# SECTION B • THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019 ORTS



**SPORTS REPORTING AWARD-WINNER** 

## 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

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

Three sprint car classes

set to race Friday night

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 sea-

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

Ryan Christopher started the fifth-inning rally

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

The DeKalb/Asgrow presents the Midwest Pow-

er Series and Midwest

Sprint Touring Series 360

sprint cars will each make

their third visit of the sea-

son 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-

Brooke Tatnell bested a

field of 46 drivers to win

the season opener and Jack

Dover outlasted 36 other

competitors to claim the

eSaver sprint cars pre-

sented by Wyffels Hybrids

will be making their sixth

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Pork

Chop Open takes place all

day today (Thursday) at

the Loon Lake Golf Course

south of Lakefield and

scheduled for 6:30 a.m. and

run well into the afternoon.

nine holes of golf, as well

as receive a pork burger

lunch (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

and pork chop supper (5

The first tee times were

Participants will play

Heartland Steel Rac-

12 left rear tire.

second race.

Jackson.

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

appearance this year. Bill

Johnson owns a 13-point

lead over Brant O'Banion

in the championship stand-

ings. The top five drivers

are within 17 points of each

NSL non-wing sprint cars presented by Hitch-

Doc 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 stand-

ings are within 25 points

with the grandstands open-

ing at 5 p.m. Hot laps start

the racing action at 7:30

Midwest candy drop for

children ages 12 years old

to 8 p.m.). Golfers will also

participate in on-course

games and have the chance

to network with sponsors.

event are contributed to

Jackson County 4-H and

FFA programs, the Jack-

son County Fair Associa-

tion and livestock judging

teams, Jackson County

Coats for Kids and the An-

drea Ruesch Scholarship

Funds raised from the

There will be a Bank

The pits open at 3 p.m.

of each other.

and younger.

Pork Chop Open is all day today

See FROGS on B2



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 sea-

"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 **CATEGORY WITH** leader in ca-THE BEST THAT reer walks. **EVER PLAYED FOR** 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

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

But there's one condi-

"As long as me and Scott

can do it together, I'll keep playing," "I PUT HIM IN THE Wolf said. "If it wasn't

> for Scott, I wouldn't still be playing. I like the

way he runs things. He does things

right."

THE BULLS."

**Scott Bahr** 

## 'Whatever it takes'

Wolf's record-setting hit was on the radar all season, but Bahr said there's so much more to the veteran than any of his gaudy stats or records show.

Wolf started as a third baseman — legend has it he lied and told Bahr that's what position he played after learning the Bulls were in need of a third baseman before moving to shortstop, then center field, then back to shortstop and then to second base.

The move to second base was predicated by Easton 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 volleybal 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.



## ATHLETIC **CALENDAR**

Thursday, July 11 No events

Friday, July 12 **Jackson Motorplex races** 

Saturday, July 13 No events

Sunday, July 14 Bulls vs Frogs Monday, July 15

No events Tuesday, July 16 No events

Wednesday, July 17 Amateur baseball playoffs start

Get sports updates as they happen on Twitter @PilotSports

## @PilotSports

#### June 26, 10:28 p.m.

Easton Bahr hits a pinchhit single in the bottom of the 10th inning to score Alex Bretzman and give the Jackson Bulls a

9-8 win over Mt. Lake.

#### June 28, 9:52 p.m.

The Lakefield Frogs lost 6-0 to Pipestone tonight. Ryan Christopher had the only Lakefield hit with a sixth-inning single.

#### July 7, 1:07 p.m.

Lakefield and Jackson both play amateur baseball games at Heron Lake today. Frogs play at 2 and the Bulls play at 5.

#### July 7, 1:08 p.m.

Andy Wolf is tied with Kip Wachal for the most career hits in the history of the Jackson Bulls. He has a chance to break the record this afternoon

#### July 7, 7:51 p.m.

The Lakefield Frogs beat Heron Lake 7-3 today. The Jackson Bulls beat Heron Lake 10-2.

### July 7, 7:55 p.m.

Andy Wolf's secondinning single today at Heron Lake gave him a record-setting 680 career hits in a Jackson Bulls uniform. Kip Wachal is now second at 679.

Follow for more updates

## **BULLS:** Win Sunday

Continued from B1

two runs on three hits. He fanned six batters in his

Scheevel pitched three scoreless innings to get the win before Boggess finished things off.

Wolf had two hits for the Bulls, with the first tying him for most in the team's history (see story on B1) and the next putting him alone atop the career hit

Rasche and Wacker each scored twice and Rasche drove in two runs. Gumto walked three times and Jacobson drew two walks for the Bulls, who earned nine free passes in the win.

#### Missed opportunities cost **Bulls against Hadley**

Jackson had plenty of chances to score Saturday in a 5-4 loss at Hadley. But so did the Buttermakers.

The teams combined to strand 23 runners on base, with the Bulls leaving 13 stranded in the loss.

The Bulls left at least one runner on base in every inning but the third and

#### Bulls baseball **Bulls** 001 02 07 -10 8 4 **HL** 101 0000 -2 46

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Rasche, CF	4	2	1	2	
Wacker, P	4	2	1	1	
Jacobsen, C	3	0	0	0	
Neal, C	0	1	0	0	
Jacobson, RF	2	1	1	1	
Gumto, 1B	1	1	0	1	
Olesen, 3B	3	1	1	1	
Monson, LF	2	0	0	0	
Scheevel, P	2	1	1	1	
Bretzman, 2B	3	0	1	1	
Larson, PH	1	0	0	0	
Bulls	28	10	8	9	
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·	AB	R	Н	RBI				
Wolf, SS	5	1	3	1				
Olesen, DH	3	0	1	1				
Jacobson, CF	5	0	0	0				
Gumto, 3B	2	0	0	1				
Zalabowski, 1B	3	0	1	0				
Monson, LF	2	0	0	0				
Jacobsen, C	5	1	1	0				
Johnson, LF	3	1	1	0				
Larson, RF	4	0	1	0				
Bretzman, 2B	4	1	1	0				
Bulls	36	4	9	3				
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IP H R ERBBK Olesen (2-2) 6 Holm 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 2 Boggess

8 9 5 4 5

8

left the potential tying run at third base in the eighth.

Hadley scored a run in the first after Jackson left two runners on base, but the Bulls tied the game in the top of the second when Jacobsen singled, stole second and scored on an error.

Hadley led 4-1 after three runs in the bottom of the second and, after leaving two in scoring position in the fourth inning, the Bulls inched closer in the fifth.

Wolf doubled to start the inning and scored on a sacrifice fly by Gumto, but the Bulls again stranded a pair of runners on the base paths.

Hadley went back ahead by three with a run in the bottom of the inning, but didn't score

Darrius Johnson singled to open the sixth and scored on a Wolf double, but Brett Larson and Wolf were left in scoring position as the Bulls trailed 5-3.

A leadoff walk to Gumto in the seventh didn't lead to any scoring, but a single by Bretzman in the eighth turned into a run after Wolf and Olesen followed with singles of their own. Wolf was left on third base as the inning ended and Johnson was stranded at first base after a two-out walk in the ninth inning.

Wolf had three hits for the Bulls, including a pair of doubles. Olesen and Johnson each had a pair of walks to go with a hit and Gumto drew two walks.

Olesen pitched the

scoreless seventh inning before Boggess threw a

### Up next

Windom Wednesday night and host Lakefield Sunday to end the regular season.

Postseason informareleased

#### Bulls 7 4 2 1 5 10 first six innings, allow-Bulls baseball ing just four runs to a at Heron Lake. Bulls 01 0 01 1 01 0 - 4 9 2 Buttermaker team that went to state a year ago. Kevin Holm pitched a

scoreless eighth.

The Bulls played at

tion will be posted online at jacksoncountypilot.com and lakefieldstandard.com when it is

#### of today's (Thursday) playoff opener. Jackson led 3-0 before Windom came back to win Nate Reed, Dalton Henning and Zach Neal each

The Jackson American

Legion Post 130 baseball

team lost its regular-sea-

son finale against Windom

Monday night in a preview

6-4.

scored in the first inning, with Henning and Neal scoring on a two-out double by Leighton Polz.

Windom got within one with a pair of fourth-inning runs, but Jackson answered in the fourth when Polz walked and scored on a two-out single by Braden Schuett for a 4-2 lead. Windom took its first

lead of the game with three runs in the fifth, then held off two late-inning threats by Jackson to win by two.

In the fifth, Neal and Trace Michelson each

## Legion team drops finale in playoff preview walked with one out, but were stranded on the bas-

es. Alex Bretzman doubled with two outs in the bottom of the sixth to bring the potential tying run to the plate, but Post 130 was unable to pull even.

Bretzman pitched two scoreless innings before Henning and Reed each pitched a pair of innings. Neal pitched a scoreless seventh.

Head coach Blaise Jacobsen was pleased with the team despite the loss.

"We played really good baseball tonight against the Windom team we will face Thursday in round one of the playoffs in Wabasso,' he said. "We got on base, stole some bases, had a couple doubles with guys on and some timely twoout RBI hits. We also made a lot of plays in the field."

## **Legion team opens playoffs Thursday**

The Jackson American Legion Post 130 baseball team opens postseason play today (Thursday). Sixth-seeded Jackson faces third-seeded Windom in Wabasso to open the double-elimination sub-sub-state tournament.

The winner advances to face No. 2 Wabasso later in

On the other half of the bracket, No. 4 Springfield opens against No. 5 Heron Lake-Okabena, with the winner facing No. 1 Mt. Lake.

The tournament continues Friday and Saturday. The top two teams in the tournament advance to the substate tournament.

## **RECORD:** One of the best ever

Continued from B1

There's no doubt this is his team."

#### One of the best

Along with sitting atop career charts in hits and walks. Wolf is first in runs scored (602), second in stolen bases (131), games played (507) and at bats (1,821) and fourth in runs batted in (267).

All while being one of the premier fielders in the area at whatever position he's played.

"I get asked a lot, 'Who's the best ever?" Scott Bahr

said. "I don't ever like saving that because it's just such different eras and different teams. But he'd be in that conversation. I put him in the category with the best that ever played for the Bulls."

## **FROGS:** Beat Lakers

Continued from B1

single in the seventh for the 7-3 final.

Phil Pronk pitched six innings, allowing just the three runs in the sixth. He gave up a measly four hits and fanned two batters in the victory.

Ty Schwarting pitched the seventh, retiring the final two batters of the game after the Lakers had two hits and a walk to load the bases.

Dustin Pronk had a pair

Bryce Christopher scored two runs.

of hits for the Frogs and

#### Up next

The Frogs played at Worthington Wednesday night and end the regular season Sunday at Jackson.

The postseason begins next Wednesday. Information will be online at lakefieldstandard.com and jacksoncountypilot.com when it is released.

#### Frogs baseball Frogs 01 0 05 01 -7 60

**HL** 0000030 -3 63

AB R H RBI RChristopher, RF 3 1 0 0 Luhmann, 3B 3 TChristopher, SS 3 1 0 0 DPronk, 1B 1 2 1 BChristopher, 2B 3 2 1 1 TBargfrede, CF 3 1 0 0 Thaemlitz, DH 2 0 1 1

Schwarting, LF 3 0 1 1 Bezdicek, PH 1 0 0 0 Bakalyar, C 0 0 0 28 7 6 4 Frogs IPHR ERBBK

PPronk (2-5)6 4 3 3 3 2

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Schwarting 1 2 0 0 1

Frogs



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA BIDNE

## FROGS EARN TWO WINS AS THEY AIM FOR LEAGUE TITLE

Bulls

One year ago, July 12, 2018

The Lakefield Frogs beat Fairmont in the second game of a doubleheader to take a half-game lead in the First Nite League standings. Bryce Christopher scored what proved to be the game-winning run after hitting a double and coming home on a basesloaded walk by Josh Thaemlitz. Taylor Christopher hit a two-out single to score Trevon Bargfrede for an insurance run in the 3-1 win. Nolan Luhmann, Bryce Christopher and Bargfrede each had two hits. Dylan Svoboda pitched into the sixth inning, allowing just one run. Zach Bargfrede got the win in relief. In a 17-11 win over Heron Lake to days later, Taylor Christopher, Luhmann, Dustin Pronk, Bargfrede, Jon Hummel and Jared Bakalyar each had three hits. Bakalyar drove in four runs and Luhmann and Trevon Bargfrede each drove in two. Hummel scored four times and Taylor Christopher, Trevon Bargfrede and Bakalyar each scored three times.

## RASCHE PITCHES BULLS PAST FROGS

Five years ago, July 10, 2014

Ryan Rasche held the Lakefield Frogs in check and Jackson rapped 14 hits in a 10-3 win. Jackson led 6-0, but the Frogs scored three runs in the sixth to get back in it before Jackson added two in the seventh and two more in the eight to win big. Pat Rients and Zach Copley each had three hits for the Bulls, with Copley driving in three runs and Rients and Rasche each plating two. Tanner Menke had three hits and drove in two runs for Lakefield. Rasche struck out four batters and allowed just three runs in six innings.

## **CHEERLEADERS EARN LEADERSHIP AWARD**

10 years ago, July 9, 2009 Five Jackson County Central cheerleaders were named UCA all-stars at a recent fourday camp in Okoboji, Iowa. Taylor Egeland, Rachel Hanson, Emily Marker, Lauren Vacek and Heather Heser each earned all-star status at the camp. This marks the third time Marker has earned the honor. The Huskies were given the Gatorade Leadership Award as voted on by the rest of the teams at camp. It's the second straight year the Huskies earned the leadership award.

## **POST 130 FINISHES 2ND IN TOURNEY**

25 years ago, July 14, 1994 - Jackson County Pilot

Jackson went 3-1 to finish second in its own tournament, winning 9-8 over Fulda and 17-3 over Lake Crystal in pool play, then 8-7 over St. James in the semifinals before losing 4-0 to Springfield in the finals. Blaise Jacobsen hit a two-out double in the eighth inning to score Jeremy Michelson with the winning run over St. James in a game Jackson had trailed 6-0. Ron Gasca, Dan Copley and Matt Grantz each had two hits in the win. Jackson scored 12 first-inning runs against LC, with Matt Foster picking up a double and triple in the inning. Jackson overcame a 7-0 deficit to beat Fulda 9-8 in the opener. Jason Scrabeck hit a two-run double in a six-run sixth inning to help the locals win.

## P.J.'S PLACES SECOND IN ITS OWN TOURNEY

25 years ago, July 14, 1994 - Lakefield Standard

P.J.'s Lounge placed second in its own softball tournament in Okabena, losing 6-1 to Vesta in the championship game. P.J.'s opened with a 9-1 win over Ellsworth. Leigh Hohenstein was the winning pitcher. Doug Wolter and Bob Madsen hit home runs. After losing 6-0 to Vesta, P.J.'s beat Ellsworth 12-0 behind the pitching of Hohenstein and a homer by Jason Voss. That put P.J.'s in the finals for a rematch with Vesta, but Dave Froderman's home run was the lone run for the hosts in the championship game.

## BACK-TO-BACK

The Jackson County Central 10-and-under softball team is a tournament champion for the second straight weekend after taking first place at the Fairmont Cardinals Power Classic Saturday. Team members are (front, from left): Tressa Withers, Lilly McNea, Lilly Nestegard, Ella Zittritch, Delaney Krumwiede and Chloe Nestegard. Back: Coach Kollin VanDeVere, Miley VanDeVere, Julia Bidne, Kinley VanDeVere, Braelyn Boogerd, Erin Beckel, Makenna Tweedt, Mady Wachal and coach Kip Wachal. The team will play in the state tournament this weekend after winning a 22-team qualifier last month. The Huskies open state Saturday against Belle Plaine Red in Plymouth.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIP WACHAL

## **MEDAL-WORTHY**

Members of the Jackson County Central 12-and-under softball team show off their medals from a second-place finish in the 22-team Southern Star qualifier tournament last month in Windom. The Huskies went 5-2, with their only losses to champion St. James. Team members are (front, from left): Hadley Wachal, Romi Rosenbrook, Isabelle Schultz, Sawyer Flatgard, Kailey Fricke, Hannah Hash and Peyton Coquyt. Back: Grace Thomas, Aubree Tidyman, Zoe Kaderabek, Taylor Schultz, Tianna Uilk, Emma Haren and Kayleigh Nosbusch. Missing: Renae Vancura.