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2011-2020  
SPORTS REPORTING  
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## BULLS BASEBALL

### Minder pitches shutout as Bulls beat the Lakers

by DAN CONDON  
Sports Editor

Now that the calendar has changed to July, the second season for the Jackson Bulls has started.

Manager Scott Bahr breaks the season down into three phases, the first gearing up for the second, which is when the team prepares for the playoffs — which is the third portion of the season.

“As much as I don’t want summer to be over, we’re getting to that best time of the year,” Bahr said last week. “Season No. 2 starts now.”

Bahr said the Bulls need to play well now after a stretch earlier in which they lost four straight games and six of seven.

“We faltered,” he said. “The last two weeks haven’t been our best baseball and we lost a couple games we felt like we should’ve won. Earlier in the year, there were a couple games against some really good teams that we had a chance to win and didn’t quite get it done.”

That means the Bulls have some important games the next week or so.

“We’ve kind of got our backs to the wall when it comes to league standings,” he said. “We talked about trying to finish strong with our league games. We only have three left, but it looks to me like we kind of control our own destiny to get to second place.”

Along with those league games, the Bulls have a couple non-league games left Bahr hopes will help prepare the team for a playoff push. One of those games came last Thursday at Lambert, which the Bulls lost late.

“We mix in three non-league games and those are real,” he said. “They’re against Lambert, Blue Earth and the Milroy Yankees and they’re all perennial state tournament teams. If you want to try to make the state tournament, you’re going to have to compete against those teams.”

Bahr said he’s not sure what will happen once the postseason rolls around, but he knows his team will be

See **BULLS** on B3



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Sean Minder delivers a pitch during a complete-game shutout last week against Mt. Lake.

## FROGS BASEBALL

### Frogs fall to Foxes

Fox Lake had a few big innings in the middle of last week’s amateur baseball game in Lakefield, helping the Foxes beat Lakefield 9-6.

The loss drops the Frogs to 9-6 on the season.

Lakefield scored first when Levi Lindley walked and scored on a wild pitch in the second inning, but Fox Lake scored a run in the third to tie the game and then three in the fourth for a 4-1 lead.

Lindley doubled and

scored on a Nolan Luhmann single in the bottom of the fourth to get the Frogs within two, but Fox Lake scored three more runs in the fifth to lead 7-2.

Taylor Christopher, who was left stranded on third and second after reaching his first two trips to the plate, was one of two Frogs to score in the bottom of the fifth. He and Travon Bargfrede both walked

See **FROGS** on B2



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Above: Eric Kruger goes up for a kill during a recent sand volleyball match in Lakefield. Five teams play in the league, which runs most of the summer. Below: Michael Nesseth slams the ball over the net. Bottom right: Jocelyn Bauer hits the ball across the net. Bottom left: Both sand volleyball courts are full, a tennis match is going on and kids are playing on a recent Thursday night that also included a baseball game and kids swimming at the pool.

# ‘GOOD, PLAIN FUN’

by DAN CONDON  
Sports Editor

A sand volleyball league in Lakefield now in its third year has been a hit.

And not just for those playing.

The Ladies of Lakefield put on the league each year, which was initially brainstormed at one of their meetings.

“At one of our Ladies of Lakefield meetings, while we were discussing things to do around the community, I brought up fixing up the courts,” Christie Anderson said.

The Ladies of Lakefield soon found out the volleyball courts just west of the pool are on school grounds, but that didn’t stop the fun.

“We approached the board at a school board meeting and they were fully on board supporting us transforming the space,” Anderson said.

From there, they got to work.

“We got together and stained the boxes, raked up the sand and got rid of



the weeds,” she said. “The school ended up supplying us the nets and boundary lines.”

Chad Janssen volunteers to rake the courts weekly, keeping them in good shape for anyone who plays.

‘Lively’ area on Thursday nights

Since the league started, it has become a popular Thursday night activity in

See **VOLLEYBALL** on B2



## LEGION BASEBALL

# Legion baseball team finishes regular season undefeated

### Michelson and Butzon pitch shutouts to end regular season

Hitters have had a hard time against the Jackson American Legion Post 130 baseball team as of late.

Jackson ended the regular season with back-to-

back 10-0 victories last week and enters the postseason having gone 15 straight innings without allowing a run.

Trace Michelson struck out 12 batters in a two-hit shutout last Thursday against Mt. Lake, which followed up a one-hitter by Logan Butzon in a win over Luverne two days earlier. Jackson ends the regular

season with a record of 8-0 and is the No. 1 seed for the sub-district tournament (see preview below).

Michelson dominates

Michelson gave up just two hits and didn’t allow a runner past second base in a dominant performance in last Thursday’s regular-season finale.

The hard-throwing

rightly fanned a dozen batters in the 10-0 win, including six straight in the first and second innings. He also struck out the final four batters of the game.

The locals gave Michelson plenty of run support as the first five batters in the bottom of the first inning scored.

Damien Phaly, Lucas Vesey, Bryson Powers, Mi-

chelson and Keenan Ambrose all scored in the first. Michelson helped his own cause in the inning with a two-run double.

Jackson kept its 5-0 lead until Vesey scored on a Powers double in the fifth.

Post 130 then finished off the game in the bottom of the sixth, scoring four runs

to win via the 10-run rule.

Cameron Scholten and Noah Thompson singled and scored in the inning and Butzon doubled and scored. Dylan Withers was hit by a pitch and also scored.

Michelson had two hits — as many as he allowed

See **LEGION** on B2

### Legion team opens playoffs Friday

The Jackson American Legion baseball team went undefeated during the regular season and is the No. 1 seed in the double-elimination sub-district tournament.

Jackson gets a bye to open the postseason and will face either No. 4 Windom or No. 5 Mt. Lake on Friday at 1 p.m. in Springfield.

Springfield is the No. 2 seed and also has a first-round bye. Springfield will play either No. 3 Wabasso or No. 6 Heron Lake-Okabena in the second round.

Second-round winners will play Saturday at 8 p.m., with the winner advancing to the district tournament as the sub-district’s top seed.

Loser’s bracket games start on Saturday and continue through Sunday. The winner from the loser’s bracket will advance to the district tournament as the sub-district’s second seed.

Wabasso automatically advances to the district tournament since it is the host of that tournament.

First-round games in the sub-district tournament are at the high seed. All games after that take place in Springfield.



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