

BRIEFS

MAYBA/Peppers picks all-city team

MANKATO — The Mankato West softball team will be participating in the state tournament this week, with six of its players being named to the MAYBA/Peppers all-city team, as chosen by the organization's committee.

West's Breck Carlson, Lauryn Douglas, Carlee Emery, Carly Nelson, Lani Schoper and Abbi Stierlen were chosen for the all-city team.

East's selections were Sydney Jacobs, Madison Mangulis, Hailey Petzel, Destiny Reasner, Kylinn Stangl and Peyton Stevermer.

West has seven players on the all-city baseball team: Zander Dittbenner, Ryan Haley, Luke Johnson, Louis Magers, Ryan Ploog, Tanner Shumski and Avery Stock.

East's Jacob Eggert, Dylan Kopesky and Hunter Milow were named to the all-city team, as were Mankato Loyola's Lawson Godfrey and Jaxon Libby.

The MAYBA/Peppers all-city banquet will be held Tuesday, June 21, at Loose Moose Saloon. The all-city team is sponsored by Mankato Motors and SportsPix.

St. Peter's Brovold wins section golf

NEW PRAGUE — St. Peter's Kaiden Brovold was the medalist, shooting a two-day total of 147 to win the Section 2AA boys golf meet at New Prague Golf Club on Tuesday.

Brovold won by two strokes. Holy Family Catholic won the team title at 301.

In the girls tournament, Jordan won the team championship at 365.

Adrianna Bixby (175) and Audra Bixby (181) of St. Peter both qualified for the state meet, as did Katelyn Storbeck (182) and Payten Gudahl (183) of Blue Earth Area.

The Class AA tournament will be held June 14-15 at Ridges at Sand Creek near Jordan.

St. Clair hires basketball coach

ST. CLAIR — Seth Altenhofen has been named the boys basketball coach at St. Clair.

Altenhofen is replacing Gene Glynn, who coached one season at St. Clair.

Altenhofen is a 2007 graduate of Mankato Loyola, and he graduated from Bethany Lutheran in 2011.

Altenhofen coached in the St. Clair program from 2010-13 and has been an assistant coach at Mankato West for the last three seasons. He has also worked with the Minnesota Premier AAU program and coached the 14-under Minnesota Select team.

He begins his coaching duties immediately.

The Free Press

Liberty rout Minnesota Lynx

NEW YORK — Sabrina Ionescu had 26 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to help the New York Liberty rout the Minnesota Lynx 88-69 on Tuesday night.

The Liberty's No. 1 draft pick in 2020 had 13 points, seven assists and six rebounds in the first half, including hitting a shot from halfcourt at the end of the second quarter to give New York (4-8) a 45-37 advantage at the break.

New York took control in the third quarter behind Ionescu, extending the lead to 67-45 with 3:30 left.

New York led 74-48 after three quarters and Minnesota (3-9) never threatened in the fourth. The teams also played on Sunday and the Lynx held on to win after nearly blowing a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter.

The Associated Press

West stays unbeaten at section tourney

Things have gone poorly at this point the last few seasons

By Chad Courrier
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NEW ULM — Last season, Mankato West made it to the winners' bracket finals of the Section 2AAA baseball tournament.

However, the favored Scarlets ran into a hot-hitting team from Marshall, that ended up beating West twice to win the section championship.

It was a tough loss to take.

"We all know what happened (last year) so

we didn't really talk about it," West senior Tanner Shumski said. "This game has kinda had our number the last few years so you're always thinking about that. You really want to get to that championship game without a loss."

The top-seeded Scarlets overcame an early deficit to defeat No. 2 seed Mankato East 6-1 in the winners' bracket final of the Section 2AAA baseball tournament Tuesday at Johnson Park. West had already defeated East twice during the regular season, 9-2 and 13-1.

"They came out hitting right away, and it's East vs. West so it's already a big deal," West coach Scott Pick said. "This group of seniors are leaders and winners so they know what to do in big games."

The Cougars used three straight hits, capped by Dylan Kopesky's RBI single, to lead 1-0 in the first at-bat, but West got that run back in the second inning when Shumski lined a two-out, RBI single to center.

"You always want to get that run back as soon as you can," Pick said. "But we know if we give up one, we got to get one to have a chance to win."

West (22-1) went ahead 3-1 in the third on Riley



Jackson Forderer, special to the Free Press

Avery Stock of Mankato West makes the force out at second base on Mankato East's Logan Swalve and makes a throw to first during the Section 2AAA semifinal game Tuesday at Johnson Park.

Bersaw's two-out, bases-loaded double to center, but a third run was cut down at the plate on a perfect

relay from Hunter Milow to shortstop Matthew Werk to catcher Kyle Bridger.

Please see BASEBALL, Page A7

DEFENDING CHAMPS
LSH rebuilds after winning 2021 title

Pitchers Brandt, Fritz performing well

By Jim Rueda
Special to The Free Press

It's safe to say the rebuild of the 2021 state champion Le Sueur-Henderson girls softball team went even better than expected.

After compiling a 24-1 record and winning the Class AA tournament a year ago, the Giants knew they'd have to find replacements for a talented senior class if they were to be competitive again in 2022. LSH graduated five senior starters, including three all-state players, plus three reserves off that title team.

"We knew there were going to be some big holes we'd have to fill," LSH coach Eric Lewis said. "The good news was that we had both of our starting pitchers back. We were hoping we could rely on our pitching early, and if we kept getting better, there might be an opportunity for us."

That opportunity showed up in the Section 2AA tournament where the Giants went undefeated to earn a return trip to state. LSH brings a 20-3 record to Caswell Park.

Perhaps the biggest question going into the season was who was going to be the starting catcher. All-State catcher Zoey Thompson, who played this season at Wisconsin-Superior, had graduated and the player who figured to replace her suffered a concussion during the basketball season and was unavailable at the start.

"We weren't sure what we were going to do but then our two pitchers — Chloe Brandt and Rhyann Fritz — talked to Madi Wilbright about it," Lewis said. "Madi was our right fielder (in 2021) and hadn't caught since 11-year-old softball, but they asked her if she would do it and she said yes."

It turned out to be a perfect fit. Not only did the junior Wilbright supply solid defense behind the plate, but she has become the leadoff hitter with a .292 batting average.

Two other players who stepped up in a big way have been Bailey Lehman and Morgan Gregerson. Lehman (.347 average, 15 RBIs) has replaced all-state third baseman Olivia Fritz, and Gregerson (.415 average, 20 doubles) stepped in for all-state center fielder Halle Bemmels.

Brandt and Fritz have been an excellent on the mound and each plays shortstop when the other is pitching. Brandt is 15-2 with a 1.93 earned-run average and 205 strikeouts in 112 innings. Fritz is 5-1 with a 3.72 ERA and 43 strikeouts in 37 innings.

Brandt is hitting .446 with a .608 slugging percentage while Fritz is



Pat Christman

Junior pitcher Chloe Brandt has led Le Sueur-Henderson back to the softball state tournament, where it will try to defend its 2021 Class AA championship.

batting .479 with a .904 SP.

Samantha Wilbright (.385 BA, .436 SP), the only senior on the team, has returned as the starting second baseman and has filled the fourth spot in the batting order nicely. She said the 2022 version of the team is a lot different from last season.

"Last year we had a lot of experience, but this year we promoted a lot of B-squaders and even middle-schoolers to help us out," she said. "I'm sure some of them will be nervous before some of the games at state. As the only senior, it's my job to try to keep them calm and focused on the job at hand."

Among the other LSH players who are expected to see plenty of action at the state tournament are junior Delaney Pavlo (DP), sophomore Brianna Jones (LF), sophomore Brynn Biedscheid (1B, .347 average) and seventh-grader Teagan Graham (RF).

LSH's rebuild after last year seemed easy at first as it rolled to a 15-0 record to start the season. Then, however, it was reality check time as the Giants lost an 8-2 decision to Eden Prairie, another 8-2 verdict to North and were shut out 5-0 by Eastview.

"At that point, I wasn't sure which way we were going to go," Lewis said. "But then we played Champlin Park and we fell behind and the play-

Class AA softball

Thursday's games
at Caswell Park
Le Sueur-Henderson vs. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, 11 a.m.
Chatfield vs. Mounds Park Academy, 11 a.m.
Proctor vs. Pipestone Area, 11 a.m.
Maple Lake vs. St. Cloud Cathedral, 11 a.m.
Scheduled, round 1
Quarterfinal winners, 5 p.m.
Quarterfinal losers, 5 p.m.
Friday's games
at Caswell Park
Consolation game, 9 a.m.
Third-place game, 11 a.m.
Championship game, 2 p.m.

ers got together and said 'enough.' They came back to win that game 7-4 to end the regular season, and we've been playing pretty well ever since."

LSH has drawn the No. 2 seed in the tournament behind No. 1 Proctor. The Giants open the Class AA competition Thursday with an 11 a.m. game against Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton on Field 5 at Caswell Park.

If they win they play again at 5 p.m. If they lose they play again at 7 p.m.

Yankees homers defeat Twins

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Anthony Rizzo hit a three-run home run in the seventh inning to crack open a close game for the New York Yankees, who brushed off a rare bad start by Jameson Taillon to beat the Minnesota Twins 10-4 on Tuesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton got the visitors going with first-inning homers, the 23rd time they've gone deep in the same game in five seasons together. The Yankees have only lost once when that happens, in the Field of Dreams game in Iowa last Aug. 12.

The Yankees (40-15) lead the major leagues with the best 55-game record in baseball since Seattle in 2001. That's actually a lower winning percentage than the astounding 110-38 record the Yankees have built, including the playoffs, against the Twins since 2002. They are 32-12 all-time at Target Field, which the Twins opened in 2010.

Taillon, who took a perfect game through seven innings in his last start, was pulled with no outs in the fifth. The Twins knocked him around for nine hits and four runs, both season highs for the right-hander.

Jorge Polanco went 4 for 4 with two RBIs, including a homer off Taillon that was the first allowed by a Yankees pitcher in six games. Lucas Luetge (2-2) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the awarded victory in relief.

The starting pitching has been so dominant for New York this year that the staff has almost overshadowed a loaded lineup that leads the majors in homers and is second in OPS.

Minnesota had nowhere to hide rookie Cole Sands. The Yankees pounded Sands (0-2), a rotation fill-in with seven starting pitchers currently out with either injuries or COVID-19, for eight of their 14 hits over the right-hander's 3 2/3 innings. Every starter had at least one, including three by DJ LeMahieu. He also walked twice, once with the bases loaded to force in a run in the fifth.

SCORECARD

TV Today

Wednesday, June 8
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
7:30 p.m.
ESPN — Women's College World Series Finals: Texas vs. Oklahoma, Game 1, Oklahoma City
COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD
6:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — NCAA Outdoor Championships: Day 1 (Men's), Eugene, Ore.
HORSE RACING
11:30 a.m.
FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
MLB BASEBALL
11:30 a.m.
MLBN — Detroit at Pittsburgh
6:30 p.m.
BSN, FS1 — NY Yankees at Minnesota
8:30 p.m.
MLBN — Regional Coverage: NY Mets at San Diego OR Boston at LA Angels
NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
ABC — NBA Finals: Golden State at Boston, Game 3
SOCCER (MEN'S)
1:30 p.m.
FS1 — UEFA Nations League Group Stage: Belgium vs. Poland, Group D, Brussels Belgium
SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
9 p.m.
CBSSN — NWSL: Portland FC at San Diego SPECIAL OLYMPICS
5:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Coverage of the 2022 Special Olympics U.S. Games, Orlando, Fla. (Taped)
TENNIS
4 a.m.
TENNIS — s-Hertogenbosch-ATP/WTA, Nottingham-WTA Early Rounds
5 a.m.
TENNIS — s-Hertogenbosch-ATP/WTA, Nottingham-WTA Early Rounds
4 a.m. (Thursday)
TENNIS — s-Hertogenbosch-ATP/WTA, Nottingham-WTA Early Rounds
5 a.m. (Thursday)
TENNIS — s-Hertogenbosch-ATP/WTA, Nottingham-WTA Early Rounds
WNBA BASKETBALL
7 p.m.
CBSSN — Chicago at Washington

Week in sports

WEDNESDAY
Mankato MoonDogs baseball vs. Rochester, 6:35 p.m., ISG Field
THURSDAY
Mankato East baseball vs. TBD (if necessary), Section 2AAA tournament, TBA, Johnson Park, New Ulm
Mankato West baseball vs. TBD (if necessary), Section 2AAA tournament, TBA, Johnson Park, New Ulm
Mankato West softball vs. Monticello, Class AAA tournament, 11 a.m., Caswell Park
Loyola/Cleveland boys, girls track at Class A meet, 4 p.m., St. Michael-Albertville
Mankato MoonDogs baseball at Rochester, 6:35 p.m.

American League

East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
New York	40	15	.727	—					
Toronto	33	22	.600	7					
Tampa Bay	32	23	.582	8					
Boston	28	27	.509	12					
Baltimore	24	33	.421	17					
Central Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Minnesota	32	25	.561	—					
Chicago	26	27	.491	4					
Cleveland	25	26	.490	4					
Detroit	21	33	.389	9½					
Kansas City	17	37	.315	13½					
West Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Houston	36	20	.643	—					
Los Angeles	27	29	.482	9					
Texas	26	29	.473	9½					
Seattle	25	31	.446	11					
Oakland	20	37	.351	16½					

Monday's Games
Toronto 8, Kansas City 0
Seattle 7, Houston 4
Boston 1, L.A. Angels 0
Texas at Cleveland, ppd.
Tuesday's Games
Cleveland 6, Texas 3, 1st game
Atlanta 3, Oakland 2
Baltimore 9, Chicago Cubs 3
Tampa Bay 4, St. Louis 2, 10 innings
Chicago White Sox 4, L.A. Dodgers 0
Texas 6, Cleveland 3, 2nd game
Toronto 7, Kansas City 0
Houston 4, Seattle 1
N.Y. Yankees 10, Minnesota 4
Detroit at Pittsburgh
Boston at L.A. Angels
Wednesday's Games
Detroit (Faedo 1-2) at Pittsburgh (Keller 2-5), 11:35 a.m.
Toronto (Kikuchi 2-2) at Kansas City (Singer 2-1), :10 p.m.
Seattle (Gilbert 5-2) at Houston (Urquidy 5-2), 5:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Stroman 2-5) at Baltimore (Lyles 3-4), 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis (TBD) at Tampa Bay (Kluber 2-2), 6:10 p.m.
Texas (Dunning 1-3) at Cleveland (Bieber 3-3), 6:10 p.m.
Oakland (Koenig 0-0) at Atlanta (Anderson 4-3), 6:20 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 5-1) at Minnesota (Archer 0-2), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Gonsolin 6-0) at Chicago White Sox (Cueto 0-2), 7:10 p.m.
Boston (Eovaldi 3-2) at L.A. Angels (Detmers 2-2), 8:38 p.m.

Twins box score

Minnesota												
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi				
LeMahieu 2b	4	2	3	1	Arraez 1b	4	1	2	0			
Judge cf	5	2	2	3	Miranda 1b	1	0	0	0			
Rizzo 1b	6	1	1	3	Buxton dh	4	1	1	0			
Stanton dh	5	1	1	1	Polanco 2b	5	1	4	2			
Donaldson 3b	5	0	1	0	Kepler rf	3	0	1	1			
Hicks lf	3	2	2	0	Sánchez c	4	0	0	0			
Kiner-Faleasa ss	5	1	1	0	Larnach lf	4	0	0	0			
Trevino c	4	0	1	1	Urshela 3b	4	1	2	0			
Gallo rf	4	1	2	1	Celestino cf	4	0	1	0			
					Palacios ss	3	0	1	1			
Totals	41	10	14	10	Totals	36	4	12	4			
New York	300	110	320	—	10							
Minnesota	101	110	000	—	4							
E—Rizzo (3), Donaldson (4), Luetge (2). DP—New York 1, Minnesota 0. LOB—New York 13, Minnesota 9. 2B—Buxton (8), Polanco (9). HR—Judge (22), Stanton (12), Rizzo (14), Polanco (7). SF—Kepler (3), Palacios (1).												
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO						
New York												
Taillon	4	9	4	4	1	3						
Luetge W-2-2	1 2/3	1	0	0	0	0						
Peralta H-3	1 1/3	1	0	0	0	0						
Marinaccio	2	1	0	0	0	0						
Minnesota												
Sands L-0-2	3 2/3	8	4	4	2	3						
Minaya	1	1	1	1	1	3						
Cano	1 1/3	0	0	0	0	2						
Duffey	1	2	3	3	1	2						
Megill	2	3	2	2	1	1						
Taillon pitched to 2 batters in the 5th, Minaya pitched to 6 batters in the 5th. HBP—Marinaccio (Buxton). WP—Minaya, Duffey. Umpires—Home, Alex Tosi; First, Todd Tichenor; Second, John Libka; Third, Jim Reynolds. T—3:50. A—27,643 (38,544).												

National League

East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
New York	38	19	.667	—					
Atlanta	29	27	.518	8½					
Philadelphia	25	29	.463	11½					
Miami	23	30	.434	13					
Washington	21	36	.368	17					
Central Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Milwaukee	33	23	.589	—					
St. Louis	32	24	.571	1					
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	7					
Chicago	23	33	.411	10					
Cincinnati	19	35	.352	13					
West Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Los Angeles	35	19	.648	—					
San Diego	33	22	.600	2½					
San Francisco	29	24	.547	5½					
Arizona	26	30	.464	10					
Colorado	23	31	.426	12					

Monday's Games
Cincinnati 7, Arizona 0, 7 innings
N.Y. Mets 11, San Diego 5
Tuesday's Games
Miami 12, Washington 2

Atlanta 3, Oakland 2
Baltimore 9, Chicago Cubs 3
Tampa Bay 4, St. Louis 2, 10 innings
Arizona at Cincinnati
Detroit at Pittsburgh
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago White Sox
Philadelphia at Milwaukee
N.Y. Mets at San Diego
Colorado at San Francisco
Wednesday's Games
Detroit (TBD) at Pittsburgh (Keller 2-5), 11:35 a.m.
Arizona (Kelly 4-3) at Cincinnati (Minor 0-1), 5:40 p.m.
Washington (Gray 6-4) at Miami (Alcantara 6-2), 5:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Stroman 2-5) at Baltimore (Lyles 3-4), 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis (TBD) at Tampa Bay (Kluber 2-2), 6:10 p.m.
Oakland (Koenig 0-0) at Atlanta (Anderson 4-3), 6:20 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Gonsolin 6-0) at Chicago White Sox (Cueto 0-2), 7:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 3-4) at Milwaukee (Houser 3-5), 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Bassitt 4-3) at San Diego (Manaea 2-3), 8:40 p.m.
Colorado (Senzatela 2-3) at San Francisco (Wood 3-5), 8:45 p.m.

NHL Playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. Rangers 2, Tampa Bay 2
Wednesday, June 1: N.Y. Rangers 6, Tampa Bay 2
Friday, June 3: N.Y. Rangers 3, Tampa Bay 2
Sunday, June 5: Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
Tuesday, June 7: Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Rangers 1
Thursday, June 9: Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
x-Saturday, June 11: N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, TBA
x-Tuesday, June 14: Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Colorado 4, Edmonton 0
Tuesday, May 31: Colorado 8, Edmonton 6
Thursday, June 2: Colorado 4, Edmonton 0
Saturday, June 4: Colorado 4, Edmonton 2
Monday, June 6: Colorado 6, Edmonton 5, OT

NBA Finals

(Best-of-7)x-if necessaryBoston 1, Golden State 1
Thursday, June 2: Boston 120, Golden State 108
Sunday, June 5: Golden State 107, Boston 88
Wednesday, June 8: Golden State at Boston, 8 p.m., ABC
Friday, June 10: Golden State at Boston, 8 p.m., ABC
Monday, June 13: Boston at Golden State, 8 p.m., ABC
x-Thursday, June 16: Golden State at Boston, 8 p.m., ABC
x-Sunday, June 19: Boston at Golden State, 7 p.m., ABC
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WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Connecticut 9 3 .750
Chicago 7 3 .700
Atlanta 7 4 .636
Washington 7 5 .583
New York 4 8 .333
Indiana 3 10 .231
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Las Vegas 10 2 .833
Dallas 6 5 .545
Seattle 5 5 .500
Los Angeles 5 7 .417
Phoenix 3 8 .273
Minnesota 3 9 .250
Monday's Games
No games scheduled.
Tuesday's Games
New York 88, Minnesota 69
Atlanta at Seattle
Wednesday's Games
Indiana at Connecticut, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.

Lynx box score

MINNESOTA (69)
Powers 3-12 5-6 11, Shepard 2-8 5-5 9, Fowles 4-7 2-2 10, Banham 0-6 4-4 4, McBride 5-12 1-2 13, Carleton 2-4 0-0 5, Millic 2-6 4-6 8, Cunane 1-2 0-0 2, Smalls 1-4 0-0 2, Westbrook 2-6 1-1 5. Totals 22-67 22-26 69.
NEW YORK (88)
Allen 4-9 2-2 13, Howard 5-11 0-2 11, Dolson 2-7 0-0 4, Dangerfield 1-6 3-4 5, Ionescu 10-11 2-2 26, Cubaj 0-0 0-0 0, Onyenwere 1-3 0-0 3, Xu 6-12 3-3 15, Whitcomb 3-11 2-2 11. Totals 32-70 12-15 88.
Minnesota 19 18 11
21 — 69
New York 28 17 29
14 — 88
3-Point Goals—Minnesota 3-22 (McBride 2-5, Carleton 1-3, Cunane 0-1, Millic 0-1, Shepard 0-1, Smalls 0-2, Westbrook 0-2, Powers 0-3, Banham 0-4), New York 12-33 (Ionescu 4-4, Allen 3-7, Whitcomb 3-9, Onyenwere 1-2, Howard 1-4, Dangerfield 0-1, Xu 0-2, Dolson 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 36 (Shepard 7), New York 35 (Ionescu 8). Assists—Minnesota 17 (Smalls, Westbrook 4), New York 21 (Ionescu 8). Total Fouls—Minnesota 20, New York 14. A—3,196 (17,732)

Transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
MLB — Suspended Houston RHP Hector Neris four games and fined an undisclosed amount for intentionally throwing in the area of the head at Seattle 3B Eugenio Suarez. Suspended Houston manager Dusty Baker one game and an undisclosed fine of the intentional actions of Neris. Fined Houston coaches Jose Espada, Omar Lopez and Troy Snitker undisclosed amounts for actions that contributed to the incident. Fined Seattle manager Scott Servais an undisclosed amount for actions that contributed to causing the incident.
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Reinstated INF Chris Owing from the bereavement list. Claimed RHP Austin Voth off waivers from Washington. Designated RHP Cody Sedlock for assignment.
BOSTON RED SOX — Sent RHP Hansel Robles to Worcester (IL) on a rehab assignment.
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Recalled LHP Kirk McCarthy from Columbus (IL).
DETROIT TIGERS — Reinstated OF Austin Meadows from the 10-day IL. Placed INF Jeimer Candelario on the 10-day IL.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Fired manager Joe Madden and named Phil Nevin interim manager.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Recalled RHP Cole Sands from St. Paul (IL). Placed OF Kyle Garlick on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 4.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated C/1B Stephen Vogt from the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of INF Matt Davidson from Las Vegas (PCL). Optioned INF Sheldon Neuse to Las Vegas. Designated RHP Parker Markel for assignment.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned LHP Ryan Yarbrough to Durham (IL). Recalled RHP Luke Bard from Durham.
TEXAS RANGERS — Placed LHP Brett Martin on the COVID-19 IL. Recalled INF Andy Ibanez from Round Rock (IL). Recalled RHP Josh Borzj from Round Rock and appointed him the 27th man for a doubleheader.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed C Danny Jansen on the 10-day IL. Recalled C Zack Collins from Buffalo (IL).
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Traded RHP Jacob Webb to Atlanta for cash considerations. Signed LHP Dallas Keuchel to a minor league contract. Recalled LHP Tyler Gilbert from the taxi squad. Optioned RHP Taylor Widener to Reno (PCL) after last night's game.
ATLANTA BRAVES — Placed RHP Collin McHugh on the IL.
CHICAGO CUBS — Reinstated RHP Alec Mills from the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Anderson Espinoza to Tennessee (SL).
COLORADO ROCKIES — Recalled INF Elehuris Montero from Albuquerque (PCL). Optioned RHP Ryan Felter to Albuquerque.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled RHP Phil Bickford. Placed RHP Craig Kimbrel on paternity leave.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated OF Hunter Renfroe from the 10-day IL. Placed RHP Trevor Gott on the 15-day IL, retroactive to June 6.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed LHP Dillon Peters on the 15-day IL, retroactive to June 3. Recalled LHP Aaron Fletcher from Indianapolis (IL).
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Reinstated LF Tyler O'Neill. Optioned RHP Jake Walsh to Memphis (IL).



The Associated Press

Rich Strike (21), with Sonny Leon aboard, won the 148th running of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 7. Rich Strike is the third betting choice on the morning line for the Belmont Stakes.

Rich Strike 3rd choice at Belmont

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike is the third betting choice on the morning line for the Belmont Stakes, with Triple Crown newcomer We the People installed as the favorite.

Rich Strike opened at 7-2 odds and drew the fourth post position in a field of eight horses for the 1 1/2-mile third leg of the Triple Crown. We the People drew the rail and opens at 2-1, with Todd Pletcher-trained No. 6 Mo Donegal set at 5-2.

A month after Rich Strike pulled off an 80-1 upset to win the Derby and bypassed the Preakness for extra rest, trainer Eric Reed thinks the colt is training just as well at Belmont Park as he was at Churchill Downs.

“He’s done real good since he’s been here,” Reed said Tuesday at the post position draw. “I see the energy level a little higher now, and he seems a little more confident.”

We the People is coming off winning the Grade 3 Peter Pan Stakes at Belmont Park on May 15. With another wet track possible Saturday, France-born trainer Rodolphe Brisset said he “wouldn’t be upset” if rain is in the forecast.

As for We the People opening as the favorite, Brisset said: “Everybody knows we like the horse since this winter. I don’t look at the odds, but it makes sense.

Pletcher has two horses in the field: Mo Donegal, who finished fifth in the Derby, and filly Nest, who ran second in the Ken-

tucky Oaks the day before.

He already has won the Belmont once before with a filly — Rags to Riches in 2004 — and is willing to take this chance with Nest, who drew the third post and opens at 8-1.

“Everything’s gone perfectly since the Oaks,” Pletcher said. “She’s a filly that’s really well-bred for this race. I think she’s got the right kind of disposition for it, and she’s given us every indication that she’s doing really well.”

Along with Rich Strike and Mo Donegal, Barber Road is the only other Derby horse set to race in the Belmont. Barber Road, who was sixth in the Derby, drew the outside eighth post at odds of 10-1.

There are no horses this year that are set to take part in all three legs of the

Triple Crown, after Derby and Preakness runner-up Epicenter was given time off to prepare for races this summer.

Creative Minister, who finished third behind Early Voting and Epicenter three weeks ago in the Preakness, is the only horse to run on all three Triple Crown days after winning against lesser competition on May 7 at Churchill.

“This horse, he’s got a real chance,” trainer Kenny McPeck said of No. 5 Creative Minister, who opened at 6-1. “He handled (the Preakness) really well, and he’s got to move a step forward again.”

Skippylongstocking, who finished fifth in the Preakness, drew the second post. He and No. 7 Golden Glider are the co-longest shots on the board at 20-1.

BASEBALL: West unbeaten in section baseball tournament

Continued from Page A6

In the fourth, West’s Zander Dittbenner lined a two-run single over the drawn-in infield to make it 5-1, and Avery Stock added an RBI double for a 6-1 lead.

After that Shumski was nearly unhittable, retiring the final 13 batters. He allowed four hits with nine strikeouts in the complete game.

“Their game plan was hit my fastball,” Shumski said. “They came out hitting, but when we got the lead, we had a quick inning (in the field) and got right back to the bats. We had all the momentum.”
West finished with nine hits, getting two from Stock and Shumski.

“We’re going to enjoy this tonight, but we’ll practice (Wednesday),” Shumski said. “We have one more game to win.”

East’s Jacob Eggert pitched a complete game, with four walks and two strikeouts.
East (14-9) ended up playing New Prague in an elimination game later Tuesday and lost 1-0.

West faces New Prague in the section championship game at 5 p.m. Thursday at Johnson Park.

In Section 2A at ISG Field, Sleepy Eye St. Mary’s defeated Sleepy Eye in an elimination game and downed Martin County West 4-2 in the second game. St. Mary’s plays New Ulm Cathedral in the cham-



Jackson Forderer, special to The Free Press

After giving up one run in the first inning, Mankato West pitcher Tanner Shumski went on to pitch six scoreless innings against Mankato East in Tuesday’s Section 2AAA semifinal game.

pionship game Thursday at ISG Field.

In Section 2AA, Belle Plaine defeated New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva 13-2 in five

innings at Gaylord. Belle Plaine played New Ulm late Tuesday in another elimination game.

Follow Chad Courier on Twitter @ChadCourier.

Sore leg forces Woods to withdraw from U.S. Open

The Associated Press

Tiger Woods withdrew from the U.S. Open on Tuesday, saying that his damaged right leg needs more time to get stronger to contend in the majors.

Woods made a surprise return at the Masters, just 14 months after he broke bones in his right leg and ankle in a February 2021 car crash outside Los Angeles. He made the cut at Augusta National, then played the PGA