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2011-2018
SPORTS REPORTING
AWARD-WINNER

BULLS BASEBALL

Big inning leads Bulls past Heron Lake

Wolf breaks team record for career hits in the victory

After stranding 13 runners on base and coming up one run short of Hadley Saturday, the Jackson Bulls used a big inning to finish

off Heron Lake Sunday. The Bulls sit at 13-7 on the season, with just two games left before the playoffs start next Wednesday.

Bulls seal win late
Jackson trailed 1-0 and 2-1 at Heron Lake Sunday, but took the lead for good with a two-run fifth inning

and sealed the win with seven runs in the top of the seventh.

Ryan Rasche reached on a fielder's choice in the fifth inning and Shad Wacker followed with a run-scoring single to tie the game at two. Wacker then scored on an error for what proved to be the

game-winning run.

The bulls left two runners in scoring position in the sixth as they clung to a one-run lead, but plated seven runs in the seventh to secure the win.

Rasche and Wacker walked to start the inning before Blaise Jacobsen reached on an error on a

sacrifice bunt. Walks to Trey Jacobson and Chris Gumto followed, with each bringing in a run. Evan Olesen, Ben Scheevel and Alex Bretzman each hit RBI singles before Andy Wolf drove in a run with a sacrifice fly. The final run scored on an error and gave the Bulls a 10-3 lead.

Pat Boggess pitched a scoreless bottom of the seventh to hammer down the win.

The first Jackson run came in the third when Wolf singled and scored on a Rasche single.

Wacker pitched into the fourth inning, allowing See **BULLS** on B2

FROGS BASEBALL

Pronk pitches Frogs past Lakers

Phil Pronk was dominant on the mound and his Lakefield teammates gave him enough run support to give the Frogs a 7-3 win Sunday at Heron Lake.

The win comes after the Frogs received a forfeit from Worthington last Wednesday and improves the team to 7-9 on the season.

Pronk held the Lakers scoreless through the first four innings, but the Frogs had just a 1-0 lead at that point before erupting for five runs in the top of the fifth.

Ryan Christopher started the fifth-inning rally

with a walk and Nolan Luhmann was hit by a pitch. A walk to Taylor Christopher followed before run-scoring singles by Dustin Pronk and Bryce Christopher.

All three Christophers scored in the inning, as did Luhmann and Pronk for a 6-0 lead.

Phil Pronk held the Lakers scoreless in the bottom of the fifth before they finally got to him for three runs on three hits in the sixth inning.

The Frogs answered right back when Bryce Christopher walked and scored on a Josh Thaemlitz

See **FROGS** on B2

Three sprint car classes set to race Friday night

After a week off, the Jackson Motorplex hosts New Fashion Pork Night Friday when a trio of sprint car classes will converge upon the four-tenths-mile oval.

The DeKalb/Asgrow presents the Midwest Power Series and Midwest Sprint Touring Series 360 sprint cars will each make their third visit of the season for a \$3,000-to-win, \$400-to-start event. This will be the final race that 360 sprint car teams will be allowed to run the RD-12 left rear tire.

Brooke Tatnell bested a field of 46 drivers to win the season opener and Jack Dover outlasted 36 other competitors to claim the second race.

Heartland Steel RaceSaver sprint cars presented by Wyffels Hybrids will be making their sixth

appearance this year. Bill Johnson owns a 13-point lead over Brant O'Banion in the championship standings. The top five drivers are within 17 points of each other.

NSL non-wing sprint cars presented by HitchDoc will invade Jackson Motorplex Friday for the third time this season. Brandon Halverson, who won the season opener, has a 12-point advantage over Johnny Parsons III in the championship standings. The top five in the standings are within 25 points of each other.

The pits open at 3 p.m. with the grandstands opening at 5 p.m. Hot laps start the racing action at 7:30 p.m.

There will be a Bank Midwest candy drop for children ages 12 years old and younger.

Pork Chop Open is all day today

The 42nd annual Pork Chop Open takes place all day today (Thursday) at the Loon Lake Golf Course south of Lakefield and Jackson.

The first tee times were scheduled for 6:30 a.m. and run well into the afternoon.

Participants will play nine holes of golf, as well as receive a pork burger lunch (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and pork chop supper (5

to 8 p.m.). Golfers will also participate in on-course games and have the chance to network with sponsors.

Funds raised from the event are contributed to Jackson County 4-H and FFA programs, the Jackson County Fair Association and livestock judging teams, Jackson County Coats for Kids and the Andrea Ruesch Scholarship Fund.



HIT KING

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Andy Wolf follows through on a base hit earlier this season. Wolf had three hits Saturday and two more Sunday to set the record for most career hits in the history of the Jackson Bulls with 681.

Andy Wolf sets record for most career hits in Jackson Bulls history

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Career hit No. 680 for Andy Wolf was much like a lot of those before it: a well-hit ball, followed by Wolf hustling down to first base.

But this one meant a little more.

Wolf's second-inning single Sunday at Heron Lake made him the career hits leader for the Jackson Bulls, putting him one ahead of Kip Wachal's 679.

It's a record Wolf said he never set out to achieve, but one he is honored to own.

"It's a neat list to be a part of and now to be on top of," he said. "It's pretty cool to be on a list with guys like Kip and Wade (Wacker). I played with them for a few years and consider them friends."

Wolf added another hit in the game to give him 681 in his 18 seasons.

"That's pretty impressive," Bulls manager Scott Bahr said. "That's a lot of hits."

Wolf was given the record-setting ball and said it'll be placed next

to one signed by another hit king.

"I'll put it right next to my Pete Rose autographed ball," he said.

After Wolf and Wachal on the hit list are Wacker (563), current Bull Blaise Jacobsen (480) and Caleb Rossow (298).

Wolf has long been the team's leader in career walks, currently sitting at 540 (Wachal is second with 354).

It's Wolf's approach at the plate that sets him apart from others, Bahr said.

"It's pretty impressive to have that many hits, but his walks and hit-by-pitch — there's probably as many of those," Bahr said. "His on-base percentage is unbelievable."

Wolf's career OBP is north of .500, giving Bahr a dangerous leadoff hitter for nearly two decades.

"He's spent most of his life as a leadoff hitter," Bahr said. "I haven't written many lineups in the last 20 years without Andy Wolf in it. I can't imagine writing a lineup without him."

Wolf said Bahr doesn't have to worry about that yet.

"As long as I stay healthy and life allows, I'll continue to play," Wolf said.

But there's one condition.

"As long as me and Scott can do it together, I'll keep playing,"

Wolf said. "If it wasn't for Scott, I wouldn't still be playing. I like the way he runs things. He does things

Bahr taking over at shortstop, which Scott Bahr said showed Wolf's true character.

"It takes a pretty classy guy to do that," Scott Bahr said. "He stepped aside and moved to second base when I thought it was time. Not everybody can accept that role change."

Wolf has been back at shortstop much of this season while Easton Bahr deals with an injury.

It's the same in the batting order, where Wolf gave up his customary leadoff spot for Easton Bahr.

"He's been our leadoff batter forever," Scott Bahr said. "As Easton started to take that, he moved into the 2 and 3 spot. He would do whatever it takes. What a great team player. What a great guy to have on your team."

It's that selflessness that Scott Bahr said makes Wolf the team's unquestioned leader.

"He's led by example on how to prepare for a game, how to play hard during a game, how to make winning very important," Scott Bahr said. "He is without a doubt our leader. He's our leader on the field and he's our leader off the field."

See **RECORD** on B2



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

HAPPY CAMPERS

Above: Arianna Hanson (from left), Mia McNab, Brynn Erickson, Madelyn Haren, Harper Jacobsen, Ady Wierson, Regan Endreson and Samantha VanWyhe watch as Alicia Brandt demonstrates a drill during a youth volleyball camp this week at the Jackson County Central High School. Right: JCC head coach Deidre Wierson helps Josie Pohlman with her technique during the camp.



