

# The 2008 SPECTATOR

June 13, 2008

*Baseball is a game where a curve is an optical illusion, a screwball can be a pitch or a person, stealing is legal and you can spit anywhere you like except in the umpire's eye or on the ball.*

"One percent of ballplayers are leaders of men. The other ninety-nine percent are followers of women."

## North Star Managers

The North Star league introduced 5 new managers to the league in 2008. Tim Thode in Hutchinson, Mike Even-son in Kingston, Big Lake's Dan Loegering, Maple Lake's Dale Decker and Ken Ott in Elk River. Ken holds the unique status of being the most experienced manager in the league with his 37 total years in charge, but being in his first year in the North Star League.

In addition, 3 managers enter their second year at the helm, Rick Iano at Monticello, Ron Mead in Rogers and Mike Freske with St. Michael. Besides Ken Ott, the league has 3 managers with over 25 years of service, John Timpe in Maple Plain with 36 years, Herb Koch at Loretto and Mark Forsman in D-C are in their 28th year in their posts.

### EAST STANDINGS

	W	L	G.B.
<b>Maple Plain</b>	9	1	...
<b>Hutchinson</b>	5	2	2.5
<b>Loretto</b>	4	3	3.5
<b>Delano</b>	1	3	5.0
<b>Mound</b>	1	6	6.5
<b>Rockford</b>	1	8	7.5

"There are three secrets to managing. The first secret is have patience. The second is be patient. And the third most important secret is patience."

### NORTH STANDINGS

	W	L	G.B.
<b>St. Michael</b>	6	0	...
<b>Big Lake</b>	3	3	3.0
<b>Elk River</b>	3	4	3.5
<b>Albertville</b>	1	4	4.5
<b>Rogers</b>	1	7	6.0

How much difference does a manager make? Division leaders Maple Plain, D-C and St Michael are managed by two veteran managers and a second year manager. All three teams have been part of the elite teams in the league in recent seasons and a change of managers at St Michael has not derailed them.

A look at the teams with only one win - Delano, Mound, Rockford, Albertville and Rogers reveals teams that have had below .500 records in recent years are still struggling to win games. Their managers years of service are: 5 years (Delano), 8 years (Mound), 6 years (Rockford), 13 in (Albertville) and 2 years at Rogers.

The first year manager's teams have all won 3 to 5 games and stand in the middle of their divisions.



### WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	G.B.
<b>D-C</b>	3	0	...
<b>Maple Lake</b>	3	1	.5
<b>Howard Lake</b>	5	3	.5
<b>Buffalo</b>	5	4	1.0
<b>Monticello</b>	5	4	1.0
<b>Kingston</b>	3	6	3.0

It would seem the players who hit well and pitch well have more to do with the number of wins each team achieves. Still, we need to thank all of these managers for their time and dedication. Without Team managers there would be no league and no baseball in our towns.



### NSL Managers and their years of service.

Ken Ott	Elk River	37	Mark Benzer	Buffalo	3
John Timpe	Maple Plain	36	Rick Iano	Monticello	2
Mark Forsman	D-C	28	Ron Mead	Rogers	2
Herb Koch	Loretto	28	Mike Freske	St Michael	2
Mike Gagnon	Howard Lake	14	Mike Enerson	Kingston	1
Paul Schumacher	Albertville	13	Tim Thode	Hutchinson	1
Andy Snyder	Mound	8	Dan Loegering	Big Lake	1
Ryan Rassett	Rockford	6	Dale Decker	Maple Lake	1
Steve Eilen	Delano	5			

"I'll tell you what's helped me my entire life. I look at baseball as a game. It's something where people can go out, enjoy and have fun. Nothing more."

# The NORTH



## NORTH Stats

Player	AB	R	H	Ave
Mt Loegering BL	16	3	10	625
T Carlson StM	15	5	6	400
D Brandt Alb	15	2	6	400
A Stein BL	16	1	6	375
C Volkman StM	14	3	5	357
J Stanek Rog	17	2	6	353
K Krzmarzick StM	23	5	8	348
B Tokar ER	29	4	10	345
B Kneefe StM	24	3	8	333
J Ledin BL	21	6	7	333
J Vidor Rog	18	5	6	333
D Ebner ER	18	4	6	333
D Bebus Alb	12	1	4	333
M Barnard Alb	13	0	4	308
J Vasseur Rog	23	2	7	304
B Valerius StM	23	9	7	304

### 2B Leader

B Kneefe StM 4

### 3B Leader

J Vidor Rog 2

### HR Leaders

D Brandt Alb 1  
C Volkman StM 1  
Mit Loegering BL 1

### RBI Leaders

C Volkman StM 7

### Top Pitchers by team

Name	IP	W-L	SO	E.R.A.
A McGrane StM	32	4-0	24	1.13
M Nelson Rog	14	1-0	15	2.57
R Dutton Alb	12	0-2	13	3.08
R Michaelis BL	25	3-0	23	3.24
T Jarmoluk ER	32	2-1	18	3.38



"Catching a flyball is a pleasure, but knowing what to do with it after you catch it is a business."

The Saints have started 6-0 with a formidable offensive attack featuring Tyler Carlson, Chris & Nick Volkman, Bobby Kneefe, Kyle Krzmarzick, Brandon Valerius and Mike Freske and almost anyone else they put in he line up. Adam McGrane has thrown two 1-hit shutouts and stands 4-0 overall. Joe Barbeln has picked up the other two wins on the mound.



The battle among the 'C' teams in this division seems to be for second place as Big Lake and Elk River have waffled around the .500 mark so far and Albertville and Rogers have each picked up only one win to date.

The White Caps have profited from the players who gained league experience playing for Monticello the last couple of years. Matt Loegering leads the division in batting average and Alex Stein and Josh Ledin are among the leaders. The pitching of Ryan Michaelis, Derek Ivory, Loegering and Stein have kept the White Caps close as they gave St. Michael its closest game of the year, losing out 4-3 to the Saints.



The Pioneers first year back in the league has been an up and down affair. They were shut down by St Michael, lost close games against Maple Plain and Big Lake and dropped an 8-1 game to Monticello. The Pioneers shut out Rockford, edged Mound 4-3 and defeated Rogers. Bob Tokar and Dan Ebner lead the team in hitting, but Tim Watson, Pat McCarthy, Andy Sauk and Jason Rusch have each come up with multiple hit games. Tony Jarmoluk has been the winning pitcher twice. Tony, Alex Moses and Kyle Borntrages have logged the majority of the innings for the Elk River staff.



The Villains have not hit at the rate they expected and the result has been only one win in their first five games. Dan Brandt, Drew Bebus and Mike Barnard are hitting over .300 and Todd Klaers and Scott Elert chip in a few hits, but the Villains have not strung a lot of hits together to produce enough runs. Paul Schumacher threw a five hitter in their 5-2 win over Rogers. Ryan Dutton has a respectable 3.08 ERA as the main innings eater for Albertville.



The Red Devils still show their youth in their second year in the league. They can't seem to avoid the one bad inning that costs them most games. They finally reversed that trend against the Kings, scoring 4 times in the 7th inning to win 6-4. Marshall Nelson was the winning pitcher. Top hitters have been Josh Stanek, Josh Vidor and Joshua Vasseur.



ST. MICHAEL

ELK RIVER

ALBERTVILLE

BIG LAKE

ROGERS



The EAST

MAPLE PLAIN HUTCHINSON  
LORETTO MOUND DELANO ROCKFORD

The Diamond Devils top the East division, relying on good defense and pitching to squeek out many of their victories. They beat the Kings 2-0 collecting only 2 hits in the game. The Polecats took them to 11 innings before MP won 4-3. They needed a run in the 9th and 10th to knock off Mound. Adam Gregg is the only Diamond Devil hitting over .300. KC Johnson does lead the league in doubles with 6 and he, Adam, Brad Mazer and Andrew Engebretson have hit HRs. Gregg, Pat McPherson and Paul Kunz have done the heavy lifting from the mound.

The Huskies have produced one of the better offenses this year, starting with triple crown threat Luke Klitzke who currently leads the division in average, HR and RBI. Micheal Kutter, Tim Thode, Justin Juergenson and Jordan Schwarze are also making strong contributions offensively. The pitching is spread between 4 hurlers, Cory Trick, Adam Padrnos, Kyle Messner and Corey Ryks. The Huskies losses came at the hands of Maple Plain and St. Michael. They have beaten the other C teams in the division as well as Maple Lake among the B teams. The Maple Plain rematch is scheduled for June 25 in Hutch.

The Larks have thrown 2 shutouts and have four hitters, Brandon Scanlon, Kent Koch and Nathan & Tyler Maher among the league leader this year. They rallied in the 9th to tie Maple Plain and winning in the 11th inning, 10-9. Brandon Scanlon went 5 for 5 with 6 RBI in that game. Two of the Larks losses were to Hutchinson and the other was an 8-3 to Monticello.

The A's have only played four league games, winning one, 5-1 against Rockford, Kevin Jaunich went 3 for 5, Aaron Swenson 2 for 3 and Brent Muckenhirn 2 for 4. In their rematch, the River Bandits shut them down on 2 hits as the A's lost 1-0. The Mallards also handed the A's a 1-0 defeat that took 11 innings. Muckenhirn and Derek Falde were the only players with multiple hits, each collecting two. The A's third loss came against St Michael 3-2. The A's managed 5 hits. Delano has pitched well, led by Muckenhirn, but are still struggling to find ways to score runs.

The Mallards are another team who needs to find more offense. Only Pete Harrell and Andy Snyder have been consistent producers so far. Their one win over Delano was an 11 inning, 1-0 game. Like their 10 inning loss at Maple Plain, most of their losses have been close, low scoring games. Chris Harrell, Jeff Barrett and Peter Sychs have been outstanding on the mound and with a few more runs, the Mallards could still win their share of games.

The River Bandits received a 2-hit gem from Jason Lesser in their 1-0 win over Delano. Otherwise they seem to suffer from too many costly errors or they have one bad inning that does them in. Ryan Rassatt and Niles Lewin have been the main producers on offense. Jason Lesser, Nate Hochmuth and Cole Hanson have provided good work on the mound, so with a little improvement, they can still be a tough to beat.



**"They should move first base back one step to eliminate all those close plays."**



EAST Stats

<i>Player</i>	<i>AB</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Ave</i>
L Klitzke Hut	23	10	13	565
R Rassatt Roc	29	0	13	448
A Gregg MP	43	9	19	442
Br Scanlon Lor	28	11	12	429
A Synder Md	30	5	12	400
N Maher Lor	21	5	8	381
P Harrell Md	30	3	11	367
J Juergensen Hut	25	3	9	360
J Schwarze Hut	31	7	11	355
D Kerber Roc	29	3	10	345
T Thode Hut	29	2	10	345
T Maher Lor	30	5	10	333
N Lewin Roc	32	1	10	313
K Koch Lor	29	5	9	310
M Kutter Hut	23	5	7	304



**2B Leader**

K Johnson 6

**3B Leaders**

K Koch Lor 2  
T Maher Lor 2

**HR Leaders**

L Klitzke Hut 4  
T Maher Lor 2

**RBI Leaders**

L Klitzke Hut 10  
A Gregg MP 10



**Top Pitchers by team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>E.R.A.</b>
T Traen Lor	14	1-3	18	0.00
A Gregg MP	24	2-0	36	0.76
Muckenhirn Del	15	1-1	18	1.20
C Trick Hut	15	2-0	18	1.80
J Lesser Roc	34	1-3	11	1.84
C Harrell Md	20	0-1	13	2.33



**"The great thing about baseball is that there's a crisis every day."**



**The WEST**



*I'm not an athlete. I'm a professional baseball player*

**WEST Stats**

<u>Player</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>Ave</u>
J McKinley DC	11	4	6	545
R Long HL	24	8	11	458
N Hill Buf	22	8	10	455
D Birkholz DC	11	3	5	455
B Aho Kin	35	8	15	429
K Jerpseth ML	17	0	7	412
J Compton Buf	27	5	11	407
T Fuller ML	13	5	5	385
J Stueven HL	21	0	8	381
K Salmen Kin	14	0	5	357
G Holker Mon	40	10	14	350
A Brion Mon	26	4	9	346
T Sonnek HL	27	4	9	333
Schreifels Mon	34	7	11	324
V Pokornowski Kin	31	4	10	323
D Bauer Buf	19	11	6	316
A Gagnon HL	16	5	5	313

<b>2B Leader</b>	<b>3B Leader</b>
S Iano Mon 4	B Aho Kin 2

<b>HR Leader</b>	<b>RBI Leader</b>
R Vega Buf 2	S Iano Mon 14

**Top Pitchers by team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>E.R.A.</b>
E Cox Buf	12	0-0	6	0.00
J Riewer DC	18	2-0	20	1.00
W Bayuk Kin	21	1-1	15	1.31
C Hardie Mon	24	3-1	12	1.50
S Heber HL	24	2-1	21	1.50
R Klingelhofer ML	18	1-0	6	3.00

BUFFALO

HOWARD LAKE

KINGSTON

DASSEL-COKATO

MAPLE LAKE

MONTICELLO

The West is the hardest division to figure out. D-C has played the fewest games, but has won all three to lead the division. Maple Lake is 3-1. The B Teams seem to hold the advantage, but if they falter, Buffalo, Howard Lake and Monticello are all bunched together in a tight battle for the top seed in the playoffs among C Teams.

The Saints have beaten Monticello, Buffalo and Kingston, scoring 27 and yielding only 7 runs. Justin McKinley and Dan Birkholz lead the team in average in their first three league games. John Riewer earned the wins against the Kings and the Polecats with Birkholz and McKinley sharing mound duty against the Bulldogs.

The Lakers have beaten Buffalo 9-1 behind a complete game from Ryan Klingelhofer. They defeated Kingston 6-3 and got by Monticello 8-7 in 10 innings, with Ben Junger picking up his first win. The offense has been led by Todd Fuller, Keith Jerpseth. Chad Raiche, Marcus Zahn, Darrin & Cody Decker. Their lone loss came in an error plagued game to Hutchinson 8-4.

The Orphans, Bulldogs and Polecats are running neck and neck as they have split games between each other, beaten most other 'C' Teams and lost to 'B' teams from D-C and Maple Lake.

The Orphans still rely mainly on their top four pitchers Shane Heber, Jake Streich, Adam Koch and Perry Thineson to keep games low scoring and close and their three losses have been 3-0 to Monti, 2-1 to Maple Plain and 5-3 to Buffalo. When they have scored 4 or more, they have won every time. Offensively, Ryan Long, Andy Gagnon, John Stueven and Tim Sonnek are on the leader board.

The Bulldogs have rolled over Kingston, Albertville, Rockford and Rogers and won a close one 5-3 over Howard Lake. D-C, Maple Lake and Kingston beat Buffalo handily and the Orphans won the rematch 6-3. Nate Hill, Derek Bauer, Ramon Vega and Ed Cox have led the attack while Corey Braun and Ed Cox have turned in the strongest performances on the mound.

The Polecats have lost a couple of heart breaking, extra inning games to Maple Lake and Maple Plain, lost badly to D-C, split two close games with the Orphans and won over Rockford, Mound, Elk River and Loretto. Chris Hardie shut out Howard Lake, Jason and Greg Holker and Jeremy Schmidt have also spent a lot of innings on the mound. The hot bats have belonged to Adam Brion, Greg Holker and Eric Schreffels.

The Kings deserve a better fate than being in last place in this division. Willie Bayuk had a no hitter going against Maple Plain with two out in the 8th before losing the game 2-0. Vinnie Pokornowski has pitched and hit well. Kurt Salmen joins Billy Aho among the hitting leaders in the West division.



**Minnesota Baseball Association**

[minnesotabaseball.org](http://minnesotabaseball.org)

