

Batter's Box

North Star League News

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Game of the week+Future Game(s) to Watch

Buffalo – Delano - Hutchinson: Delano sits at 6-0 right ahead of Hutch and Buffalo, both 5-1 tied for second place. Oddly enough, by Friday night they will all have played one another in a six-day span. Hutch took down Buffalo on Sunday afternoon 7-4 with staff ace Jeremiah VanDeSteege pulling out the complete game win over the always dangerous Bulldog lineup. An odd call late in the game stopped a potential Buffalo rally with Colton Haight on first and Cal James at the plate. James hit a grounder to shortstop Jayden Fleck, who made the throw to Matt Reiner covering second to retire Haight. James was then called out due to interference on Haight sliding in to



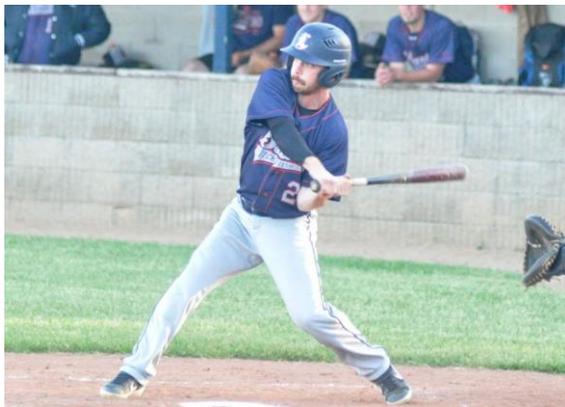
Jared Koch (Howard Lake) picked up 2 wins this week throwing 9 1/3 innings racking up 8 strikeouts and allowing zero runs.

Standings

	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Delano	6	0	8	3
Buffalo	5	1	5	1
Hutchinson	5	1	8	3
Maple Lake	3	1	8	4
Loretto	3	2	3	4
Litchfield	3	3	5	5
Howard Lake	2	2	5	4
Dassel-Cokato	2	3	4	10
Maple Plain	1	5	2	5
Waverly	1	6	5	11
Cokato	1	7	2	7

Buffalo, Delano, Hutch cont.

Second; thus, ending the inning. Did it kill Buffalos momentum? Hard to say as there still would have been two outs. However, Jake Duske was due up, followed by JD O'Donnell. Two of the league's top hitters. My conclusion..... Hopefully Buffalo's mayor, city council, and parks department realize how good this Buffalo squad is and will continue to be,



Cody Klabunde (Litchfield) had a big week hitting .600 going with 3 RBI and scoring 3 runs. He helped Litch take down Maple Plain on Sunday to keep the Blues at .500 for the season.

Ben Lindquist (Dassel-Cokato) drove in 7 runs over a three game span. Lindquist also scored 3 runs going 5-14 .357 last week.



Pitcher/Hitter of the Week:

Jared Koch (Howard Lake) picked up 2 victories on the mound last week. Throwing a complete game shut out Wednesday night over Litchfield, and coming in on Sunday for a relief appearance in which he got the win over Loretto as the Orphans won that one 5-

and help them get an irrigation system installed because all I saw when looking at the video of the play is a cloud of dust.

On to the games this week. Delano now gets their two toughest games of the season in back to back games as they travel to Hutch for a 7:30pm game on Wednesday, followed by a 7:00pm game at Buffalo on Friday. The Bulldogs will be coming off its FOX 9 game of the week (Town Ball Tour) vs. Howard Lake. I am guessing the only thing we will know by the end of this week is that these three teams are going to be solid through the 2021 season.

Maple Lake wins Pipestone

Tourney!!!!!!

Actually, the Lakers went 1-2 over the weekend in Pipestone defeating the host, and losing to Bloomington and Hadley. Maple Lake did win the tourney off the field however by showing the greater Pipestone area the best time it has ever seen. Maple Lake showed up to the tournament on Saturday with 9 and somehow managed to get all 9 back at 10am for its Sunday game, which is more than we can say about the games umpire who was 45 minutes late. We never got a report on Shoe Beers™ consumed, but the Lakers are winners in our book.

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-Delano: 6-0. Wins over the Kernels and Blues last week, but the schedule becomes daunting with trips to Hutch and Buffalo this week.

2-Hutchinson: 5-1. Huge win at Buffalo on Sunday and starting to solidify its always dangerous lineup.

3-Buffero: 5-1. Lost a barn burner to Hutch last week. I wouldn't want to run in to them after losing that one. Bulldogs are a team that needs no fire lit under them.

4-Loretto: 3-2. All three games decided by one run last week. Great outing out of Gullickson with a complete game shutout before losing heartbreakers to MPLS Cobras-a talented A team, and the always tough Orphans.

5-Maple Lake: 3-1. Hard gauge for the Lakers, as tournaments don't always tell what we think they should tell. Iron 9 showed up to go 1-2 in Pipestone, but Lakers are finding their stride.

4. Koch had 8 strikeouts and didn't allow a run in either appearance.

Jake Duske (Buffalo) picked right up where he left off last year. As the temps rise, so has his batting average. Duske hit .600 last week driving 6 runs, scoring 5 times, and adding a double and bomb! Braun's Bombers™ are back!

Way Back Wednesday:

With FOX-9 invading Buffalo today, we'll go back to the 1965 season which Buffalo won the Wright Star League title. Both Buffalo and Loretto finished the season tied with records of 10-4, so a one game playoff was scheduled in which Buffalo came out victorious to take home the league title.

Don James of Long Lake won the batting title with a .431 mark with Tom James of Maple Lake listed as the runner-up with an even .400. Delano won the league playoffs to advance to the regions where they defeated Rogers 4-3 in their first game. In the second game Delano lost a tough 16 inning game to Rogers 8-7 before losing game three 10-3.

WRIGHT STAR LEAGUE

1965	W	L
Buffalo	11	4
Loretto	10	5
Delano	9	5
Maple Lake	7	7
Rockford	7	7
Long Lake	7	7
Winsted	4	10
Howard Lake	2	12

6-Howard Lake: 2-2. Orphans starting to look like the Orphans of old with great pitching and defense. Nice wins over Loretto and Litch last week and another big arm in Noah Bush will join the team here in the next week which should keep Howard Lake climbing up the rankings and standings.

7-Litchfield: 3-3. The week started out bad getting drilled by Howard Lake, then they had Delano on the ropes Friday night before breaking through on Sunday at Maple Plain.

8-Dassel-Cokato: 2-3. Odd week to say the least for the Halos. Battled Buffalo tough on Wednesday night but then fell at home to Waverly on Sunday. That loss might loom big once we get to July and the standings are tight as the mowing patterns at Saints Field.

9-Maple Plain: 1-5. Picked up a good win over Cokato last week, with key losses to Litchfield and Buffalo. Now that the high school season is over for Orono, it will give the Diamond Devils some much needed depth as they hit the heart of the schedule.

10-Waverly: 1-6. Got a much-needed win at Dassel on Sunday night. Waverly heads in to June already getting Delano and Hutch out of the way. The Amodt/Ricke combination is giving some teams fits. Hansen and Kirby Moynagh have been very consistent at the plate and the Stingers have racked up a good number of non-league wins. They will be no easy out the rest of the year.

11-Cokato: 1-7. Rough week for the Kernels. They will need to find some consistency at the plate if they want to climb out of the cellar as the season goes on.

Who's Hot?

Jake Duske (Buffalo) 6-10/ .600/6 RBI/5 runs/2B/HR
 Nate Norman (Delano) 6-12/ .500/2 runs/RBI
 Kirby Moynagh (Waverly) 4-10/ .400/2B/2 runs
 Cody Klabunde (Litch) 6-10/ .600/2 RBI/run
 Toby Hanson (Delano) 6-10/ .600/2 RBI/ 3 runs
 Matt Piechowski (Hutch) 4-10/ .400/3 runs/ 2 3B/RBI
 Jayden Fleck (Hutch) 5-8/ .625/4 runs/2 2B/ RBI
 Ben Linquist (DC) 5-14/ .357/ 7 RBI/ 3 runs

Joey Hyde (Litch) 13 IP/ 12 K's/ 5 runs/ WIN
 Jared Koch (HL) 9 1/3 IP/ 8 K's/ 0 runs/ 2 WINS
 Josh Gullickson (Loretto) 9 IP/ 11 K's/ 0 runs/ WIN

