

BASEBALL

MNG earns first conference title since '97

Cambridge forces three-way share

By Natalie Dillon
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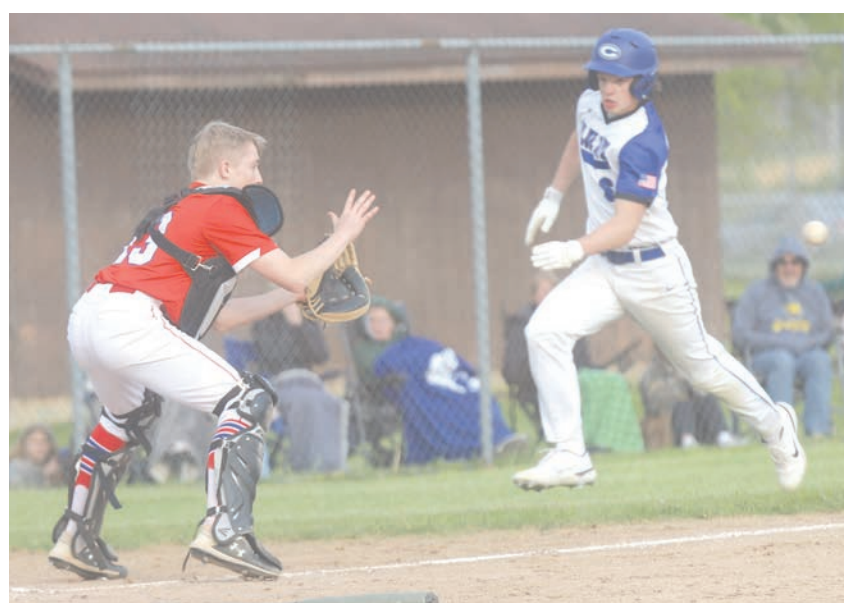
NEW GLARUS — After defeating Waterloo 9-8 with a walk-off hit from Easton Dreyfus on Thursday, May 18, New Glarus anxiously awaited the results from the Marshall versus Cambridge game to see if the Knights had won conference.

The team gathered around a cell phone, watching GameChanger as the final out was recorded. Marshall defeated Cambridge 4-3, giving New Glarus at least a share of the Capitol South Conference title.

“As soon as the final out came in, we all went crazy,” sophomore Patrick Alt said.

It marked New Glarus’s first conference title since 1997 when head coach Christopher Rear was a senior and his father, Frank, coached the team.

“It’s amazing,” Rear said. “The sad thing is he wasn’t here to see it and



Times photo: Natalie Dillon
Ashlin Mihlbauer fields a relay from the outfield, as a Cambridge runner attempts to score. New Glarus fell to Cambridge 6-4 on Friday, May 19, making for a three-way tie for the Capitol South title between New Glarus, Cambridge and Marshall.

celebrate. He was a mentor and role model to me. He’s the reason I’m here — why I coach.”

New Glarus put up a seven-spot on

Waterloo in the bottom of the fifth. Four straight singles from Ethan Friedrich, Leyton Mihlbauer, Ashlin Mihlbauer and Easton Dreyfus brough

the first run in. Leyton Mihlbauer then scored, as Alt reached on an error. Owen Palmer, Jake Roth and Zander Hauser all tallied RBI singles to take a 7-6 lead. Friedrich scored his second run of the inning, as Ashlin Mihlbauer reached on an error.

The Pirates tied the game in the top of the seventh on an RBI single from Jordan Cook and sacrifice fly from Cameron Tschanz.

Dylan Fritz started the bottom of the frame off right, drawing a five-pitch walk. Friedrich then reached on an error. Leyton Mihlbauer moved both runners into scoring position with a sacrifice bunt. Waterloo intentionally walked Ashlin Mihlbauer to load the bases and create a force out at each base — a decision that came back to haunt the Pirates. On the third pitch of his at-bat, Dreyfus lined a walk-off shot to center.

The Knights pounded out 12 hits, three of which came from Dreyfus. In addition to the game-winning RBI, he drove in another run. Leyton Mihlbauer, Ashlin Mihlbauer and Owen Palmer also recorded multiple

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Baseball brackets announced



By Natalie Dillon
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MONROE — After coach seeding meetings, the WIAA released the baseball brackets on Sunday, May 21. The first round of regionals will be played Thursday, May 25, with the higher-seeded team hosting the lower-seeded team.

In Division 2, Monroe (5-14 overall, 2-12 Badger West) received the No. 13 seed and will face fellow Badger West opponent No. 4-seeded Edgewood (15-7, 8-7). The Crusaders defeated the Cheesemakers in both meetings, 14-2 and 3-1. After a four-game winning streak, Monroe has lost its last six games and are without senior pitcher/first baseman George Brukwicki, who suffered a shoulder injury.

Brodhead-Juda (11-12 overall, 7-11 Rock Valley) received the No. 8 seed and hosts fellow Rock Valley opponent No. 9-seeded Edgerton (11-10, 9-9). The Crimson Tide finished two games above the Cardinals in conference, but the two teams split during the regular season. Brodhead-Juda took the first game 7-1, while Edgerton took the ‘W’ most recently on Friday, 13-1.

In Division 3, Darlington (11-9 overall, 6-8 SWAL) received the No. 7 seed. They host fellow SWAL opponent No. 10-seeded Riverdale (10-13, 6-8). The two teams shared a conference record, but the Redbirds had a run differential of 6+, while the Chieftains had a -24 margin. In the regular season, the two teams split. Darlington took the first game 13-7, while Riverdale won the second 4-1.

Capitol South Conference champions New Glarus (10-5 overall, 7-3 Capitol South) received the No. 6 seed. They will host No. 11-seeded Boscobel (8-14 overall, 5-9 SWAL). The two teams didn’t meet in the regular season and did not share a common opponent. However, New Glarus pitching has limited opponents to 45 runs, while Boscobel pitching has allowed 126 runs.

In Division 4, No. 3-ranked Pecatonica (18-1 overall, 8-0 Six Rivers East) earned the No. 1 seed and a bye. They will host the winner of No. 9 River Ridge and No. 8 Shullsburg-Benton — both Six Rivers West opponents — in the regional semifinal. The Vikings defeated both teams 10-0 and 15-1, respectively.

Black Hawk (0-15 overall, 0-8 Six Rivers East) received the No. 12 seed. The Warriors will look to seek revenge on No. 5-seeded Belmont (13-11 overall, 7-5 Six Rivers West) for their first win of the season. During the regular season, Belmont swept Black Hawk 5-0 and 6-3.

Argyle (5-9 overall, 4-4 Six Rivers East) received the No. 7 seed. They will host familiar foe, No. 10-seeded Monticello-Ponies (4-19, 3-5). The Ponies defeated the Orioles 9-4 on Thursday, as Argyle’s ace Max Godfrey reached his pitch limit for the week. Argyle won the first meeting 3-0.

SOFTBALL

Seventh-inning skid eliminates Monticello-New Glarus

By Natalie Dillon
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MONTICELLO — Monticello-New Glarus entered the seventh inning trailing Parkview 4-3 before the Vikings scored nine runs in the top of the inning to run away with a 13-3 win in the WIAA Regional Quarterfinal on Thursday, May 18.

The last time the two teams played, Parkview defeated MNG 11-9 in eight innings. Given such a close matchup early in the season, and home-field advantage, the Ponies were excited to play the Vikings again.

“We went eight innings with them the first time we played them. We were coming into this with the home field advantage — it was a big game,” junior captain Melanie Fink said. “It hurts the way it ended with the one inning. We stuck close to the end.”

Kira Whisler got the start, settling in after walking the first batter on four straight pitches. Dalana Trumpy threw the runner out trying to steal two, and Whisler struck the next batter out. The Ponies escaped the inning unscathed, as Whisler induced a grounder to Fink.

She got two quick outs in the second inning before an error gave

Parkview a second chance. The Vikings then hit back-to-back singles to take a 1-0 lead.

The Ponies responded immediately in the bottom half of the frame, scoring two runs. Grace Seffrood drew a seven-pitch walk, followed by a double to left from Trumpy. Veronica Tollakson’s grounder to the right side scored pinch runner Stella Hauser from third. With two outs, Fink singled to center for another run.

Parkview knotted the game at two with an RBI groundout from Chloe Mielke. Despite not being able to respond in the bottom half of the inning, MNG head coach Mitch Cernek was happy with his team’s early-game performance.

“We came in talking about winning the first three innings. Sometimes we get out of games too early. The idea was if we can stay in and be winning after the first three innings, we felt good about our chances,” Cernek said. “We wanted to break the game down and not think about it in the whole seven inning chunk.”

Parkview broke the tie in the top of the fifth, as Jazmyn Wiedmer led off the inning with a walk. A groundout moved her to second, and she took third on a wild pitch. Mielke brought



Times photo: Natalie Dillon
Veronica Tollakson catches a dropped-third strike throw from Dalana Trumpy during Monticello-New Glarus’s 13-3 loss to Parkview in the WIAA Regional Quarterfinal on Thursday, May 18.

Wiedmer home on a sacrifice fly to left fielder Megan Peterson.

The Vikings scored another run with two outs, as Kylie Stark singled and Katelynn Weeks hit an RBI triple over right fielder Sadie Wilkins’s head.

Monticello-New Glarus chipped

away, scoring one run in the bottom of the fifth. Peterson reached base with two outs on a hit by pitch, and Molly Olson walked to load the bases. Karlee Wilkins drew a bases-loaded walk to get the RBI.

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GIRLS SOCCER

Balanced offense, clutch defense key to Raiderer victory

By Natalie Dillon
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STOUGHTON — Sugar River recorded its 11th shut-out of the season, defeating Stoughton 3-0 on Saturday, May 20. The Raiders received goals from Bella Brenkman, Anya Brenkman and Hannah Boldebeck.

Anya Brenkman scored in the fifth minute to put the Raiders on the board. Stoughton then gained momentum in the 15th minute, sending a shot wide and forcing Addison Lutz to make two saves.

A corner kick from Anya Brenkman turned the tide, as her shot reached Jenna Gentilli. Gentilli’s shot was saved, but Bella Brenkman scored on the rebound.

Sugar River kept the pressure on, as Anya Brenkman dribbled down the pitch on a breakaway in the final minute. She was thrown off course, but 30 seconds later Boldebeck came through with a goal.

“It’s amazing to have people who always come up and help you and don’t leave you alone,” Anya Brenkman said. “There are some teams that see people go forward, and they leave them there. It’s nice to always have someone. It feels better when you get a pass and assist than getting a goal.”



Times photo: Natalie Dillon
Anya Brenkman is stopped just short of a goal during the first half of Sugar River’s 3-0 win over Stoughton on Saturday, May 20. In the same minute, teammate Hannah Boldebeck came through with a goal.

goalkeeper Savannah Mintor kept the shut-out intact, making three saves in the final ten minutes.

“It’s a lot of pressure for a freshman to come in and preserve that [shutout],” Sugar River head coach John Ziperski said. “She did a great job of doing what she needed to do. That’s a statistic we try to get. I think she earned some respect in their [the varsity players’] eyes.”

Although the team celebrated a win, they also celebrated the life of five-year-old

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LEADING OFF

An open letter to senior athletes

In the last month, I’ve been fortunate enough to return to my alma mater, UW Oshkosh, for three emotional, important games. The first was alumni day, where I saw many teammates I had played with over the years. The second was senior day, where five of my former teammates celebrated their decorated careers, and the third, most recently, was the regional semifinal game.

In those days, I had some time to ponder my softball career and those of my teammates. As the high school spring sports season draws to a close, I thought I’d share some insight to seniors on what will be the conclusion of their high school careers. So here it goes . . .

Dear senior athletes, *Be present.* As the school year wraps up, academics can add stress to your daily lives. Athletic events might feel like another load to deal with, but remember why you joined sports in the first place. You enjoy it. It’s your outlet. You wanted to spend time with your friends. Whatever the motivation may be, remember it as such. Soak up the final

moments on the field, track, pitch, green or court. Once that final out is recorded or you cross that finish line, it’s all over. Go out loving what you’ve done.

Don’t put pressure on yourself. When the postseason approaches, the thought enters your head that this is it. Sometimes this can be a motivator to go out on a high note, but it can also be paralyzing. When you’re up to bat, toeing the line or lining up your putt, don’t focus on the outcome. Remember how you got here and let your muscle memory do the rest.

Appreciate your friends, family and coaches. The people you meet in sports will stay with you well beyond the conclusion of your athletic career. I’m still in contact with high school, college and traveling teammates. When attending UW Oshkosh games, I stayed behind to talk to my teammates and my coaches. They gave me big hugs and told my family hello. As for my family, they supported me in all sporting events and attended all the games they could. They even traveled to Salem, VA to watch me play in the Women’s College World Series. They made many sacrifices that I’m only now learning to appreciate.

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Natalie Dillon

WIAA Regional Semifinal

Monroe at Sugar River, Thursday, June 1 at 7 p.m.