye scored a run in the bottom of the third and the 76ers added another run in the fourth to make it 6-4.

Apple Valley scored one more run in the sixth inning to cut the gap to 6-5, but they 76ers were unable to tie the game in the seventh as Sleepy Eye picked up the win.

Fischer had three hits for Sleepy Eye and Skovbroten had two hits.

Tyler Briggs and Matt Bodin had two hits for Apple Valley. Killebrew also finished with two hits.

Gold rebounds with win over Sioux Falls

POSTED July 4, 2010 New Ulm Journal

New Ulm Legion Gold rebounded from its 2-1 loss to Apple Valley earlier in the day with an 8-5 victory over Sioux Falls to close out the Upper Midwest Classic with a 2-2 record.

Kyle M. Fischer got the win for Gold, going 6 1/3 innings. He struck out four.

Josh Johnson took the loss for Sioux Falls. He allowed 11 hits.

Kyle E. Fischer and Colton Petron each had two hits for New Ulm.

Aaron Pfaff drove in three runs.

Both teams scored a run in the first before Gold scored twice in the third on a two-run single from Pfaff.

New Ulm broke the game open with five runs in the fourth.

A two-run single by Zach Hoffmann and a two-run triple off of the bat of Petron were the big hits.

Jared Frazier had two hits for Sioux Falls.

End of an era for Rochester Legion baseball

POSTED July 6, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Jim Bastian — Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - When the 2010 Upper Midwest Classic ended Sunday afternoon, it was the end of an era for the Rochester A's American Legion baseball team.

Keith Kangas, who has coached the Rochester American Legion baseball team for 30 years with the last 24 of them coming to the Upper Midwest Classic, said that this year will be his last at that position.

In that time, his teams have won five tournament championships and 78 games. They have also finished second six times and have posted a 78-41 record.

Kangas said that he first found out about the tournament when he was contacted by then New Ulm Legion baseball manager Roger Schnurrer back in 1986.

"Rochester came over to New Ulm and saw the baseball parks here - had a great experience - and we have been back every year since," he said.

And in those 24 years, the baseball fans of New Ulm have seen his family grow each summer.

"Blake, who is our oldest son and is helping me coach now, was about four years old at the time," recalled Kangas."And our other three sons came along in strollers and then played for Rochester.

"It seemed like every summer when we came back we had a new one," he added.

Kangas' second oldest son, Alex, is a senior goaltender for the University of Minnesota hockey team this year and has been selected as a co-captain of the team.

"I have a met a lot of great people here," Kangas said. "I have a lot of great memories and have had a lot of good players come through here."

One of Kangas' biggest baseball memories happened at Johnson Park in 2003.

And it was not winning the 2003 Upper Midwest Classic by beating Sioux Falls East.

It happened about a month later when his team won the Central Plains Regional by beating New Ulm Gold in a game that took two days to finish because of a suspended game due to rain.

And any baseball fan in New Ulm will forever remember how that suspended game ended - one pitch and then a designed pick-off play at second base.

"We set that play up the night before," Kangas said. "The batter [Eric Austvold] had a 3-1 count on him and [Jamie] Hoffmann was on deck. They had runners on first and second and there were two outs. New Ulm trailed by a run.

"We knew that they would like to get Hoffmann to the plate," Kangas said. "We set up a pick-off play at second base but we knew that we had to throw a strike to run the count full - we figured that the batter would be taking a pitch. He threw a strike."

And Rochester won the game 3-2.

Kangas was asked what if that pitcher had thrown a ball instead and Hoffmann would have come to the plate with the bases loaded?

"New Ulm probably would have gone to the World Series instead of us," he said

Rochester left New Ulm with the Central Plains banner and eventually brought home the American Legion World Series championship banner.

He said that even if he is not coaching Rochester, that does not mean he will not come back to New Ulm if Rochester comes back to the Classic.

"I have a lot of good friends here in New Ulm," he said.

Blake will probably not take over for his father as coach.

RECORD AT CLASSIC: Las Vegas and Rochester combined for four home runs in the championship game of the Upper Midwest Classic - three of those home runs coming from Las Vegas' Brooks Klein, it set a record for home runs in the title game.

And if you were at that championship game on Sunday, you saw two long home runs off of the bat of the lefthanded hitting Klein with both traveling well over 375 feet. He will attend Western Nevada Community College next year.