

The second weekend of the Gopher State Travel League is this weekend at Lily Lake Park in Stillwater. Four teams will be vying for the two bids to the ISC II Tournament of Champions this August in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

After the first weekend of play in May, Fisher Group (Mankato) and Chub's Pub Wizards (Fargo, ND) are each at 2-3. ASB-Villard (St. Paul) is 1-4 and another St. Paul club Vannelli's, is 0-5.

Each team will play two games on Saturday and two games on Sunday. On Saturday at noon, Villard plays Chub's Pub and Fisher Group plays Vannelli's. The 2pm games on Saturday feature Villard against Fisher Group, with Vannelli's taking on Chub's Pub.

Sunday's games begin at 10am with Fisher Group going against Chub's Pub and Villard versus Vannelli's. Play wraps up at noon with rematches of the first games of the weekend, as these teams didn't play each other the first time around in May.

Tournament Recap

Village Inn NAFA Qualifier-PBI (West St. Paul) won the Village Inn NAFA Qualifier in Hudson, Wisconsin last weekend, going 5-0. PBI defeated Duluth Traveling in the title game, which was called with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning due to heavy rain.

Custom Rock finished third, the Wanderoos (Wisc) Merchants were fourth. Villard and St. Paul Fastpitch tied for fifth. The St. Paul Brewers and three Wisconsin teams, Dug Out (Cushing), Bol's Lanes (Baldwin) and Farmington, rounded out the tournament field.

Charlie Rambo and Wayne Petrie, both of PBI, were named Most Valuable Player and Outstanding Pitcher respectively. Tommy Thompson of Bol's Lanes, led the tournament with a .692 average. Thompson was playing as a pick-up player with his hometown team last weekend as he is the starting centerfielder for the tournament's host team.

Grafmeier Invitational-The IS Knights traveled to Kimberly, Wisconsin for the Grafmeier Invitational last weekend. IS finished 2-2, a third place finish, in Pool A. IS failed to advance to Sunday's bracket play as the top two teams in each pool advanced out.

Playing somewhat shorthanded and with pick-up pitcher Steve Langley of fellow Fargo team the Bergstrom/Kegel Black Knights, IS defeated the Quad City Sox (Davenport, Iowa) and Townline/Shoot's (Green Bay) while losing to The Farm Tavern (Madison, Wisc) and The Bar on the Avenue (Appleton, Wisc).

Fargo Memorial NAFA Tournament-Dawson's Cerro Gordo headed to Fargo over the Memorial Day weekend and came away with the Consolation Championship. The team was without any of their top three pitchers until late in Saturday's pool play.

Cerro Gordo posted an 0-3 record in pool play then won 3 games en route to the Consolation Crown.

Pigeon Fall (Wisc) Tournament-Jonny's Saloon (St. Charles) finished fourth and Frontier Lounge (Hayfield) tied for seventh in this event, also held over Memorial Day weekend.

ASA Qualifiers Called Due to Rain-A number of Minnesota teams were in Sioux Falls last weekend for the ASA B and C Qualifiers. The entire tournament was called Saturday morning due to heavy rain.

Tournament Preview

Bol's Lanes Tournament (Baldwin, Wisc)-Village Inn, LeMay's Humphrey Street Grill (Lake Crystal), Harper and Harper (Duluth), Schroeder's (St. Paul) and Herda and Sons Sealcoating (Waverly) join 7 Wisconsin teams this weekend.

Cresco Classic and NAFA Qualifier-Kasson State Theatre is hosting their annual tourney just across the border into Cresco, Iowa. A number of top teams in southeastern Minnesota as well as Iowa will be there this weekend.

Sioux Falls Association Tournaments-Also this weekend is the Sioux Falls Association Tournament. Teams will compete in separate B and C Divisions.

Bobber Tournament-Paul Harrington's annual Bobber Tournament is next weekend in Farmington (see registration info below). The event will feature a number of the top ASA B and C teams in the state.

Rice Lake Tournament-Rice Lake, Wisconsin hosts arguably the best tournament for ASA B/NAFA AA/ISC II teams around. PBI, Villard, Duluth, Village Inn and St. Paul Fastpitch will travel across the river and join all the top teams in Wisconsin, including 2004 NAFA AA World Champion Wilber Lime (Galesville). Wilber Lime is the defending tourney champ, while PBI won the event in 2002 and 2003.

Decatur Shootout-The IS Knights head to Decatur, Illinois next weekend. They are matched up in pool play with the St. Louis/Heflin Browns, Albaugh, Inc. (Elkhart, Iowa) and The Freight (Vandalia, Ill). The top team in each of the three pools and one wildcard team advance to bracket play.

Schedule and Results Are Needed

Make sure to send your tournament schedule and results to mnfastpitch@hotmail.com. The information will be used to determine both the State and Regional Rankings and will be placed on the www.minnesotafastpitch.com website.

Qualifying for the NAFA World Series

In order to play in the NAFA World Series this August, teams must play in a NAFA Qualifying tournament and pay their \$35 NAFA Registration Fee. A full list of NAFA Qualifying tournaments in Minnesota will appear in this column as well as on the website www.minnesotafastpitch.com.

Any and all questions about NAFA Qualifying and the NAFA World Series can be directed to Brett Bresnahan at mnfastpitch@hotmail.com.

Masters State Heads to Farmington

After being held in Redwood Falls for the last several years, the ASA Masters 40-Over State Tournament is headed to Rambling River Park in Farmington August 6 and 7.

Players are eligible if they are 40 years of age or older anytime during the 2005 calendar year.

Interested teams and players should contact Paul Harrington at Paul.Harrington@mpls.frb.org or (952) 892-1693.

Tournament Information

Tournament listings have gotten too big for this column. Go to www.minnesotafastpitch.com and look under the "Tournaments" section for all the information you need.