

Batter's Box

North Star League News

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Game of the week

Howard Lake traveled to Dassel Sunday to take on the D-C Saints in an epic pitching matchup between Mike Dockendorf, and Jordan Flick. Flick was in mid-season form throwing 7 innings to pick up the win. He struck out 10 Orphan batters and did not give up a run allowing only 5 hits, and walking 1, and only had 1 lone runner reach third base in his 7 innings of work. The game was scoreless through 3 until the Saints offense exploded for 6 runs in the bottom of the 4th. Noah Halonen came in to relieve Flick in the 8th when things got a little sketchy and wild as he gave up 2 quick runs, but was able to close out the Orphans in the 9th and shut the door for a Saints. Cont. on page 2.



Jordan Flick picked up the win for the Dassel-Cokato Saints Sunday afternoon over the Howard Lake Orphans. Flick threw 7 innings, giving up 0 runs while striking out ten Orphan batters. Pitcher of the week line.

Standings

	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Hutchinson	2	0	3	0
Buffalo	1	0	1	0
Dassel-Cokato	1	0	3	4
Delano	1	0	2	1
Loretto	1	0	1	1
Litchfield	2	1	2	1
Maple Lake	1	1	2	1
Cokato	1	2	1	2
Howard Lake	0	2	2	3
Waverly	0	2	3	5
Maple Plain	0	2	1	2

Future Game(s) to Watch

Loretto at Hutchinson – Sunday, May 23rd, 5:00pm

Loretto plays Delano and Watertown on back to back nights this upcoming week. Hutchison has Brownton, and Watertown. We will start to know a little more about these two teams by their Sunday evening matchup at Veterans



Tyler Maher (Loretto) top and Jayden Fleck (Hutchinson) below are red hot to start the 2021 campaign. Fleck also picked up a win on the mound for the Huskies earlier in the week.



**With some teams having only played 1 game, and others 3-4+ our hitter of the week will be postponed until this upcoming weeks worth of games.

Game of the week cont.

D-C scored 6 runs on 9 hits. All 9 Saints starters had exactly 1 hit. Talk about a balanced lineup. Ben Lindquist drove in two runs from the leadoff spot. The Saints came out victorious 6-2 over Howard Lake. D-C has set themselves up nicely with a big win early,

Memorial Field out in Hutchinson. Tyler Maher has gotten off to a hot start with 6 hits in his first two games; while Jayden Fleck has tallied 5 hits in the first two Husky league games. With arms still shaking the rust off and two weekday games for both teams, it will be interesting to see who the pitching matchup will be, but I expect to see a lot of runs scored on Sunday.

Buffalo at Howard Lake – Wednesday, May 19th, 7:00pm

Buffalo went a perfect 10-0 in the 2020 North Star League season and 17-2 overall; and everyone will have their eyes on Braun's Bombers™ in 2021. Howard Lake has consistently finished in the top of the league and continues to represent the league in state each year since 2017. They do it with pitching and defense. Good old-fashioned baseball. This will be a true big ball v. small ball type game with a great atmosphere at Memorial Park on the shores of Howard Lake. Jon Euerle didn't get the game one start for Buffalo, but I wouldn't be surprised if he gets the ball for this big game early on in the season. Howard Lake looks to give the ball to either Jared Koch or Tyler Hannan, another couple of veteran arms for the Orphans. Game will also be broadcast on AM-1360 KRWC. Radio for Wright County.

BLT's top 10'ish Power Rankings

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 standings.

1. **Hutchinson Huskies-** Their hitting and pitching have been strong lately with three good wins. Beating Glencoe, Maple Lake, and Litchfield. 2-0 NSL. 3-0 overall. They got great hitting from top to bottom with Hahn and Fleck swinging it well early on.
2. **Delano Athletics-** They are playing great as well. They also have amazing hitting and good pitching staff. They did beat up some good teams early on, including defeating Chaska 6-5 on Sunday.
3. **Dassel-Cokato Saints-** Very tough non-league schedule opening up with Watertown, then hosting Anoka and few Class A teams before beating the Orphans Sunday. With Jordan Flick leading the pitching with 20+ strike outs. They have got a good balanced line up. Plus adding Steve Boger to any team is a plus.
4. **Maple Lake Lakers-** They have a great group of pitching staff and hitting. They had a nice solid win over the Kernels last week.
5. **Litchfield Blues-** 2-1 on the season. With good pitching from Joey Hyde and Dylan Koll. They will improve more there once Owen Boerema returns from college ball. They

on top of playing a solid non-league schedule. A team I would keep an eye on come July.

Flick said they felt they had a big task ahead of them knowing they were facing Dockendorf, but the dugout stayed relaxed and focused, trying not to let everything be magnified, especially with it being Steve Boger's first game against his former team. Flick said Boger played a key leadership role in encouraging the hitters to stay patient and stick to having good at bats. As far as pitching, Jordan said once he started to play long toss pregame that his arm was feeling great and felt he had his good stuff from the get go. Did make note that the bottom of the Orphans order gave him a lot of trouble fighting off pitches and never giving in. Flick and catcher Weber were on the same page from the first inning on. "Dylan calls a great game and it's easy to get on the same page with him. Rarely do I ever feel the need to shake him off." -Flick. D-C welcomes Andover to Saints Field on Wednesday night at 7:30pm before returning to NSL action on Friday night at home v. Maple Lake - 7:30pm.

beat a decent Orphan team last Sunday as well. Good hitting early on from Koll, Jones and Loch.

6. Buffalo Bulldogs- Litch and Buffalo can easily swap spots in Rankings next week. They both have nice wins yesterday, Buffalo defeating the Kernels. I like this team a lot. With Jon Euerle still pitching, and a strong lineup 1-9, they should move up the rankings quickly.

7. Loretto Larks- Had a nice win yesterday beating the Diamond Devils. Not sure how their pitching will be. But they have good hitting from Kent Koch and I like to see this team move forward with winning more games.

8. Howard Lake Orphans- Missing a few guys from school. (Baumann, and Bush) I spoke with Dock and he agreed with me where they should be in the rankings. Also added they should bounce back. I cannot wait to see that happen. They lost Boger to the Saints, but they still have good pitching and defense.

9. Cokato Kernels- Not sure how I feel about this team yet. But that will change. As for right now they are ranked here at 9. Until I see fit.

10. Waverly Stingers- Speaking with Travis Bickmann, this team is fun to see and they are going to be a good team. They have a few nice wins early on, with an OK lineup.

11. Maple Plain Diamond Devils- I have yet to see them play. But I am sure they will be fun and have a great season. Did beat Hamel in their opener and lost a close one to Loretto on Sunday.