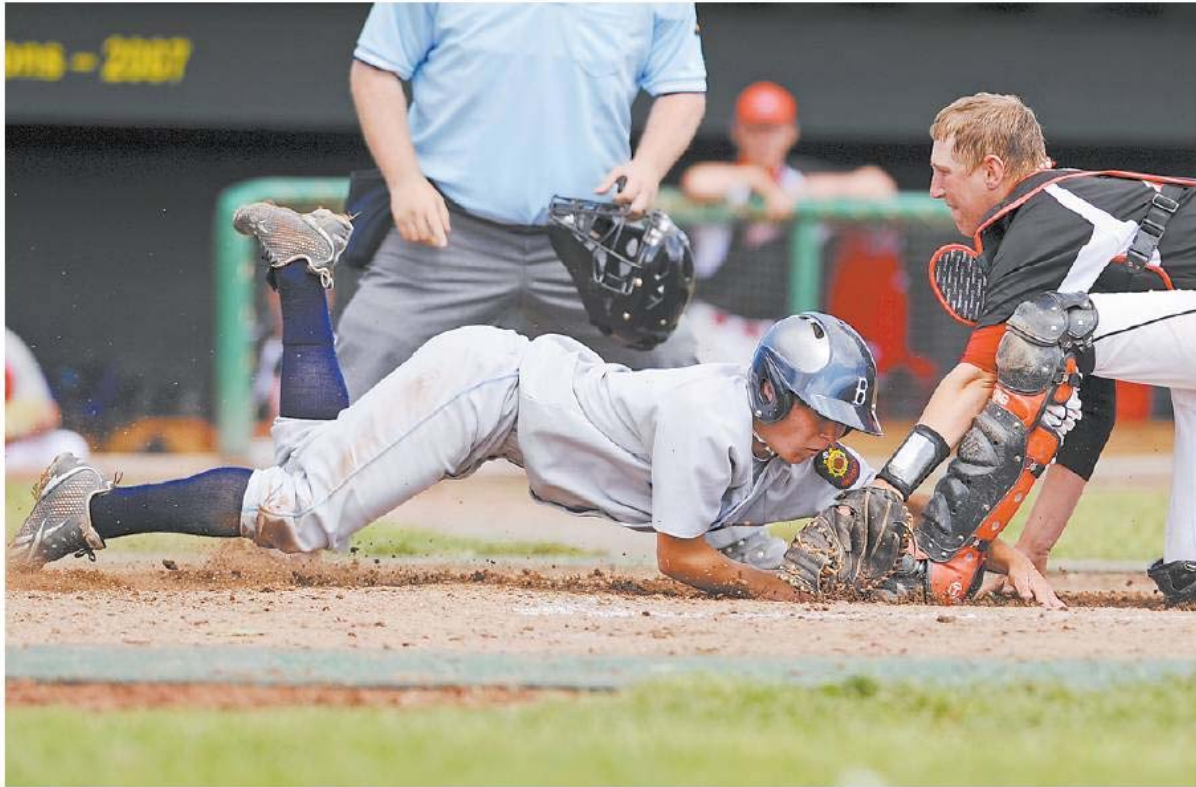


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HOWARD REIN AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



SEAN SPERRY/CHRONICLE

Butte's Anthony Honer is tagged out by Bozeman Spikes catcher Nate Lamberty on Thursday at Legion Field.

Spikes escape late rally

Bozeman begins tournament with 8-7 win over Butte Muckers

By **GIDAL KAISER**
Chronicle Sports Writer

Bozeman Spikes manager Dan Radke looked out over Heroes Park shortly after his team closed down an 8-7 win to open the Howard Rein baseball tournament on Thursday morning.

"Oh, God, we can't do that — shouldn't have done that," Radke said after his team nearly gave up an 8-4 lead in the top of the seventh. "Oh, well. I'll take the win."

Butte began the top of the seventh with right fielder Cameron Lacy coaxing a walk from Spikes starter Conner Linebarger. Muckers leftfielder Cody Slettin singled to put two on, and the duo executed a successful double steal.

Linebarger induced pop-ups from Sean Curran and Tayler Baker to give Radke — and the Spikes' fans — time to breathe, but Bozeman wasn't completely out of danger. Third baseman Jarrod Kingston laced

Thursday's Scores
Spikes 8, Muckers 7
Blue Jays 16, Muckers 2
Cardinals 1, Mavericks 0
Miners 8, Posse 6
Spikes 8, Lakers 1

a two-run single up the middle for an 8-6 score, and shortstop Chris Renz smacked a single to left

to pull Butte within a run

Linebarger, at 102 pitches, was pulled for Dom Mauer as Muckers pitcher Anthony Honer stepped to the plate. Honer hit a bloop single to short left field and Renz raced from first to third on the hit.

However, Butte second baseman Mark Jemmings — who was 2-for-3 with three sharply hit balls — got under a Mauer fastball and flew out to end the threat and the game.

It was Mauer's first save of the season. The Spikes won their later game 8-1 over Kalispell.

"Connor (Linebarger) wasn't really around the zone, was starting to struggle, and you could see it," Radke said. "I knew we needed somebody to get in there and

get us one strike. One strike was all it was going to take, and Dom threw a couple that looked like routine fly balls that we didn't end up getting to. But Dom got it done."

In the other dugout, Muckers manager Travis Johnson saw the glass as half full. "They came back, so I'm proud of them for that," he said. "That last inning ... Mark got underneath that last pitch a little bit. It is what it is, and they did great coming back."

Linebarger wanted to finish out the game but added, "Dom came out and threw what we needed to get that last out."

Aside from the final frame, Linebarger struggled in only one inning. Butte (4-29) scored in the second when an errant throw by Spikes third baseman Teagon Barry plated two runs for a 3-2 deficit.

The eighth-grader had a 1-2-3 first and fifth and got help from his defense in the third and fourth to get out of jams.

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In the third, a two-out error allowed Tyler Baker to reach second, but he was gunned down at home on Kingston's hit with a perfect relay throw to catcher Nate Lamberty by Nathan Brown.

In the fourth, Honer was gunned down at home by Barry on a Jemmings hit to third for the first out. Linebarger forced Dax Deadrick to pop up for out No. 2 and struck out Lacy to end the inning.

After giving up a two-out RBI single in the sixth, Linebarger struck out Deadrick to end the inning.

"We had a good pitching performance," Radke said. "Connor battled, and that's what he's been doing all year for us."

Linebarger started the Spikes scoring with a two-run first-inning double, the last of three hits in a row off Honer. Lamberty drove in Anderson Barkow for a 4-2 advantage, then Barry (sacrifice fly) and Linebarger (double) finished off Bozeman's four-run fourth with run-scoring at-bats.

The Spikes left five runners stranded and couldn't put anything across after starting the fifth with two on and no outs. But Bozeman touched up Honer for eight hits and saw its 1-2-3 hitters go 6-for-11 with four RBIs and two doubles.

"A win's a win, and we started the tournament off right," Radke said. "It's always important to get the first one out of the way."

Spikes 8, Muckers 7

Butte 020 101 3 — 7 11 7
Bozeman 301 400 x — 8 8 3

Anthony Honer and Dax Deadrick. Connor Linebarger, Dom Maier (9) and Nate Lamberty. W. Linebarger (6-3), L. Honer, S. Maier (1).

Butte — Cody Slettin 1-4, Sean Curran 0-4, Tyler Baker 0-4, Jarrod Kingston 3-4, Chris Rienz 2-3, Anthony Honer 2-4, Mark Jemmings 2-4, Dax Deadrick 1-3, Conner Lacy 0-2.

Bozeman — Corey Hockett 2-4, Teagun Barry 2-3, Conner Linebarger 2-4, Anderson Barkow 0-4, Nathan Johnson 0-3, Isaac Thompson 0-2, Brandon Stoneberg 1-3.

2B — Honer, Kingston; Linebarger (2), RBI — Kingston (2), Honer, Jemmings, Rienz; Linebarger (3), Barkow, Barry, Lamberty. **SB** — Lacy, Slettin, Barkow, Barry.

SPIKES 8, LAKERS 1:

Nathan Brown and Tanner Johnson limited Kaspell to seven hits, with Johnson striking out six in three innings. Corey Hockett went 2-for-3 with three runs scored. Johnson also drove in a pair of runs with a double.

Kendrick Lee had three singles for the Lakers

Spikes 8, Lakers 1

Lakers 001 000 0 — 1 7 5

Spikes 201 122 x — 8 7 0

Nathan Brown, Tanner Johnson (5)

and Nate Lamberty, Matt McLean, Sean O'Connell (6) and Robert Simmons.

Lakers — Kendrick Lee 3-4, Nate Bengston 0-2, Skidney Schenck 1-4, Scoob Decker 0-2, Robert Simmons 2-3, Zack Riviere 0-2, Sean O'Connell 0-2,

James Johnson 0-3, Mike Webb 1-3, Wade

Freudenberg 0-2.

Spikes — Corey Hockett 2-3,

Teagun Barry 1-3, Conner Linebarger

1-3, Anderson Barkow 0-4, Nate Lamberty

1-3, Tyler Sheelenberg 0-0, Dominic

Maier 1-3, Tanner Johnson 1-1, Cody

Cooper 0-1, Brandy Stoneberg 0-2,

Nathan Brown 0-1, Oliver Carr 0-2.

2B — Maier, Johnson, RBI —

Schenck, Johnson 2, Hockett, Barry,

Linebarger, Lamberty.

BLUE JAYS 16, BUTTE 2: Billings plated 10 runs in the third inning to put the Muckers' second game of the day out of reach. Konner Wiechman hit 3-of-5 for the Blue Jays and batted in five runs, while Ian McCracken pitched the full game.

Blue Jays 16, Muckers 2

Billings 11(10) 22 — 16 13 1

Butte 00 0 11 — 2 2 4

Ian McCracken and Charles Ackerman,

Draw Schiemar, Cody Slettin (3) and

Jarrod Kingston, W. McCracken,

L. Schiemar.

Billings — Joseph Zimmer 1-3,

Pete Lind 0-3, Ackerman 1-2, Konner

Wiechman 3-5, Will Kent 1-2, Garrett

Waldo 1-4, Spencer Bower 2-4, Matt

Sheehamer 2-3, Dylan Layman 1-1, John

Vogel 1-2.

Butte — Kaeden Caprera 0-2, Tyler

Baker 0-3, Chris Rienz 1-3, Kingston

0-2, Anthony Honer 0-2, Tyler Harney

0-1, Josh Merrick 0-1, Dylan Morris 1-1,

Conner McCarthy 0-2.

2B — Waldo, Wiechman, Bower,

Rienz. **SB** — Wiechman, Bower, Sheehamer.

RBI — Ackerman, Wiechman 5,

Waldo, Bower, Sheehamer 2, Vogel,

Kingston, Morris.

CARDINALS 1, MISSOULA 0: Billings' Brayden Wickam doubled, Brandon Kuehn singled and John Mueller was hit by a pitch to load the bases in the bottom of the seventh inning. Then Trey Roadifer hit a sacrifice fly to plate the game's only run and give the Cardinals the win.

Cardinals 1, Mavericks 0

Missoula 000 000 0 — 0 5 1

Billings 000 000 1 — 1 5 1

Ties Cunningham, Anthony Contorno

(6) and Luke Bewley, Nathan Smith,

Brady Gustafson (7) and Cotton Well-

haven, W. Gustafson, L. Contorno.

Missoula — Alec Bray 0-3, Conner

Anderson 0-4, Cunningham 1-2, Kyle

Boyd 1-3, Tanner Rheinhardt 0-1,

Stuart Breckenridge 1-3, Shane Olson

0-3, Tanner Maier 0-1, Contorno 1-1,

Bewley 1-2.

Billings — John Mueller 1-3,

Trey Roadifer 1-3, Winston Cox 1-2,

Gustafson 0-3, Wellhaven 0-3, Kenny

Clarin 0-1, Danny Robinson 0-1, Tony

Huggert 0-2, Brayden Wickam 1-1,

Brandon Kuehn 1-3, Ian Byrth 0-1.

2B — Cox, Mueller, Wickam. **RBI**

— Roadifer.

LETHBRIDGE 8, GALLATIN VALLEY 6:

Gallatin Valley's Gianfranco Filippini pitched five innings, allowing five earned runs and hit the game's only home run to put the Posse on the scoreboard first.

Lethbridge rallied with back-to-back multiple run innings in the third and fourth.

Miners 8, Posse 6

GV 101 040 0 — 6 6 3

Lethbridge 003 410 0 — 8 6 0

Gianfranco Filippini, Jordan

Carlson (6) and Bridger Papke, Braeden

Heyland and Trevor Sakatch, W. Heyland,

L. Filippini.

Gallatin Valley — Kohler Briggs

1-3, Ryan Bronson 1-4, Filippini 1-3,

Justin Woodward 1-4, Cotten Shively 2-3,

Anthony Martin 0-3, Papke 0-3, Carlson

0-3, Daryn Allen 0-1.

Lethbridge — Russell Maxwell 0-2,

Devon Scriber-Williams 0-1, Roy Adams

2-4, Sakatch 1-4, Renn Visser 1-4,

Jordan Shirakawa 0-2, Tanner Layton

0-2, Tom Billard 0-3, Austin Sedgwick

1-2, Matt Mace 1-3.

2B — Adams 2, Sakatch, Bronson,

HR — Filippini. **RBI** — Adams 3,

Sakatch, Visser, Sedgwick, Bronson 2,

Filippini, Woodward, Shively.