

The North Star League

Spectator

Fireworks on the Fourth edition

53rd Year

North Star Standings

West

	W	L	GB
Howard Lake	10	3	--
Kingston	5	7	4.5
Buffalo	4	9	6
Rockford	2	12	8.5

Central

	W	L	GB
Dassel-Cokato	10	1	--
Maple Lake	7	3	2.5
Hutchinson	7	3	2.5
St. Michael	7	6	4
Delano	5	7	5.5

East

	W	L	GB
Monticello	9	4	--
Maple Plain	8	5	1
Albertville	5	8	4
Mound	4	9	5
Loretto	4	10	5.5

Can the South rise again?

League All-Stars set to square off

There will be no World Series home-field advantage at stake. Nobody will fly home in the fourth inning. There's zero chance this thing will end in a tie, and may God smite me down should Bud Selig show up.

In other words, the North Star League All-Star Game is the *real* midsummer classic, Roger Clemens be darned.

The NSL All-Stars are set to tangle tomorrow night in Maple Lake. The league all-star game was brought back last season, and it was so successful that the NSL is enthusiastic to rekindle the "rivalry" between North and South.

Team North is made up of Monticello, Maple Lake, Kingston, Buffalo, Albertville, St. Michael, and Loretto. Loretto's Herb Koch and Maple Lake's Bill Porter will share the skippering duties.

Their opponent, Team South, brings together Dassel-Cokato, Hutchinson, Howard Lake, Maple Plain, Mound, Rockford, and Delano. The South squad, managed by D-C's Mark Fors-

man and Maple Plain's John Timpe, won last year's tango by a 4-2 score and hopes to extend its winning streak.

The league all-stars, chosen by the managers, include two batters and one pitcher from each team. Naturally, a few deserving players will get nosed out for all-star spots. This season, that list might include

NSL All-Star Game

Where: Maple Lake

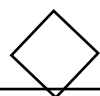
Date: Sat., July 5

Time: 7:30 pm

Rosters on Page 2

Howard Lake's Shane Heber, Hutchinson's Kyle Messner, and Monticello's Josh Holthaus. However, fans from each town have at least three players to root for...which is three more than Detroit will deserve next week.

So make tracks for Maple Lake tomorrow evening, and plan to see fireworks for a second night in a row.



around the horn

Masters of other domains

Late June is a time when many North Star teams step off the grid and play in weekend tournaments around the area. This season marked the best showing by NSL teams in memory: Howard Lake wins the Hamburg Tourney. Albertville wins the Isanti Tourney. Maple Lake wins the Hinckley Tourney.

Mound lives large...late

Mound games are sort of like NBA games. That is, you might as well toss out the first two hours, because everything comes down to the last few minutes.

On June 20, the Mallards rallied past Albertville and won when the winning run scored on

a wild pitch. Two days later, Mound went 11 innings to beat Buffalo. Of course, the late-inning hocus-pocus goes both ways. So naturally, on Tuesday night, Monticello snuck past Mound on a bases-loaded walk.

Box score lines of the week

NSL starters are logging ridiculous innings these days, with no fewer than 12 pitching complete games in the past two weeks. D-C's John Riewer threw just 89 pitches in 10 innings against Howard Lake Wednesday night, but HL's Shane Heber gets the nod. On June 27, Heber gave up just four hits, no walks, and no earned runs, striking out 9 in 9 innings, to shut down the loaded Monticello offense. *That's* how the Orphans win their games.

Devils over their shoulders

Monticello not breaking away

The Monticello Polecats came into the season with a lean and hungry look, ready to feast on the East after a disappointing 2002 in the competitive West. So far, so good: thus far, they've swept the games in their new division. However, their recent games haven't been all too convincing, as the bottom of their lineup just isn't producing. The Polecats dropped intradivisional tilts to Hutchinson, Howard Lake, and St. Michael and nearly fell to Mound and Kingston as well.

Monti's recent stumbles have allowed Maple Plain to hang around. The Diamond Devils are just a game out, currently enjoying a five-game winning streak that includes ruining Maple Lake's unbeaten record. Brandon Schlinz has been lights-out on the mound. Next Sunday's game between these two teams looks a little more important than it did in May.

CENTRAL

D-C is beginning to break away. A few weeks ago, unbeaten Maple Lake held the pole, but a Laker loss to Maple Plain touched off a three-game tailspin. The Lakers have suffered late-season swoons the past few years, and they're hoping to avoid yet another bad case of *deja vu*.

Meanwhile, Hutchinson has pulled into a tie for second. On the strength of Kyle Messner's pitching, the Huskies rattled off solid wins over Monticello and Maple Lake. Whether you're a baseball fan or just hungry for a pork chop, you can't go wrong when Hutch & DC square off in Dassel next Friday.

WEST

Is it a *Spectator* jinx? We give Rockford top billing in our last issue, and all of a sudden they get a pox on their bats. In five games since that edition came out, the River Bandits have been shut out in four contests and scored just two runs in the other. The bottom fell out on June 22, when they went doughnut in two separate games. There's no real shame in getting zilched by Howard Lake, but it doesn't happen often against Kingston. There were no weapons of mass destruction to be found in the Kingston game, as the Kings emerged victorious by a 1-0 score. Both teams combined for nine hits and 20 strikeouts.

North Star North All-Stars

Managers: Herb Koch, Loretto, and Bill Porter, Maple Lake

Team	#	Player	Position	B.Avg.
Monticello	99	Joe Van Culin	c/inf	.318
Monticello	55	Arin Van Culin	inf	.341
Loretto	4	Brandon Scanlon	of	.434
Loretto	24	Ben Scanlon	1b	.333
Kingston	8	Seth Isaacson	ss	.315
Kingston	9	Tim Dahl	3b	.333
Albertville	1	Shane McLaughlin	ss	.304
Albertville	7	Rob Wilkens	inf	.270
Buffalo	28	Ben Geelan	of	.458
Buffalo	10	Ed Cox	ss	.281
Maple Lake	13	Nate Johnson	2b	.292
Maple Lake	20	Keith Jerpseth	c	.481
St Michael	17	Chris Volkmann	of	.438
St Michael	18	Bobby Kneefe	of	.412

Pitchers

Team	#	Name	Position	E.R.A.
Monticello	9	Darin Brant	p	0.93
Loretto	6	Nick Koch	p	3.41
Kingston	16	Kyle Evenski	p	2.63
Albertville	16	Paul Schumacher	p	1.72
Buffalo	17	Aaron DeMaris	p	4.22
Maple Lake	6	Ryan Klingelhoffer	p	2.33

North Star South All-Stars

Managers: Mark Forsman, Dassel-Cokato, and John Timpe, Maple Plain

Team	#	Player	Position	B.Avg.
D-C	23	Matt Bergstrom	utility	.469
D-C	7	Eric Pokornowski	3b	.375
Delano	6	Mark Peterson	1b	.343
Delano	4	Derrick Falde	of	.400
Howard Lake	12	Ben Borrell	of	.350
Howard Lake	33	Chad Burau	c	.406
Hutchinson	7	Chris Henke	c	.360
Hutchinson	27	Tim Thode	3b	.278
Rockford	33	Niles Lewin	2b	.304
Rockford	55	Ryan Rassatt	1b	.302
Maple Plain	8	Vin Reuter	2b	.261
Maple Plain	6	Joe Wood	of	.304
Mound	14	Derek Trnka	3b	.399
Mound	4	Pete Harrell	of	.250

Pitchers

Team	#	Name	Position	E.R.A.
Delano	22	Jeff Janzen	p	2.59
D-C	22	Dan Birkholz	p	2.00
Rockford	22	Scott Mauricio	p	2.62
Hutchinson	33	Jim Farenbaugh	p	1.88
Maple Plain	22	Brandon Schlinz	p	0.62
Howard Lake	21	Jake Streich	p	2.14
Mound		Joe Utech	p	n/a

North Star statistics, through June 25

North Star East

BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVG.
Br Scanlon Lor	53	15	23	.434
J Holthaus Mon	35	11	14	.400
J Scherber Alb	25	1	10	.400
D Trnka Md	33	3	13	.394
G Holker Mon	24	4	9	.375
B Valerius Alb	34	6	12	.353
J Wood MP	34	3	12	.353
E Schutte Lor	49	12	17	.347
A VanCulin Mon	41	9	14	.341
A Snyder Md	45	8	15	.333
Bn Scanlon Lor	42	2	14	.333
T Klaers Alb	40	4	13	.325
J Jacobson Md	37	3	12	.324
J VanCulin Mon	44	9	14	.318
A Engebretson MP	38	4	12	.316
B Preham Md	23	5	7	.304
K Kraska Mon	40	6	12	.300

2B Leaders

S McLaughlin Alb.....6
J Holthaus Mon.....6

3B Leader

E Schutte Lor.....2

HR Leaders

A Schutte Lor.....2

RBI Leaders

Br Scanlon Lor.....13

GWRBI Leader

4 tied at 2

TEAM PITCHER LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
B Schliinz, MP	29	4	0	19	0.62
P Schumacher, Alb	36	2	2	25	1.72
J Van Culin, Mon	27	1	1	20	2.31
J Jacobson, Md	40	1	2	37	2.66
N Koch, Lor	58	3	3	29	3.41

North Star Central

BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVG.
D Vandehey ML	26	8	13	.500
K Jerpseth ML	27	9	13	.481
M Bergstrom DC	32	17	15	.469
C Volkmann StM	48	7	21	.438
B Pokornowski DC	37	11	16	.432
B Fobbe ML	24	6	10	.417
B Kneefe StM	51	14	21	.412
J Barbeln StM	50	11	20	.400
D Falde Del	30	0	12	.400
M Freske StM	36	5	14	.389
P Burkstrand DC	34	8	13	.382
C Flick DC	21	4	8	.381
E Pokornowski DC	24	4	9	.375
D Piechowski Hut	24	8	9	.375
T Wurm ML	27	5	10	.370
B Opsahl DC	38	15	14	.368

2B Leaders

B Kneefe StM.....6

3B Leader

C Volkman StM.....2

HR Leader

K Jerpseth ML.....3
C Raiche ML.....3
B Opsahl DC.....3

RBI Leaders

P Burkstrand DC.....14
B Opsahl DC.....14

GWRBI Leaders

K Jerpseth ML.....3

TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
K Messner Hut	28	3	1	27	1.29
D Brant StM	24	1	1	18	1.85
D Birkholz DC	18	1	1	22	2.00
R Klingelhoffer ML	27	3	0	16	2.33
J Janzen Del	55	2	4	48	2.59

North Star West

BATTING LEADERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVG.
T Morgan Kin	34	7	16	.471
B Geelan Buf	30	2	13	.433
C Burau HL	32	7	13	.406
A Gagnon HL	26	10	10	.385
B Borrell HL	40	12	14	.350
T Dahl Kin	27	6	9	.333
K Evenski Kin	24	3	8	.333
S Isaacson Kin	41	8	13	.317
N Lewin Roc	46	6	14	.304
R Rassatt Roc	43	3	13	.302
S Mauricio Roc	50	7	15	.300

2B Leaders

B Borrell HL.....3
C Burau HL.....3

3B Leaders

A Gagnon HL.....2

HR Leader

T Dahl Kin.....4

RBI Leader

T Dahl Kin.....13
B Borrell HL.....10

GWRBI Leader

B Borrell.....5

TEAM PITCHING LEADERS

NAME	IP	W	L	SO	ERA
J Streich HL	21	3	0	16	2.14
S Mauricio Roc	44	1	5	38	2.62
B Paulson Kin	25	2	2	20	2.80
A Demaris Buf	41	3	2	29	3.27