

Unbreakable

Four months after being injured in parade tragedy, Tiegs and Pudleiner have worked their way back onto the baseball diamond

By Michael Grennell
mgrennell@conley.net
262-513-2667

WAUKESHA — It seemed like just another Wednesday afternoon at Frame Park.

Waukesha South's starting pitcher — junior Erick Tiegs — stepped onto the mound and looked behind the plate to his catcher — junior Tyler Pudleiner — for the sign. Tiegs fired his first pitch of the game, and it was called a ball by the home plate umpire. A smattering of light applause could be heard from the bleachers, as fans bundled up tightly in an attempt to ward off the cold wind and sporadic bursts of rain.

Visiting South Milwaukee scored three runs in the opening frame of the game before South center fielder Dominic Lee made an easy catch for the third and final out of the top of the first inning.

Again, it seemed like just any other day out on the field. But the television cam-

eras, a crowd large enough to force many to standing room only, and a raucous cheer from the crowd more apropos of the final out of a state tournament rather than the third out in the first inning of a regular season game, all indicated that indeed, it was not a normal day.

Instead it was a return to normalcy for Tiegs and Pudleiner.

The Parade

Tiegs, a trombone player, and Pudleiner, a tenor saxophone player, were walking down Main Street with the rest of the Waukesha South marching band on Nov. 21, when without warning they were hit by an SUV that plowed through the parade route.

"I remember feeling like I got shoved from behind," Tiegs said.

Pudleiner's mother, Katti, was among the crowd watching when she saw the SUV fly past her.

"I was a block away from where the incident hap-

pened. I had just seen the whole band pass by me. Videod them like normal," she said "I was talking with a family friend who was there with me and we both saw the SUV drive down the parade route and we kind of turned to each other and were like, 'What the?' Then when we started to realize kind of what was happening, I said to him and his son, 'You go and find out if the kids are OK. I'll catch up.' ... I had a wagon with all of our stuff, and I kind of ditched that, just grabbed my purse and kept heading the block west."

When she arrived at the scene, she had trouble locating Tyler at first.

"Walked through the band area — couldn't see anything. It was pitch black," she said. "I yelled out for him and a parent said he's over here. We got over there and he realized I was there and the EMTs were starting to work on him at that point."

See SOUTH, PAGE 3B



Michael Grennell/Freeman Staff

Waukesha South juniors Tyler Pudleiner (left) and Erick Tiegs high five after finishing the top of the first inning on Wednesday against South Milwaukee at Frame Park.

BUCKS



Associated Press

Argentinian guard Luca Vildoza races for a loose ball during the Summer Olympics in a game against Australia.

Bucks sign Argentinian guard Luca Vildoza

26-year old is former Spanish ACB League Finals MVP

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Milwaukee Bucks have signed Luca Vildoza, a 26-year-old guard from Argentina.

Vildoza played two NBA Las Vegas Summer League games last year with the New York Knicks, who waived him on Oct. 3.

The 6-foot-3 Vildoza was named the Spanish ACB League Finals MVP in 2020

after helping Baskonia win the league title. He played for Baskonia from 2017-21.

He averaged 10.6 points, 3.5 assists, 1.9 rebounds, 1.6 steals and 24.5 minutes in 62 games across EuroLeague and Spanish ACB competition in the 2020-21 season.

Vildoza also played with Quilmes in the Argentinian Liga A from 2011-17.

PREP BASEBALL: South Milwaukee 19, Waukesha South 9 (5 Innings)

Blackshirts drop shortened affair

12-run fourth inning sinks South at home

By Michael Grennell
mgrennell@conley.net
262-513-2667

WAUKESHA — It was cold.

It was windy.

It was wet.

A 12-run outburst in the fourth inning by South Milwaukee would eventually lead to a 19-9 loss for the Waukesha South baseball team.

And yet in some ways, Wednesday was still a win for the Blackshirts.

Because just over four months after being injured in the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy, juniors Erick Tiegs and Tyler Pudleiner were back on the field and making their first starts of the season.

No lopsided score could dampen the joy of their return.

"It felt pretty special. Didn't exactly go the way we wanted it to, but at the end of the day we had fun," Pudleiner said. "We both got back out there and that's the main thing that counts."



Michael Grennell/Freeman Staff

Waukesha South senior Dominic Lee points at the number 23 sticker on his helmet after scoring the first run of the game for the Blackshirts on Wednesday. The sticker is in honor of Jackson Sparks, who was killed in the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy.

"We battled back there at one point and we almost had a shot at taking the lead — we did take the lead and almost had a shot at really closing it down. But at the end of the day we had some fun. We have some stuff to work on but main thing is I had fun and I appreciate all the support from the city and everybody who came out."

Things got off to a rough

start for the Blackshirts in the first inning, as the first batter Tiegs faced drew a walk and then made it all the way to third base following a stolen base and a wild pitch. A hard-hit single would then drive in the first of three runs South Milwaukee would score in the opening frame. But then Tiegs would escape the inning without allowing any more damage

Dominic Lee made an easy catch for the final out of the inning — a play that led to loud cheers from the crowd as Tiegs and Pudleiner walked into the dugout after completing their first half inning of the season.

"It felt good. It was nice just to be out there," Tiegs said. "It wasn't how I wanted it to go but it was fun."

See BLACKSHIRTS, PAGE 3B

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

New Berlin West boys win, girls finish third at home meet

Vikings boys finish 30 points ahead of runner up Wisco

By Pat Neumuth
Special to The Freeman

NEW BERLIN — Wisconsin Lutheran has had a stranglehold over the Woodland West Conference in track and field ever since joining the league in 2018 by winning the track triple crown for both boys and girls in each season.

The boys at New Berlin West were sick of it.

To start the conference campaign, the Vikings won the Indoor Conference title in their home fieldhouse with 166 points, which was 30 more than Wisconsin Lutheran, on Thursday. Pewaukee placed third and



Pat Neumuth/Special to The Freeman

New Berlin Eisenhower sophomore Nealee Chiroff (center) runs over a hurdle during the 55-meter hurdle final at the Woodland Indoor Conference meet Wednesday at New Berlin West.

New Berlin Eisenhower was fifth.

Wisco still reigned supreme for the girls with 167 points. The Lions were right behind with 147 points. NBW took third (122) and Pewaukee was fourth (81).

"We were phenomenal around the board and I'm speechless," NBW head track coach Jim Braun said about the boys winning the

title. "These kids have been the bread and butter of our program. These kids at school tomorrow are going to be talking about this. We had 65 kids four years ago and we have 105 right now. Getting the numbers out here has been incredible."

"I knew we were going to be close. The boys and girls, the encouragement from

See TRACK, PAGE 3B

Handicapping golf's first major of 2022

Woods set to return after horrific crash



CHUCK DELSMAN

The most popular and most watched men's professional golf tournament in the world is taking place this week at famed Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. It's Masters week. Play begins this morning.

Of course, Tiger Woods stole the golf spotlight on Sunday when he said it was going to be a "game-day" decision as to whether he joins the field or not. A Masters without Tiger just doesn't feel right.

Once again, I'm going to try the impossible and pick



Associated Press

Tiger Woods asks for another ball before teeing off on the 12th hole during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament on Wednesday in Augusta, Ga.

the winner. I've been handicapping the Masters field for the last 50 years and have a perfect record, 0 for 50.

Years ago it seemed like I picked Greg Norman or Ernie Els every other year and neither one of them ever came through for me,

even though Norman choked off a couple of chances. I even picked Nick Faldo twice and whiffed despite the fact that Faldo has won three Master titles. Many years ago I tried Ray

See DELSMAN, PAGE 3B