

Batter's Box

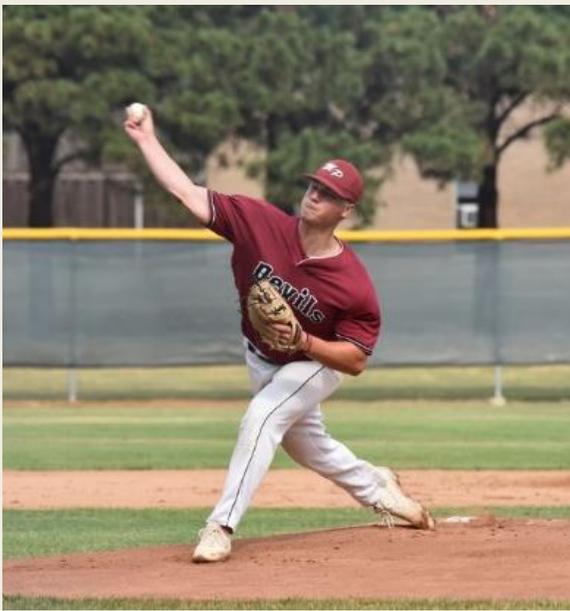
North Star League News

July 1, 2021, Volume 2 – Issue 7



Game of the week:

No one is looking like they are going down without a fight this year!!! Going in to last week, the standings were pretty clear cut with Buffalo, Delano and Hutch leading the way. Loretto, Maple Lake, Howard Lake, and Litchfield rounding out the top 7 and Cokato, Maple Plain, Dassel-Cokato and Waverly in the bottom four, and it looked that wasn't going to change anytime soon; but big wins Wednesday from D-C, MP, and Cokato show us they are not content playing in the league playoffs at the end of July!!!! Maple Plain jumped all over Delano on



Kyle Bode (Maple Plain) Picked up two wins in his last two starts throwing a total of 15 1/3 innings stiking out 10.

Standings

	LEAGUE			OVERALL	
	W	L		W	L
Buffalo	12	2	12	4	
Delano	10	3	12	7	
Loretto	9	4	9	7	
Hutchinson	7	4	15	4	
Maple Lake	7	5	12	8	
Howard Lake	7	5	11	8	
Cokato	6	10	6	11	
Litchfield	5	7	8	10	
Maple Plain	4	8	6	9	
Dassel-Cokato	4	11	6	18	
Waverly	1	12	6	20	

Game of the week cont.

Wednesday night in Delano scoring 3 in the first, 3 in the third, 1 in the fifth and 4 in the seventh taking down the Athletics 11-10 for a huge win. TJ Carlson, Lance Reynolds, and Calvin Rippberger led the offensive explosion for the Diamond Devils who cranked out 14 hits including 3 doubles, and 2 homeruns to win it going away. Kyle Bode topped out



TJ Carlson (Maple Plain) Carlson was 7-16 on the week with 7 RBI, a double and a homerun, as well as catching 5 games in 8 days.



JD O'Donnell had a monster few games to help put Buffalo in the driver's seat heading in to the second half of the year. O'Donnell went 7-12 with 2 big fly's, and drove in 4.

at 157 pitches in 8 1/3 innings, before Max Marshall got the final two outs sending Delano batters down looking at strikes to the end the game. Bode did just enough to pick up the win as the Athletics scored 4 in the bottom of the ninth and had the winning run on first base. Rippberger was 4-5 on the night with a homerun, 2 doubles, and 4 runs driven in.

Dateline Dassel-The Saints slayed the mighty Huskies on Wednesday night 9-8 with a good old-fashioned walk off walk in the bottom of the 9th. Hutchinson jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the 2nd inning, but the Saints chipped and chipped away and took the lead with a 4 run 6th inning. Jordan Flick was brought in in the 8th inning to try and close the door for the Saints victory, but the Huskies don't go away easily as they scored 3 in the top of the 9th to tie the game at 8 apiece. In the bottom of the 9th Saints Paul Vetsch led off the inning with a double, followed by a Jacob Niemela single and an intentional pass to catcher Dylan Weber loading the bases for Noah Halonen. Hutch pitcher Jon DeRock was able to retire Halonen and Paul Jacobson setting the stage for Steve Boger, who came up with 2 outs, bases loaded, bottom of the ninth. Every ballplayer's dream scenario..... Though I don't think as a child any ballplayer finished that scenario in his backyard with a walk, but that is just what Steve Boger did after working the count full. Dassel literally walked it off for the win.

Looking Ahead:

The North Star League takes a week off from league games from July 1-July 6, with a few teams playing non-league games, including the mighty Tempe Bandits coming to Minnesota to spend the 4th on Lake Minnetonka and play at some of our beautiful ballfields. Buffalo does travel to Jordan on Tuesday, July 6th which is a definite heavyweight matchup with both teams being Top 5 Class C teams in 2021.

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-Buffalo Bulldogs
- 2-Maple Lake Lakers
- 3-Delano Athletics
- 4-Loretto Larks
- 5-Litchfield Blues
- 6-Howard Lake Orphans
- 7-Hutchinson Huskies
- 8-Cokato Kernels
- 9-Dassel-Cokato Saints
- 10-Maple Plain Diamond Devils
- 11-Waverly Stingers

Players of the week:

JD O'Donnell (Buffalo) helped the Bulldogs regain first place in the league by going 7-12 at the plate with 4 RBI's and 2 bombs, while scoring 5 runs.

Diamond Devil teammates Calvin Rippberger and TJ Carlson each went 7-16 last week helping Maple Plain pick up two much needed league wins over Waverly and Delano. Rippberger had 7 RBI, scored 5 runs, hit 3 doubles and a bomb; while Carlson also drove in 7 runs with a double and a homerun.

Jared Koch (Howard Lake) Koch picked up two wins in his last two starts throwing a total of 17 innings only allowing 3 earned runs while striking out 14. Koch has really turned in to the league innings eater in 2021 while being dominant on the mound.

Throwback Thursday:

The 1969 season started out on a bright note as the Wright Star selected Annandale as a new team. Annandale's selection made the league membership eight teams again. Many questioned the advisability of admitting Annandale. Half way through the season Annandale, along with Buffalo dropped out. This created a second half schedule mess.

Dan Holje of D-C won the batting title with a .471 average followed by Dick Klaers of Loretto with .404. Loretto won the playoff defeating D-C 4-2 in the championship game. Loretto advanced through the regional by defeating Monticello, the Independent Central Champ in two straight games by scores of 10-0, and 12-2. Loretto won their first game in the state tournament by defeating Wilmont 8-2 before losing to Arlington 4-1 in the second round. Perry Ditty, former league president and regional commissioner, was elected to the Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Board at the fall meeting.

WRIGHT STAR LEAGUE

1969	W	L
Loretto	13	1
Dassel-Cokato	11	3
Delano	9	5
Hamel	7	7
Long Lake	4	10
Winsted	4	10
Buffalo	0	14
Annandale	0	14

