

Live Music KEYPORT

LIQUOR BEER & WINE

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Friday, May 27
LIONESS
5-8 p.m.

Friday, June 3
JANE GANG
5-8 p.m.

Friday, June 10
JOHN & ANDY
5-8 p.m.

FRIDAY SPECIALS:
HOUSE WINE - \$4
FISH FRY - \$9.95,
ALL-U-CAN EAT - \$12.99
SHRIMP BASKET - \$8.95

PREP SOFTBALL



Photos by Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

Superior pitcher Haley Zembo (20) and catcher Emma Raye (27) get high fives as they come off the field in the sixth inning of the Spartans playoff victory over Wausau East at the NBC Spartan Sports Complex in Superior on Tuesday.

PLAYOFF OPENER W

Spartans start regional play with shutout win

Staff reports
Superior

Superior catcher Emma Raye saw an opportunity to end the game in their regional semifinal matchup against Wausau East Tuesday, May 24, at the NBC Spartan Complex in Superior.

Lumberjack senior Maddy Krueger drifted a little too far off first base and Raye fired the ball down the first base line to Indigo Fish and picked off Krueger, giving the Spartans a 6-0 win.

"I noticed she was more than 5 feet off base and that's kind of my range and I just knew I could get her," Raye said. "Of course she went off again, 5 feet and I was like 'This is my chance.' I threw it and she was out and it's just a great feeling. My team is excited for me, and Indigo is always there for me."

Pitcher Haley Zembo allowed just one hit over seven innings and struck out 13 batters in the Spartans' third straight



Superior's Melania Luostari (33) slides safely into third base in the third inning of the Spartans playoff victory over Wausau East at the NBC Spartan Sports Complex in Superior on Tuesday.

shutout and third straight game playing error-free softball.

"Haley had a good day on the mound she had 13 strikeouts on only one hit, that was good,"

Superior coach Mike Sather said. "On defense, there weren't a whole lot of balls in play, but those were plays we had to make and we didn't make any errors."

The Spartans struggled hitting Krueger the first time through the order, but the second time through they started to come alive.

Raye hit her fifth home run of the year the year her second time up and the Spartans scored four runs in the bottom of the third to take command of the game.

"The second time through the lineup is when we started hitting the ball hard," Sather said.

Superior (16-2) played at New Richmond in the regional final Thursday, May 26. Results of the game were not available at the Telegram's deadline.

SOFTBALL: Page B3

Racing set to kick off this week

By Jon Nowacki
Duluth News Tribune

SUPERIOR — There's an old saying that Joe Stariha knows all too well.

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

That's the motto you have to live by when you're a track promoter, and Stariha, the head man at Gondik Law Speedway in Superior, is no different.

Stariha hasn't let last week's rainout dampen his spirit. Instead, Superior will just roll the dice again this week, with the two-night Wisconsin Modified Nationals, at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, May 26 and 27, now serving as the track's 61st season opener.

Stariha said his phone was silent last week.

"I didn't take any calls," he said. "People really understood. So many tracks across the Midwest are just finally opening up and a lot of them planned their first race in early April. It's just an odd year."

Yes, the spring from hell continues.

We're almost to June here, and a season opener in June is a crazy thought but it could happen.

For now, the Mod Nationals appear safe. Maybe.

"We're hoping to go," Stariha said. "A lot of wind this weekend and (Monday's) wind and sun helped dry out the track out nicely. We're set to go for Wednesday's practice and two big days of racing on Thursday and Friday."

In 2020, Gondik Law Speedway held the 15th annual Minnesota Modified Nationals in Wisconsin due to Minnesota being shut down due to COVID-19. In 2021, it was the inaugural Wisconsin Modified Nationals, an added event as Ogilvie, Minnesota, the original host, got in the 16th annual event.

"They got their shows in; we got rained out," Stariha said.

So here we go again. Modifieds will be racing for a top prize of \$1,500 each night.

Super Stocks, Midwest Modifieds and Hornets are also part of the racing lineup, with Northern Renegade Winged Sprint Cars racing Friday night as well. This year, Ogilvie is running on Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29, so that's a whole lotta Modified racing over four days.

Adult ticket prices are \$20 each day, children 10-15 are \$5 and kids under 10 are admitted free.

RACING: Page B3

PREP BASEBALL

Spartans' bats are hot heading into postseason

By Jamey Malcomb
Duluth News Tribune

SUPERIOR — To say Superior's Robert Olson had a good day during the Spartans' game against Hayward on Monday at the NBC Spartan Complex might be a bit of an understatement.

Olson was 4-for-4 with a double, three RBIs and two runs scored in Superior's 11-5 win over the Hurricanes.

"I get up, make sure to time out the pitching before I go up and then I just try to stay relaxed and take a deep breath," Olson said. "I like to go after the first strike, that's the easiest thing because you don't get behind in the count. If you see that first strike, just get ready and

try to barrel it up."

For good measure, Olson also started a double play in the top of the sixth that ended the inning for Hayward.

"It was really nice because the pitcher did his job," Olson said. "Owen (Blomfelt) was able to get a nice, essay ground ball right to me. I just flipped it to Nathan (Maki) at second and it was just a nice, easy double play to end the inning."

Early on, Superior's bats were quiet and the Hurricanes picked up runs in the first and third innings to take a one run lead.

Spartan coach Ryan Hendry said his team was a little "reactive more than proactive" the first time through the order, but

after the first two innings, Superior scored at least three runs in three of the next four innings.

"We put balls in play," Hendry said. "When you put balls in play, then you put pressure on the defense for them to make plays. We had a lot of extra base hits tonight, which was nice, and we were taking advantage of opportunities to move the runners when we could and I guess that was the story in the end."

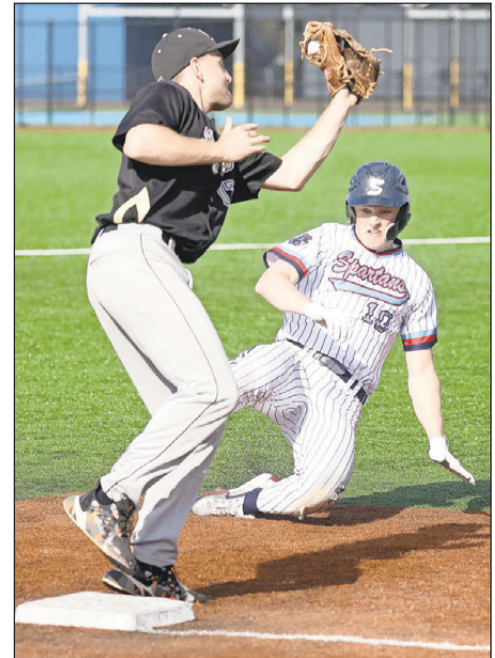
Six Spartans had doubles in the game, including Olson, Maki and Carter Kalin. Maki and Kalin each had two RBIs.

Hayden Smith allowed four hits and three runs over four innings while striking out two batters in the win for Superior.

The Spartans (11-4) have won seven straight games and they are rounding into shape just in time for the playoffs. Superior has had strong pitching and defense all season, but the offense has been the spark for the current win streak.

"Basically our bats are coming alive," Hendry said. "Early on we were winning games putting up less runs, but playing good defense. We've been playing good defense all year for the most part. It's been nice to see these bats come alive and guys getting good at bats, getting good hacks up there."

With just three games left in the regular season, the Spartan offense is getting going at just the right time.



Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

Superior's Kell Piggott (10) gets caught stealing third base on Monday as he's tagged out by Hayward's Sam Snider (17) in the third inning of the game at the NBC Spartan Sports Complex in Superior.