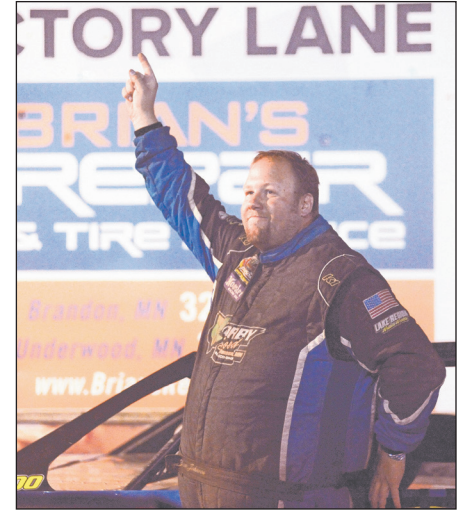


# SPORTS



Photos by Eric Morken / Echo Press

Osakis' Lane Berberich comes back into the dugout after scoring a run that made it 3-0 on Sunday afternoon against the Carlos Cougars. Berberich helped lead the Hawks to a 10-3 win over Carlos.



Eric Morken / Echo Press

Ben Johnson of New London raises his hand to the crowd at the Viking Speedway after winning the Super Stock feature race on Aug. 24, 2019. Barring any changes in policy at the state level relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Viking Speedway will host races for the first time this summer on July 11.

## Viking Speedway ready to race again

By Eric Morken  
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Barring any changes in policy at the state level, the Viking Speedway in Alexandria is ready to race again.

The board of directors from the local dirt track has set July 11 as its 55th season opener. Limited Late Models and WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, Modifieds, Street Stocks and Super Stocks will all be running, with the action starting with heat races at 6:30 that night.

"We're very excited to get it going," current speedway president Justin Anderson said on July 1. "To get back at Alexandria, I think it's going to be pretty awesome. A lot of racers have been traveling, and I think the novelty of traveling to these different tracks is starting to wear off. It takes a toll and gets expensive in a hurry. If they're able to start getting back on a local basis where they maybe don't have to drive two, three hours. If they can drive a half hour to an hour, they'll be a lot happier and can spend time with their families as well."

The Viking Speedway had been waiting for the go-ahead from the state as it pertains to COVID-19 guidelines and the track's ability to allow fans into the grandstands. Other tracks around the Midwest, including I-94 Speedway in Fergus Falls, have been up and running.

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## WINNING ONE FOR BRADY

Baseball brings Osakis together after heartbreak of losing a brother, friend

By Eric Morken  
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Baseball is simply a part of the Berberich family.

Kyle and Vicki Berberich of Osakis had three sons. Brady was the youngest after Lane and Todd. The brothers had to get creative, but a makeshift diamond of their own at home was just the start of what would be a life filled with memories throwing the ball around.

"Baseball meant everything to (Brady), and Todd and I," Lane said. "We grew up with a deer fence, and that would be our outfield. We made a mound out there and batter's boxes. We'd be out there playing every single day, pitching to each other.

I spent a lot of time with Brady pitching to me. It's everything to us. My dad played with us, pitched to us in little league, coached us in little league."

That's why the baseball field is exactly where Lane wanted to be on Sunday afternoon in what has been an incredibly difficult week for the Berberich family and the Osakis community. Doctors found an inoperable brain tumor in Brady during the summer of 2019. On Wednesday this past week, he died at his home in Osakis surrounded by his family at the age of 21.

"Everyone is heartbroken, but we have a great

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Osakis' Carter Rost pitches to the Carlos Cougars' Braden Reisdorf during the first inning on Sunday. Rost went the first four innings, allowing just one unearned run to help the Hawks to the win.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## Boraas, Sladek test themselves in summer golf tournaments

By Eric Morken  
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Alexandria's Hannah Boraas continues to get in a lot of big tournaments this summer as she solidifies herself as one of the top young golfers in the state.



Boraas

Boraas, who just wrapped up her freshman year in high school, played in the championship flight of the 75th Minnesota Junior Girls' State Championship June 29-30. The two-day Minnesota Golf Association event was played at the Bent Creek Golf Club in Eden Prairie, where Boraas finished eighth out of 28 players in her top flight.

Boraas shot a 75 in the first round. That left her in fourth place going into day two, where she carded an 81 to finish at 156. Isabella McCauley of the Southview Country Club won the tournament at 1-under par over the two days. She shot a 72 on

day one before a 69 was five shots better than anyone else on day two to finish at 141. Her younger sister, Reese McCauley, was second with a 146 (72, 74).

### Sladek fifth in Sioux Falls

Alexandria boys golfer Braeden Sladek is keeping busy on the course at some big tournaments himself this summer.

Sladek recently got back from the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Greatlife Junior Challenge by Sanford Health in Sioux Falls. The tournament was a three-day event that ran June 28 through July 1 and featured 51 players from all over the United States.

Sladek continues to prove he can compete with anyone in these types of events as he took fifth in Sioux Falls. He shot an even-par 210 over the course of the three rounds.

Sladek's first round was his best as he shot a 2-under par 68 at the Willow Run Golf Course. Included in that were six birdies on the day.

He followed it up with a 73 on day two and another under-par round of 69 on July 1 to finish at even. Tyson Shelley of Salt Lake City, Utah and Jacob Mason of Westminster, Colo., tied for first in the event with rounds of 5-under 205.

The AJGA uses a performance-based entry system to gain entry into all of its tournaments. Sladek's top-five finish in Sioux Falls meant he earned full-exempt status. That is the highest acceptance priority for entry into the AJGA Open and Junior All-Star Series Tournaments. Sladek will be competing in AJGA events in Wisconsin, Illinois and Georgia in the coming weeks.

### Free FCA volleyball camp opportunity

A donor through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has volunteered to pay for the first 50 entrants into

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Jared Rubado / Echo Press

Alexandria's Braeden Sladek grabs his putter during the Class AAA state tournament at the Bunker Hill Golf Course in Coon Rapids last year. Sladek is competing in tournaments around the country this summer, recently returning from the AJGA Greatlife Junior Challenge in Sioux Falls, S.D., where he finished fifth against a field of players from all over the United States.



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