



# WEEK FOUR – THE FIRST FINISH LINE

## HITTER(S) OF THE WEEK

Teammates share this week's honor, Maple Plain's Billy Soule and Mike Frericks went on an absolute tear to finish out the season and get the Diamond Devils in to regions. Soule hit .636 with 6 doubles while scoring 5 runs. Frericks hit .538 with 3 Doubles and 8 RBI! The two were the main reason Maple Plain hit their way back to regions going 2-1 on the week to avoid the bottom 4.

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Two of the leagues best arms met on Wednesday night for an old fashioned pitcher's duel. Jordan Flick (DC) faced off against Owen Boerma (Litch), the two combined for 19 K's. Flick-6, Boerma-13, however Boerma got the short end of the stick ending up with the loss without allowing an earned run in his 8 innings on the mound. Flick threw all 9 and surrendered only 1 run picking up the win. They share pitcher of the week honors.

Could we see a rematch this weekend?

## GAME OF THE WEEK

Going in to last Sunday, the Larks were sitting at 2-4 and in serious jeopardy of having to battle it out in league playoffs to make it back to regions. Loretto had a late inning win over Maple Plain, then lost an instant classic with Delano before defeating Cokato on Friday getting their record back to 4-5. With tie breaker implications with both DC and Maple Plain (both playing each other later in the day) the Larks needed to win in order to not sweat out the Saints-Diamond Devils affair. The Larks found themselves down 3-2 in the bottom of the ninth when Tyler Gearin sent the Loretto faithful home happy and punched their ticket to regions with a walk off 2 RBI base hit. Loretto went 3-1 down the stretch and will be a scary 6th seed in the playoffs.

## WHO'S HOT

Ty Weiman (Waverly)	5-10/ .500 BA/ 2B
Billy Aho (Cokato)	4-10/ .400 BA/ 2 RBI/ 2 2B/ 2 runs
Sanders Asplin (Cokato)	6-15/ .400 BA/ 3 RBI/ 2B
Billy Soule (MP)	7-11/ .636 BA/ 5 runs/ 6 2B
Mike Frericks (MP)	7-13/ .538 BA/ 3 runs/ 3 2B/ 8 RBI
Jake Gruenhagen (HL)	5-11/ .454 BA/ 3 2B/ 4 RBI
Colton Haight (Buffalo)	6-8/ .750 BA/ 5 runs/ 3 RBI
Jayden Fleck (Hutch)	6-9/ .666 BA/ 5 runs/ 3 RBI/ HR
Matt Piechowski (Hutch)	4-10/ .400 BA/ 2 runs/ 2 2B
Jack Paulson (Delano)	7-13/ .538 BA/ 4 runs/ 4 RBI/ HR
Toby Hanson (Delano)	6-12/ .500 BA/ 5 runs/ 4 RBI/ 2B
Mike Dockendorf (HL)	9 IP/ 1 ER/ 6 K's/ WIN
Bill Aamodt (Waverly)	8 IP/ 2 ER/ 2 K's/ WIN
Cade Lommel (Delano)	6 IP/ 1 ER/ 11 K's/ WIN

## WEEK IN REVIEW

---

Probably the biggest news of the week was that we won't be seeing a North Star League team playing in the state tournament at New Ulm in 2020. That is because the New Ulm city council decided to back out pretty close to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. The decision was made late Monday night that Springfield (originally the third site), and Milroy (Yankees) will be hosting the Class C State Tournament in 2020. I put the Yankees in there because not only does Milroy have two town teams, they actually each play at their own ballparks. Springfield also has some unique quirks as they have the deepest distance from home plate to centerfield in the entire state at 452', though the locals claim it is closer to 470'.

Next week we'll dive in to the first round matchups for regions.

## LOOKING AHEAD

---

### August 1-2 All League Playoff Games

In a ten-game season everything is magnified, everything is tense from game one. A bad week of games put some teams out of contention that they weren't able to recover from without a second half of the season. This makes the league playoffs very fascinating, and I think will be the most competitive playoffs we've had since we moved to this format.

Cokato finished in last place, but let's not forget they were a state tournament team in 2019 and made it to the second weekend. Much of that team is back and this was the time they got hot last year too. Plus, a first-round matchup with Bike Path rival D-C in Dassel under the lights should have all of the Kernels ready to go. No pregame speech needed out of manager Nick Corbin for that one.

Dassel-Cokato came up just short of making regions with their one run loss to Maple Plain on Sunday night. However, if the Saints can recoup mentally they still have a solid pitching 1-2 combo with Flick and Zweibohmer who have been on point this year, and Saints were actually only one run away from being the 6<sup>th</sup> seed, plus they would have game 2 at home should they defeat Cokato.

Waverly finished with a 2-8 record and beat Cokato on Sunday to stay out of the cellar. I like that they have two arms with two wins to get. Bill Aamodt and JT Weiman will surely battle every pitch for the Stingers. If Brady Boedekker, Alex Smothers, and Ty Weiman can get hot at the plate don't be surprised if Waverly is playing to go to regions on Sunday.

Litchfield has an interesting dilemma on their hands. Do they throw Owen Boerma who is striking everyone out this summer in game 1, or do you hope you can pull one off over Waverly and save Boerma to try and send the Blues to their first region playoff since rejoining the league? The other aspect of this all is that Litchfield has struggled to score runs this year, making manager John Andersons decision a tricky one to say the least.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES - 1977

---

### WEST

Delano	16-6
Maple Lake	16-6
D-C	13-9
Monticello	12-10
Rockford	3-19

### EAST

Loretto	13-9
STMA	13-9
Hamel	10-12
Rogers	9-13
Maple Plain	5-17

Steve Brower of Monticello won the batting title with a .452 average followed by Dale Decker of Maple Lake with .429. Maple Lake and Hamel were region champs and runners-up of Region 11. In state tournament action in the first round Maple Lake defeated Waseca 13-3 and Hamel defeated Minnetonka 9-7. In the second round Maple Lake lost to St. Cloud 3-1 and Hamel lost to Red Wing 5-3. Dale Decker from Maple Lake was selected to the All-Tournament team.