

Batter's Box

North Star League News

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Game of the week:

I mentioned last week that you could take your pick with a handful of games that would be a great game to catch. Well Wednesday was a wash for most of the eastern part of the league, but Howard Lake and Maple Lake quickly scheduled a makeup for Thursday night at Maple Lake. The Lakers jumped out to an early lead scoring 1 in the 2nd, and 4 in the 3rd to go up 5-0 running starting pitcher Jared Koch after 3 innings. Howard Lake got on the board with 2 runs in the 4th, and 2 more in the 6th to cut the lead to 1 run, before Maple Lake added 1 more in the 7th. The Lakers held a 6-4 lead going in to the top of the ninth. Brad Bickmann came up big for the Orphans with a 2 out, 2 RBI triple to tie the game at 6 apiece. They ended up going in to the 10th inning when Riley Gruenhagen; who had already given the Orphans 6 great innings out of the bullpen was the hero driving in what turned out to be the winning run. Mike Dockendorf pitched the 10th inning for Howard Lake to close the door on the win 7-6.



Jayden Fleck (Hutchinson) Won hitter of week earlier this season and is now the pitcher of the week with a complete game shutout last week 6-0 over Dassel-Cokato. Now if we could only find a photo him pitching.

Standings

	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Delano	13	3	15	9
Buffalo	13	4	13	6
Loretto	13	4	13	9
Hutchinson	13	4	21	4
Howard Lake	10	8	14	12
Litchfield	8	9	11	12
Maple Lake	8	10	15	13
Maple Plain	6	11	8	11
Cokato	6	14	6	16
Dassel-Cokato	5	14	7	24
Waverly	2	16	7	24

Looking Ahead:

TAKE YOUR PICK!!!! (Again)

We'll start things off with Litchfield at Maple Plain on Wednesday night. The Blues find themselves in 6th place by one full game over Maple Lake and they have been playing really well as of late taking down D-C twice, and losing a nail



We have a back to back hitter of the week winner as Keenan Hodgkin of Loretto was 5-7 with 3 homeruns last week. Had the Larks played a 3rd game last week, he could have really inflated those numbers.

Players of the week:

Jayden Fleck (Hutchinson)
Complete game shutout with 8 strikeouts

Keenan Hodgkin (Loretto)
3 homeruns in 2 games as the Larks continue to score runs in bunches.

Throwback Thursday:

1982-WEST	W	L
Maple Lake	16	2
STMA	14	4
Buffalo	10	8
Delano	6	12
Rogers	6	12

1982-EAST	W	L
Hamel	15	3
Maple Plain	8	10
Elk River	7	11
Long Lake	6	12
Loretto	2	16

biter to Loretto 2-1 on Friday. With three games to go, it'll probably take 2 wins for them to cement themselves in to regions with some wiggle room for the first time since rejoining the North Star League, but Maple Plain is in a similar situation, though they find themselves on the outside looking in. My bet is that they would go with Kyle Bode on Wednesday night to see if he can continue his dominance, help the Diamond Devils stay alive for the 7 seed, and muck up the standings even more as we continue to count the days until the end of the season.

Also, on Wednesday night Buffalo travels to Loretto to take on the red-hot Larks. Loretto squandered a big lead earlier this season at Buffalo, so not only do they owe the Bulldogs one in the loss column, they are playing at the friendly confines of Arnold Klaers Field. I would expect a lot of offense and that the outfield for both teams will get their fit bit steps in chasing the baseball around the outfield. Both teams will come in to Wednesday nights matchup at 13-4.

Fast forward to Friday, we have Hutchinson traveling to Delano for an always epic showdown with the Athletics. Over the past 10 games of this series it's Delano 5. Hutchinson 5. With 7 of those games being decided by 2 runs or less. Delano at the moment has a half game lead over Hutch, but the Huskies own the tie breaker this season.

If that isn't enough for you, Hutch and Loretto have season finale showdown at Loretto on Sunday at 2pm. I don't need to say much more than either team could end up in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th. There will be a lot of scoreboard watching this weekend.

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A TOWN BALL PLAYER!

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.

****Last week's ranking in parenthesis****

- 1-Loretto Larks (2)
- 2-Buffalo Bulldogs (5)
- 3-Litchfield Blues (4)
- 4-Hutchinson Huskies (1)
- 5-Delano Athletics (6)
- 6-Howard Lake Orphans (7)
- 7-Maple Lake Lakers (3)
- 8-Maple Plain Diamond Devils (9)
- 9-Dassel-Cokato Saints (8)
- 10-Cokato Kernels (10)
- 11-Waverly Stingers (11)

The Wright Star started off on a positive note for the "82" season with an additional team as Rogers joined the league, thus making the league a ten-team league.

Delano defeated STMA in the West play-offs to advance to the regions and Hamel defeated Elk River in the East playoffs to advance to the regions. In regional play Hamel was the only Wright Star team to advance to the state tournament. In state tournament action Hamel defeated Stark 2-1 in the first round before falling to Dundas 7-4 in the second round. Hamel was managed by former New York Yankee player Johnny Blanchard.

Who's Hot?

Jayden Fleck (Hutch) 9 IP/ 0 runs/ 2 hits/ 8K's/ WIN

Joey Hyde (Litch) 9 IP/ 0 runs/ 4 hits/ 5K's/ WIN

Donny Schroeder 9 IP/ 1 run/ 9K's/ WIN

Noah Bush (HL) 4-8/ .500/ 4 runs/ HR/ 3B

Brad Bickmann (HL) 6-16/ .375/ HR/ 3B/ 6 RBI

Jared Koch (HL) 5-13/ .384/ 2 HR/ 3 RBI/ 3 runs

Brock Goelz (HL) 4-10/ .400/ 2 runs

Tyler Schiller (Hutch) 6-11/ .545/ HR/ 2 2B/ 6 RBI

Hunter Malachek (ML) 7-14/ .500/ HR/ 3B/ 3 RBI

Donnie Mavencamp (ML) 6-12/ .500/ 4 2B/ 5 RBI

Marcus Hahn (Hutch) 4-10/ .400/ 4 RBI/ 4 runs

Matt Piechowski (Hutch) 5-11/ .454/ 5 runs

Brady Miller (Delano) 4-8/ .500/ 2 RBI/ 2 runs

Keenan Hodgkin (Loretto) 5-7/ .714/ 3 HR/ 5 RBI/ 2 2B/ 4 runs