



Legion wins first game in playoffs

The Staples Motley American Legion team won its first game of the sub district playoffs Monday night, defeating Wadena-Deer Creek 2-0.

Staples Motley, the No. 1 seed in the sub district, was set to play Sebekka on Tuesday night at Staples in the second round. Sebekka, the No. 2 seed, defeated Bertha Hewitt 4-0 on Monday night at Sebekka.

The tournament is a double elimination format, with the top two teams advancing to the district tournament.

The Monday night win gave the Staples-Motley Legion team a 12-4 overall record in Legion baseball this summer.

Gunner Johnson pitched the Monday night shutout, holding W-DC to just three hits. He pitched the complete seven inning game, facing 30 batters, striking out 16 and walking four W-DC players. He also hit

one batter with an errant pitch.

Johnson got good backing from his teammates on the field, as they did not commit an error in the game. However, SM had only two hits, and both of those were timely hits by Johnson. He smacked a double and drove in one of the two SM runs.

On the W-DC side, Kevin Tumberg pitched just as good a game as Johnson, going the complete game, facing 23 batters and striking out five. He walked just two batters and allowed two hits and two runs, just one of them earned.

Three Wadena-DC player got hits, including a double by M. Hagen.

The sub district playoffs continued Tuesday, with Sebekka at Staples Motley at 6:30 p.m. and Wadena-Deer Creek at Bertha-Hewitt, also at 6:30 p.m.

On Thursday, the loser of the Sebekka vs. Staples

Motley game will play the winner of W-DC vs. BH game at 5:30 p.m.

The winner of the Sebekka vs. Staples Motley game will play at 7:30 p.m. in Menahga, against the winner of the 5:30 game.

The District 6 Legion tournament is in Paynesville - July 23,24,25 & 26, Thursday through Sunday.

Baseball results
Monday, July 13
First Round Sub District playoffs
Sebekka 4 Bertha-Hewitt 0
Staples Motley 2 Wadena-Deer Creek 0
Wadena-Deer Creek at Staples-Motley
W-DC 0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-3 2
SM 1-0-0-0-1-0-x-2 2 0
Winning pitcher: Gunner Johnson - 7 IP, 30 BF, 16 K, 4 BB, 1 HP, 3 hits, 0 runs, 0 earned
Losing pitcher: Kevin Tumberg - 6 IP, 23 BF, 5 K, 2 BB, 2 hits, 2 runs, 1 earned
Leading hitter for SM: Gunner Johnson - 2-3, double, RBI
Leading hitters for Wadena-Deer Creek: M. Hagen 1-3, double; C. Lugert 1-2; N. Goeden 1-2.



Playoff action

Gunner Johnson slid safely into second base after hitting a double in the American Legion's 2-0 win over Wadena-Deer Creek Monday night. Johnson

pitched the game and got the team's only two hits. (Staples World photo by Kelley Kossan)

SAFL ends regular league fishing

Open tournaments added to slate

Staples Area Fishing League Finals June 27 & 28

Leech Lake

Leech Lake was fair to the members of the SAFL.

The weather for the weekend presented rain on Saturday with strong northwest winds on both days and cool temperatures. Nine SAFL teams scored points measuring 39 fish for the evening.

The most abundant species was northern pike as seven teams measured 13 of them from 19 to 32 1/4 inches.

Walleye was the second species as three teams measured 11 of them between 13 3/4 and 17 inches.

Tied for second species was largemouth bass four teams measured 11 be-

tween 12 3/4 and 17 3/4 inches. One Sunfish at 7 3/4 was measured.

Team Results

Leeches, five fish, 17.5 points, first place.

Minnow Masters 5 fish, 17.5 points first tie

Water Boys & Girls, six fish, 17 points, third

Top Water Thompson, five fish, 14 points fourth

Team K & D, five fish, 13.5 points, fifth

What the Fish!!! Five fish, 12.5 points, sixth

RC & Associates, three fish, 12.5 points, seventh

Carlson Castaway, three fish, 11 points, eighth

Happy Hookers, two fish, six points, ninth

Hindsight, zero fish, two points, 10th

Jam Casters, zero fish, zero points, 11th.

Dishin & Fishin 11th

Swamp Frogs, 11th
Redneck Fishfinders 11th

SAFL Biggest Fish

NORTHERN - Rich Nanik, Minnow Masters, 32 1/4 in., 8 lb. 5 oz.

BASS - (2) Rich Nanik, Minnow Masters, 17 1/4 in.; 3 lb. 5 oz.; Also Gordy Thompson Jr., Water Boys & Girls; 16 3/4 in., 3 lb. 5 oz.

WALLEYE - Gordy Thompson Sr., Top Water Thompson, 17 in.; 1 lb. 3 oz.

ROUGH FISH (BONUS POINTS) - (Rock Bass) Scotty Paske-witz; Water Boys & Girls, 1 lb. 2 oz.

SAFL Biggest Fish of the Year

Walleye: Dan Austad
What the Fish!!! 28 in., 6 lb. 10 oz., Hubert Lake

Northern: Rich Nanik, Minnow Masters, 32 1/4 in. 8 lb. 5 oz.; Leech Lake

Bass: Kelly Thompson, Happy Hookers, 19 3/4 in., 4 lb. 11 oz., Buchanan Lake

New SAFL Open tournament

SAFL Open Tournament Schedule:

Wednesday July 22: Clitheral Lake 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday Aug 12: Fish Trap Lake 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday Aug 26 Gull Lake, 6-9 p.m.

Limited to 15 teams, with 2009 SAFL League members have priority. After that it will be first come first served.

To access rules and scoring see website HYPERLINK "http://www.we-fish.com" www.we-fish.com

To sign up or if you have questions contact: Gordy Thompson (home 218-894-0024 (evenings are best)

State seeks views on Hubbard ATV trails

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites public review and comment on two pending Grant-in-Aid (GIA) trail proposals.

Both involve officially designating some existing roads and trails located on public forestlands in Hubbard County as recreational vehicle trails. Written comments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14.

The first, the Heritage ATV Trail Proposal, involves the construction of a three-mile ATV spur trail located along an existing Hubbard County forest road, just west of Park Rapids in southwestern Hubbard County.

This proposal, by the Forest Rider's ATV Club, is intended to link to the approximately 101-miles of ATV trails already administered by the ATV club in Becker and Hubbard counties in northwestern Minnesota.

The entire three-mile segment is already open to ATV traffic. Hubbard County has signed the trail at both ends to permit both highway licensed vehicles and ATV traffic. The route is also a designated GIA snowmobile trail in winter.

If approved, this trail would be open for ATV use from May 1 thru Nov. 1, then closed to both highway licensed vehicles and ATVs from Dec. 1 to April 1 to accommodate winter snowmobile traffic.

The second, the Schoolcraft ATV Trail Proposal, was submitted by the

Northwoods Rider's OHV Club and seeks GIA trail status for 29.2 miles of routes inside the Paul Bunyan State Forest. This route, which would be designated for ATV/OHM use, is just north of the community of Lake George.

The majority of this planned route lies within public road rights-of-way, and all but 5.25 miles is already open to legal ATV use.

However GIA status would make OHM operation legal, for the first time, within the county and township road rights-of-way.

This trail will be open to Class I and Class II ATVs and OHMs from May 1 to Nov. 1, subject to temporary closure should conditions warrant. This same route also serves as a designated GIA snowmobile trail (i.e., the 'Schoolcraft Trail') from Dec. 1 to April 1 each year.

Both proposals have already undergone a rigorous interdisciplinary review, but the DNR welcomes public perspectives on each trail proposal.

To see copies of the proposals and accompanying project maps, go to www.mndnr.gov.

To request printed copies of the proposals, or to comment on the proposals, contact Dave Schotzko, Bemidji Area Parks & Trails supervisor, 6603 Bemidji Avenue North, Bemidji, MN 56601, 218-308-2367 or toll free 888-646-6367. Comments may also be submitted to david.schotzko@dnr.state.mn.us

SM Football Boosters Club to rebuild press box

Due to structural concerns, the press box at the Staples Motley High School football field has been closed for the past year.

The wood had rotted to the point of not being safe for people to use. Due to lack of funds, the school district had not been able to replace the existing press box.

Thanks to the help of the Staple Motley Football Boosters this is about to change. The boosters group is working hard to raise funds through selling Cardinal Cards, a letter writing campaign seeking donations and advertising revenue.

These funds will be used to purchase needed materials. It is the goal of the boosters group to have raised the needed funds, and have the construction complete by the first varsity home football game on Sept. 11.

The booster club members believe the majority of the construction can be completed by volunteers. If you are interested in donating money or volunteering your time please contact Kevin Nelson at 894-1724; Jeff and Lisa Wing at 894-0141 or Lois Detloff 924-2704.



Work needed on press box

Football players Andrew Nelson, Erik Nelson and Derek DeYonge in front; back row are School Superintendent Mark Shmitz, Logan Swendsrud, Ryan Carter, Ryan Detloff, Lance Flickinger and Kevin Nelson, Booster Club member.

Recent death harsh reminder of ATV's danger

The recent death of a 19-year-old woman is a reminder to both adult and youth all-terrain vehicle (ATV) operators to apply "safety first" when operating their machines, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Kayla Lien, 19, and Macy McCormick, 18, both of Foley, were riding an ATV in a housing development near Duellm on July 2 when the ATV left the road and struck a tree. Neither was wearing a helmet. Neither had completed ATV safety training.

McCormick, the driver of the ATV, was treated for non-threatening injuries. Lien, the passenger, died. She was the sixth Minnesotan and second teenager to die in an ATV incident this year.

Capt. Mike Hammer, DNR Education Program coordinator, said many fatalities could be avoided if people followed safety guidelines and took advantage of ATV safety training classes.

"Operators require special knowledge and training to be able to use an ATV safely," Hammer said. "ATV safety training is important for everyone, regardless of age."

Anyone who wants to operate an ATV on public lands in Minnesota and is 16 or older and born after July 1, 1987, must successfully complete the independent study ATV Safety Training CD.

Those ages 12-15 must complete the ATV Safety Training CD and attend an ATV Safety Class before riding on public lands. Request a Youth/Adult ATV Training CD by calling 651-296-6157 or toll free 888-646-6367.

The DNR provides guidelines for reducing the risks involved with ATVs:

• Do not drive ATVs with a passenger or ride on one as a passenger.

• Do not drive ATVs on paved roads. They are unstable on the paved because the big, low-pressure tires can cause the machine to flip.

• ATVs are not toys and can be hazardous to operate. Supervise your youngster's operation of the ATV at all times.

• ATV operators less than 18 years old must wear an approved safety helmet, except when operating on private property. To prevent head injuries, everyone should wear a helmet.

• An ATV handles differently from other vehicles. Even routine maneuvers such as turning and driving on hills and over obstacles, can lead to serious injury if you fail to take proper precautions. With preparation and practice, operators can safely develop and expand their riding skills.

• Youth need to "fit" the machine. A 60- to 120 pound youth and a 600-pound ATV are a mismatch.

For more information, go to the 2008-2009 Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation booklet at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv/index.html>.