The Free Press, A6, Wednesday, June 9, 2021

East tops Worthington to stay alive in sections

Clarke records 13 strikeouts in win

By Denny Weller

Special to The Free Press

Caswell Park.

NORTH MANKATO — After not recording an out in Saturday's Section 2AAA winner's bracket final against Mankato West, Mankato East senior right-hander Madie Clarke seized the moment Tuesday afternoon at a steamy

Clarke allowed only one earned run as the No. 2-seeded Cougars (19-5) advanced to Thursday's 5 p.m. championship round with a convincing 7-4 triumph over Worthington. Clarke scattered six hits while fanning 13 and walking only one.

"Madie has been so consistent all year for us and she held West scoreless through nine innings of that last regular season game," East coach Joe Madson said. "She was pretty amped up (Saturday) and sometimes that can go against you. This was a super bounce back for her and gave us the innings we needed to get a win."

After Clark recorded two strikeouts in working a 1-2-3 first frame, the Cougars tallied a run in their first at bat when sophomore center fielder Sydney Jacobs

bounced a single through the hole and eventually scored on senior third baseman Tayler Swalve's single into right field. Swalve and Jacobs led a nine-hit attack with two hits apiece with Jacobs scoring three times.

"We started off strong and kept fighting as a team," Jacobs said. "Our pitcher helped a lot and then we kept hitting. We just had to clear our mind after Saturday and this was the

now. This lineup can do it all. We can hit, we can bunt and we can run. ... We know it's going to be tough against West, we just have to play our game and start out strong."

East expanded its lead to 4-0 in the third inning off Trojans' right-hander Haley Grimmius, who entered the contest with 264 strikeouts in 136 innings pitched. No. 9 hitter Maddie Beaty, who scored twice and was on only game in my mind right base all three of her at bats,

drew a walk and scored when Jacobs rocketed a triple over the left-fieler's head. Swalve and freshman shortstop Destiny Reasner followed with RBI singles.

"We were really excited coming into this game," Swalve said. "We wanted to go out and have some fun while scoring some runs. We really focused on coming out and jumping on them with our bats. We

Please see SOFTBALL, Page A7

BRIEFS

MoonDogs fall to Bismarck late

MANKATO — Bismarck scored a pair of runs in the top of the ninth to down the Mankato MoonDogs 3-1 in a Northwoods League game Tuesday at ISG Field.

Matthew Higgins went 2 for 4 with a double and a run scored for the Moon-Dogs. Preston Clifford also had two hits.

Ivran Romero surrendered one earned run over six innings for Mankato. Peyton Jones took the loss.

The MoonDogs host Bismarck again at 6:35 p.m. Wednesday.

The Free Press

Mystics hold on to beat Lynx 85-81

WASHINGTON — Tina Charles scored 31 points and the Washington Mystics held off the Minnesota Lynx for an 85-81 win on Tuesday night.

Charles had four points in the final minute for the Mystics (3-5), a wide-open layup off a midcourt inbounds play at 22.3 seconds and a pair of free throws with 6.4 seconds

Myisha Hines-Allen added 19 points, Ariel Atkins cored 17, and Natasha Cloud had 11 points, eight assists and a career-high six

Washington took the lead for good on a run of 12 straight points capped by Charles' three-point play and Hines-Allen's 11-foot jumper to make it 59-48. The Mystics extended to their largest lead at 68-50

late in the third quarter. Napheesa Collier had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Lynx (3-5). Sylvia Fowles scored 15 points, and Lavshia Clarendon had 14 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Denver's Jokic wins NBA MVP Award

DENVER — Nikola Jokic was selected with the 41st draft pick when he entered the NBA seven years ago.

Now, by overwhelming consensus, he's No. 1.

The Nuggets' big man was revealed Tuesday as the NBA's Most Valuable Player for 2020-21, making him by far the lowest draft pick ever to win the award. 'The Joker" now has his name etched alongside the greatest players in league history, which surely seemed unlikely when he was that unheralded prospect out of Sombor, Serbia in 2014.

Jokic was the runaway winner, getting 91 of the 101 first-place ballots cast — 100 of them from a global panel of sportswriters and broadcasters who cover the league, the other being an aggregate first-place ballot compiled from fan voting.

That fan vote went to 2011 NBA MVP Derrick Rose of the New York Knicks.

The Associated Press

From winner's bracket to fight to

STAY ALIVE



Photos by John Cross, special to The Free Press

Mankato West's Buck Wiebers dives safely back to first base as he is struck by an errant pickoff throw in the fourth inning of Tuesday's Section 2AAA playoff game against Marshall. The Tigers won 6-2 at Johnson Park in New Ulm.

Scarlets struggle with bats at Section 2AAA tournament

By Chad Courrier ccourrier@mankatofreepress.com

he Mankato West bats never

got going. The Scarlets totaled six runs and seven hits in two games and were fighting to stay alive in the Section 2AAA baseball tournament late Tuesday night at Johnson

The day began with West hoping to advance to Friday's championship game with a chance to qualify for the state tournament.

West lost 6-2 to Marshall in the winners' bracket final, then led 4-3 against Hutchinson after five innings later Tuesday.

Against Hutchinson, the Scarlets had a single in the second and third innings but couldn't push anything across.

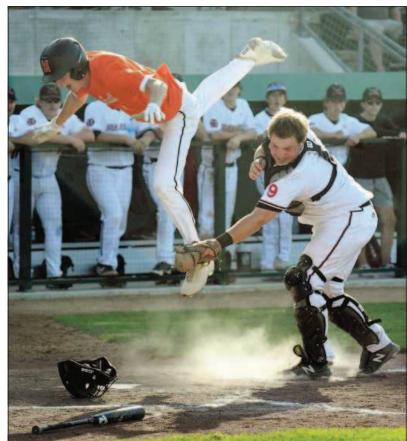
In the fourth, Jacob Maes led off with a hard single to left, and Nic Cook walked. An infield error loaded the bases with one out.

A high chopper to the mound was thrown home for the force, but the ball popped out of the catcher's glove for a run-scoring error as courtesy runner Buck Wiebers crossed the plate.

However, the Scarlets left the bases loaded, despite taking the first lead of the two games.

Louis Magers started and didn't allow a hit through four innings, but Hutchinson got two two-out hits to take a 3-1 lead in the top of the fifth.

West got those runs back in



Marshall's Jaden Pearcy is tagged out at home by Mankato West catcher Jacob Maes in the fifth inning of a Section 2AAA semifinal at Johnson Park in New Ulm on Tuesday.

the next at-bat. Hayden Mellen's two-out single — West's first RBI of the day — scored a run, and an infield error tied the game at 3. Ryan Haley was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to bring in the go-ahead run.

In the winners' bracket final ear-

lier Tuesday, Marshall ended West's 12-game winning streak, banging 12 hits in a 6-2 victory.

Marshall's first batter roped a triple to deep center, leading to the first run. Marshall added two more

Please see BASEBALL, Page A7

Yankees top

Bullpen, errors doom Twins

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Gary Sánchez and Miguel Andújar homered, DJ LeMahieu had two hits and an RBI, and the New York Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins 8-4 Tuesday night to end a four-game skid.

Aaron Judge drove in two runs for New York, which had lost eight of its previous 10 and won despite going 2 for 15 with runners in scoring position and stranding

Jonathan Loaisiga (5-2) pitched 1 1/3 perfect innings in relief of Yankees starter Jordan Montgomery.

Taylor Rogers (2-3) allowed two runs on three hits in the eighth for Minnesota.

The 95-degree temperature at first pitch was the second-hottest for a game at Target Field, only eclipsed by a 97-degree start on July 16, 2012.

New York took advantage of several Minnesota mistakes.

Tyler Wade scored the go-ahead run on LeMahieu's fielder's choice in the eighth as second baseman Jorge Polanco's throw was wide of the plate for an error. The Twins committed four errors in the game.

Judge was walked with the bases loaded in the fifth and another run scored on a wild pitch. Judge earned another RBI as he beat a throw on an attempted double play and an error was charged to shortstop Andrelton Simmons after a review showed he didn't touch the base on the turn.

Trainer's room

Twins: OF Byron Buxton (right hip strain) began a rehab assignment with Triple-A St. Paul. Buxton was the designated hitter and will play in the outfield on Wednesday. RHP Kenta Maeda (adductor strain, general arm soreness) is scheduled for a rehab start at Triple-A on Wednesday and is expected to throw about 50 to 55 pitches.

Yankees ace Cole at center of talk of sticky pitch aids

His spin rates decline as MLB prepares crackdown

By Dave Campbell The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The pitches Gerrit Cole threw in his last start weren't rotating as much, and the New York Yankees ace said

the spin rate dropoff was due to mechanical flaws - sidestepping a recent accusation that he cut back on tacky substances amid a Major League Baseball crackdown. "I attribute it to just not

as I wanted to be. It's as simple as that," Cole said Tuesday before the Yankees began a three-game series at Minnesota. Twins third baseman Josh

Donaldson, as part of wide-

being as good or as sharp

ranging comments last week about the presence of pitcher-friendly sticky stuff, casually wondered aloud whether Cole was suddenly trying to hide usage of grip aids — typically a mix of rosin and sunscreen — to avoid being caught.

According to MLB

Statcast data on the website Baseball Savant, Cole had a 125 rotations per minute decrease in his four-seam fastball last week when he allowed five runs in five innings in a loss to Tampa Bay. Cole, not quite

Please see COLE, Page A7

SCORECARD

TV Today

Wednesday, June 9 COLLEGE SOFTBALL

5 p.m.
ESPN — World Series: Oklahoma vs. Florida
St., Championship, Game 2, Oklahoma City
COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD

6 p.m.
ESPNU — NCAA Outdoor Championships: Day 1, Eugene, Ore.

7 p.m.
ESPN2 — NCAA Outdoor Championships: Day 1, Eugene, Ore.

MLB BASEBALL

11 p.m. MLBN — San Francisco at Texas

3 p.m. MLBN — Chicago Cubs at San Diego OR Arizona at Oakland (Games Joined in Progress)

6 p.m. BSN — New York Yankees at Minnesota

7:30 p.m.
ESPN — Kansas City at LA Angels NBA BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m.
TNT — Western Conference Semifinal: Den-NHL HOCKEY

5:30 p.m. NBCSN — Stanley Cup Playoff: Boston at NY Islanders, East Division Final, Game 6 SOCCER (MEN'S)

1:30 p.m. - Copa Do Brasil: Boavista at Vasco da Gama, Third Round Leg 2

Costa Rica, Sandy, Utah 6:30 p.m FS2 — Copa Do Brasil: Corinthians at Atletico,

Third Round Leg 2 TENNIS

3 a.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The French Open, Quar-

4 a.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The French Open, Quar-

TENNIS — ATP: The French Open, Quarter-WNBA BASKETBALL

6 p.m. CBSSN — Indiana at Chicago ---

Week in sports

WEDNESDAY Mankato West, Mankato East boys, girls track at Section 2AA meet, 9:30 a.m., Waconia
Bismarck at Mankato MoonDogs, 6:35 p.m., THURSDAY

Mankato West softball at Section 2AAA championship, 5 p.m., Caswell Park Mankato MoonDogs at Willmar, 7:05 p.m. Mankato West, Mankato East boys, girls track

at Section 2AA meet, 9:30 a.m., Waconia Willmar at Mankato MoonDogs, 6:35 p.m

American League

n			
W	L	Pct	GB
39	23	.629	_
37	24	.607	11/2
30	27	.526	61/2
31	29	.517	7
22	38	.367	16
sion			
W	L	Pct	GB
36	23	.610	_
31	26	.544	4
29	29		61/2
25	35	.417	111/2
24	35	.407	12
on			
W	L	Pct	GB
			_
			1/2
			51/2
			61/2
23	38	.377	12
	W 39 37 30 31 22 sion W 36 31 29 25 24 on	W L 39 23 37 24 30 27 31 29 22 38 sion W L 36 23 31 26 29 29 25 35 24 35 on W L 35 26 34 26 30 32 28 32	W L Pct 39 23 .629 37 24 .607 30 27 .526 31 29 .517 22 38 .367 sion W L Pct 36 23 .610 31 26 .544 29 29 .500 25 35 .417 24 35 .407 on W L Pct 35 26 .574 34 26 .567 30 32 .484 28 32 .467

Monday's Games Boston 5, Miami 3

L.A. Angels 8, Kansas City 3

Tuesday's Games
Baltimore 10, N.Y. Mets 3 Detroit 5. Seattle 3 Tampa Bay 3, Washington Houston 7, Boston 1 San Francisco at Texas N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota Toronto at Chicago White Sox Cleveland at St. Louis Arizona at Oakland

Wednesday's Games San Francisco (Long 0-0) at Texas (Gibson 4-0), 1:05 p.m.

Arizona (Peacock 2-2) at Oakland (Manaea 4-2), 2:37 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Walker 4-2) at Baltimore (Harvey

Houston (Odorizzi 0-3) at Boston (Eovaldi

7-2), 6:10 p.m Seattle (Flexen 5-3) at Detroit (Mize 3-4)

Washington (Corbin 3-5) at Tampa Bay (Mc-Clanahan 2-1), 6:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Cole 6-3) at Minnesota (Dobnak

1-5), 7:10 p.m. Toronto (Manoah 1-0) at Chicago White Sox

Cleveland (Mejía 1-0) at St. Louis (Wainwright

3-5), 7:15 p.m.

Kansas City (Keller 6-4) at L.A. Angels (Canning 4-4), 8:38 p.m.

Thursday's Games Seattle at Detroit, 12:10 p.m. Houston at Boston, 6:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m. Toronto at Chicago White Sox, 7:10 p.m. Kansas City at Oakland, 8:40 p.m.

National League

East Divisior	1					
	W	L	Pct	GB		
New York	29	24	.547	_		
Atlanta	28	29	.491	3		
Philadelphia	28	30	.483	31/2		
Miami	26	34	.433	61/2		
Washington	24	33	.421	7		
Central Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Milwaukee	34	26	.567	_		
Chicago	33	27	.550	1		
St. Louis	31	29	.517	3		
Cincinnati	28	30	.483	5		
Pittsburgh	23	36	.390	101/2		
West Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
San Francisco	37	22	.627	_		
San Diego	37	25	.597	11/2		
Los Angeles	35	25	.583	21/2		
Colorado	24	37	.393	14		
Arizona	20	41	.328	18		

Monday's Games Boston 5. Miami 3 San Diego 9, Chicago Cubs 4 Tuesday's Games Miami 6. Colorado 2 L.A. Dodgers 5, Pittsburgh 3 Baltimore 10, N.Y. Mets 3 Tampa Bay 3, Washington Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 1 Atlanta at Philadelphia

San Francisco at Texas Cleveland at St. Louis Arizona at Oakland

Chicago Cubs at San Diego San Francisco (Long 0-0) at Texas (Gibson

4-0), 1:05 p.m.

Arizona (Peacock 2-2) at Oakland (Manaea Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 5-6) at San Diego (Darvish 6-1), 3:10 p.m.

Atlanta (Davidson 0-0) at Philadelphia (Eflin 2-5), 6:05 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Gonsolin 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Anderson 3-5), 6:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Walker 4-2) at Baltimore (Harvey 3-6), 6:05 p.m. Colorado (Gomber 4-5) at Miami (TBD),

Milwaukee (Anderson 2-3) at Cincinnati (Guti-

errez 1-1), 6:10 p.m. Washington (Corbin 3-5) at Tampa Bay (Mc-Clanahan 2-1), 6:10 p.m. Cleveland (Mejía 1-0) at St. Louis (Wainwright

3-5), 7:15 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 11:35 a.m. Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 11:35 a.m. Atlanta at Philadelphia, 12:05 p.m. San Francisco at Washington, 6:05 p.m.

Colorado at Miami, 6:10 p.m. **NHL** playoffs

Sunday, June 6 Montreal 5, Winnipeg 1 Vegas 5, Colorado 1, series tied 2

N.Y. Islanders 5, Boston 4, N.Y. Islanders leads series 3 — 2 Montreal 3, Winnipeg 2, OT, Montreal wins series 4 — 0

Tuesday, June 8 Tampa Bay 2, Carolina 0 Vegas at Colorado Wednesday, June 9 Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 10 Colorado at Vegas, 8 p.m. Friday, June 11 x-N.Y. Islanders at Boston, TBA

Saturday, June 12 x-Vegas at Colorado, TBA **NBA** playoffs

Atlanta 128, Phila. 124 Monday, June 7 Brooklyn 125, Milwaukee 86, Brooklyn leads series 2-0
Phoenix 122, Denver 105, Phoenix leads se

Tuesday, June 8 Phila. 118, Atlanta 102, series tied 1-1 L.A. Clippers at Utah

Wednesday, June 9
Denver at Phoenix, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 10 L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9 p.m. Brooklyn at Milwaukee, 6:30

Phila. at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m. Phoenix at Denver, 9 p.m.

		W	L	1		Pts	GF	GΑ
	New England	5	- 1	2	2	17	11	7
	Philadelphia	4	2	2	2	14	9	5
	Orlando City	3	- 1	3	3	12	8	4
	New York City FC	3	2	2	2	11	13	7
	CF Montréal	3	3	2	2	11	10	9
	Columbus	3	2	2	2	11	7	6
	Nashville	2	0	5	5	11	9	6
	Atlanta	2	- 1	4	ļ	10	9	7
	New York	3	4	()	9	10	10
	D.C. United	3	5	()	9	8	11
	Inter Miami CF	2	4	2	2	8	8	13
	Toronto FC	- 1	4	2	2	5	8	12
	Chicago	- 1	5	1		4	4	11
	Cincinnati	- 1	4	1		4	6	15
Western Conference								
			W	L	Т	Pts	GF	GΑ
	Saattla		5	Λ	2	18	1/	2

18 16 15 13 11 9 9 8 7 7 6 14 15 11 12 11 11 9 9 10 11 8 12 12 11 7 9 8 LA Galaxy Colorado Houston Real Salt Lake Los Angeles FC Vancouver Austin FC Minnesota United NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for

Sporting Kansas City

Saturday, June 12 Austin FC at Sporting Kansas City, 2 p.m. Friday, June 18 Nashville at New York, 7 p.m Vancouver at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m. Saturday, June 19 Chicago at Columbus, 6:30 p.m. Colorado at Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m. Orlando City at Toronto FC, 6:30 p.m New England at New York City FC, 6:30 p.m. Miami at D.C. United, 7 p.m. Minnesota at FC Dallas, 7:30 p.m San Jose at Austin FC, 8 p.m. Seattle at LA Galaxy, 8 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Portland, 9:30 p.m Houston at Los Angeles FC, 10 p.m.

Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Activated RHP Mac
Sceroler from the 10-day IL and INF Pat Valaika
from the bereavement list. Optioned INF Ramon
Urias to Norfolk (Triple-A East). Optioned OF Austin Hayes to Norfolk (Triple-Á East) on a re hab assignment.
DETROIT TIGERS — Placed 3B Jeimer Can-

delario on the bereavement list. Recalled 2B Isaac Paredes from Toledo (Triple-A East). HOUSTON ASTROS — Placed IF/OF Aledmys

Diaz on the 10-day IL. Activated OF Michael Brantley from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Lance McCullers to Sugar Land (Triple-A East)

to begin a rehab assignement.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Optioned OF Byron
Buxton to St. Paul (Triplke-A East) on a rehab assignment. Activated OF Rob Refsnyder from 7-day IL. Optioned OF Gilbert Celestino to St.

NEW YORK VANKEES - Transferred LHP Zack Britton from Somerset (Double-A Northeast) to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (Triple-A East) LaMarre to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on a rehab

SEATTLE MARINERS — Selected the contract of OF Dillon Thomas from Tacoma (Triple-A West). Designated C Jacob Nottingham for as-

TEXAS RANGERS — Recalled INF/OF Eli White from Round Rock (Triple-A East). Desig-

nated OF/DH Khris Davis for assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed C Danny Jansen on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7 Recalled C Riley Adams from Buffalo (Triple-A

National League CINCINNATI REDS — Activated 1B Joey Votto from 10-day IL. Placed RHP Michael Feliz on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7.
MIAMI MARLINS — Recalled LHP Braxton
Garrett from Jacksonville (Triple-A East). Placed

LHP Daniel Castano on the 10-day II MILWAUKEE BREWERS - Selected the con-

tract of INF/OF Jace Peterson from Nashville (Triple-A East). NEW YORK METS — Optioned OF Albert Almora to Syracuse (Triple-A East) on a rehab assignment. Signed OF Cesar Puello to a minor

league contract.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Optioned 2B Nick Maton and LHP Cristopher Sanchez to Lehigh Valley (Triple-A East). Placed RHP Brandon Kintzler on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7. Selected the contract of 2B Luke Williams from Lehigh Valley. Activated RHPs Chase Anderson and David Hale from the 10-day IL.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Activated OF/INF Phillip Evans and RHP Mitch Keller from the IL. Optioned LHP Austin Davis to Indianapolis (Triple-A East). Designated INF/OF Wilmer Difo

for assignment.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Activated 1B

Brandon Belt from the 10-day IL.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled RHP
Ryne Harper from Rochester (Triple-A East). Placed RHP Austin Voth on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7.

Minor League Basebal Atlantic League ATLANTIC DUCKS — Signed and activated OF Charlie Tilson and RHP Brady Dragmire. Placed INF Edgar Lebron on the inactive list and RHP

Johnny Hellweg on the disabled list.

BASKETBALL Women's National Basketball Association CHICAGO SKY — Waived F Sierra Campi-sano. Suspended C/F Astou Ndour-Fall.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed G Michael GREEN BAY PACKERS -Signed LB

De'Vondre to a one-year contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed CB Amari

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed DE Payton Turner to a four-year contract. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed WR Travis Toivonen to a contract. Re-signed DB Ryan Neal

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed QB Kyle Trask to a four-yeat contract.
TENNESSEE TITANS Waived OT Anthony McKinney from injured reserve.
HOCKEY

National Hockey League NHL — Fined Boston's head coach Bruce Cassidy \$25,000 for public comments critical of the officiating following the June 7 game against the New York Islanders. Fined Boston's F Nick Ritchie \$5,000, the maximum allowable under the Collective Bargaining Agreement, for elbow ing D Scott Mayfield during the June 7 game against the New York Islanders. Announced Colorado's F Nazem Kadri's eight-game suspension for an illegal check to the head of St. Louis D Justin Faulk has been upheld by arbitrator

DALLAS STARS — Named Ryan Daniels as goaltender development coach of the Texas Stars (AHL).

WEM advances to Section 1A title

The Free Press

WABASHA — The Waterville-Elysian-Morristown softball team scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning to win the Section 1A game 5-4 Tuesday.

Allison Rients went 2 for 4 with three RBIs for the Bucs. Ellie Ready, Brielle Bartelt and Lindsay Condon also had two hits for WEM. Autumn Taylor got the

victory. With the win, the Bucs

advance to the Section

Prep sports

1A title game Thursday at Austin.

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva 6, **Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial 4:** Liv Harazin finished with four hits and three RBIs for the Knights as they were eliminated from Section 2AA.

Jacie Schultz and Avery Voges each finished with three hits in the loss for the Knights.

Schultz surrendered only one earned run over seven innings. The Knights committed four errors leading to five unearned runs.

Golf

Section 2AA: Blue Earth Area had the three top players and won the Section 2AA title at the New Prague Golf Club.

The Bucs had a two-day, 36-hole team score of 605, with St. Peter next at 624.

Manning Lane of BEA was the medalist at 147, followed by teammates Ashton Lloyd at 150 and Braden Gudahl at 151.

Kaiden Brovold of St. Peter (152), Griffin Steiert of Waseca (153) and Kendall Nicolai of St. Peter (153) also qualified for the state meet.

In the girls meet, Makenna Reinardt of Le Sueur-Henderson had the low score of 162. Megan Nelson of Waseca was second at 166, and Adrianna Bixby of St. Peter took fourth at 169.

Fairmont won the team title at 721, edging St. Peter by three strokes.

The Class AA meet will be held Tuesday and Wednesday at Ridges at Sand Creek near Jordan.

Rodgers not present at minicamp

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, WIS. — Green Bay Packers wide

receiver Davante Adams isn't making any predictions on whether Aaron Rodgers will be throwing to him again this fall. Offensive tackle David

Bakhtiari, the man who protects Rodgers' blind side, also won't hazard a guess on the reigning NFL MVP's future in Green Bay. Rodgers wasn't with the

Packers for their first mandatory minicamp session on Tuesday, the latest chapter in the standoff between the team and its three-time MVP quarterback. He also hadn't participated in the Packers' voluntary organized team activities, which represented a change

from his usual offseason routine.

"Honestly, I've got no expectations, man," Adams said Tuesday. "I'm just being supportive of my guy and let it all unfold how it does. Obviously I'm praying that he comes back. We all want him back. I think everybody in this building has that same mindset, but I can only control what I can. I can't control any of what's going on with that situation."

Adams and fellow receivers Allen Lazard, Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Devin Funchess and Equanimeous St. Brown all were at Tuesday's practice after sitting out OTAs.

The Packers have the option to fine Rodgers just over \$93,000 if he misses

all three minicamp sessions this week without an excused absence. Packers coach Matt LaFleur wouldn't say Tuesday whether Rodgers' absence was excused.

"That's team business that we're always going to keep confidential between us and the player," LaFleur

Rodgers has spent his entire career with the Packers, who selected him with the 24th overall pick in the 2005 draft. But his future with the

team has been uncertain ever since ESPN reported in the hours leading up to this year's draft that Rodgers doesn't want to return to Green Bay. And that's left even his

closest teammates wonder-

ing what's next.

Rodgers was noncommittal about his future in an ESPN interview that aired May 24 but did discuss his frustrations with the organization.

"I think sometimes people forget what really makes an organization," Rodgers told ESPN.

"History is important, the legacy of so many people who've come before you. But the people, that's the most important thing. People make an organization. People make a business, and sometimes that gets forgotten. Culture is built brick by brick, the foundation of it by the people, not by the organization, not by the building, not by the corporation. It's built by the people."

COLE: Donaldson specifically names Cole as suspect

Continued from Page A6

halfway into the second season of a \$324 million, nine-year contract, is third in MLB with 104 strike-

The three-time All-Star has a 2.26 ERA over 75 2/3 innings and 12 starts this season. "I'm just not quite bringing out my best delivery.

Of course it's something that we monitor. Of course there are other variables that we monitor as well when we're evaluating our performance from every game. You try to take as much information as you can as a player, and certainly that's one of them," Cole said. "We're trying to get better this week and put in the work, and I'll be as prepared as I possibly

can for my next start." Cole is scheduled to pitch Wednesday against Donaldson and the Twins.

Four minor league pitch-

ers have been suspended this season by Major League Baseball after being caught using banned foreign substances to doctor baseballs, evidence of a stronger crackdown in the game's feeder system than in the big leagues during this historically dominant stretch of pitching. The use of homebrewed sticky substances is suspected to have spiked in recent seasons as grip aid to increase the spin rates on fastballs and make those pitches harder to hit.

Donaldson suggested the timing of the news of the minor league suspensions was related to the changes in Cole's spin rate. Cole called the criticism "undesirable" but declined to respond specifically to the allegation.

"I understand this topic is important to everybody that cares about the game. In regards to Josh, I kind of felt like it was a bit of a

entitled to his opinion and to voice his opinion, so I just have other things that I need to keep my focus on," Cole said. Donaldson said Friday that the sticky substance situation is going to be "the

next steroids of baseball

ordeal" for its performance-

low-hanging fruit, but he's

enhancing effect on the game. "Hitters have never really cared about sunscreen. rosin and pine tar. We haven't cared about that because it's not a performance enhancement. What these guys are doing now are performanceenhancing, to where it is an actual superglue-type of ordeal, to where it's not

about command anymore,'

Donaldson said. "Now, it's

about who's throwing the

nastiest pitches, the more

unhittable pitches." Cole, a member of the executive subcommittee of the players' association, said he welcomed the dialogue about the use of and legality of grip aids.

"There are customs and practices that have been passed down from older players to younger players, from the last generation of players to this generation of players, and I think there are some things that are certainly out of bounds in that regard," Cole said. "This is important to a lot of people who love the game, including the players in this room, including fans, including teams, so if MLB wants to legislate some more stuff, that's a conversation that we can have. Because ultimately we should all be pulling in

the same direction on this." Said Yankees manager Aaron Boone: "In the end, all that anyone really wants — pitchers, position players, managers — is the best possible product and the most level of playing field that we can create."

BASEBALL: East eliminated

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in the third.

West's first baserunner came in the third when Wyant Fowlds walked, and Haley followed with a double. Fowlds then scored on a wild pitch.

In the fourth, West scored a run on two walks and two wild pitches to make it 3-2. Marshall got two runs

back in the top of the fifth,

with Riley Bersaw coming

on to get the final two outs and limit the damage. West finished with just two hits, while Marshall

had at least one hit in every inning, stranding 12 runners.

Tanner Shumski took the loss, lasting 3 1/3 innings. At the same time,

Hutchinson scored twice in the seventh and eventually defeated Mankato East 6-3 in nine innings in an elimination game. Jacob Schreiber had a

double and triple, and Mat-

thew Werk also had two hits for East. The Cougars finish with a 13-10 record. Follow Chad Courrier on Twitter @ChadCourrier.

John Cross, special to The Free Press

Marshall baserunner Cole Felcyn safely steals second base as the throw comes off of Mankato West second baseman Hayden Mellen's glove in the third inning.

SOFTBALL: Clarke bounces back with strong game for East

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knew defensively, we'd come out and play solid. We just need to be comfortable and confident. Our bats have been going good lately and we appreciate everybody up and down the lineup."

East pushed its advantage to 7-0 in the fourth after Maddie Glogowski's single and two hit batters set up sophomore catcher Peyton Stevermer's three-run double into the left-center field gap. Senior catcher Sophie Wietzman put the Trojans (18-6) on the board

in the fifth, but Clarke set down six in a row before a pair of two-out errors led to Wietzman's three-run homer in the seventh. "We knew we had to

come into this game strong because we really wanted to make it to Thursday," Clarke said. "Today was

pretty hot so we had to beat the heat. We knew what we had to do and we came out and did it. I knew I had to be strong and get some strikeouts to make sure they didn't score. I was spinning the ball. They have a good lineup so I had to keep moving it around."