

AMATEUR BASEBALL

Struggles continue for Red Devils at Region 7C tournament

KIP KOVAR  
Sports Editor

There's just something about the Region 7C tournament that gives the Watertown Red Devils fits. Back at the tournament for the 11th straight season, the Red Devils once again fell short of reaching the state tournament after going 0-2 in their first two

games of the weekend. It's the second-straight season the Red Devils have gone 0-2, including last year in which they were the No. 2 overall seed. Watertown's last state tournament appearance came in 2008.

**Cologne 7, Watertown 3**  
COLOGNE – Through five

innings, the Watertown Red Devils were in a good spot to get their first win of the Region 7C tournament. Instead, it was the Cologne Hollanders who scored six unanswered runs over the next three innings, rallying for a 7-3 victory over the Red Devils.

With ace Pat Tschida on the

mound, the Red Devils were feeling good about themselves despite falling behind early. In the top of the fourth, Watertown tied the game at one, thanks to an RBI single from Ben Theisen.

After breaking through for their first run of the game, the Red Devils kept things roll-

ing in the next two innings. In the top of the fifth, Andrew Thibault scored on a groundout by Tschida to give Watertown a 2-1 lead.

Playing with a lead, the Red Devils kept the pressure on the Hollanders in the top of the sixth. Zach Iten led off the inning with a double, and later came around to score on a ground ball to make it 3-1 Watertown.

Over the final four and a half innings, it was all Hollanders. Cologne rallied for three runs in the bottom of the sixth to take a 4-3 lead. After taking the lead, the Hollanders added on two more in the seventh, and one more in the eighth to pull away from the Red Devils for good.

**COLOGNE 7, WATERTOWN 3**

Friday, August 2  
at Cologne (Region 7C Tournament)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
DEVILS	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	6	1	
COLOGNE	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	X	7	12	1	
WATERTOWN	AB	R	H	R	H	RBI						
Pat Tschida	4	0	0	0	0	1						
Jonah Lewis	4	0	0	0	0	0						
Ben Smith	5	0	0	0	0	0						
Jared Duske	3	0	0	0	0	0						
Zach Iten	3	2	1	0	0	0						
Mitch Kelzer	3	0	2	0	0	0						
Ben Theisen	3	0	1	1	0	0						
Andrew Nichols	3	0	0	0	0	0						
Jordan Berrios	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Andrew Thibault	3	1	2	0	0	0						
Totals	31	3	6	2	0	0						

BB: Lewis, Duske, Iten, Kelzer, Berrios, Thibault. 2B: Iten.

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pat Tschida, L	6	8	4	4	1	4
Justin Kohls	1	1	0	0	0	1
Chad Jones	1	3	3	2	1	1

right for the Red Devils. Timely hitting by the Green Isle Irish combined with sloppy defense by the Red Devils led to a disappointing 12-0 loss in seven innings. With the loss, Watertown's season came to an end.

Things were looking up for the Red Devils after a half inning of play. Iten retired the Irish in order in the top of the first, but the rest of the game was a different story. Green Isle scored two runs in the second, two runs in the third, one run in the fourth, two runs in the fifth, two runs in the sixth, and three more in the seventh to hand the Red Devils a blowout loss.

The Irish were able to find the clutch hits throughout the game as they also took advantage of four errors by the Red Devils.

**GREEN ISLE 12, WATERTOWN 0**

Sunday, August 4  
at Carver (Region 7C Tournament)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
IRISH	0	2	2	1	2	2	3		12	12
DEVILS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	5
WATERTOWN	AB	R	H	RBI						
Pat Tschida	4	0	0	0						
Jordan Berrios	2	0	1	0						
Ben Smith	2	0	1	0						
Jared Duske	1	0	0	0						
Zach Iten	3	0	0	0						
Mitch Kelzer	3	0	2	0						
Ben Theisen	3	0	1	0						
Jonah Lewis	3	0	0	0						
Andrew Thibault	3	0	0	0						
Totals	24	0	5	0						

BB: Duske, Smith, HBP: Duske.

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Zach Iten, L	4	7	5	4	1	5
Jared Duske	1.1	4	4	4	1	1
Chad Jones	0	0	3	3	3	0
Jonah Lewis	0.2	0	0	0	1	1



Watertown catcher Ben Theisen attempts to tag Cologne's Zack Nelson who went airborne to avoid the tag in the opening round of the Region 7C Tournament. Nelson was ruled safe by the home plate umpire.

PHOTO BY ROXANNE KUERSCHNER

Vikings football is back

Training Camp for the Minnesota Vikings has been in full swing the past couple of weeks. The first preseason game takes place tonight as Minnesota travels to New Orleans to take on Teddy Bridgewater and the Saints.

The preseason is mostly boring to watch. The games mean nothing to the fans for the most part and the quality usually isn't the best. Many of the positions are usually already determined and it consists mostly of players fighting for back end roster spots or a chance to be on the practice squad.

In honor of the Vikings releasing their first unofficial depth chart for the 2019 season ahead of tonight's game, let's take a look at some players to watch and position battles to keep in mind that will make watching a preseason game more interesting.

Perhaps the most exciting position battle to watch is at wide receiver. Even someone who hasn't seen a football game before probably knows that Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen are

Minnesota's bonafide studs. However, behind them, things get rather interesting. The Vikings will keep four or five receivers on the roster. Currently, Jordan Taylor and Chad Beebe are slotted in as three and four while first round pick Laquon Treadwell is battling Jeff Badet, Brandon Zylstra and more to make the squad.

**Land of 10,000 Takes**  
**Jacob Wandersee**  
HJ Sports Contributor  
jwandersee@heraldjournal.com

The once highly thought of draft choice has fallen out of favor in Minnesota and things might finally be nearing the end. Treadwell has been given every chance to succeed and yet finds himself in a battle just to make the team. Tonight could be a strong indicator as to which way the Vikings are leaning if Beebe, Taylor, Badet or Zylstra stand out. The writing could be on the wall for Treadwell.

Another battle going on is at the quarterback position. I think it is safe to say that Kirk Cousins is the starter, but there is some intrigue as to who will be his backup. Most teams only carry two quarterbacks with one on the practice squad, so someone is likely to be cut.

First, we have the 5th year guy out of Oregon State in Sean Mannion who was signed in the offseason to vie for the backup spot. Second, we have Kyle Slotter who has been with the Vikings on the practice squad the past two seasons and has been in the good graces of the coaching staff during his time in purple. Lastly, we have the rookie QB out of Washington Jake Browning, who the Vikings feel very optimistic

about. With Cousins on the sidelines for much of the preseason, these three quarterbacks will have plenty of opportunities to show why they belong on the roster (or why they don't).

The last area to watch that should be entertaining will be the new rookies on offense. The Vikings brought in two promising guys on offense early in the draft this past year. They used a second round pick on tight end Irv Smith Jr. out of Alabama and a third round pick on running back Alexander Mattison out of Boise State.

Smith Jr. and Mattison are almost guaranteed to have roles within the offense this year, albeit mostly as backups. Mattison is slotted in as the number two running back behind Dalvin Cook and Smith Jr. is currently behind Kyle Rudolph.

However, the rookies will get their chance to shine during the preseason and will receive plenty of valuable reps to help them start to figure out their place in the NFL. With Cook's injury history and Rudolph's age, Smith Jr. and Mattison will definitely play meaningful minutes over the course of the season.

Although it is only the preseason, I can't be the only person to be excited that the NFL is back. And even though it is a Friday night, I probably will be glued in on the TV. Finally, Minnesota Vikings football is back.

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Bickmann's clutch hit leads Orphans past Lakers in Region 12C opener

KIP KOVAR  
Sports Editor

**HUTCHINSON** – Finding ways to win close games has been the way for the Howard Lake Orphans all season long. They needed to do that once again last week.

Taking on the Maple Lake Lakers in the first round of the Region 12C Tournament, the Orphans once again found themselves in a close game. They were out-hit by the Lakers 4-3, but just one hit the Orphans had was the difference as they topped the Lakers by a score of 2-0 August 2 at Veterans Memorial Field.

Brad Bickmann was the player who delivered for the Orphans when they needed it most. He had just one hit in the game, but it was a big one.

Three-straight walks to start the bottom of the third inning had the Orphans in business in a scoreless game. Then, it was Jake Gruenhagen who delivered with a single, loading the bases for the Orphans with just one out.

After the Lakers picked up a big strikeout for the second out, it looked as if the Orphans were going to let a golden scoring opportunity slip away. That was, until Bickmann stepped to the plate and delivered in the clutch. On the first pitch he saw, Bickmann delivered with a single to center, scoring Zach Kuefler and Steve Boger to give the Orphans a 2-0 lead.

Those two runs driven in by Bickmann would prove to be more than enough as Mike Dockendorf and Kuefler combined for the shutout on the mound. Dockendorf got the win, throwing eight shutout innings while allowing just four hits and striking out four. Kuefler got the save with a scoreless

AMATEUR BASEBALL

ninth, sending the Orphans to the next round of the Region 12C Tournament.

**HOWARD LAKE 2, MAPLE LAKE 0**

Friday, August 2  
at Hutchinson (Region 12C Tournament)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
LAKERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
ORPHANS	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	X	2	3	1
MAPLE LAKE							AB	R	H	RBI		
Lucas Fobbe							2	0	1	0		
Luke Fobbe							2	0	0	0		
Ben Clapp							4	0	0	0		
Matt Bergstrom							4	0	1	0		
Derek Rachel							4	0	0	0		
Hunter Malachek							3	0	0	0		
Donnie Mavencamp							4	0	1	0		
Ben Goelz							4	0	1	0		
Mitch Wurm							2	0	0	0		
Riley Decker							3	0	0	0		
Totals							32	0	4	0		
BB: Malachek, Wurm.												
Pitching							IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Nick Preisinger, L							8	3	2	2	3	6
HOWARD LAKE							AB	R	H	RBI		
Zach Kuefler							3	1	0	0		
Steve Boger							2	1	0	0		
Jake Gruenhagen							4	0	1	0		
Jared Koch							4	0	0	0		
Brad Bickmann							3	0	1	2		
Alex Baumann							3	0	0	0		
Cory Dehn							3	0	0	0		
Mitchell Baumann							3	0	1	0		
Matt Streich							2	0	0	0		
Totals							27	2	3	2		
BB: Kuefler, Boger, Streich.												
Pitching							IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Dockendorf, W							8	4	0	0	1	4
Kuefler, S							1	0	0	0	1	1

Bickmann, and Cole Macziewski each had one hit in the loss for the Orphans.

**HUTCHINSON 16, HOWARD LAKE 0**

Saturday, August 3  
at Hutchinson (Region 12C Tournament)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
ORPHANS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	5
HUSKIES	1	1	5	6	3	X			16	19
HOWARD LAKE	AB	R	H	RBI						
Zach Kuefler	4	0	0	0						
Brandon Karels	0	0	0	0						
Steve Boger	4	0	1	0						
Jake Gruenhagen	3	0	1	0						
Jared Koch	2	0	0	0						
Jordan Steffer	1	0	1	0						
Brad Bickmann	2	0	1	0						
Alex Baumann	2	0	0	0						
Sam Kittock	1	0	0	0						
Noah Bush	4	0	0	0						
Mitchell Baumann	1	0	0	0						
Matt Streich	2	0	0	0						
Cole Macziewski	1	0	1	0						
Totals	27	0	5	0						

HUTCHINSON	AB	R	H	RBI
Jayden Fleck	5	0	3	1
Matt Piechowski	4	1	1	0
Jake Wendland	4	3	2	2
Evan Kohli	5	3	4	1
Marcus Hahn	5	3	3	3
Jake Arit	2	3	2	1
Cody Arit	2	1	1	2
Keegan Macemon	4	1	1	3
Noah Corrow	3	1	2	3
Adam Katzenmeyer	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>

BB: Wendland, J. Arit 2, C. Arit. HBP: Pieschowski. 2B: Fleck, Corrow, Macemon, Hahn 3, Kohli 2, J. Arit 2. HR: Wendland 2, Kohli.

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kyle Messner, W	5	2	0	0	0	5
Jacob Kraft	1	2	0	0	0	0
Tyler Windschitl	1	1	0	0	0	0

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