

Spectator 2025 North Star League

2025 Preview

Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball.

2024 FINAL STANDINGS

Team	Wins	Losses	Pct	GB
Buffalo	13	3	0.813	0
Delano *	13	3	0.813	0
Hutchinson	13	3	0.813	0
Loretto	12	4	0.750	1
Maple Lake	10	6	0.625	3
Litchfield	9	7	0.563	4
D-C	8	8	0.500	5
Howard Lake	7	9	0.438	6
Cokato	4	12	0.250	9
Maple Plain	4	12	0.250	9
Waverly	2	14	0.125	11
Rockford	1	15	0.063	12

- Delano not in league for 2025

Changes in 2025

Delano left the North Star League.

Hamel has joined the league.

6 teams are classified as Class A or B -

Buffalo (Class A), Hamel, Hutchinson, Loretto, Maple Lake & Maple Plain. (Class B)

6 teams are classified as Class C -

Cokato, D-C, Howard Lake, Litchfield, Rockford & Waverly.

Hall of Fame 2025

Dan Birkholz - Dassel-Cokato

Played town team baseball for 15 years. Dan's main position was a starting pitcher for the Saints. Winning 52 games while posting a lifetime 3.02 ERA. Dan was League's Most Valuable Pitcher in 2009 and ERA champion in 2003 and 2009. Dan was also a versatile ball player at many other positions wherever the team needed him. Dan was an excellent hitter posting a lifetime .294 batting average.

Adam McGrane - Loretto

Played town team baseball for 11 years, Four years with St Michael and 7 years with Loretto. Adam won 39 games while posting a 2.15 ERA, while striking out 272 batters. Adam was the League's Most Valuable pitcher in 2006, 2008 and 2012. If Adam's teams did not make the state tournament, Adam was automatically drafted by the teams going to the Tournament.

Predictions =

Class B – With 4 teams so close at the end of last year, you'd expect a tight race this year. The coaches were very consistent in picking Buffalo to finish first, Hutchinson 2nd, Maple Lake 3rd and Loretto 4th. That left new comer Hamel to be 5th and Maple Plain as 6th choice.

Class C -Litchfield was consensus for 1st place. D-C, Howard Lake & Cokato all got votes for 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Rockford & Waverly are the choice for 5th & 6th.

I KNEW THE RECORD WOULD STAND
UNTIL IT WAS BROKEN.



Buffalo 13-3 in 2024 Class B

The Bulldogs return a strong core – Cal James, Noah Christenson, Evan Soeffker, Ramon Vega Jr. and Colton Haight who have kept Buffalo in contention for a few years now. Soeffker led the pitching staff last year. They expect Taylor Morrissette and Broc Mutterer to strengthen their staff and earn more time on the mound this year. They lose Zach Anderson, but return everyone else and expect to sign a High School player or two. Buffalo has always been able to score runs and they are stressing improving their pitching and defense. The Bulldog goal is to first reach the district tournament and then make a return to the State tournament.



D-C 8-8 in 2024

The Saints have lost no players nor added any new player this year. So they will be going with the same group with a definite goal of getting back to state. Tyler Brandel, Jordan Flick, Ben Lindquist, Dylan Weber, Noah Halonen, Josiah Bullivant, Nikolai Niemela, Michael Leffler, Paul Vetsch, August Flick, Collin Krick, Jacob Niemela, Paul Jacobson, Graham Jacobson, Steve Boger and Jim Althoff all return. With the new Class C alignment, D-C expects to be in the thick of the race, go on to Regions and reach the goal of returning to State.



Cokato 4-12 in 2024

The Kernels bring back most of the same veterans from last year. Back again are Isaac Nelson, Alan Pietila, Austiin Kantola and Steve Schmitt. They will be looking for strong seasons from Jason Ross, Blake Morris, Jackson Schrupp and Toby Colline. The Kernels add Jackson Yanke and lose Riley Pennala and Chad Kovisto Good speed and plenty of left-handed hitters to throw at their opponents are their strengths. Pitching depth will tell their story as they need younger pitchers to come through to propel them to the Class C region and hopefully beyond.



Hamel - Not in NSL in 2024 Class B

The Hawks enter the North Star League this year expecting to compete in a very competitive League and District. The three players the Hawks count on are Americo Sculati, Dominic Adkins and Jake Vanyo. The new player added to the team this year is Brady Zacktison. Hamel will field a young team which they look at as a strength and they are afraid that pitching may be a weakness going into their first season with some very good B teams.



FAN HECKLING UMPIRE:
"CHECK YOUR CELL PHONE, I BET
IT HAS 3 MISSED CALLS TOO!"



We're reaching the point where you can be a truly dedicated, state-of-the-art fan or you can have a life. Take your pick.



Howard Lake 7-9 in 2024.

Mike Dockendorf, Jared Koch, Riley Gruenhagen and Shane Kahn are back to eat up a lot of innings on the mound. Offensively, Garret Zander, Jake Greunhagen, Zach Kuefler, Mitch Baumann, Brad Bickmann, Cole Macziewski and Matt Streich provide veteran leadership. The young pitchers need to provide quality innings also, those include Mason Maczlewski Steven Heber, Colton Long and Owen Loge. The Orphans return Noah Bush and Bennet Anderson who will strengthen their roster and lose Sam Kittock. The roster will be stronger and gives them confidence the Orphans can again compete for titles and chances to go to State.



Hutchinson 13-3 in 2024

The Huskies are expected to be a contender for the League title as they have been for a few years. A strong core of veterans are returning in Jake Wendland, Matt Piechowski, Jayden Fleck, Cody Arlt, Marcus Hahn, Tyler Schiller and Lane Glaser. Others that should be big contributors are KK Starrett, Carter Kurth and Sam Rensch. The huskies also add new members Nathan Thode, Brady Larson, Max Martin, Larkun Kurth, Peyton Schumacher and Eli Croatt. The Huskies have proven they can put runs on the board. Consistent pitching will probably determine where the Huskies finish in the standings. Hutchinson again appears to be a top three contender for the title and is looking for a spot at State.



Litchfield 9-7 in 2024

The Blues continue to be a young team that could be the top Class C team in the North Star League, Joey Hyde and Avery Liestman lead a stellar group on the mound which should include younger pitchers Hunter Schultz, Cam Baalson and Owen Carlson. Veteran players back for 2025 are Jake Jones, Andrew Loch, Winky Estrada, Jordan & Bennett Lecher, Eric Hulterstrum, Ryan Quast, Jack Ramthun and Carson Deal. Missing from last year are Ben Alslebeben and Riley Taber. Like the last few years, the pitching remains a strength and as host of the Regions, the blues hope to repeat their success and return to State.



Loretto 12-4 in 2024

In recent years, the Larks have been able to come up with a top notch pitching staff that has kept them in competition for the top spot in the League and their staff returns in full for 2025. Also returning are the Koskies, Corey, Bradley, Joshua & Caleb, plus Tyler Maher, Ben Leuthner, Brandon Brolin, Miles Nablo and Josh Gullickson. Jack Scanlon is another one who could contribute in 2025.

The Larks know that pitching is their calling card, but also feel they have enough veterans to carry them offensively. They enter 2025 with confidence that they are one to watch out for as a title contender and possible State tourney entrant.

Playing baseball for a living is like having a license to steal.

“Lady, I’m no athlete,
I’m a ballplayer.”



Maple Lake 10-6 in 2024

The Lakers again want to compete for the league title and would like to return to State to recapture the 2023 magic of winning the title. Back for the Lakers are Hunter Malachek, Ben Clapp, Donnie Mavencamp, Luke Fobbe, Riley Decker, Logan Orazem, Ben Goelz, Grant Mergen, Ryley Hagen, Nick Preisinger, Greg Giebenhain, Jordan Tanner and Matt Bergstrom. Other contributors could be Nathan Zander, Brady Scanlon and Gavin Wolff. In addition Ben Reilley and Ben Trutwin return to add innings on the mound. Maple Lake certainly has the experience, the arms and the bats to contend for the North State League title, so we can’t be surprised if they get back to State again.



Montrose/Waverly 2-14 in 2024

The Stingers believe they will improve with talented young players as long as they throw strikes. The Stingers return the heart of their line-up - Kirby Moynagh, Brady Boddeker and Alex Smothers. In addition, they bring back Andrew Moynagh Brady Skoog, Jacob Noor, Emmet Bekkula and the ace of their staff Bill Aamodt. Skoog, Noor and Collin Smith are expected to contribute more in their second year. Nick Zellmer is back and 6 new players (4 from High School) will add youth to the line-up. Travis Bickman is out for one year with an injury. If they can overcome inexperience and pitchers can throw strikes, the Stingers expect to stay competitive every game and reach their goal of moving up in the standings.



Maple Plain 4-12 in 2024

The Diamond Devils return a veteran core group to anchor their line-up in TJ Carlson, Colton Peters, Logan Kinsel, Calvin Rippberger, Tanner Schmidt, Tyler Bercheit and Charlie Apple. Two of their top inning eaters will not be back, Kyle Bode and Gunnar Goodwin. Maple Plain will be counting on improved efforts on the mound from some players in their second year with the team, Ben Engel, Teague Colling and Ben Smithson. The Diamond Devils have added 6 new players – Bryce Peteron, Cole Grove, Matt Garrett, Nick Webster, Noah Gunia and Caden Rock. In addition, veteran Lance Reynolds is returning from a year away. The Diamond Devils are definitely underdogs in the Class B section of the league and their fate will be decided by how quickly new players adapt to the level of competition and how much their young pitchers mature. Maple Plain’s realistic goal is to surprise a few teams.



Rockford 1-15 in 2024

The Crows did not do well in the win column last year, but have a lot of players returning and a number of college players on the team or back with the team. Patrick Binnebose and Will Haas will spend more time with the Crows in 2025. Aiden Smith and Ryan Shuter will have college experience this year. Luke Pilot, Nolan Perry and Miles Kay are hopefully healthy this year. Wilson Sanderson, Colton Lundberg, Marcus Frederickson, Jake Eisentrager, Soren Peterson, Mike Nelson, Alex Altman, William Ricke, Todd Traen, John Haugan are all returning roster players for Rockford. New players Max Edwards and Riley Moran are committed to playing college ball and Logan Eisentrager comes from the Albertville Anglers. Past history says they need to learn to win and a new Class set up means they just might move up.