



# The Gazette

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## Grand Rapids lefty hangs tough to beat Edina

A well-timed hit helped, too

By John Sherman

When Edina American Legion players watched Grand Rapids Post 60 lefthander Easton Sjostrand warm up before a first-round State Division I Tournament game Thursday at Bob Bunnell Field in Burnsville, their mouths watered.

"This kid's fastball is 64 mile an hour," one Edina player observed.

Seven innings later, Sjostrand was still tossing his soft stuff. In the bottom of the seventh, Edina Post 471 hit a soft liner and two fly balls, and the Grand Rapids pitcher walked off the field with a 2-1 win.

So how did Sjostrand do this against one of the state's best hitting teams?

"I threw some breaking balls and spotted my fastball," he said.

Edina hit a lot of balls into the air, and that played to the strength of a fast Grand Rapids



Grand Rapids Post 60's pitcher Easton Sjostrand, right, stands with his catcher, David Wohlers.

outfield that tracked balls well.

Although Edina outhit Grand Rapids 9-7, Sjostrand was able to come through with runners on base.

Edina scored its only run when shortstop

Will Couchman hit a ball into the wilderness in right-center field, about 380 feet from home plate.

"He hit pitch that was three or four inches outside," Sjostrand said. "I thought it was a good pitch, but he put a barrel on it."

The offensive for Grand Rapids was catcher David Wohlers, whose second hit of the game was a two-run double in the top of the seventh inning.

As he watched Wohlers' hit land and roll into the left-field corner, Sjostrand said, "I was nervous, I was excited. My heart was jumping out of my chest."

With a 2-1 lead going into the bottom of the seventh, Sjostrand told himself: "Just get three outs."

With the victory, Sjostrand's season record improved to 4-3. The leader of the Grand Rapids staff, Dominic Broberg, came into the State Tournament with a 6-0 record and two saves.

Grand Rapids faces Mankato National today.

## Mankato pitcher Louis Magers has bright future

By John Sherman

So far, Louis Magers' baseball career has unfolded like a dream.

The 6-foot-5 righthander for the Mankato National Post 11 Legion Baseball team is staying home for college as a player for Minnesota State University, Mankato next season. Because his fastball has already been clocked at 92 miles per hour, he may have potential beyond college ball, as well.

"Right now, I am focused on this the State Tournament," said Magers, who beat the Minneapolis Lakers 6-3 in the opening round Thursday at Burnsville's Bob Bunnell Field.

He hurled the first six innings before Wilson Magers kept it in the family by earning the save.

Louis Magers is an all-around player. Scouts would call him a two-way player because he plays

other positions when he isn't pitching. His batting average coming into the State Tournament was .391 and he was among Mankato National's RBI leaders with 16. He is the dubious leader in one department as a player who has been hit by pitch four times this season.

After Thursday's first game, Louis Magers talked about the differences between high school and Legion baseball: "Legion seems more laid-back. The other difference is that some Legion teams have Super Seniors (college freshmen who meet Legion's age guidelines)."

Mankato National has only one Super Senior, center fielder and lead-off hitter Maxwell Goertzen, who bats .311 and leads the team in stolen bases



Mankato National's Louis Magers throws a pitch Thursday. He said Legion Baseball allows him to spend summer with friends.

with 13.

Louis Magers said part of the attraction of playing Legion is spending one more summer with his best buddies. "We're all good friends, and we're competing for the same goal," he said.

In addition to playing baseball in high school, Magers was a front-court player for the basketball team. "Basketball is a big conditioning sport and it helped me stay competitive in the off-season," he said.

All season, Mankato National has been in the top 20 of Scheels' Statewide Legion Baseball Rankings, including two weeks at No. 1. Being listed in a poll is nice, but that doesn't compare to finishing first or second in state and earning a berth in Central Plains Region competition.

# Here it is! Recaps of all games on Thursday

## GAME 1

Maple Grove 101 040 0 6 9 0  
 Rochester A's 000 303 0 3 5 2  
 McMahon and Fischer. Milene, S. Johnston (5), Kelly (6) Fletcher (7) and Esau. WP McMahon, LP S. Johnston.

Aiden McMahon went the distance on the mound in Maple Grove's first-round victory over the Rochester A's at Rich Vanderlaan Field in Burnsville Thursday morning. McMahon allowed five hits and struck out five. Second baseman Zane Vitense led Maple Grove with two runs scored. Teammate Brian O'Dwyer had two RBIs, while Cal Fischer and Nathan Schmidt each had two hits, Blake Baudoin hit a double for the Rochester A's.

## GAME 2

Grand Rapids 000 000 2 2 7 0  
 Edina 001 000 0 1 9 0  
 Sjostrand and Wohlers. McGrain and Berghult. WP Sjostrand. LP McGrain.

Grand Rapids lefty Easton Sjostrand won a tight pitcher's duel with Edina's Tommy McGrain in the first round of pool play at Burnsville's Bob Bunnell Field Thursday morning. The game lasted only 1 hour and 15 minutes with a final score of 2-1. Shortstop Will Couchman hit 380-foot homer for Edina's lone run. Catcher David Wohlers had both Grand Rapids RBIs with a

double in the top of the seventh.

## GAME 3

St. Michael 000 003 0 3 5 0  
 Willmar 000 000 0 0 2 1  
 Sutter and Amundson. Koosman and Arndorfer. WP Sutter. LP Koosman

Back from college, St. Michael Legion ace Max Sutter was ready for his duel with Willmar's Ian Koosman. Sutter tossed a two-hitter for the win, while Koosman pitched a five-hitter in his complete game. Third baseman Sam Etterman had both of Willmar's hits with a triple and a single. Designated hitter Hayden Frank has two hits for St. Michael.

## GAME 4

Burnsville Cobras 210 010 0 4 6 1  
 Moorhead Blues 121 112 x 8 10 1  
 Birch and Quimby. Quade, Saari (7) and Tweet. WP Quade. LP Birch.

The Moorhead Blues scored in each of the first six innings to defeat the Burnsville Cobras 8-4 in pool play at Schleper Field in Shakopee. Starter Gavin Quade reached the 105-pitch limit by the seventh inning in posting the win. Moorhead's Jacob Hendrickson and Justin Stalboerger hit home runs. Tyden Bergeson and Zach Taft added doubles. Jonah Dawson



Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776 brings the colors onto Field 1 for the first game of the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I State Tournament.

responded for the Cobras with a double and a home run.

and L. Johnson. WP L. Magers. LP Skillbeck.

## GAME 5

Hopkins 000 330 0 6 8 1  
 Rosemount 010 100 0 2 3 0

Aune, Olson (5) and Mausser. Kent, C. Johnson (6). WP Aune. LP Kent.

Hopkins, No. 1 in Scheels' Statewide Legion Baseball poll won its opener over Rosemount at Rich Vanerlaan Field in Burnsville. Pitchers Aaron Aune and Gabe Olson combined on a three-hitter. Catcher Jack Mausser and shortstop Charlie Schaefer each had two hits for the Flyers. Quinton Gonzalez had two of Rosemount's three hits.

## GAME 6

Mpls. Lakers 010 020 0 3 8 2  
 Mankato Nat'l 321 000 x 6 8 3  
 Skillbeck, Burnett (6) and Baratsis. L. Magers, W. Magers (7)

Louis Magers pitched Mankato National to a 6-3 win in pool play at Bob Bunnell Field in Burnsville Thursday afternoon. The 6-5 righthander struck out nine and allowed six hits in six innings. Magers helped his own cause with three hits and an RBI. Luke Johnson and Riley Bersaw had two hits each for Mankato National. Malcolm Munnich, Ethan Poindexter and Finn Joshi had two hits each for the Lakers.

## GAME 7

Sartell 001 007 3 11 15 1  
 Farmington 002 001 0 3 8 2  
 Vorpahl, Geiger (7) and Voss. Young, Borlik (6) and Richard, Stender (6). WP Vorpahl. LP Young.

Third baseman Kade Lewis of Sartell had a huge game, going



Maple Grove's Nathan Schmidt scores Thursday to put Maple Grove ahead 7-6 as the throw to the catcher for the Rosemount was just a tad too high. Rosemount tied it in the top of the seventh, but Maple Grove answered on an low outfield fly to win 8-7.



**The Minneapolis Lakers have fun leaning on the dugout wall and talking about the game they were in against Grand Rapids on Thursday. They won 3-2.**

four-for-four with two RBIs and a run scored. Teammate Tory Lund went three-for-four with two runs scored and two RBIs. Left fielder Mason Conrad led Farmington with three hits.

**GAME 8**

Rosetown 011 501 1 **9** 12 1  
 Princeton 000 830 x **11** 10 2  
 Dahlof, Niles (4), T. Nelson (4) and Goodwin. Reters, Minks (4) and Johaneson. WP Minks. LP Niles.

Princeton scored eight runs in the fourth inning to take the lead over Rosetown in pool play at Schleper Field in Shakopee Thursday afternoon. Eli Gibbs, Tyler Reters and Eli Christopher had two hits each for Princeton. Sander Lien had three hits to lead Roseville.

**GAME 9**

Rosemount 000 033 1 **7** 11 1  
 Maple Grove 102 013 1 **8** 14 1  
 Hegarty and Honeycutt. Kri-er, Kliber (5), Hansen (7) and Fischer. WP Hansen. LP Hegarty.

Sam Kliber of Maple Grove went three-for-three at the plate and pitched in relief. Quinton Gonzalez, Rosemount's first baseman went three-for-four with four RBIs.

**GAME 10**

Minneapolis Lakers **3**  
 Grand Rapids **2**

**GAME 11**

Willmar 003 214 1 **11** 11 0  
 Farmington 100 001 1 **2** 5 5

Etterman and Arndorfer. Schmidt, Hoff \*6) and Spelman.

WP Etterman. LP Schmidt.  
 Ian Koosman's hitting sparked Willmar to a big win. The short-stop went two-for-four with two runs scored and two RBIs. Winning pitcher Sam Etterman went the distance, allowing five hits and striking out seven.

**GAME 12**

Princeton 043 012 00 **10** 14 2  
 Burnsville 120 105 11 **11** 10 2  
 M. Krone, R. Krone (6), Olson (6) and Johanson Sieben, Sloan (3), Quimby (6) and Dawson. WP Quimby. LP Olson.

Connor Quimby hit a home run as the Burnsville Cobras beat Princeton in eight innings. Princeton's Lane Olson went three-for-four with two RBIs.

**GAME 13**

Rochester A's 000 423 0 **9** 9 0  
 Hopkins 020 000 0 **2** 7 1

It was an upset special for the young Rochester A's, who took down No. 1-ranked Hopkins at Rich Vanderlaan Field in Burnsville Thursday evening. Josh Fletcher pitched a complete game for the winners, throwing arrows at the Flyers for seven frames. Jeremiah Fletcher, the shortstop, had three hits. Brock Zimmer, Jack Mausser and Noah Ottmar each had three hits for Hopkins.

**GAME 14**

Edina 010 001 0 **2** 6 4  
 Mankato 114 011 x **8** 13 1  
 Chrysler, Schnell (4), Dobesh (6) and Berghult. Shumski and L. Johnson. WP Shumski. LP Chrysler.

Mankato National used Tan-

**Thursday Stars of the Day**

**Sander Lien** of Rosetown went three-for-four at the plate in an 11-9 loss to Princeton.

**Charlie Schaefer** of Hopkins hit a triple and a single as his team defeated Rosemount 6-2.

**Max Sutter** of St. Michael tossed a two-hitter to set down Willmar 3-0.

**Haden Frank**, the designated hitter, came through with a pair of hits in St. Michael's 3-0 victory over Willmar.

**Easton Sjostrand** of Grand Rapids pitched a complete game in a 2-1 lead over Edina.

**Tommy McGrain** of the Edina Legion team limited Grand Rapids to seven hits in a 2-1 loss.

**Kade Lewis** of Sartell went four-for-four in his team's 11-3 win over Farmington.

**Mason Conrad** of Farmington had three hits, but his club lost to Sartell 11-3.

**Louis Magers** of Mankato National pitched and hit his team to a 6-3 win over the Minneapolis Lakers. He went six innings for the win and had three hits.

ner Shumski's complete game to hand Edina its second loss of the day 8-2. Shumski helped his own cause with two hits and an RBI. Lewis Meyer and Jack Dobesh each had a pair of hits for Edina.

**GAME 15**

St. Michael 403 50 **12** 14 0  
 Sartell 000 01 **1** 6 0  
 Neros, Byer (4) and Amundson. Lund, Acker (4) and Voss. WP Neros. LP Lund.

Evan Saunders and Hayden Olson each had three hits for St. Michael in its romp over Sartell. Olson's four RBIs were one

of the keys. Austin Henrichs had two hits for Sartell.

**GAME 16**

Moorhead 045 21 **12** 11 1  
 Rosetown 000 01 **1** 3 0  
 Zimmer and Tweet. Hanson, Fischer (3) and Goodwin. WP Zimmer. LP Hanson.

Justin Stalboerger of the Moorhead Blues hit two triples to finish the game with six RBIs. Teammate Jacob Hendrickson hit his second home run of the State Tournament. Carson Zimmer of Moorhead pitched a three-hitter.



**Players for Mankato National wait for the next game. Part of the fun of a Legion Baseball tournament is seeing how the teams watch and study other teams.**

# Shortstop position is strength for Hopkins Flyers

By John Sherman

During the 2022 high school season, Maddox “Mad Dog” Mihalakis played shortstop for Hopkins’ Lake Conference champions.

When Mihalakis signed with the University of Arizona for next season, he decided not to play Legion ball, so opponents assumed Hopkins Legion might have to search for a Legion shortstop. But that was not the case. Charlie Schaefer, who played third base for the high school team, moved over one spot and filled the void.

“We had two really good shortstops on the high school team,” said Hopkins Legion coach Tyler Brodersen, an assistant to Jason Mihalakis in the spring.

The Mad Dog hit almost .500 in high school with six home runs. Schaefer is more of a contact hitter and is a fixture as the lead-off batter.

“Charlie is hitting in the high .400s with an on-base percentage of over .500,” Brodersen said. “We have a lot of good players, but Charlie is the ultimate unsung hero. When one of our guys hits a home run, Charlie is usually on base. I totally trust Charlie’s

judgment and never give him the red light.”

The Flyers have 10 players with home runs, led by Brock Zimmer with nine and Americo Sculati with five.

In the first round of State Division I pool play at Burnsville’s Rich Vanderlaan Field Thursday, Hopkins turned back Rosemount 6-2. Schaefer had two big hits, a single and a triple, to juice up the Flyers’ offense. “I had a bad day in the cage before the game,” Schaefer said. “And when that happens, I usually will hit well in the game.” A lot of Schaefer’s hits come via line drives or hard grounders through the infield. Like many good hitters, he likes to “go with the pitch.”

Aaron Aune and Gabe Olson shared pitching duties for the Flyers. Like most of the Flyers position players, they are also position players. Aune is often in left field, while Olson is a first baseman.

Hopkins entered the State Tournament with a 30-8 record and a mission to win at state and in the Central Plains Regional. The Flyers were region runners-up to Fargo Post 400 last summer.



Hopkins shortstop Charlie Schaefer fields a grounder and sends it to first base.



College scouts were a-scouting Thursday. In this scene, they gathered in the stands at Tahpah Park in Shakopee.

## Scenes from Div. I Jr. State Tournament in Bloomington

By Lou Michaels



Bloomington Blue pitcher Mason Kobus is working the ball for a big out against Bemidji.



A Bemidji player tries to get a Bloomington Blue player out at the plate. Bemidji won 9-3.



Hutchinson players, standing, try to tag a Minneapolis South-west player. Hutchinson won 11-0.