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HOWARD REIN MEMORIAL AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

# Spikes finish fourth

## Bozeman falls to Blue Jays, 8-6

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It happened again. For the second time in three days, the Bozeman Spikes gave up a late-inning lead to an opponent.

It was also the second time in three days that the Spikes fell to the Billings Blue Jays.

Billings scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth to earn an 8-6 victory over Bozeman (16-27, 2-3 tournament play).

The Blue Jays (4-1), by virtue of the victory, took third place at the annual Howard Rein Memorial Tournament.

"Well, it was a lot of fun being able to put together a few hits," Blue Jays manager Scott Hayden said. "We were kind of worried at first — it looked like we weren't going to be able to string together the hits. But it worked out."

In the bottom of the sixth, Billings' Garrett Waldo reached when Spikes third baseman Oliver Carr overthrew first base. Konner Weichmann, who hit a robust .588 (10-for-17) over the tournament, moved Waldo to third on a single.

Pinch-hitter Chance Ackerman's one-out single drove Waldo in, then Weichmann was plated by Ryan Walla for a 4-all tie.

Billings took the lead when Ian McCracken's hit to second was bobbled and Ackerman scored. Walla came home when Dylan Layman reached on a fielder's choice.

The Bozeman defense also committed two errors in the Blue Jays' three-run fourth inning.

Waldo, Weichmann and Matt Shelhamer reached on consecutive singles.



ERIK PETERSEN/CHRONICLE

**The Bozeman Spikes' Nate Lamberty slides safely into second between the legs of the Billings Royals' Danny Wicker at Heroes Park on Sunday.**

An error on Weichmann's single plated Waldo and allowed Weichmann to reach third. He stole home on the back of a double steal.

Shelhamer later stole third and went home when catcher Nate Lamberty's throw went by Carr.

The Spikes' miscues turned starter Nathan Brown (1-3) into the hard-luck loser. Brown pitched six innings and scattered seven hits. He gave up only two

earned runs, walked one and struck out three.

"We made a lot of mistakes that really screwed up the win," Spikes manager Dan Radke said. "That was a heck of a pitching performance, and we messed that one up defensively."

"You can't give them extra outs and you can't make mistakes. It was hard to watch because that was a winnable game. We have to cut the mistakes out."

Bozeman attempted to rally in its final at-bat.

Designated hitter Tanner Johnson led off with a single and went to second on a one-out walk to pinch-hitter Teagen Barry.

A groundout by Brandyn Stoneberg moved the runners over a base, but Corey Hockett's fly ball landed in the glove of Layman for the final out.

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The Spikes jumped out to a 4-0 lead after the top of the first inning as Lamberty and Johnson drove in three of the four runs. David Thiede scored on a wild pitch.

In the top of the fourth, Bozeman went up 6-1 as Dom Mauer scored on a double steal and Thiede drove in Thompson.

"These last two games, we've jumped out to good leads, we've held the lead late in the game," Radke said. "We haven't been able to put teams away. It's something we have to work on. Somehow we have to find a way to put games away with us on top."

Bozeman left 10 runners on base, including two apiece in the fourth through seventh innings.

"We need somebody to come up and have a big hit," Radke said. "We were missing that yesterday against Lethbridge and we missed it today."

"It's easy to be the first team to bat and jump out (to a lead) and get excited. When the pressure comes on, we have to be able to step up and make a few plays."

Hockett (.294, eight runs, five stolen bases), Johnson (.583, nine RBIs, three doubles; 1-0, 15 strikeouts pitching) and Conner Linebarger (.438, six runs, four RBIs, two steals) were named to the All-Tournament team.

Ackerman (.417, four runs, five RBIs), Will Kent (.500, eight RBIs; 1-0, 11 strikeouts) and Weichmann (.588, 10 hits, eight RBIs) were tabbed as the Blue Jays All-Tournament selections.

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**Blue Jays 8, Spikes 6**

**Bozeman 400 200 0 — 6 11 5**  
**Billings 300 304 X — 8 7 0**

Nathan Brown and Nate Lamberty. EJ Gunderson, Taylor Goselin (6), Garrett Heywood (7) and Ryan Walla. W - Goselin. L - Brown (1-3). S - Heywood.

**Bozeman** — Corey Hickey 0-3, David Thiede 2-4, Conner Linebarger 2-3, Anderson Barkow 0-3, Nate Lamberty 2-3, Tanner Johnson 3-4, Dominic Mauer 1-4, Oliver Carr 0-1, Isaac Thompson 1-3, Brandyn Stoneberg 0-1.

**Billings** — Rico Rodriguez 1-4, John Vogel 0-2, Garrett Waido 1-2, Konner Weichmann 2-2, Matt Sniehamer 1-3, Pete Lind 0-2, Ryan Walla 1-3, Ian McCracken 0-3, Dylan Layman 0-3, Chance Ackerman 1-1.

**2B:** Lamberty, Mauer. **SB:** Hockett, Mauer, Thompson; Sniehamer (2), Weichmann.

**Championship**

**CARDINALS 7, MINERS 5:** The Billings Cardinals crept back from a four-run first-inning deficit to capture the 2010 Howard Rein title.

All-Tournament team member Danny Robison drove in Nathan Smith with the go-ahead run in the top of the sixth and saved the game for teammate Brady Gustafson by inducing a double play and a pop-out.

Shelby Zorn (3-for-3) and Robison (3-for-4) both had three hits while Colter Endy and Trey

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM	
Billings Cardinals	
Nathan Smith	
Danny Robison	
Lethbridge Miners	
Roy Adams	
Drew Heidt	
Billings Blue Jays	
Chance Ackerman	
Will Kent	
Konner Weichmann	
Bozeman Spikes	
Cory Hockett	
Tanner Johnson	
Conner Linebarger	
Missoula Mavericks	
Tres Cunningham	
Gallatin Valley Posse	
Sierfranco Ripoli	
Kalispell Lakers	
Kendrick Lee	

Roadifer each had two RBIs.

**Cardinals 7, Miners 5**

**Billings 030 011 2 — 7 11 0**

**Lethbridge 400 000 1 — 5 13 2**

Brady Gustafson, Danny Robison (7) and Shelby Zorn. Tanner Layton and Trevor Saketch. W - Gustafson. L - Layton. S - Robison.

**Billings** — John Mueller 0-4,

Brayden Wickham 0-3, Nathan Smith 1-3, Danny Robison 3-4, Colter Endy 2-4, Winston Cox 0-3, Trey Roadifer 2-3, Shelby Zorn 3-3, Brandon Kuehn 0-1.

**Lethbridge** — Tomillard 1-2, Roy Adams 1-4, Trevor Saketch 0-2, Braeden Heyland 2-3, Brooks Maxwell 1-3, Drew Herauf 1-3, Austin Sedgewick 2-3, Jordan Shirakawa 3-3, Matt Malick 0-3, Russell Maxwell 0-2, Devon Scriber-Williams 1-2, Renn Visser 1-1.

**2B:** Roadifer; Heyland (2), Adams, Visser. **SB:** Herauf. **HR:** Endy. **SB:** Smith (2), Wickam, Zorn.

**Fifth place**

**MAVERICKS 15, POSSE 0:** John Ratts threw a four-inning no-hitter and Missoula scored nine runs in the fourth for the run-rule victory.

The Mavericks had five batters — Conner Anderson, Taylor Beierle, Luke Bewley, Alec Bray and Tanner Rheinschmidt — with two hits apiece.

**Mavericks 15, Posse 0**

**Missoula 114 9 — 15 13 1**

**Gallatin Valley 000 0 — 0 0 3**

John Ratts and Luke Bewley.

Anthony Martin, Ryan Bronson (4), Justin Woodward (4) and Konner Briggs. W - Ratts. L - Martin.

**Missoula** — Alec Bray 2-3, Alex Boushee 0-1, Tres Cunningham 1-2,

Kyle Bohl 0-3, Conner Anderson 2-2,

Tanner Rheinschmidt 2-3, Taylor Balerie 2-3, Nate Ratts 1-3, Luke Bewley 2-3,

Anthony Cortonio 1-2.

**Gallatin Valley** — Colton Shively 0-1, Konner Briggs 0-2, Ryan Bronson 0-2, Gianfranco Filappini 0-2, Justin Woodward 0-2, Matt Majors 0-1, Tucker Bronson 0-1, Dayne Allen 0-1, Bridger Papke 0-1.

**2B:** Bray (2).

**Seventh place**

**BUTTE 5, KALISPELL 4:** It started with a hit batsman and ended with Butte celebrating its lone victory of the tournament.

Dylan Morris was hit by Sean O'Connell in the top of the seventh as the Muckers reached base four consecutive times before an out was recorded.

Kaeden Caprera's two-run single gave Butte a 5-4 lead, and Chris Renz finished his complete game by only giving up a single in the bottom of the seventh.

**Butte 5, Kalispell 4**

**Butte 000 010 4 — 5 9 5**

**Kalispell 000 301 0 — 4 12 4**

Chris Renz and Dax Deadrick. Sean O'Connell, Scoob Decker (7) and Robert Simmons. W - Renz. L - O'Connell.

**Butte** — Sean Curran 2-4, Tyler Baker 1-3, Anthony Homer 2-4, Chris Renz 1-3, Jarrod Kingston 1-3, Dax Deadrick 0-4, Kaeden Caprera 2-4, Drew Schiemer 0-4, Tyler Harney 0-2.

**Kalispell** — Kendrick Lee 1-4, Nate Bengston 1-3, Sidney Schenck 1-4,

Scoob Decker 2-4, Matt McLean 2-4,

Robert Simmons 2-4, Sean O'Connell 1-4, Jake Johnson 0-3, Zack Riviere 2-3.

**2B:** Homer, Renz. **SB:** Curran; Louis Freudenberg.