

SPORTS

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Keith Srakocic—staff, AP

Pittsburgh Pirates' Neil Cruz, right, celebrates with Ben Gamel (18) after driving him in with a two-run home run against the Milwaukee Brewers during the seventh inning Wednesday in Pittsburgh.

Brewers walked off by Pirates

Reynolds hits HR

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Bryan Reynolds hit a solo homer to lead off the bottom of the ninth inning, powering the Pittsburgh Pirates to an 8-7 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday night.

Facing a 2-0 count, Reynolds sent a fastball from Devin Williams (2-1) 425 feet to right-center field for a lead-off blast. Reynolds' 16th homer of the season and first walk-off in the majors ended a drought of 15 games since he hit three against the Washington Nationals on June 26.

Wil Crowe (4-6) struck out one without allowing a hit in the final 1 1/3 innings for Pittsburgh.

Willy Adames had four RBIs for the Brewers, the final two coming on a two-out single in the eighth that cut into a three-run deficit. Rowdy Tellez then sent an RBI single down the line in right, tying it at 7.

See Brewers, B3

Chiu stays hot, belts 2 homers to lift Sky Carp

By Daily News staff

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa—Marcus Chiu continues to be a dominant force for the Beloit Sky Carp offense after following up his grand slam on Tuesday with a two-homer, four RBI performance to help defeat the Cedar Rapids Kernels 9-5 Wednesday afternoon.



Chiu

Chiu has driven in eight runs off three homers in less than 24 hours, and he heads into August on fire after a disappointing July where he only hit .179.

Zach Zubia, who went 2-for-5 in his Sky Carp debut Tuesday, and Ynmanol Marinéz each singled to set up Chiu's three-run bomb to left in the second inning.

Beloit starter Edgar Sanchez, one of several Sky Carp making their High-A debut this series as a result of several players moving up to Double A, hit Jake Rucker in the second. After advancing to second on a passed ball, Rucker scored on a Seth Gray single to make it 3-1.

The Sky Carp bumped their lead back up to three when Tyler Palm, pitching in relief of starter Aaron Rozek, walked Federico Polanco with the bases loaded.

The Kernels answered back quickly after Kyler Fedko singled before Yuniar Severino doubled to right, cutting Beloit's lead in half.

See Sky Carp, B2

Packers rookie WR Doubs turning heads

4th-round pick has showcased talent

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—This was supposed to be the training camp in which Christian Watson showcased why the Green Bay Packers traded up in the second round to take the wide receiver from North Dakota State.

It hasn't quite worked out that way. Watson underwent knee surgery earlier this summer and hasn't been available for any of the Packers' training camp workouts thus far.

Instead, it's been fourth-round pick Romeo Doubs making the case he merits a featured role on a receiving group that lost two-time All-Pro Davante Adams and Marquez Valdes-Scantling during the offseason.

"Every single day ...



Associated Press

Romeo Doubs runs a drill on the Packers' practice field Saturday.

there's been at least one kind of 'wow' play for him," quarterback and reigning MVP Aaron Rodgers said Wednesday. "And that's kind of rare for a young guy

like that."

Doubs started gaining notice last week when he beat cornerback Eric Stokes, a 2021 first-round draft pick, to catch a touchdown pass and later

caught another pass in the end zone while being defended by 2021 All-Pro linebacker De'Vondre Campbell.

He's continued to stand out ever since and beat Stokes in a one-on-one drill that highlighted Tuesday's workout.

"I have to set myself at a standard to make sure Aaron has enough trust in me regardless of me being a rookie," Doubs said.

Doubs didn't hear his name called until the final day of the draft after a productive college career at Nevada. He had 20 touchdown catches over his last two seasons at Nevada and had more than 1,000 yards receiving in each of them.

Now he's showing that perhaps he should have gone a round or two earlier.

See Packers, B3



Jimmy Oswald/Beloit Daily News

The AA State Champion Beloit Senior Legion Bandits include, front from left, Zach Ries, Andy Buckley, Jayce Kurth, Will Lauterbach, Konner Giddley, Braeden Ovist, Michael Cook, Brody Berg. Back row from left, assistant coach Tim McMahon, JT Fell, Mason Hoenig, Connor Hughes, Eric Halon, Brayden McMahon, Cal Ries, Jace Fossum, manager Brad Farrell.

State champion Bandits met their potential

BELOIT—When the 2022 Beloit Senior Legion's AA state title run is remembered, it better not be as some late-season Cinderella fling.

After all, the Bandits had it in them all along.

It was more the team's 7-9 regular season that was curious rather than the late-season success. Not only did they play an astonishingly few number of games, due to poor weather and scheduled teams canceling, that was just a really modest record for a team expecting big things.

Jim Franz

Sports editor



Four of those losses, however, were to AAA powerhouse Janesville and another was to Genoa City, which ended up knocking Janesville out of playing in the AAA state tournament.

When the post season began, the Bandits did seemingly flip a switch. After dropping their regional opener, they roared to that title in Beloit and then took three straight at the AA state tourney in Fort Atkinson to secure a spot in the finals.

It was the sort of swagger Manager Brad Farrell had expected to see all along. As the head coach at Clinton High School, his Cougars had gone head-to-head against most of the Turner players who now made up his Bandits squad, and he'd seen them roll through Rock

Valley Conference opponents.

Stellar pitching. Tight defense and timely hits. That's what he knew about the Trojans. But during the regular season he saw only glimpses when the team played to its true potential. Until the postseason, that is.

Ironically, the Bandits stepped up their game even as one of their best, All-State outfielder Connor Hughes, headed to the sidelines with a knee injury from 7-on-7 football drills.

See Bandits, B3

Knights begin preparing for debut in SLC

Running game will be key for BMHS

By Daily News staff

BELOIT—Beloit Memorial head football coach Brad Dement welcomed about 65 players to his first week of practice and for the most part, kept a smile on his face throughout Wednesday's late afternoon session.

No coach is completely happy this time of year. There's way too much to accomplish before a season opener just over two weeks away.

"We picked up a couple of new kids who heard what we're up to," Dement said. "We've got some skilled run-

ning backs in Cavari Kramer, Dee Nora and Toby Robinson and some linemen who are working very hard. It looks like (senior) Ayden Kuhle will be our quarterback.

"I think we're going to have some fun."

Whether that translates into more victories is anybody's guess, but the Purple Knights are moving into new territory in the Southern Lakes Conference this fall, after opening against non-conference foes Racine Case and Madison East. The Knights play at Case on Aug. 19 and at Lussier Stadium in Madison against East on Aug. 26.

Beloit opens SLC play at Wilmot Sept. 2 before final-



Jim Franz/Beloit Daily News

Beloit Memorial's Cavari Kramer, left, blocks as Toby Robinson carries the ball during Wednesday's practice.

See Knights, B2

Lynn, Abreu boost Chisox to 4-1 victory over Royals

CHICAGO (AP)—Lance Lynn threw four-hit ball over six innings, Jose Abreu homered for the second consecutive game and Eloy Jiménez hit three singles as the Chicago White Sox beat the Kansas City Royals 4-1 Wednesday.

Lynn (2-4) struck out eight for the third time this season while not walking a batter for the third time in his last four starts. Rookie Bobby Witt Jr. snapped Lynn's shutout bid by hitting a home run with one out in the sixth.

The White Sox (53-51) won for the third time in four games while remaining two games behind the Twins (55-

49) and one behind the Guardians (54-50) in the AL Central.

Lynn improved to 5-0 with a 1.08 ERA and 37 strikeouts in 33 1/3 innings covering his last five starts against the Royals. Witt's homer ended Lynn's 19-inning scoreless streak against the Royals dating to April 8, 2021.

Abreu provided ample run support for Lynn by hitting a three-run homer, his 14th, off Brady Singer (4-4) in the third. Abreu has driven in six runs in his last two games.

Jimenez's first-inning single extended his hitting streak to nine games and set up an RBI

single by Yoan Moncada. Jimenez is batting .471 (16 for 34) during his streak.

Singer, who pitched seven innings of one-hit ball against the Yankees in his last start July 28, allowed a season-high 11 hits.

The Royals were held hitless in the final three innings by Jake Diekman, Kendall Graveman and Liam Hendriks, who earned his 21st save.

This marked the first time the White Sox won consecutive home series since April 12-14 against the Mariners and April 15-17 against the Rays.



Associated Press

The Packers' Christian Watson walks to the practice field July 27.

Packers

From Page B1

"He's consistent, man," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "He's got a great routine and he just goes out there with the right mentality and he's done a really good job up to this point. But it's still early on. I mean, shoot, we haven't even played a preseason game yet. But I like what we see in practice."

Doubs is doing his best to stay level-headed and not get caught up in the attention he's receiving for his fast start.

"I feel like my camp is going really good," Doubs said. "But just for myself, I continue to tell myself just focus on what's next throughout the day. I just make sure I try not to get too high or low with myself."

Doubs was one of three receivers drafted by the Packers along with Watson and seventh-round pick Samori Toure, who spent his final season of eligibility at Nebraska after beginning his college career at Montana.

Watson naturally got the most attention of the three after the Packers made a big move to get him. The Packers opened the draft with two second-round picks—No. 53 and No. 59 overall—and traded both for the right to take Watson at No. 34.

But he opened training camp on the physically unable to perform list.

Watson said he noticed some issues with his right knee during the Packers' organized team activities and underwent surgery afterward. He said the knee hadn't bothered him in college or during the pre-draft process.

The Packers haven't announced a target date for Watson's possible return, though he has said he doesn't expect the injury to impact his rookie season.

"I believe everything happens for a reason and I know my role will be my role and I'll own it regardless of what that is when I get back," Watson said. "Obviously I'm still striving for the same things that I was striving for pre-surgery."

The Packers remain

confident Watson will catch up quickly once he's cleared to practice.

"He's a smart kid," Rodgers said. "It'd be nice if we could get him off the PUP so he could do some of the walk-through stuff, but he'll be fine. He's super athletic, he went through the whole offseason program with us—the OTAs and minicamp—and he's been in my hip pocket, you guys have seen, he's been in my hip pocket asking questions after period and during individual time. So I'm not worried about him."

Watson says he has constantly sought Rodgers and veteran receivers Randall Cobb and Allen Lazard for advice. He hopes their lessons will help him make up for all the practice time he's missing now.

"It's definitely frustrating, but I've tried not to let that affect me too much," Watson said. "There's still things I can do to get better and still be a part of everything, taking mental reps and still being in the playbook."

Brewers

From Page B1

Taylor Rogers, acquired as part of a trade that sent closer Josh Hader to the San Diego Padres on Monday, struck out one and walked one in the eighth for the Brewers.

After Ke'Bryan Hayes gave the Pirates a 5-4 lead with an RBI single in the seventh, Oneil Cruz followed by driving a sinker from Brent Suter 434 feet to right-center. The two-run homer, the eighth in 36 games for the 23-year-old, came after he had a three-run shot in the sixth inning Tuesday.

The Pirates fell behind 4-0 in the second when starter Tyler Beede gave up a two-run double to Adames. Beede was replaced after 1 1/3 innings by Dillon Peters, who allowed an RBI single by Tellez.

Brewers starter Freddy Peralta surrendered a two-run double to Hayes, cutting the lead in half in the third

of the right-hander's return from a lat strain. Pitching for the first time since May 22, Peralta gave up two runs on four hits and 67 pitches (41 strikes) in 3 2/3 innings.

Michael Chavis hit a double down the right-field line, scoring Cruz from first to cut Milwaukee's lead to 4-3 in the sixth. Tucupita Marcano tied it with a single, his third hit after being recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis earlier in the day.

• ROSTER MOVES: Brewers: RHP Dinelson Lamet and C Pedro Severino were designated for assignment. Lamet was acquired from the San Diego Padres as part of a package for closer Josh Hader on Monday. "Dinelson has a good arm and was included in the trade to help balance out the deal," said David Stearns, Brewers president of baseball operations. "As subsequent transactions played out, the roster fit became a little tougher. We are hopeful we will be able to keep him in our

system." The 30-year-old allowed 13 runs (12 earned) in seven innings across his past eight relief appearances. ...

RHP Peter Strzelecki was optioned to Triple-A Nashville.

• TRAINER'S ROOM: Pirates: RHP Yohan Ramirez was recalled from Indianapolis. ... INF Yoshi Tsutsugo was designated for assignment.

• UP NEXT: RHP Brandon Woodruff (9-3, 3.55 ERA) will take the mound for the Brewers against Pirates RHP Zach Thompson (3-8, 5.09) in the finale of the three-game series on Thursday afternoon. Woodruff has allowed more than two earned runs once in his past nine starts. Thompson has given up seven runs in each of his past two starts.

Bandits

From Page B1

There were no "Win one for Connor" speeches, but Will Lauterbach, who was named to the all-tournament team in Fort Atkinson, said he was on their minds.

"I think a lot of these guys are playing for him," Lauterbach said. "One hundred percent."

Konner Giddley certainly was a driving force at state, winning twice on the mound with complete-game efforts, including the 4-2 over Holmen in the finals Tuesday night. In the two wins, he struck out a dozen in 14 innings and allowed only two earned runs. As the team's leadoff batter, he also hit .357 with six RBIs.

His efforts will go down historically with the heroes of Beloit's past state champions: Frank Shafer in 1949, Whitey Gilbertson and Jerry Kenney in 1961, John Harris in 1966, Tony Brizzolara and Sam Eddy in 1973 and Matt Hansen in 2000.

While those teams had catalysts, they were also team efforts, just as the 2022 Bandits stepped up collectively. Along with Giddley and Lauterbach, the all-tournament team included Brayden McMahon, Michael Cook and Cal Ries, but you may as well have named the starting nine.

"This is my first year coaching these kids, and they are just such great kids to be around," Farrell told the Daily News after winning the title. "They have fun, but know how to also

take things seriously. I can tell you right now that this ride was unbelievable. It was fun, it was magical, and I'll cherish these memories forever."

There is one aspect to this story that takes nothing away from Beloit's title run, but explains why it played in the AA state tournament in the first place rather than AAA against such traditional opponents as Eau Claire, Stevens Point and La Crosse. Not a single player from Beloit Memorial High School was on the Senior Bandits roster, so the all-Turner team designated Beloit to AA. Nothing nefarious there. No Purple Knight tried out for the Senior team.

Playing AA was the right classification and the close proximity of a Fort Atkinson-based tournament was sure

an easy commute from Beloit and certainly saved on hotel bills. But Beloit baseball fans should hope for a return to AAA in the future because that will mean the sport is back on its feet at Beloit Memorial.

With a half dozen Purple Knight players on the Junior Legion squad that won a regional title this summer, that seems likely.

Again that shouldn't disparage the accomplishment of this year's Bandits. They played and beat who they were supposed to. And who knows what would have happened if they'd played up a class at season's end.

"We're just playing at a whole different level," Farrell said in Fort Atkinson. "Right now we're playing the best baseball in the area."

Maybe anywhere in the state.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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