

The North Star League

# Spectator

## Midsummer Classic edition

### north star standings

East	W - L	Str.	Div.	vs.B	West	W - L	Str.	Div.	vs.B
Loretto	5 - 5	2W	2-1	2-2	Litchfield	8 - 2	1W	2-0	4-1
Maple Plain	4 - 6	2L	1-2	1-2	Howard Lk.	8 - 3	2W	3-1	3-1
Albertville	4 - 8	1W	2-1	0-5	Monticello	8 - 3	1L	4-1	2-2
Mound	2 - 7	3L	1-2	0-4	Buffalo	2 - 9	1W	1-5	1-3
					Kingston	2 - 11	5L	1-4	1-4

W - L: Win/Loss Str.: Streak (winning or losing) Div.: Record against division vs.B/C: Record against other class

Central	W - L	Str.	Div.	vs.C
Maple Lake	7 - 2	3W	1-1	6-1
D-C	7 - 4	4W	1-2	6-2
St. Michael	6 - 5	1L	2-1	4-4
Hutchinson	5 - 4	2L	1-1	4-3
Delano	5 - 5	1L	1-1	4-4

### Keeping things Civil

## All-Stars set to battle July 5

The retro craze hit the North Star League again. After taking the better part of a decade off, the league All-Star Game is back—coming to **Maple Lake** at **7:30 on Friday, July 5**.

In past years, the North Star all-stars have matched up against similar teams from other leagues, such as the Carver Central or Crow River. However, no nearby league was up to the North Star challenge, forcing us to get a little creative in building some rivalry.

This year's version will be a civil war of sorts, with the league split into a North team and a South team. Call it Highway 55 vs. Highway 12. And while it may have been fun to square off against another league, this format gives more local players (roughly three per team) the chance to play.

The intraleague setup is not without interesting arrangements. Strange bedfellows include St. Michael and Albertville (together at last); Buffalo and Albertville (several Bulldogs having played for the Villains last year); and Litchfield and...well, just about everyone has a rivalry with Litchfield.

So plenty of drama awaits when the stars come out in Maple Lake next Friday.

### North all-stars

<u>Albertville</u>	
Shawn McLaughlin .....	SS
Brandon Valerius .....	2B/OF
Paul Schumacher .....	P
<u>Buffalo</u>	
Ramon Vega .....	OF
Mike Holman .....	C/2B
Ian Keen .....	P
<u>Kingston</u>	
Tim Dahl .....	3B
Trent Morgan .....	2B
Larry Niemela .....	P
<u>Loretto</u>	
Brandon Scanlon .....	OF
Eric Schutte .....	C/OF
Nick Koch .....	P
<u>Maple Lake</u>	
Todd Fuller .....	OF/P
Bob Fobbe .....	P
Nate Johnson .....	2B/SS
<u>Monticello</u>	
Rick Habeck .....	P
Josh Holthaus .....	1B/3B/OF
Tony Hoaglund .....	3B
<u>St. Michael</u>	
Kyle Krzmarzick .....	SS/2B
Joe Barbeln .....	2B/3B
Derek Brant .....	C
<u>Managers:</u> Roger Ketel, St.Michael; Dale Harris, Monticello	

### South all-stars

<u>Dassel-Cokato</u>	
Travis Johnson .....	P
Matt Bergstrom .....	C
Pete Burkstrand .....	SS
<u>Delano</u>	
Jeff Janzen .....	P/OF
Steve Eilen .....	1B
Jeff Olson .....	SS
<u>Howard Lake</u>	
Shane Heber .....	P
Ben Borrell .....	OF/1B/P
Kevin Werner .....	OF
<u>Hutchinson</u>	
Jim Farenbaugh .....	P
Mike Marquardt .....	1B
Tim Thode .....	3B
<u>Litchfield</u>	
Troy Urdahl .....	P/OF
Jeff Gillespie .....	2B
Darren Rothstein .....	OF/3B
<u>Mound</u>	
Rob Moynagh .....	2B
Andy Snyder .....	OF
<u>Maple Plain</u>	
Josh Jacobson .....	P
Brad Mazer .....	C
Joe Wood .....	OF
<u>Managers:</u> Mark Forsman, D-C; Mike Gagnon, Howard Lake	

# Division races tight all around

We're just past the midpoint of the season, and even a quick glance at the standings will tell you that these races are as jammed up as a Tokyo subway station. Let's look around the league:

**Eastern Division.** Loretto has been the pleasant surprise of the summer. The Larks were aiming for around .500 ball this year—and yet, not only are they achieving that goal, they're doing it with flair. Loretto visited Class B powers St. Michael and Delano and came away with authoritative wins. They also had Litchfield on the ropes before succumbing to a ninth-inning rally. Maple Plain is just a game out, but Mound and Albertville have no more room for error.

**Central Division.** Perhaps the biggest story is not who's on top, but who's *not* on top. Perennial Central leader St. Michael is making waves by barely keeping its head above .500. With five losses, the Saints are 2 games behind division leader Maple Lake. St. Michael is batting just .280 as a team and struggles for consistency on the hill. Maple Lake,

meanwhile, has been a model of consistency thanks to improvements in the rotation, most notably by Bob Fobbe and Ryan Klingelhofer. In spite of offensive struggles, pitching-rich D-C is hanging around just a game out after an 11-3 win at St. Michael.

**Western Division.** Whoa, Nellie! Pundits figured this race would be the most interesting of the three, and it hasn't disappointed. Buffalo and Kingston are the only NSL teams eliminated from contention, but that's due to the other three being arguably the three best teams in the league. Howard Lake and Monticello are just a half-game behind Litchfield, but this weekend could substantially change the complexion of the West as the Blues get their first taste of Monti and Howard Lake. But at this point, the opponent hardly matters. These three teams just have to win out, *then* look forward to reducing each other to scrap in the divisional playoffs. No pressure at all....

## ...around the horn

### Grant Ketel sets win record

With a 3-2 win over Hutchinson, St. Michael's **Grant Ketel** (3-0) set a new mark for victories in the North Star League at 74 wins. That breaks the previous record of 73 held by **Joe Harmala**, who pitched for D-C and Maple Lake in the late '60s through the '80s. He has also not lost a league game since the end of the 2000 season—13 straight wins.

Ketel may be on his way to one of those Cy Young-like unbreakable records, since he's still just 32 and has a lot more gas in the tank. For now, though, St. Michael's just happy to have him healthy. A case of golfer's elbow sidelined him for three weeks leading up to the game with Hutch.

"Some extra-strength ibuprofen got us through that one," manager **Roger Ketel** said.

### Heber fires masterpiece

In the last Spectator, Howard Lake pitcher **Shane Heber** (5-1) was highlighted for starting the season on fire. But on Wednesday night, he turned in one of the finest North Star League performances in recent years.

Heber was one out away from a no-hitter at Monticello when Joe VanCulin singled with

two away in the ninth. It was the only blemish on an otherwise-scintillating performance against the best-hitting team in the league. Howard Lake beat its division rivals 2-0 to keep pace with the Polecats, and one observer called Heber's curveball "perfect" that night.

### Hit 'em where they ain't

**Tim Tessmar** toiled for three years at Class A Pontiac in the New York Mets organization and even went to spring training with the Mets. So when he got promoted to Monticello, he wanted to make the best of his opportunity.

Tessmar got a late jump on the season but is batting .565 with 5 HRs in just 23 at-bats. The 6'4, 220-lb. The Polecats slipped Tessmar in at first base; after all, as coach **Dale Harris** joked, "You know the saying: Where does the 500-lb. canary sleep? Wherever he wants to." Such accommodating gents.

Tessmar has been particularly mean to Kingston, hitting all 5 of his homers against the Kings. After his 3-HR, 4-for-4 performance in the first game, Kingston finally figured out a way to get him out in the second (well, short of moving all the infielders over the fence). The Kings abandoned left field and placed **Kevin Carlson** between second base and right field. Wouldn't you know, that's precisely where Tessmar lined out.

Recalled Kings manager **Seth Isaacson**: "I don't think Kevin had to move two steps to get that one. He was grinning from ear to ear—it was his idea."

### Rubber arms

Albertville's reliance on pitcher **Paul Schumacher** has become the stuff of legend, with alternate pitchers in remarkably short supply. The Villains' 3-2 win over Kingston on June 16 was no exception. The game went 11 innings, and so did Schumacher, giving up six hits and six walks to go with his 15 Ks.

But amazingly enough, Schumacher doesn't win this week's Ironman Award. That honor goes to Litchfield's **Darrin Rothstein**, who went a lucky 13 innings in a 2-1 victory over Hutch on June 19. Rothstein almost lost it, too, after giving up a solo shot to the Huskies' **Tim Thode** in the top of the 13th, but Litchfield's **Tom Reuter** plated **Russ Nathe** in the bottom half to give Rothstein the hard-earned (somehow, that description seems inadequate) win.

### Broken bat update

It's enough to make you support revenue-sharing in the North Star League (if only the players' union could get its act together).

While teams like D-C and Monticello have only broken 4 and 5 bats this year, respectively, Loretto has snapped 24 bats, while Maple Lake has rendered another 20 useless.

The real bull in the china shop, however, is Maple Plain, breaking just about everything in sight. Maple Plain has snapped 32 bats so far this season—roughly 1.5 per game—and it's not even July.

Living proof that sometimes a walk is *even better* than a hit....

The **North Star League Spectator** and **Spectator Online** are provided free of charge to fans of North Star League baseball. Please contact Erik Lien at [eclien@mninter.net](mailto:eclien@mninter.net) if you have any questions or suggestions.

# East

Statistics

## BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVE.
A Hanson Lor	21	4	10	.476
J Jacobson MP	28	7	12	.429
P Sycks Md	25	5	10	.400
J Wood MP	35	4	13	.371
B Valerius Alb	38	3	13	.342
D Kerber Alb	44	5	15	.341
E Schutte Lor	33	5	11	.333
M Dornsbach Lor	24	5	8	.333
H Koch Lor	24	3	8	.333
B Mazer MP	33	6	11	.333
A Snyder Md	30	3	10	.333
P Harrel Md	21	3	7	.333
R Moynagh Md	32	6	10	.313
S McLaughlin Alb	43	6	13	.302

### 2B Leaders

S McLaughlin Alb	4
J Wood MP	4

### 3B Leaders

none

### HR Leaders

Bn Scanlon Lor	2
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### RBI Leaders

A Schutte Lor	7
B Mazer MP	7

### GWRBI Leaders

A Schutte Lor	2
J Wood MP	2

### TEAM Bat. Avg.

Loretto	.272
Maple Plain	.255
Albertville	.249
Mound	.234

## TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
P Schumacher Alb	49	4	1	60	0.73
A Snyder Md	16	0	2	9	2.87
J Jacobson MP	25	1	1	18	2.88
N Koch Lor	41	2	2	14	3.51

# Central

Statistics

## BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVE.
J Martin Hut	24	6	11	.458
J Olson Del	22	6	10	.455
D Piechowski Hut	29	9	13	.448
C Henke Hut	30	4	12	.400
M Marquardt Hut	33	6	13	.394
T Fuller ML	31	8	12	.387
J Riewer DC	42	8	16	.381
J Janzen Del	40	7	15	.375
P Burkstrand DC	46	9	17	.370
K Jerpseth ML	30	7	11	.367
E Kolles StM	30	4	11	.367
M Freske StM	14	3	5	.357
T Thode Hut	31	5	11	.355
M Bergstrom DC	40	6	14	.350
R Kaping Hut	35	6	12	.343
S Eilen Del	24	3	8	.333
D Brant StM	31	3	10	.323

### 2B Leaders

P Burkstrand DC	5
T Thode Hut	4
J Riewer DC	4

### 3B Leaders

T Johnson Hut	1
T Fuller ML	1
S Larson DC	1
J Riewer DC	1

### HR Leaders

T Thode Hut	2
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### RBI Leaders

J Janzen Del	11
B Opsahl DC	11

### GWRBI Leaders

J Barbeln StM	2
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### TEAM Bat. Avg.

Hutchinson	.319
St Michael	.276
Dassel-Cokato	.274
Delano	.261
Maple Lake	.252

## TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
R Klingelhofer ML	21	2	1	9	0.85
G Ketel StM	35	4	0	24	1.03
J Janzen Del	47	3	2	36	2.11
D Birkholz DC	23	2	1	24	2.35
J Farenbaugh Hut	36	3	3	31	2.50

# West

Statistics

## BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVE.
T Tessmar Mon	23	8	13	.565
J Holthaus Mon	38	12	18	.474
D Decker Mon	28	10	13	.464
T Urdahl Lit	21	7	9	.429
J Van Culin Mon	47	12	20	.426
K Kraska Mon	43	13	18	.419
E Cox Bf	49	5	19	.388
T Hoaglund Mon	37	10	14	.378
T Reuter Lit	37	4	14	.378
K Werner HL	41	5	15	.366
J Gillespie Lit	34	4	12	.353
A Holthaus Mon	30	4	10	.333
D Nelson Mon	30	8	10	.333
M Lehrer Lit	37	9	12	.324
M Salter Mon	33	11	10	.303
G Clairmont Bf	20	2	6	.300

### 2B Leaders

J Van Culin Mon	8
J Holthaus Mon	5

### 3B Leaders

Six tied at 1

### HR Leaders

T Tessmar Mon	5
T Hoaglund Mon	3

### RBI Leaders

T Tessmar Mon	13
T Hoaglund Mon	11
J Holthaus Mon	11

### GWRBI Leaders

K Werner HL	3
T Hoaglund Mon	2
B Bragg Lit	2

### TEAM Bat. Avg.

Monticello	.375
Litchfield	.269
Buffalo	.237
Howard Lake	.208
Kingston	.188

## TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
S Heber HL	40	4	1	32	0.90
J Wollin Lit	44	3	0	35	2.05
D Decker Mon	22	2	1	9	3.27
I Keen Bf	28	0	2	23	3.82
L Niemela Kin	33	0	4	13	4.36