

# Sports



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## Ranger baseball makes more memories

*Forest Lake claims 1-0 win in regular-season home finale for Gravelle, seniors*

**John Wagner**  
Sports Editor

A large crowd gathered at Schumacher Stadium for the Forest Lake baseball team's final regular-season home game on Friday, May 21. People filled the stands and lined the fences on both sides of the field to honor the Rangers seniors.

But before the game began, the players and fans honored Forest Lake coach Tal Gravelle, who is stepping down as coach after this season.

"It wasn't supposed to be about me - it should be about the seniors," Gravelle said. "After the season we can talk about this season and my career. But tonight is about our seniors, and I'm so happy for them to have this success."

"Before the game I told them, 'Go out there and create some memories.' And that's what they did."

The memory will be a good one as the Rangers claimed a thrilling 1-0 victory over White Bear Lake in nine innings.

Forest Lake's winning rally in the bottom of the ninth began when senior Chase Osterberg and junior Gage Lund scratched out hits, and Isaac Roers sacrificed both up one base. Senior Nick Brown was intentionally walked to load the bases and set up a force at the plate, but with senior Max Kelly batting, the White Bear Lake pitcher uncorked a wild pitch that allowed Osterberg to scoot home.

"We had a few breaks with a couple of bloop hits," Gravelle said. "We had some chances earlier in the game but left guys stranded. Isaac laid down a nice bunt, and that gave us a chance to do some different things.

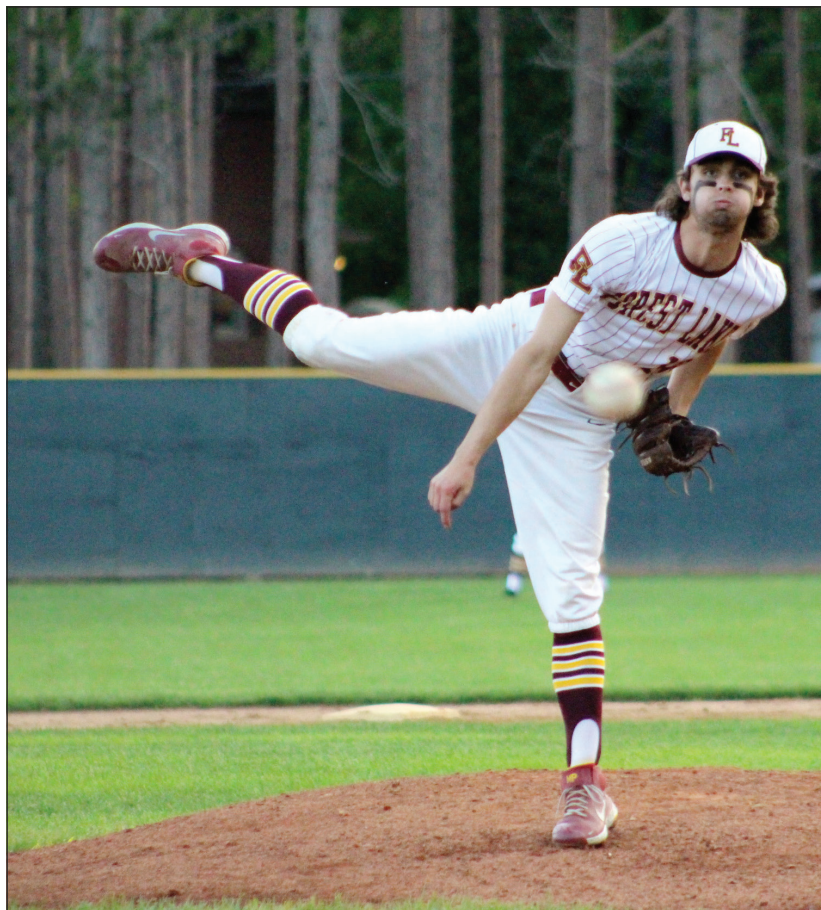


Photo by John Wagner

Forest Lake senior Isaac Roers fires a pitch in the Rangers' contest against White Bear Lake on Friday, May 21. Roers allowed just four hits and two walks in eight shutout innings, and the Rangers won 1-0 in nine.

"And Chase at third base made a great read - a scary read, but a great read - on the wild pitch to score the winning run."

While Lund was credited with the victory thanks to a scoreless ninth inning, it was Roers who kept his team in the contest. Battling against Bears starter Derrick Smith, who shut out the Rangers in the first meeting of the two teams earlier in the season, Roers allowed just four hits and two walks in eight shutout innings, striking out eight and retiring the last 15 batters he faced.

"Our pitchers battled and hung in there against the best pitcher we've faced all season," Gravelle said. "We knew that if we hung in there, we would give ourselves a chance to win eventually."

That chance finally came in

the bottom of the ninth, and once Osterberg stepped on home plate it sparked an on-field celebration filled with smiles, handshakes and hugs that continued to grow as Forest Lake baseball alumni joined the current players in saluting their coach.

"When you look at the crowd here, it reminds me that the support this town has given high school baseball has been incredible," Gravelle said. "We're so fortunate to play in this great ballpark, and we've made a lot of great memories in this ballpark."

"Any time you have a walk-off win, you create another memory, and that's special."

Forest Lake began the week with a 10-0 loss at East Ridge on Monday, May 17, but rebounded to beat Roseville 6-2 in a game played at the University of Northwestern two days later.

## Forest Lake girls lacrosse sees win streak end at 9

**John Wagner**  
Sports Editor

The Forest Lake girls lacrosse team extended its win streak to nine straight games before losing at Hill-Murray on Monday, May 24.

The Rangers began last week by claiming a narrow 8-7 victory in a non-conference matchup at Mahtomedi on Monday, May 17. Junior Erin Brown led the offense in that victory, scoring five of her team's goals.

Senior Mikaela Ness collected two goals and an assist, while sophomore Paige Rogers had a goal and two assists.

Junior goaltender Hannah Melander had 12 saves on 19 shots to earn the victory.

Two nights later Forest Lake used a six-goal second half to earn an 11-8 home

win over Roseville. Ness and Brown played a huge role offensively, combining for seven goals; Ness finished with four goals, while Brown had three goals and three assists.

Junior Samantha Hayek had two goals and two assists, while Rogers added two goals and an assist.

But the Rangers fell behind 6-3 after the first half at Hill-Murray and never recovered, dropping a 13-8 decision on Monday, May 24.

Junior Brooke Glumack led Forest Lake with four goals and added an assist, while Ness finished with three goals and Brown had four assists. Sophomore Emma Halweg also got on the score sheet with a goal and an assist.

Melander had a busy night in the Rangers goal, stopping 15 shots.

## Ranger boys tennis begins sections

**John Wagner**  
Sports Editor

The Forest Lake boys tennis team claimed one win in three matches in preparation for section contests this week.

The Rangers began the week with a tough 6-1 home loss to Centennial on Tuesday, May 18. The lone winner for Forest Lake was the first doubles team of juniors Henry Kerkow and Evan Dzurik, which won by scores of 7-6, 7-5.

The third doubles team of junior Jack Ihlenfeldt and sophomore Deacon Andre pushed their match to a third set before falling 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Forest Lake then split a pair of contests in a triangular hosted by Chisago

Lakes on Friday, May 21.

The Rangers claimed a 6-1 victory over the host school, winning every match but second doubles. The winners in singles were freshman Frank Kerkow at first, eighth grader Malachi McKinnon at second, freshman Braden Anderson at third and sophomore Carson Bowes at fourth.

Also winning was the first doubles team of Henry Kerkow and Dzurik as well as the third doubles team of sophomore Ben Bromert and Ihlenfeldt.

Forest Lake then fell to Anoka by a score of 5-2. McKinnon was victorious at second singles, as was Henry Kerkow and Dzurik at first doubles.

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