

Sports

Northfield News



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2B

Wednesday

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AMATEUR BASEBALL



DUNDAS VS. MOORHEAD

After producing dueling 10-run attacks in the first round, Dundas and Moorhead will clash in the quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Shakopee.

The Moorhead Brewers surged past Prior Lake 10-2 after trailing 2-1 entering the fifth inning. Moorhead then scored three times in the bottom of the fifth, once in the seventh and five times in the eighth to distance itself.

On the mound, David Ernst allowed only three hits, two unearned runs, four walks and struck out eight batters in eight innings of work to earn the win for the Brewers. The 2015 North Dakota State University graduate that was drafted by the Chicago Cubs out of high school will likely start this Saturday as well.

Dundas, meanwhile, can go back to Derek Albers on the mound, or turn to its healthy stable of capable arms that includes Todd Mathison, Charlie Ruud, John McCaustlin, Conor Merton and Alec Holcomb.

Dundas starting pitcher Derek Albers releases a pitch during Saturday's 10-1 victory against Chaska in the first round of the Class B state tournament at Joe Schleper Stadium in Shakopee. Albers earned the win while firing six innings and allowing one run. (Michael Hughes/Northfield News)

DEVELOPING INTO AN ACE

Albers completes transformation from bat boy to ace, Dundas pounds 23 hits to top Chaska

By MICHAEL HUGHES
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Ten years ago, when the Dundas Dukes finished as the state-runner up in the Class B state tournament, co-manager Charlie Ruud was starring on the mound.

The team's bat boy at the time, Derek Albers, watched, learned and listened to Ruud. The two developed a friendship, and now, the roles between the

two have morphed.

In the first round of the Class B state tournament Saturday afternoon in Shakopee, Albers started and fired six innings to earn the win in a 10-1 victory against Chaska to help Dundas advance to the second round next Saturday night against the winner of Moorhead and Prior Lake, all while Ruud watched from the dugout.

"It's outstanding," Ruud said. "It's so fun. He and I, when he was a bat boy, developed a hand shake 12 years ago and we still know it to this day, so that's really fun. You forget that he's 20 years old and hopefully has a lot of baseball ahead of him still. Hopefully the Dukes can reap the benefits of it, too."

The first state tournament start for Albers didn't start like a movie, however. His first pitch of the game was drilled to the left-center field wall for a double by Chaska shortstop Kris Goodman, who came home to score on an RBI single by Tyler Polster.

The Cubs then put runners on second and third with two outs, when third baseman Mike Ludwig made a diving catch to end the inning and limit the damage to one run. In the second inning, Albers allowed a leadoff single before retiring the next three batters to end the frame.

"I wouldn't say (I was) worried," Albers said. "Going into the game I knew they were really good hitters and a lot of guys that had been around a lot of good baseball teams. I couldn't just throw fastballs right down the middle, because they were going to hit it like they did that first pitch."

"If it would have gotten a little hairier in that first inning, we would have thought about (taking him out)," Ruud said. "It's the state tournament and a one-and-done situation, so you can't let it get out of hand too quickly. But, after he was able to limit it in the first and put a zero up in the second and seemed like he was rolling."

After allowing a leadoff single to start the sev-



Dundas center fielder Haydn Lanoue swings at a pitch during Saturday's 10-1 victory against Chaska in the first round of the Class B state tournament at Joe Schleper Stadium in Shakopee. Lanoue drove in a pair of runs with two hits. (Michael Hughes/Northfield News)

enth inning, Albers was pulled and Todd Mathison pitched three scoreless innings to finish the game. Albers finished by allowing nine hits, one run and no walks while striking out a pair of batters.

"He had a little bit of that state tournament adrenaline going in the first two innings," Ruud said. "The ball was up a little bit, but he was able to limit it to one run, settle in and then he was what he's been for us all year, which is just lights out."

Kashmark stars in left

Albers was also helped by the play of left fielder Cody Kashmark.

In the bottom of the fifth, Chaska had placed runners of first and third and was looking to eliminate a 2-1 deficit. Then, Steve Edlefson launched a deep fly ball to left field, where Kashmark raced back to make a leaping catch into the wall to end the inning.

"I was kind of worried about the fence," Kashmark said. "Haydn was talking to me and telling me the fence was coming up soon, so as soon as I hit the dirt with my first step, I jumped up and tried to catch the ball as far away from the wall as possible so I didn't drill into it."

See DUNDAS on 3B



Dundas left fielder Cody Kashmark sprints around third base during Saturday's 10-1 victory against Chaska in the first round of the Class B state tournament at Joe Schleper Stadium in Shakopee. Kashmark collected three hits in the win. (Michael Hughes/Northfield News)

Maus, Severson power Northfield past East Grand Forks in first round of Class B state tournament

By MICHAEL HUGHES
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East Grand Forks didn't know any better.

It had been burned three times Saturday by Northfield first baseman Aldon Severson, who had slapped a trio of RBI singles to that point. So, with a runner on second and two outs in the bottom of the eighth during the first round of the Class B state tournament in Shakopee, Severson was intentionally walked.

That brought up center fielder Tim Maus, who was hitless to that point. That was until he launched a first-pitch fastball over the wall in left field to help secure a 9-5 victory for Northfield, which advances to the tournament's second round at 7:30 p.m. Friday back in Shakopee.

"I got down two strikes in my other two at-bats," Maus said. "I wasn't going to try to get down to two strikes again, so something early in the count I could hit and get a good swing on it."

"That's the beauty of the Knights lineup," Severson added. "One guy gets walked and everybody has confidence the next guy is going to come up with a big swing. Fortunately they put me on base and Tim came up with the big swing. (There) was never a doubt."



Northfield starting pitcher Jon Ludwig delivers a pitch during Saturday's 9-5 victory against East Grand Forks in the first round of the Class B state tournament at Bill Schleper Stadium in Shakopee. Ludwig struck out 14 batters in seven innings to earn the win. (Michael Hughes/Northfield News)

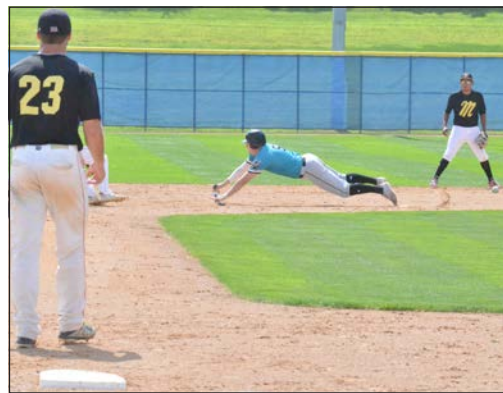
On top of Severson's three RBI singles and Maus' three-run home run, the Knights were helped by shortstop Thomas Meland's two hits, two runs and RBI and second baseman Jake Mathison's three runs scored.

That was enough to support starting pitcher Jon Ludwig, who fired seven innings and allowed four runs, seven hits and two walks while striking out a season-high 14 batters. Mathison then

pitched the final two innings and allowed only a solo home run to garner a save.

After East Grand Forks snagged a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, Northfield quickly jumped in front 2-1 with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first thanks to an RBI single by Severson to score Mathison and an RBI fielder's choice from Maus to score Meland.

See NORTHFIELD on 3B



Northfield second baseman Jake Mathison slides into second base during Saturday's 9-5 victory against East Grand Forks in the first round of the Class B state tournament at Bill Schleper Stadium in Shakopee. Mathison scored three runs and earned the save. (Michael Hughes/Northfield News)



Northfield first baseman Aldon Severson lines an RBI single during Saturday's 9-5 win against East Grand Forks in the first round of the Class B state tournament at Joe Schleper Stadium in Shakopee. Severson finished with three RBI singles in the win. (Michael Hughes/Northfield News)