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The Gazette

A Publication of
Minnesota American Legion Baseball

Vol. 28, No. 5

Maple Grove, Minn.

Monday, Aug. 5, 2024

Championship Sunday goes Farmington's way

Post 189 Tigers defeats Post 172 Orioles for Div. I title

By John Sherman

The 24th victory of the season for the Farmington American Legion Baseball team gave the Tigers a berth in the Central Plains Regional in West Fargo, N.D. The 25th victory made Farmington the 2024 state champ.

"This is Farmington's first trip to a regional," head coach Kevin Conrad said following a 13-7 win over Forest Lake in a State Tournament semifinal game at Gleason Fields in Maple Grove Sunday. The game actually began on Saturday night at 7:04 p.m., but lightning in the sky over the park caused the game to be halted for almost 45 minutes.

Field 1 Supervisor Vern Kitzberger conferred with the umpires when the lightning lingered, and a decision was made to suspend the game until 10 a.m. on Sunday.

"The score was 10-2 in Farmington's favor after three full innings Saturday," Kitzberger said. "It was too dangerous to keep playing with the lightning. There was a clean break in the game when the inning ended, which was



Winning pitcher Kelin Rasmussen pitches a fastball Sunday during the title game. Farmington beat Osseo 2-1 on Sunday at Gleason Fields in Maple Grove.

much better than having to stop the game with a 1-and-2 count."

The weather was perfect Sunday for the championship game, which lasted only an hour

and 37 minutes with Farmington beating Osseo 2-1.

Winning pitcher Kelin Rasmussen was solid through the first five innings and Dillon Carlson finished the last two frames.

"This is a moment to remember," Rasmussen said after the game. "I took the opportunity today and ran with it."

What was working for the righthander?

"My two-seam fastball, my four-seam fastball and my slider," he said. "And I threw a few change-ups to their left-handed hitters."

His fastball was arriving at the plate at about 90 miles per hour.

"We have another week of baseball and a chance to finish the summer on a good note," Coach Conrad said. "Everybody has a job to do,"

With a deep pitching staff, Farmington has a chance to go deep in the regional. The ultimate experience would be a trip to the Legion World Series. But later this week it will be one game at a time.

"We want our pitchers to throw strikes, pitch to contact and let the defense to work," Coach Conrad said. "I am looking forward to another week with the boys."

Trevor Rasmusson wins Outstanding Player Award

By John Sherman

Each year at the State Division I Legion Baseball Tournament, the directors select the most outstanding player.

The Fred Wannamaker Outstanding Player Award for 2024 goes to Farmington left fielder Trevor Rasmusson. He made the selection committee's job easy by batting .800 in six tournament games. In the championship game, a 2-1 win over Osseo on Sunday, Rasmusson smashed a pair of doubles. In championship-bracket games he reached base 12 consecutive times against some of the state's best pitchers.

"The ball is easy for me to see right now," Rasmusson said. "It doesn't make much difference if I am facing a lefthander or a



Farmington left fielder and third baseman Trevor Rasmusson successfully reached base in 12 consecutive at-bats. He was named the tournament's top player.

righthander."

Rasmusson's view of the Farmington Legion team is: "We're super close and love playing together."

Rasmusson will play for Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, Iowa, beginning in the fall.

Several other great players during the tournament were named to the All-Tournament Team. They are:

- Dawson Miller, Eden Prairie
- Wilson Magers, Mankato National
- Jacob Tobritzhofer, Forest Lake
- Matthew Galatzer, Fridley Gold
- Hawken Hedlund, Eden Prairie
- Ian Schock, Maple Grove
- Mason DuRose, Mankato National
- Jacob Neutz, Burnsville
- Josh Berreth, Farmington
- Jorda Sivornvong, Osseo
- Gavin Phenow, Osseo
- Eli Larson, Osseo

Mankato National takes home third place

Mankato National and Forest Lake met in the State Division I Tournament third-place game at Gleason Fields Sunday afternoon with National posting an 11-2 win.

Six runs in the second inning paved the way to victory for Mankato National. Third baseman Mason DuBose led the offense with two hits and three RBIs. Wilson Magers led the Nationals' defense.

Mankato National won its bid to state by beating arch rival Mankato American in the sub-state finals. "It is always fun to beat a good team from across town," DuBose said. "They got us in the high school playoffs this year. It is always a good game when we play them."

"Third place in the State Tournament is a good way to cap off our high school careers," Magers

said. "This is another fun baseball memory. We came together toward the end of the season. It was fun getting to know the new players on the Legion team. Everyone could count on each other."

Looking to the fall, Magers and DuBose are excited for college baseball opportunities. Magers will play Division I for Creighton University in Omaha. DuBose will play Division III for St. John's University in Collegeville.

"I had the opportunity to meet some of the Creighton players, and they're the kind of people I want to be around," Magers said.

"When I visited St. John's, it just felt like home," DuBose said.

Both Magers and DuBose made the 12-man All-State Legion Tournament team that was announced after the championship game Sunday afternoon.



Mankato Post 11 National players applaud the efforts of their Sunday opponent, Forest Lake Post 225.



Osseo pitcher Jackson Berg with catcher Gavyn Krzoska. Visit legion.org/baseball to follow Osseo and Farmington at regionals.



Farmington Post 189 players celebrate with the Ken Skoug Championship Trophy on Sunday.

Track what happened by reading summaries

Find the tournament brackets on the mobile app. Search for "Minnesota Legion Baseball."

SUNDAY GAME SUMMARIES

GAME 30

Farmington 163 101 1 13 13 0
Forest Lake 200 401 0 7 9 1
Stember, K Rasmussen (4), Carlson (6) and Sullivan (4), Lee, Schnabel (3), Hannagraf (3) and Mueller. WP Stember. LP Lee.

Farmington's Trevor Rasmusson reached base in all five of his at-bats, running his streak to 10 in the last two games. He scored three of the Tigers' 13 runs. Josh Berreth led Farmington in RBIs with three. Forest Lake, down 10-2 early in the game, never stopped battling. Nolan Dumonceaux led the Rangers with three hits. Tucker Sibbald, Gavin Goehner and Marcos Gallegos each had two hits for Forest Lake. With the victory, Farmington earned a berth in the Central Plains Regional, which is set to begin this week in West Fargo, N.D.

GAME 31

Mankato 060 302 0 11 5 2
Forest Lake 001 010 0 2 5 4

Mankato National won the Red Haddock plaque as the third-place team in the 2024 State American Legion Division I Tournament Sunday at Gleason Fields in Maple Grove.

Mark DuBose led Mankato National with a two-for-four day that included three RBIs. Each team had five hits in the game. Mankato National was able to draw bases on balls to create

opportunities and also capitalized on four Forest Lake errors. The final score was 11-2.

GAME 32

Farmington 000 200 0 2 6 2
Osseo 001 000 0 1 2 2
K. Rasmussen, Carlson (6) and Sullivan. Berg, I. Johnson (4) and Krzoska. WP K. Rasmusson. LP Berg.

In a well-pitched State Tournament championship game, the Farmington Tigers won the championship for the first time in program history.

Kelin Rasmusson pitched the first five inning and got credit for the win. Dillon Carlson backed him with two innings of relief as the pair combined on a two-hitter. Lefty Jackson Berg pitched the first four innings for the Orioles before Isaac Johnson completed a six-hitter.

Trevor Rasmusson, who was chosen as the most outstanding player, led Farmington with two doubles. He extended a streak of at-bats on base to 12 before flying out to left field in the fifth inning of Sunday's game. Farmington advances to the Central Plains Regional with a season mark of 25-5. Osseo advances to the same regional with a 21-10 record.

Jorda Sivoravong scored the only run of the game for Osseo. Gavyn Krzoska had both hits for the Orioles, who finished the tournament with an overall record of 21-10.

Minnesota is one of six states that get to send two teams to the 64-team national tournament.