

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

(Summer baseball schedules according to league and team websites)

JULY 18

LEGION BASEBALL  
Alexandria vs. Perham (DH), 5 p.m.



Jared Rubado / Echo Press  
Jim Kuhn hits a shot from the rough that lands five feet away from the pin on the ninth hole during the Lakes to Links Member-Guest golf tournament at the Alexandria Golf Club.

## GOLF

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"The heat index was 112 degrees last week in North Carolina," Woolcott said. "The weather was beautiful this weekend. I had a marvelous time here."

McFarlane and Woolcott met over 40 years ago in the military. Now that they're both retired, they dedicate time out of the year to get a few rounds of golf in.

"We met in the service back in 1978," McFarlane said. "We still get out and see each other. We do things like this. Winning it makes it more memorable, that's for sure."

For McFarlane, the reason he keeps coming back is the hospitality that AGC provides.

"Every time I'm here I'm blown away at how nice the people are," he said. "They did stuff for the families all weekend like putting challenges and whatnot. It makes it fun for everybody to come out here."

## BOXING

From Page A10

"I couldn't imagine the kind of situation my wife was put in," Kiser said. "She knows that I would be miserable for the rest of my life if I were paralyzed. It's an impossible decision to make."

Lindley was determined to provide as much information to Kiser's family as they needed to make an informed decision.

"I called every neurosurgeon I knew around the country. I wanted to get every perspective I could've gotten," Lindley said. "Obviously, we ended up making the right call."

Lindley did not operate on Kiser. The aneurysm began to heal itself. After being unconscious for roughly two months, Kiser woke up.

"I remember the rehab was awful," Kiser said. "The left side of my body was still affected by the stroke. But I can't tell you how thankful I am for Dr. Lindley."

## Reunited

Five years later, both men have moved on from the summer of 2014.

Lindley moved back to his hometown of Alexandria to work for Heartland Orthopedic Specialists. Kiser hung up his gloves and devoted his second chance at life to his family.

"I saw him two months after I worked on him," Lindley said. "I could tell he was still out of it. The lights were on but nobody was home. I never thought I would see him again after that."

Lindley's love of fighting presented him with an opportunity to give back to the sport of boxing.

Corey Thompson, the Way of the Warrior fight promoter, asked Lindley to be the ringside doctor

## LEGION BASEBALL

## Alex takes big positives away from Gopher Classic run

By Eric Morken  
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The Alexandria Post 87 Legion baseball team made good on an opportunity to compete against some big-time programs at the annual Gopher Classic over the last four days.

Post 87 was still playing on Monday as the huge group of teams in the tournament was dwindled down to just 16 that would compete for a title early this week. Alexandria played at 9 a.m. on Monday and lost a 5-0 game to Excelsior that ended the team's run, but not before going 4-2 over the stretch of four days in the Twin Cities Area.

"I thought we played exceptionally well as a team," head coach Jake Munsch said. "We beat some perennial powerhouse teams by playing good baseball, and it just shows the potential of what we're capable of when we put everything together. It was a very, very positive weekend."

Alexandria (14-9) got things started by winning a 1-0 game against Millard West on July 12. That was highlighted by a complete-game win for Carter Stockert as the lefty allowed just three hits and two walks, while striking out eight.

Josh Wegner drove in the lone run of the game in the bottom of the sixth on a sacrifice fly to center field. That scored Kade Blankenship after Blankenship led off the inning with a double.

Post 87 and the rest of the field waited through rain delays and cancellations early after that first game before splitting contests on Saturday. Alexandria beat a team from Brookings, SD and dropped a game against De Pere, Wisc. on Saturday.

That was the lone loss of the weekend for Alexandria as Post 87 beat Mankato National in a 5-3 game on Sunday and added a 5-4 win over Prior Lake. Those two wins won the pool for Alexandria and were needed to advance to Monday's field of 16.

"It all starts with pitching," Munsch said. "Pitching was really, really good. I think combined on the weekend we made less than four errors, and then we took advantage of other mistakes, executed our small ball and hit the ball. All facets of the game we played really well. Realistically, we had one poor inning when we lost to De Pere. (Monday) we lost 5-0, but they hit one three-run home run, so it's a 2-0 game if you take a pitch away."



Eric Morken / Echo Press

Alexandria's Luke Levasseur collects his thoughts during an at-bat against Moorhead on June 25. Levasseur and the Post 87 baseball team were at the Gopher Classic July 12-15 where they advanced to the round of 16 and finished 4-2 overall.

Matthew Carlsen pitched against Excelsior and gave his team a chance to win.

"Matthew pitched very well," Munsch said. "Multiple players contributed and keyed in different roles playing different positions. They just played really well. It was a fun weekend to represent our community down there on a big stage with some powerhouse teams."

The Gopher Classic always provides an opportunity to play against strong programs from around the state and the country. Alexandria is heading into the final stretch of its summer schedule with doubleheaders against Thief River Falls on Tuesday at 4 p.m. and Thursday at 5 p.m. against Perham wrapping up the regular season. Four wins at the Gopher Classic sends Post 87 into those games on a high note.

"I think the best part of this is we played in games this weekend that I would say most people didn't expect we had a chance to win, just because these teams are known to be very good," Munsch said. "I think what you take out of it is just the fact that when you play well and play the way you're capable of, anyone is capable of winning a baseball game. We can compete with all these teams when we do things correctly. I think it's a huge step for the confidence of our team. We just saw they played confident all weekend long, and it was a lot of fun."



Jared Rubado / Echo Press

Dan Kiser (middle) stands in the ring with his family (left) and gives Dr. Tim Lindley of Alexandria his gloves from his first title fight and the medal from his half marathon as a thank you for Lindley saving his life five years ago.

for his event at the Broadway Ballroom on June 29.

"I told myself that when an opportunity like this presents itself, I should take it," Lindley said. "I think it's good to get involved with the things you love. But didn't know what I was getting into that night."

Thompson is a former fighter of his own. Back in his boxing days, he met Kiser and became friends with him. Now, Thompson works as a boxing trainer in Alexandria. Knowing the history of Kiser's injury and who saved his life, he asked Kiser to make the trip to west-central Minnesota.

"I was planning on going with my family to UFC Minnesota in the cities that weekend," Kiser said. "When Corey called I had to cancel plans. I couldn't miss an opportunity to thank the man that saved my life."

In the middle of the dimly lit ballroom stood Thompson with a microphone. He asked if Lindley would enter the ring for a special presentation. In the back of the ballroom were Kiser and his family.

"I was more nervous in

that moment than I was for any fight I ever had," Kiser said. "What do you say to the guy that saved your life?"

Thompson presented a video to the crowd explaining what happened to Kiser in May of 2014.

"I didn't know why they were showing the video. I didn't think anybody cared," Lindley said. "I didn't expect him to be there. To say I was surprised to see him and his family would be an understatement."

## The gift

Kiser and his family stepped in the ring in front of Lindley for the first time in nearly five years. In Kiser's hand were the gloves from his first championship fight and the medal from his half marathon he ran after the accident.

"Both of those things mean so much to me and I wanted him to have them," Kiser said. "The gloves from our first title fight are a big deal. Everybody keeps them. The medal from the half marathon was really important to me because I was able to run 13 miles while many people thought I would be stuck in a chair for the rest of

my life."

Kiser handed his gift over to Lindley and attempted to explain his gratitude in front of hundreds of boxing fans. Through his choked-up words, he finally got out the phrase - "Thank you for saving my life."

"It meant a lot to me, but the story isn't about me," Lindley said. "Dan is the real fighter here. I did one procedure. It's almost routine for us. I get procedures that I stress about for weeks and I think about for weeks after. This one was much easier for us."

Following the fight night, Lindley invited Kiser over to his house to spend the day with his family. The kids played in the pool while Kiser and Lindley finally got to know each other.

"He didn't have to do that," Kiser said. "My wife and I are so grateful we got to spend the day with him and his family."

For Lindley, finding a bond with a former patient gave him a new perspective about his line of work.

"Meeting with Dan made me realize that even some of the smaller surgeries and procedures for me aren't small to the people I'm operating on," Lindley said. "Nothing is small in my line of work. I can drastically change someone's life. That's why I put so much pride in what I do."

Kiser and his family returned to Wisconsin with memories that won't soon be forgotten. Getting the chance to show his appreciation is something he's wanted to do for a long time.

"I'm so thankful for that man and for Corey for setting this up," Kiser said. "People told me how bad it was and how bad I looked. They tell me that it's so much worse than I would ever imagine. I shouldn't be here right now. And thanks to that man, I am."



Photos by Jared Rubado / Echo Press  
Osakis' Luke Imdieke (right) tags Levi Larkin on the first-base line during Osakis' 10-0 win over Prairie River Baseball Association on Thursday.

## BASEBALL

## Osakis finds its groove in 10-run win over PRBA

By Jared Rubado  
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After a slow start to the summer season, the Osakis Legion baseball team is starting to hit its stride.

After beating Willmar 5-4 in extra innings on July 8, Osakis took care of business on Thursday with a 10-0 win over Prairie River Baseball Association in five innings. The PRBA team is comprised mostly of athletes from the Brandon-Evansville, Ashby and West Central Area programs.

"To be honest, we weren't happy with the way we started this summer," head coach Bill Infanger said. "I think these guys are starting to gain some confidence and it's showing up and down the lineup. I think there's a lot of really dangerous players on this team and more of them are finding their game at the right time of the summer."

Osakis led 3-0 heading into the fifth inning. Luke Imdieke drove in two more runs with a double over the left fielder's head. Isaac Fromm would make it 6-0 on a bases-loaded infield single. After two runs scored on a fielder's choice, Bauer Klimek drove in a run with an RBI single. He would later come in to score and end the game on an RBI-single from Hunter Infanger.

"Hitting is contagious with us," Imdieke said. "When we put up a big number in an inning it feels like we are feeding off each other and the runs keep coming."

Imdieke started the game on the mound and threw a five-inning shutout. He was able to get out of the few situations when PRBA was able to put runners in scoring position.

"We weren't going to let him go for long tonight," Infanger said. "He's thrown a lot of innings for us this summer and we had some other guys that could throw. He had some quick innings and he was in his zone out there. He's the kind of guy that always wants the ball in his hand. We just had to let him run with it."

Imdieke also made his presence known at the plate. He went 2-for-3 and drove in three runs.

"Coach always talks about helping out your own cause," Imdieke said. "I saw the ball well today. A lot of the guys are seeing the ball well right now. When we hit like we did today, we are going to win a lot of games."

As Osakis heads into district play, they feel like they're playing the best baseball at the best time.

"It feels like we can beat any team we play that steps on the field with us right now," Infanger said. "This is a confident group of players right now. We have a lot of depth at pitching. I feel like I can throw any one of my guys out there and trust him to get three outs right now. It's a good position to be in as a coach."

## PRBA looking to bounce back

The PRBA baseball team has had a productive summer despite the 10-0 loss on Thursday night. PRBA was 5-3 after the game and showing some promise heading into the postseason.

"Even though these guys play for different schools, they play youth baseball together growing up," head coach Andy Koloski said. "I think the chemistry is building. Obviously, it was a tough game for us tonight but (Osakis) is a really good team and we hung in there for a while."

One of the reasons PRBA was able to keep it a close game for so long was starting pitcher Tegen Moritz. He pitched over four innings and gave up six runs - three of them coming in the big fifth inning. He was able to strand several Osakis runners on base throughout the night.

"He's kind of having an extension of his high school season," Koloski said. "He was called on to step up a lot and he's turned into one of our most reliable players."

Even after suffering a 10-run loss, Koloski feels like his guys are capable of surprising people before the season ends.

"We are feeling good about ourselves right now," he said. "We have a lot of talent in the dug-out. We need to build some confidence after tonight. But like I said, Osakis is a good team and I thought our guys played well for the most part."



Isaiah Sykora gets the final out of the fourth inning from shortstop during Osakis' 10-0 win over Prairie River Baseball Association on Thursday.