

# PINSTRIPED TIMES



MAY 2ND, 2023

ISSUE NO. 43

SEASON  
PREVIEW  
SPECIAL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DASSEL-COKATO SAINTS

# 2023 HOME OPENER FRIDAY, MAY 5TH - 7:00PM



DASSEL-COKATO SAINTS

Vs

WATERTOWN RED DEVILS



@DCSAINTS



@DASSELCOKATOSAINTS



@DASSELCOKATOSAINTS

## SAINTS OPEN SEASON AGAINST WATERTOWN

The Watertown Red Devils have turned in to a Class "C" State Tournament regular in recent years. Led by strong pitching and some big bats, they made it to the title game in 2021, and finished in the final four in 2022. The Saints have built a fun mini-rivalry with the Red Devils, dropping a close one in 2021 by a score of 8-7, and returning the favor in 2022 with a 4-2 win behind a strong Collin Krick pitching performance. Head over to Saints Field on May 5th for a Cinco de Mayo celebration (\$2 nachos) and cheer us on as we open the season against Watertown.

# SAINTS ARMS LOOK TO CARVE ROLES

As the adage goes: "It's not the new year until pitchers and catchers report". Saints batteries have spent the early, snow covered spring crafting their form and getting on the same page.

In 2022, the Saints as a team logged 255.1 innings on the mound. Of those innings, staff anchor Jordan Flick lead the team with 69 innings pitched, Collin Krick followed right behind with 62.1, and Jacob Niemela tallied 30. A goal in mind for the squad heading in to 2023 is to better spread the workload, specifically in the early-going and non-league contests. This should help keep the Saints' arms healthy into the heavy league schedule of June, and the dog days of July.

Eventually a starting rotation will be settled, but word out of camp is both Saints veterans and young guns will be expected to perform in various roles on the hill early in the year, mixing as both starters and bullpen brazos. There's rotation spots and impact relief roles up for grabs for whoever makes the most of their early performances; the situation will remain fluid as the season progresses in order to "play the hot hand".





## SAINTS SIGN HOWARD

On April 17th, The Saints inked their first new signee of 2023, Jack Howard, a 2022 Annandale High School graduate, where he had a solid senior season on the mound, including a complete game winning performance and shutout relief inning in a doubleheader against the Dassel-Cokato Chargers. Gaining an arm is always a plus, and Jack will look to help bolster the Saints pitching staff this summer.



## OVER OR UNDER

The worldwide leader in sports betting, "PLB", has set the following over/under lines for the 2023 season:

- Tyler Brandel total home runs: 5.5
- Steve Boger total bases: 53.5
- Jim Althoff stolen bases: 16.5
- Jacob Niemela pitching wins: 2.5





## BOGER GIVES TIPS WITH TECH TOOLS

Ask any Saint who the most consistent hitter on the team is and they'll most likely give you the same answer. There's a reason Steve Boger sits among the North Star League leaderboard at the end of each season, and that reason is the dedication to his craft.

He may only be 35-years-old, but on a team with an average age slightly under 24, Boger is one of the few resident "old guys" by default. But age is just a number for the slick-swinging centerfielder. In 2022, he once again found himself in the top-10 hitters in the NSL, finishing 6th with a .448 batting average.

How does he maintain his consistency? For one, he swears by a meticulous training routine involving the use of Blast Motion sensors. Blast Motion, a nifty piece of tech that conveniently attaches to the knob of a baseball bat, can give hitters insight on what they're doing well at the plate, and what they need to improve on. Metrics like swing speed, attack angle, hand speed, and on-plane efficiency, are all tracked.

With a combination of tech-aided training, strength and speed work, and using some of that "old man" wisdom on having a planned approach at the plate, young Saints and veterans alike are picking Boger's brain, looking to become better hitters themselves. Saturday mornings during our "Spring Training", it wouldn't be a surprise to find him in the batting cages, leading a group of Saints in hitting drills, helping them get an edge in the box.

# SAINTS SEASON PUNCH PASSES ON SALE NOW

Hot off the printers, adult and student punch passes are now available for the 2023 season! While a night at Saints Field is already great, cheap entertainment, you can make the entire 2023 season even more affordable by purchasing a punch pass. With 15 regular season home games on the docket, the adult season pass comes out to just 2 bucks a game. And as for the student pass? Even lower at just \$1. Don't delay! DM us on social media, email us at [info@dcsaints.com](mailto:info@dcsaints.com), or simply ask your favorite Saint today to get yours now!





Hosting a big tournament is no small task. Saints Field and its countless volunteers have experience putting on the production that is the coveted Minnesota Baseball Association State Tournament in 2005, 2016, and 2019. Now, the ballpark in "Dassel" will have an opportunity to play host to the grandest MBA State Tourney to date: The 100th Anniversary.

To the naked-eye, it's impossible to see everything that goes on behind the scenes when hosting.

The preparation truly starts over a year in advance. Groups of baseball associations, teams, and city leaders come together to construct a presentation, in which they'll need to ace in order to win the bidding process. For the 100th, it's safe to say the the MBA picked an incredible group with rich, strong baseball history. That group consists of Saints Field in Dassel, Delano Municipal Baseball Park in Delano, and Optimist Park in Litchfield.

While Saints players are ecstatic to help run the tournament, they have a bigger goal in mind. That goal is to themselves make the dance. It's been a long, grueling decade-plus since their last appearance in 2011. In the years since, they've been close, but haven't been able to quite reach those heights. And even more recently, getting a region bid has become even more challenging.

So how do they get in? The NSL is strong, and in order to be successful, it may take some outside of the box thinking. Different strategies dependent on each unique opponent. Expect players demanding more out of each other. Most of all, expect a team ready to truly go "all-in".

## HOSTING THE 100TH STATE TOURNEY (AND FIGHTING TO GET IN)



# NSL MANAGERS PREDICT 2023

Every year, the managers of each North Star League team predict how everyone will finish. The votes from the last league meeting have been tallied and displayed in the season preview edition of The Spectator. Here's how the league expects things to shake out:

1. *Delano*
2. *Hutchinson*
3. *Maple Lake*
4. *Litchfield*
5. *Loretto*
6. *Buffalo*
7. *Howard Lake*
8. *Dassel-Cokato*
9. *Cokato*
10. *Maple Plain*
11. *Rockford*
12. *Montrose-Waverly*

Crazy things have happened in the past in the NSL. In 2016, there was a 5-way (no joke) tie for 3rd place, and the 1-7 seeds were all within 3 games of each other.

How do you feel about these rankings? Do you see any upsets in the making? We would love to hear your thoughts on these preseason rankings. Tweet to us @DCSaints and give us your rankings!





