

The North Star League

# Spectator

55th Year

## North Star Standings

### West

W	L	GB
4	0	--
5	3	1
2	2	2
0	5	4.5

Monticello
Howard Lake
Buffalo
Kingston

### Central

W	L	GB
6	1	--
4	2	1.5
3	2	2
3	3	2.5
3	4	3

Maple Lake
Delano
St. Michael
Dassel-Cokato
Hutchinson

### East

W	L	GB
4	3	--
3	2	--
2	5	2
2	5	2
0	4	2.5

Maple Plain
Loretto
Albertville
Rockford
Mound

## Injury bug bites league's ace hurlers

The conventional wisdom around Delano says that as Jeff Janzen goes, so go the Athletics. That means the Athletics—and their season—nearly went under the knife.

Janzen recently found out he has a muscle tear in his throwing shoulder. He was initially told the tear was his labrum, which would have meant missing 2005 at the very least and possibly 2006 if he needed surgery.

Fortunately, the tear isn't quite that severe. He'll still need to be used sparingly, however. Despite pitching through pain ("like someone is driving a knife in my shoulder," he told the league secretary), he's been remarkably effective so far. In 14 innings of action, he's 1-0 with a 0.64 ERA.

Janzen isn't the only ace pitcher on the shelf. Monticello's Matt Loegering, who pitched brilliantly in 2004 before an injury

prematurely ended his season, hurt his elbow again and is out for an indefinite period. If any team can outwit its need for a top pitcher, Monticello's the team...but the loss of Loegering leaves the Polecats uncomfortably thin on the mound.

As if that weren't enough, cross-division rival Howard Lake lost the services of Jake Streich for a month. On May 22 at Hutchinson, Streich started on the hill but moved to right when the game went into extra innings. An outfield collision left him nursing a shoulder injury that will keep him out of the rotation for a few weeks yet. Fortunately for Howard Lake, Adam Koch has emerged as a solid third starter and the Orphans are weathering Streich's absence without a huge dropoff in pitching quality. They'll still welcome Streich's return for the playoffs.

## New logo, new site...new outlook?

Maple Lake's high school teams are called the Irish, and the town-team club is called the Lakers. Given the Lakers' sharp new Notre Dame-like logo, though, a little confusion is understandable.

The Lakers have also made the NSL's latest foray into cyberspace. Their web site, [maplelakelakers.com](http://maplelakelakers.com), is a welcome (even entertaining) addition to the league's coverage.

Maple Lake's "new" features don't end there, though. The Lakers have ridden their best pitching in memory en route to the league's hottest start. They won their first six games before losing a tough 9-8 battle Wednesday to West powerhouse Monticello. The Lakers haven't been stomping



on league doormats, either; their streak includes wins over all their division rivals (including big 8th-inning rallies against Delano and St. Michael).

Offense is never a concern in Maple Lake, but the difference this year is pitching. Through last weekend, the Lakers' team ERA was an are-you-kidding 1.87. Manager Joe Hofman has built a bona fide rotation in Bob Fobbe and Ryan Klingelhofer. Fobbe threw a complete-game gem at D-C, while Klingelhofer (3-0) sports a 1.17 ERA.

Web sites and logos aside, pitching strength is the best new arrival in Maple Lake this year—and the one that might set 2005 apart from recent campaigns.

## Monticello bruising competition

This is the first season Monticello has played under the lights. Rather ironic, because their bats have been lights-out up to this point.

The unbeaten 'Cats won an 11-inning 3-2 thriller over Delano in their first game under the lights. The A's pitching held Monti in check that night, but offense has been plentiful in other games. Credit the return of boppers Josh Holthaus and Tony Hoaglund, not to

Roundup  
**West**

mention the arrival of Jason Kennedy. Holthaus is batting .429 and Hoaglund .643 so far, while Kennedy's slightly above the Mendoza Line at .700.

At the other end of the spectrum is Kingston, where things aren't as bad as they might seem. The winless Kings have played well against the big boys, nearly beating St. Michael, holding tight against Delano, and three-hitting D-C (Brian Paulson with the tough loss). Let's hope they get over the hump soon. They've lost 21 straight; the league record for consecutive losses is 26.

## D-C stumbles out of the gate

It was just another great opening night at the Dassel Ball Park, with 455 spectators crowding the bleachers. But something happened on the way to the D-C Saints' season-opening win. They lost. And although there's no shame in losing to Monticello (D-C's opponent that night), the Saints have stumbled to a pedestrian 3-3 record so far.

This is unfamiliar territory for the league's most successful team

Roundup  
**Central**

over the past few years. D-C tends to be the last unbeaten standing. However, an eerie silence has fallen over the Saints' bats this season. They've had more than 7 hits just once (a 5-2 loss to Maple Plain), and only 3 hitters in their veteran lineup are batting over .300.

Perhaps D-C is a bit distracted by the prospect of hosting state and not focused enough on *getting* to state. Or maybe their win over Hutch on Wednesday shows they're back on track. (Then again, maybe Hutch is distracted, too!) You can never count D-C out, but their bats will need to wake up if they're going to qualify for the very tournament they'll host this summer.

## Rockford showing progress

Last year, Rockford won just one game, and it came over Kingston—a nice win, but hardly a franchise-builder.

The River Bandits aren't looking for morale victories this year. Their offense exploded for 19 hits on Wednesday for a 14-8 win over Loretto. It was easily the biggest win in the team's two-plus years of existence, but it also came on the heels of wins over Mound and Hamel. Jason Lesser also took a hard-luck 1-0 loss against Albertville. The

Roundup  
**East**

River Bandits aren't quite ready to challenge Maple Plain, but the progress is great to see.

One team that needs to get untracked in a hurry is Mound. The Mal-lards boast the same lineup as last year, but their offense has taken a big step backward (only one hitter over .300). They can still pick up ground in the forgiving East, but not for much longer.

Albertville's Paul Schumacher has already pitched a couple of gems, but the Villains are relying on too few bats to provide too much offense.

## around the horn

### A snowball's chance

Calling a game because of the elements is nothing special, but Kingston's home opener was pretty unique. The Kings hosted Loretto on May 1, only to postpone on account of snow. (Incredible as it sounds, considering this past week's temps, that was just over a month ago.) And still the Twins aren't planning for a retractable roof.

### Hey, while you're in there....

As many of you know, veteran Hutchinson pitcher Kyle Messner is out this season due to elbow surgery. Well, the procedure took place recently—and amid all the fun, Messner's surgeon realized that the previous surgery on Messner's elbow hadn't been done correctly. You heard it right: the

guy who logged a 0.59 ERA last year and struck out more than 1.5 batters per inning was pitching with a biology project for a throwing arm!

### Boxscore lines of the month

Runner-up: Loretto's Ben Scanlon. In an 11-5 win over Hutchinson, Scanlon went 4-for-5 with 4 runs batted in. The catch? Not one of his hits went for extra bases. You can't aske for a more productive bunch of singles.

Winner: Monticello's Tony Hoaglund. Most of the Pole-cats are going bonkers so far, but Hoaglund gets the nod for his May 22 performance against St. Michael. Hoaglund went 5-for-5 with 3 doubles, a homer, and 6 RBI. Monti needed his offense, too—Monti scored 17, but the Saints scored 12.

# North Star statistics, through June 5

## North Star East

### BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVE.
Br Scanlon Lor	16	5	10	.625
E Schutte Lor	17	4	8	.471
Ja Juntunen Alb	20	2	8	.400
K Johnson MP	23	7	9	.391
Jo Juntunen Alb	13	2	5	.385
B Mazer MP	21	5	8	.381
A Gregg MP	21	3	8	.381
Bn Scanlon Lor	14	3	10	.357
R Dwyer MP	21	4	7	.333
D Trnka Md	13	0	4	.308

### 2B

P HarrelL Md	2
A Snyder Md	2
S Trnka Md	2

### 3B

B Fontana Roc	1
E Schutte Lor	1
Ja Juntunen Alb	1

### HR

S McLaughlin Alb	2
A Engebretson MP	2

### RBI

E Schutte Lor	7
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### TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
A Gregg MP	17	3	0	10	0.53
M Ricke Lor	21	2	0	10	1.29
J Lesser Roc	19	0	2	12	1.42
P Schumacher Alb	29	1	2	15	2.15
J Utech Md	14	0	2	18	3.68

## North Star Central

### BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVE.
C Raiche ML	23	7	13	.565
J Olson Del	15	5	8	.533
D Birkholz DC	15	5	7	.467
M Bergstrom DC	13	2	6	.462
T Johnson Hut	16	2	7	.438
D Falde Del	23	2	9	.391
J Janzen Del	22	3	8	.364
C Volkman StM	14	6	5	.357
A Dammann Hut	20	3	7	.350
A Swenson Del	15	2	5	.333
N Volkman StM	15	2	5	.333
D Decker ML	24	7	8	.333
P Burkstrand DC	15	0	5	.333
N Johnson ML	28	6	9	.321
J Barblen StM	16	3	5	.313
C Henke Hut	26	3	8	.308
M Freske StM	13	3	4	.308
K Jerpseth ML	26	4	8	.308
T Carlson StM	20	5	6	.300
B Kneefe StM	20	6	6	.300

### 2B

C Raiche ML	4
P Burkstrand DC	4

### 3B

6 tied at 1

### HR

C Raiche ML	2
J Barbeln StM	2
K Jerpseth ML	2

RBI

C Raiche ML	12
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### TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
J Farenbaugh Hut	17	1	0	14	0.53
J Janzen Del	14	1	0	10	0.64
R Klingelhofer ML	23	3	0	13	1.17
D Birkholz DC	22	1	1	14	2.45
P Schumm St M	13	1	0	6	2.63

## North Star West

### BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVE.
J Kennedy Mon	10	6	7	.700
T Hoaglund Mon	14	2	9	.643
N Hill Buf	18	1	8	.444
J Holthaus Mon	14	3	6	.429
C Braun Buf	14	0	5	.357
L Gagnon HL	19	3	6	.316
N Forga Kin	13	2	4	.308

### 2B Leader

T Hoaglund Mon	3
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### 3B Leader

B Borrell HL	1
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### HR Leader

T Hoaglund Mon	1
A DesMarais HL	1

### RBI Leader

T Hoaglund Mon	7
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### TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
J Streich HL	19	0	0	18	0.47
C Hardie Mon	9	2	0	7	2.00
B Paulson Kin	15	0	1	5	2.40
N Hill Buf	20	0	2	20	4.35