

# Batter's Box

North Star League News

July 30, 2021, Volume 2 – Issue 10



## Game of the week:

Hutchinson started the week in 4<sup>th</sup> place by mere percentage points, essentially needing to win out to capture the league title. A bad loss by Delano to Howard Lake 13-2 improved their chances going in to Friday's showdown with the Athletics. The Huskies came to hit that's for sure, knocking around Delano starter Jake Gleason and jumping out to a 9-0 lead going in to the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Delano hit their way back in it scoring 3 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 4 in the 7<sup>th</sup> to cut the lead to 10-9 heading in to the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. The Athletics got a little sloppy in the 9<sup>th</sup> allowing Hutch to get a run on a throwing error by the centerfielder. Delano had the leadoff man get on in the 9<sup>th</sup> which was then erased by a double play, essentially ending any threat that the Athletics could muster up. Hutch held off Delano 11-9, and followed that up by beating Loretto on Sunday. Also 11-9 to win the league title.



Paulson took full advantage of Delano playing 4 games last week. Jack went 10-19 driving in 4 runs, and scoring 4 himself. He was also 3-3 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning alone on Saturday at Maple Plain.

## Standings

	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Hutchinson	16	4	24	4
Delano	15	5	17	12
Buffalo	15	5	15	7
Loretto	15	5	15	10
Howard Lake	11	9	15	13
Litchfield	9	11	12	14
Maple Lake	8	12	15	15
Maple Plain	7	13	9	13
Cokato	6	14	6	16
Dassel-Cokato	6	14	8	25
Waverly	2	18	7	26

## Looking Ahead:

**LEAGUE PLAYOFFS - July 31-August 1**

**#11 Waverly at #8 Maple Plain - 4:00pm (July31)**

Maple Plain started to come on strong going in to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and started back up swinging the bats well



Joey Hyde (Litchfield) has compiled 11 innings over the extended week picking up a victory for the Blues while giving up only 1 earned run and striking out 9.

## Players of the week:

**Jack Paulson (Delano) 10-19 with 4 RBI and 2 doubles.**

**Joey Hyde (Litchfield) 11 IP striking out 9 and giving up only 1 earned run**

**Jeremy Maschino (Delano) Maschino threw a complete game shutout on Sunday over Litchfield. He struck out 8 batters in the win.**

**Jayden Fleck (Hutch) Fleck led the Husky offense this week going 7-15 with 5 RBI, 3 doubles and scored 4 runs. He also picked up a 2 inning save on Friday at Delano. Fleck has been one of the main reasons the Huskies finished a top the North Star League.**

## Throwback Thursday:

1961	W	L
Delano	13	1
Long Lake	9	5
Maple Lake	8	6
Loretto	8	6
Buffalo	6	8
Rockford	4	9
Winsted	3	9
Howard Lake	3	10

The league remained an eight-team league in 1961 as Cokato dropped out of the league but the move was offset when Loretto joined by moving from the Wright-Hennepin League. Loretto sent

afterwards, especially with Kyle Bode emerging as the team's true ace of the staff. But key losses down the stretch kept them out of the top 7. They'll look to get back to regions the hard way in 2021. Like I mentioned before Kyle Bode has turned in to their top pitcher and my guess is he'd take the ball for Saturdays game v. Waverly. Maple Plain should have its full lineup back for the weekend which includes 4 guys hitting over .300 in Tommy Traen, TJ Carlson, Mike Frericks, and Calvin Rippberger. They appear to have the talent and pitching depth to come out of the playoffs and grab that 8 seed; but weird things happen in the playoffs. Waverly will most likely go to its crafty veteran Bill Aamodt against Maple Plain. Aamodt's ERA is a little high but he doesn't walk guys and throws well enough to steal one at Maple Plain. The Stingers lineup will surely have to use the small ball approach if they are going to get a few wins this weekend as their team batting average for season ended at .211.

### #10 Dassel-Cokato at #9 Cokato - 7:30pm (July31)

This is a juicy one. A new chapter to the rivalry. The Bike Path Series Game and a battle for Cokato continues. I've always thought the two should play in the Town Ball Classic at Target Field with the loser dropping Cokato forever, and having to adopt Collinwood Township as it's geographical home, though the Collinwood Kernels, nor the Dassel-Collinwood Saints have the same ring. The best we can do is continue the rivalry on the field in the playoffs. The Kernels won both games this year 5-1, and 3-2 and most likely will give the ball to Steve Schmitt their long reliable veteran who is 2-5 with a 4.30 ERA, then turn it over to Alan Pietila to close the door. Pietila has logged 24 strikeouts in his 17 innings of work this year.

My educated guess is the Saints roll with Jordan Flick who has been the guy in D-C for over a decade now. Flick went 3-4 with a 3.56 ERA, but always shines bright in big games for the Saints. Lineup wise both teams are pretty similar with high average guys like Isaac Nelson and Ethan Niemela (Cokato) at the top, with some more pop coming from Pietila. The Saints counter with Jim Althoff, and Steve Boger who can wreak havoc on the bases while Tyler Brandel has added some big-time power to the Saints lineup. His 3 homeruns this season all came over the final two weeks of the season.

## BLT's Playoff Picks:

2020 North Star League Fan of the Year 'BLT' will bring us weekly power rankings in 2021. These will be based on the combination of games recently played plus league

representatives to both league meetings and through long distance phone calls were able to make the move to the Wright Star League.

Delano won the playoff championship and advanced through the regional by defeating Dassel 8-1 and Columbia Heights 8-0. In state tournament play Delano defeated Pine City 4-2, Trout Lake 12-1 before losing to Springfield in the third round 6-0.

standings, but this week he's making his league playoff picks!

#### Saturday, July 31

(8) Maple Plain-9 (11) Waverly-2  
(9) Cokato-7 (10) Dassel-Cokato-4

#### Sunday, August 1

(8) Maple Plain 5 (9) Cokato 3-Maple Plain advances

## Who's Hot?

Riley Gruenhagen (HL) 9 IP/ 1 ER/ 4 K's/ WIN  
Colton Petron (Lor) 9 IP/ 2 ER/ 6 K's/ WIN  
Kyle Bode (MP) 7 IP/ 0 ER/ 7 K's/ WIN  
Joey Hyde (Litch) 11 IP/ 1 ER/ 9 K's/ WIN  
Matt Arens (Delano) 7 IP/ 2 ER/ 6 K's/ WIN  
Jeremy Maschino (Del) 9 IP/ 0 runs/ 8 K's/ WIN/ CG  
shutout

Jared Koch (HL) 6-10/ .600 BA/ 5 RBI/ 2 runs  
Keenan Hodgkin (Lor) 5-9/ .555 BA/ 4 RBI/ 2 2B  
Ben Luethner (Lor) 5-10/ .500 BA/ 2 runs  
Brandon Brolin (Lor) 6-16/ .375 BA/ 7 RBI/ 2 2B

Matt Piechowski (Hutch) 7-16/ .437 BA/ 5 runs/ 2 RBI  
Jayden Fleck (Hutch) 7-15/ .466 BA/ 5 RBI/ 4 runs/ 3 2B  
Justin Johnson (Buff) 5-8/ .625 BA/ HR/ 3 RBI/ 6 runs  
Tyler Schiller (Hutch) 5-13/ .384 BA/ 6 runs/ 3 RBI/ HR  
Marcus Hahn (Hutch) 5-10/ .500 BA/ 3 RBI/ 5 runs/ 2  
2B/ HR  
Andrew Loch (Litch) 5-8/ .625 BA/ 2 RBI  
Scott Benjamin (Delano) 8-12/ .667 BA/ 6 RBI/ 3 runs/  
HR  
Jack Paulson (Delano) 10-19/ .526 BA/ 4 RBI/ 4 runs  
Adam Schleper (Delano) 8-14/ .571/ 7 runs/ 3 RBI/ 2 2B