



## HART OF GOLD

Kaden Hart, BSU forward and much more, remembered for his smarts and his selflessness

By Micah Friez  
mfriez@bemidjipioneer.com

**K**aden Hart held one of the most important unsung roles during Bemidji State men's basketball practice, acting as the unofficial captain of the White Team and leading a group of bench players who challenged the starting five.

"He killed us every day in practice," incoming senior Derek Thompson confessed. "We couldn't stop him a lot of times. He would shoot the crap out of the ball and be a good teammate for the white squad. He kind of put them on his back most days, really."

"He always wanted to win," head coach Mike Boschee added. "He always wanted to help that reserve team beat the top group,

and they did a lot. They had their fair share of beating the top group."

Moving forward, the White Team will never find someone to fill that role quite the same. Kaden Matthew Hart died unexpectedly on June 16. He was 21 years old.

"In the Beaver family, everybody knew Kade and loved to talk to Kade," Thompson said. "(His impact) was being a good friend and a good teammate, being selfless and always doing the right thing."

Hart will be remembered as far more than a basketball player. Those closest to him couldn't help but feel his intelligence, his quick wit and — perhaps most of all — his selflessness.

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### 'PLAY WITH HART' BRACELETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Pioneer Staff Report  
sports@bemidjipioneer.com

**BEMIDJI** — Bemidji State softball players Ali Schak and Lisa Kossan have organized a fundraiser by distributing bracelets in remembrance of Kaden Hart and to raise money for his family.

The bracelets say "Play with Hart" on one side and "Together for #2" on the other.

Players on the softball team are covering the costs of the bracelets, while donations are also being accepted with proceeds going to the Hart family. Contact 507-412-7516 to make an order or donation.

Kaden Hart shoots a 3-pointer during a game against Martin Luther on Nov. 16, 2019, at the BSU Gymnasium. Hart died unexpectedly on June 16.

Photos by Micah Friez / Bemidji Pioneer



Bemidji State's Kaden Hart passes the ball in a game against Martin Luther on Nov. 16, 2019, at the BSU Gymnasium.

## When Joe Motzko brought the Stanley Cup home to Bemidji

By Austin Monteith  
amonteith@bemidjipioneer.com

If you were to gaze at the rings of the Stanley Cup, nestled between George Parros and Ilya Bryzgalov on the 2006-07 Anaheim Ducks, you'd find the name of Joe Motzko.

Motzko is the first — and so far only — Bemidji native to ever have his name grace Lord Stanley's Cup.

As is tradition for members of Cup-winning teams, Motzko celebrated his day with the trophy on June 28, 2007, when he shared the esteemed Cup with his hometown.

What stands out the most to him about that day 13 years later?

"Fulfilling every childhood dream to spend a day with the Stanley Cup," Motzko said. "Being able to bring it back to Bemidji was pretty special."

The Cup arrived in Bemidji after crossing the border from Ontario where Ducks alternate captain Chris Pronger paraded the silver hardware around his hometown of Dryden. Then it was Motzko's turn.



Photo courtesy Joe Motzko

Bemidji native Joe Motzko brought the Stanley Cup to his hometown on June 28, 2007, after winning it with the Anaheim Ducks earlier that month.

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### LEGION BASEBALL



Annalise Braught / Bemidji Pioneer

Derek Young takes batting practice at Des Sagedahl Field on Thursday evening in Bemidji.

## Bemidji proceeding with makeshift season

By Micah Friez  
mfriez@bemidjipioneer.com

**BEMIDJI** — Two blissful words are close to echoing out in Bemidji once more: "Play ball!"

Despite the American Legion baseball season being canceled in May, Bemidji Post 14 players have been ramping up to

begin a makeshift season nonetheless.

"With the feedback we got from family and parents, above all, they were very interested," head coach Nate Blumhagen said. "We want to make sure we support that."

Bemidji began prac-

ticing mid-June and is eyeing to start the season the week after the Fourth of July holiday. They will field two teams — an 18U team and a 16U team — with around 13-14 players on each roster.

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