



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

The Brainerd softball team celebrates winning against St. Michael-Albertville during the Section 8-4A final Thursday at Brainerd.

UNBEATEN WARRIORS ADVANCE TO STATE

By Jeremy Millsop
Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd

Last summer Brainerd Warriors head softball coach Shane Jordan let slip during a golf outing that he felt this year's team had a legit chance of going to state. Thursday, June 2, his softball team proved him right as the top-seeded and unbeaten Warriors defeated the No. 2 seeded St. Michael-Albertville Knights 3-0 in the Section 8-4A Championship game at Adamson Field.

WARRIORS 3, STMA 0

Key: Mya Tautges tripled and scored twice
Section: Brd 13-0, STMA 8-2.
Overall: Brd 24-0, STMA 17-7.
Next: Brainerd in Class 4A State Tournament at Caswell Park, North Mankato, 9 a.m. Thursday, June 9.

"There have been teams where everyone is there for each other and we have a good time, but there's just something different about this team," senior

Meghan Smith said. "No one is worried about making mistakes. We're all just there for each other. It's just building and we're just having so much fun."

It was the usual recipe for Brainerd's victory — Olivia Tautges' pitching, alert defense and timely offense.

Brainerd scored in the second inning as Elsa Borchert led off with a single followed by a Mya Tautges single. Lacy Busch followed with a single and like the last time Brainerd played the Knights Tuesday, May 31, in

the Winner's Bracket final, Jordan sent Borchert home from second base. And like the last game it was a close play at the plate, only this time STMA got the ball in on time and Borchert was called out.

Mya Tautges moved to third on the play, which proved vital as a wild pitch had her crossing home plate on the next play for the first run.

"In my mind, I was just trying to run fast," Mya Tautges said. "I was looking to see if I could make any cool slides just in case, but

I didn't have to. Then I was really excited.

"It's awesome. I love helping the team because they're kind of like my family both literally and figuratively. So it meant a lot to me."

While denied an RBI in the second inning, Busch would get another chance in the fourth after a Mya Tautges triple. The designated player fouled off the third pitch she saw deep enough to the left-field side to score Tautges and hand Brainerd a 2-0 edge.

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Cameron's home run lifts Tigers over Twins

By Betsy Helfand
St. Paul Pioneer Press

DETROIT — Nick Gordon did a little bit of everything on Thursday afternoon for the Twins. The young outfielder scored their first run, drove in their second, threw out a runner trying to advance and laid out to make an outstanding diving catch in the eighth inning.

"Without those plays, we're probably not even in a position to win the game towards the end of the game," manager Rocco Baldelli said.

But in the end, it was the son of another former major leaguer who stole the show. Daz Cameron, son of Mike Cameron, hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning off Emilio Pagan to lift the Detroit Tigers to a 3-2 victory on Thursday afternoon in the series finale at Comerica Park.

"He put a good swing on it," Pagan said of Cameron. "Just (trying to throw it) down. Get back in the count. Left it up on the inner half and he hammered it."

Cameron's home run erased a lead that the Twins (30-23) had held since the fourth inning when Gordon doubled off home Trevor Larnach.



Raj Mehta / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Twins right fielder Trevor Larnach (13) celebrates with third baseman Gio Urshela (15) after scoring a run during the fourth inning against the Detroit Tigers on Thursday at Comerica Park in Detroit.

An inning earlier, Gordon came around to score on Gio Urshela's double. That double helped break a scoreless streak for the Twins that had spanned 22 innings and parts of four games.

After collecting a combined five hits in their previous two games, the Twins finished with five on Thursday.

"You need base runners in order to make it happen and you need someone to get a hit. You can't bank on it happening one time,

two times over the course of the game," Baldelli said. "You just need a steady line of guys getting on base and we didn't have that really at any point."

Twins starter Chris Archer worked a season-high five innings against the Tigers (21-30), giving up a run in the first inning — he hit the first batter of the game, walked the second and allowed a single to the third — but then settled in nicely. Archer allowed three

hits and struck out three in his outing and took a no-decision for his efforts.

"He threw a lot of really competitive pitches, I think, where he wanted them," Baldelli said. "Really more than anything else, that efficiency is what comes to mind, is what I liked the most. The five ups for him is, I think, the most on the season. We'll take that all day long."

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BOYS GOLF

Warriors in front after first day of sections

PARK RAPIDS — Turner Person carded four birdies in his round of 76 to help the Brainerd Warriors claim a first-round lead for the Section 8-3A meet Thursday, June 2, at Headwaters Golf Club.

Person is tied for second individually and is two strokes behind Alexandria's Braeden Sladek for the lead.

The Warriors' score of

312 is four shots better than the field.

Dawson Ringler fired a 77 to land in fifth place after Day One while Max Holmstrom shot 79 for eighth. Brainerd's Ryan Kennedy carded two birdies in his round of 80 to find himself in 12th.

Day One team scores: 1-Brainerd 312, 2-Alexandria 316, 3-Bemidji 317, 4-Moorhead 324, 5-Sartell 326, 6-Buffalo 331, 7-Detroit Lakes 338, 8-Willmar 338, 9-Sauk Rapids 341, 10-Becker 361, 11-St. Cloud 366

First-round leader: Braeden Sladek (Alex) 74

Brainerd results: 2-Turner Person 76, 5-Dawson Ringler 77, 8-Max Holmstrom 79, 12-Ryan Kennedy 80, 45-Keegan Davidge 90, 48-Marty Timmons 93

Next: Brainerd in second round of Section 8-3A Tournament at Headwaters Golf Club, Park Rapids 9 a.m. Friday, June 3.

BASEBALL

Warriors season ends at the hands of the Elks June 2

ELK RIVER — Mitchell Brau and Jonathan Benson each tallied two hits, but the Brainerd Warriors fell 10-0 to Elk River in the Section 8-4A Loser's Bracket Thursday, June 2.

One of Benson's hits was a double.

The Elks scored three runs in the first inning off the Warriors' Adam Jensen, who took the loss. The Warriors finished their season at 7-14.

Brainerd 0 4 1
Elk River 10 7 0
WP: Swenson. LP: Adam Jensen. 2B: B-Jonathan Benson. Overall: Brd 7-14.

Celtics surging past the Warriors in Finals opener

Field Level Media
Jaylen Brown saved 10 of his 24 points for a fourth-quarter flurry and the Boston Celtics continued their postseason mastery on the road with a 120-108 victory over the Golden State Warriors in Game 1 of the NBA Finals in San Francisco on Thursday.

Al Horford led a balanced attack with 26 points and Derrick White had 21 off the bench for the Celtics. Boston will attempt to go up 2-0 in the best-of-seven series Sunday with another game on the Warriors' court, where the Western Conference champs had been 9-0 entering the Finals.

In winning for the eighth time in 10 road games in the playoffs, the Celtics trailed 92-80 before opening the fourth quarter with a 9-0 burst that quickly closed the gap to three. Brown had 2- and 3-point hoops to ignite the run.

Golden State's Andre Iguodala temporarily stalled the avalanche with a dunk, but White and Horford then buried a pair of 3-pointers while Brown and Payton Pritchard added one each in a 20-9 spurt that put Boston in charge for good at 109-103 with 4:49 to go.

The Celtics made nine 3-pointers in all in the



Cary Edmondson / USA Today Sports
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) warms up before Game 1 of the 2022 NBA Finals against the Boston Celtics on Thursday at Chase Center in San Francisco.

final period, outscoring Golden State 40-16 over the final 12 minutes to win going away.

Horford shot 6-for-8 from 3-point range, White 5-for-8 and Marcus Smart 4-for-7 as Boston scorched the nets for 21-for-41 shooting (51.2 percent) from beyond the arc.

Smart finished with 18 points as the Celtics, champions of the Eastern Conference, won despite an off night from star Jayson Tatum, who shot just 3-for-17 and totaled 12 points.

Stephen Curry had a game-high 34 points and Andrew Wiggins 20 for the Warriors, who led for most of the first 43

minutes. A majority of Curry's points came on 7-for-14 shooting from beyond the arc.

Golden State was outscored 63-57 on 3-pointers despite attempting four more (45-41).

Klay Thompson added 15 points and Otto Porter Jr. 12 for the Warriors, who are making their sixth Finals appearance in the past eight years.

The Celtics survived a 21-point Curry explosion in the first quarter to take a 56-54 lead at halftime.

Curry set a Finals record for a quarter with six 3-pointers on eight tries in the first period. However, he went scoreless in the second quarter, missing his only attempt from beyond the arc.

AREA BOYS GOLF

Meyer reaches state for Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin

BIWABIK — Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin's Frank Meyer carded one birdie as he shot an 82 on Day Two of the Section 7-2A meet, Thursday, June 2, to finish with a two-day 165 and finish fourth to qualify for state at The Quarry at Giants Ridge.



Meyer

Brody Bodle shot a 93 for a total of 188 and

As a team, CIA finished sixth with a 725. Will Meyer shot a Day Two 99 to finish with 186.

Louie Meyer shot a 102 for a total of 195.

Team scores: 1-Cloquet 635, 2-Mora 687, 3-Rock Ridge 689, 4-Hermantown 704, 5-Proctor-Esko 712, 6-Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin 725, 7-Hibbing 749.

Individual medalist: Karson Patten (Cloquet) 153

Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin results: Frank Meyer 83-82 — 165, Will Meyer 87-99 — 186, Brody Bodle 95-93 — 188, Louie Meyer 93-102 — 195, Luke Severson 86-115 — 201

Next: Class 2A State Tournament at Ridges at Sand Creek, Jordan, 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 14.

AREA SOFTBALL

Pequot Lakes forces Game 2 but falls in section final

WAITE PARK — Kaitlyn Geschwill struck out nine and had two hits in a 8-7 win for the Pequot Lakes Patriots in Game One, but the Patriots lost Game Two 11-2 to St. Cloud Cathedral in the Section 6-2A Championship Thursday, June 2.

In Game One, Morgan Eckes ripped a double. Abi Martin had three hits with Brea Eckes, Kelsi Martini and Maci Martini each with two hits.

In Game Two, Kelsi Martini, Morgan Eckes and Geschwill each went 2-for-4. Geschwill pitched five innings and struck out four. Morgan Eckes pitched two innings and struck out four.

The Patriots finish their season

22-5.
Game One
Pequot Lakes 8 16 1
Cathedral 7 6 3
WP: Kaitlyn Geschwill. 2B: PL-Morgan Eckes.
Game Two
Pequot Lakes 2 9 6
Cathedral 11 5 0
LP: Kaitlyn Geschwill. Overall: PL 22-5.

Rocori 25, Little Falls 6

COLLEGEVILLE — Little Falls' Kendra Couture had two RBIs as the Flyers lost to the top-seeded Rocori Spartans 25-6 in the section 8-3A Championship Thursday, June 2, at University of St. Ben's.

Victoria Gottwalt also had two RBIs in the loss for the Flyers.

Little Falls finishes its season 12-12.

Little Falls 6 7 7
Rocori 25 18 1
LP: Korrin Gwost. Overall: LF 12-12.

WARRIORS

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"It was very nerve-racking," Busch said. "Everyone was confident and everyone was cheering so it was fine. It felt really good to drive in a run. It doesn't matter that it was out. At least I got her in. That's always exciting."

One inning later, Kasia Kroll singled and moved to second on an Emma Tautges single. Smith, who admittedly struggled in Brainerd's three previous playoff games, smoked a single to score Kroll from second.

"I thought it was really important for me because I've just been mentally struggling, I think," Smith said. "I stopped hitting well and it's just been hard for me to get back into that groove. Coach just told me to take a deep breath and get a hit and that's just what I did."

Olivia Tautges did her part to keep STMA stymied. The senior scattered three singles and one walk and struck out four for her third shutout of the postseason. She threw a total of 70 pitches with 46 going for strikes.

The only time the Knights threatened

came in the top of the seventh. Emma Vike led off with a single. That was followed by a Taylor Tshida grounder to Olivia Tautges, who turned around to start the double play. Her throw flew right between the shortstop (Mya Tautges) and second baseman (Maren Ceynowa) into center field. The error put runners on the corners.

Smith, a senior captain, went up to both Mya Tautges and Ceynowa and encouraged both.

"I just wanted to make sure Mya and Maren were in the right head space," Smith said. "Once you make a mistake you just have to brush it off because there's nothing you can do about it except play good defense and brush it off. That's just what I told them. I knew that if we played strong defense we would finish it out."

Olivia Tautges then forced a pop-up to Smith at third base and got the inning-ending double play between Mya Tautges and Ceynowa to end the game and send the Warriors to state.

"You're a little nervous, but at the same time, I had full trust in my team that we were going to pull

this out," junior center fielder Josie Kappes said about the final inning. "That run on third, it matters, but it doesn't. I was just focused on getting the next out and taking a deep breath."

Brainerd will take its 24-0 record into the Class 4A state tournament for the first time since 2011. That team, led by former University of Minnesota Gopher pitcher Nikki Anderson was 21-0 heading into the final tournament.

"I play golf with Tim Peabody, David Devine and Brian Wallace in the summer and last summer we talked about it," Jordan said. "I said I thought this group had the potential to be different. Different from anything I had ever seen before."

"David Devine actually texted me a couple of days ago and said 'you called this last summer.'"

"This team, they just believe in each other and they play hard for each other. They just have a connection and it's not just the seniors. It's all of them. They all get along great."

St. Michael-Albertville 0 3 0
Brainerd 3 9 1
WP: Olivia Tautges. LP: Paige Holm. Brd-Mya Tautges.

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TWINS

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Though the pitch count was low — he was at 57 pitches — the Twins staff and Archer agreed that five innings was enough for him. It was one of the only times he had five ups over the course of the last few seasons which have been filled with injuries for the veteran.

"My mindset, I was totally on board with Rocco," Archer said.

He made way for a well-rested Jhoan Duran, who tossed two scoreless innings, preserving the Twins'

slim one-run advantage at the time. But the Twins couldn't pull away, and eventually saw a potential win spiral away.

With their four losses in five games in Detroit, the Twins now head north to face the red-hot Blue Jays in Toronto, where things won't get any easier.

"It's been tough, obviously," Pagán said. "You can see it from the outside looking in. You can see it in here. When you're not winning games, baseball is not as fun. Every team goes through a stretch that's tough but we'll come out of this. It's not going to be easy. It's not easy for anybody, but we'll be alright."

BRIEF

Gauff blitzes Trevisan to reach French Open final

American teenager Coco Gauff crushed Italy's Martina Trevisan a 6-3 6-1 on Thursday to become the youngest French Open finalist

in 21 years and set up a showcase clash with world number one Iga Swiatek.

The 18-year-old, who was already in unknown Grand Slam territory with her first semi-final spot, will next face Polish top seed Swiatek,

who cruised into Saturday's final with a 6-2 6-1 demolition of Russian Daria Kasatkina to stretch her winning run to 34 matches.

Gauff, who has yet to drop a set in the tournament and is the youngest finalist at any Grand

Slam in 18 years, needed time to find her range, trading two early breaks each with Trevisan.

Once she found a way to neutralize the left-hander's punishing forehand, however, Gauff breezed through the first set by winning

the last three games.

The 28-year-old Trevisan, bidding to become the lowest ranked finalist in the event's history, took a medical break to strap up her right calf.

But things just got worse for her as she piled up 35 errors by the

middle of the second set.

Ranked 23rd in the world, Gauff broke her again in a game lasting 14 minutes to go 3-1 up and never looked back, sealing her biggest career win on her first match point.

—Field Level Media