

SPORTS

A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU

Dan Kiser reunites with man who saved his life at Alexandria boxing event

By Jared Rubado
jrubado@echopress.com

The Way of the Warrior boxing event in Alexandria on June 29 featured an emotional intermission. Inside a packed Broadway Ballroom, the ringside doctor was called into the ropes during the break.

Dr. Tim Lindley has been a fan of combat sports his entire life. When he was growing up he was a wrestler. His dad was the coach of the wrestling team. His interest expanded into other forms of fighting such as mixed martial arts. While he was working on-call as a neurosurgeon in Fargo in 2014, he got a page that he would never forget.

Dan Kiser was a rising fighter on the Minnesota MMA scene. The Milltown, Wis. native was the defending featherweight champion of Spartan MMA. His title defense against Frank Johnson would take place in Detroit Lakes on May 24, 2014.

Kiser's last fight

Just 57 seconds into the first round, Johnson

“What do you say to the guy that saved your life?”

DAN KISER, MMA fighter

put Kiser in a rear-naked chokehold. Even though it's a common MMA submission attempt, something went wrong. Johnson had collapsed Kiser's trachea and caused his body to have two strokes. Not only was his career over in seconds, but his life was also on the line.

Lindley wasn't hand-selected to be the doctor to try and save Kiser's life. He just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

“I was the guy on call that night. I remember it vividly,” Lindley said. “People are always surprised when I'm able to remember certain things. I've been a fan of combat sports my whole life. This one sticks out to me.”

Kiser was put in a coma for several weeks. He had an aneurysm and had lasting effects from the two strokes he suffered.

“They told me my chances of living were less than 10

percent,” Kiser said. “I don't remember anything from that time. The last thing I remember is getting ready for the fight. After that, it's when I woke up.”

With Kiser in a coma, Lindley was tasked with doing his least favorite part about his job – presenting an awful truth to the victim's family.

“It's hard to come up with what to say in those situations,” Lindley said. “You need to tell them that the chances of making it aren't good, but let them know that there's still a small chance. I've gotten better at it over the years. But I remember that decision for them was extremely difficult.”

Kiser's family had a choice to make. The aneurysm that caused a second stroke had yet to be operated on. If Lindley were to go through with the surgery, the procedure could kill him. If the surgery was successful, Kiser would be paralyzed. If they chose not to go with the operation, the aneurysm would likely kill Kiser.

BOXING: Page A11



Contributed Photo

Dan Kiser (right) poses with his featherweight title and fight promoter Mel Ott in Detroit Lakes before the fight that almost ended his life in May of 2014.



Jim McFarlane (left) and his partner Steve Woolcott took home first place at the Lakes to Links Member-Guest Golf Tournament at the Alexandria Golf Club on Saturday. Bill Kuhn (second from right) and Jim Kuhn finished second.

Happy to be here

McFarlane, Woolcott bask in member-guest tournament win at AGC

By Jared Rubado
jrubado@echopress.com

Alexandria Golf Club member Jim McFarlane wasn't expecting to win the Lakes to Links Member-Guest Golf Tournament this past weekend at AGC, so he and his partner, Steve Woolcott, surprised even themselves on Saturday.

“I took a few holes off this morning and Steve carried me,” McFarlane said. “Then he took a few off and I carried him. Honest to goodness, we were just stroking it. We were just trying to hit it hard.”

McFarlane and Woolcott outlasted Jim and Bill Kuhn as the

final two teams left standing in the shootout round of the tournament. There were 11 flights during the two-day event. Each flight was made up of six two-person teams. The top team in each flight advanced to the alternate-shot shootout on Saturday afternoon.

Two additional teams are also added to the shootout. The wildcard spot is handed to the team with the most points that didn't win its flight. The day-two high-point getters also advanced.

McFarlane has been a member at AGC for five years. He knows the kind of golfers that play in Alexandria regularly.



Photos by Jared Rubado / Echo Press

Jim McFarlane (right) and his partner Steve Woodcott (second-from right) shake hands with Bill Kuhn (middle) and his partner Jim Kuhn after winning the Links to Lakes Member-Guest golf tournament at the Alexandria Golf Club.

Winning the tournament was never on his radar.

“This is a freaking surprise,” McFarlane said. “I play with a lot of these guys – Thursday night league and whatnot. There are some real good sticks out

there. I thought if we could be competitive and make it to the end, that'd be great. Then we managed to slip in the finals. I looked at Steve and said, ‘I guess we'll see what happens.’”

The trip to AGC was much

further for Woolcott than McFarlane. The North Carolina resident came north to escape the heat, and heads back with a fun memory.

GOLF: Page A11

Jegtvig wins 2nd annual Bob Gierke Memorial race



Jegtvig

By Eric Morken
emorken@echopress.com

Drivers took to the track at the Viking Speedway on July 13 on a night highlighted by the second annual Bob Gierke Memorial.

A total of 26 drivers lined

up at the start for that Modifieds feature race that served as the memorial for Gierke, and it was Blake Jegtvig of Hawley who came away with the win. Jegtvig finished in front of Danny Bayer of Elrosa in second place and Dustin Bitzan of

Brandon in third.

In other feature races, Don Shaw of Ham Lake took home a win in his Late Model. Cole Schill of Horace, ND was second and Ryan Mikkelsen of Alexandria finished third.

Alexandria's Justin Fro-

emming won the Midwest Modifieds feature. He took first in front of Shane Howell of Buffalo and Travis Engbretson of Cyrus.

The Viking Speedway will host a regular race night on July 20 with Modifieds, Midwest Mods, Street

Stocks, Super Stocks and Limited Late Models all running. The night will also serve as the speedway's Hall of Fame Night as 2019 inductees Vern Olson and representatives from Rudy's Electric in Alexandria will be honored.

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