

PINSTRIPE TIMES

APR. 27, 2021
ISSUE NO. 18

The Official Newsletter of the Dassel-Cokato Saints

OPENING WEEK

*A closer look at the
week ahead.*



NORTH STAR LEAGUE SPECTATOR PREDICTIONS

*Who did the NSL personnel pick
to finish on top?*

NORTH STAR LEAGUE HOF CLASS OF 2021 SELECTED

*All-Time Saints great Brent
Opsahl gets HOF nod.*

MBA 100TH ANNIVERSARY SELECTIONS

*The 100th anniversary of the
MBA state tournament will be
held in Dassel-Delano-
Litchfield*



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OPENING WEEK

Home Opener vs Watertown

The pinstriped crew has been awaiting this day since August. This Friday night, the Saints will kick off their season by hosting the Watertown Red Devils.

Last season, the Red Devils finished 3rd in the Crow River Valley League standings with a 10-3 league record. They came out of the Region 7C Tournament with the #2 seed, winning three straight games before losing the Region Championship to Young America. They were able to snap a State Tournament drought by entering for the first time since 2008, and would defeat a strong Red Wing team in the opening round before going on to lose to a tough Isanti team in round 2.

Watertown will be lead by the CRVL's 2020 Pitcher of the Year and MVP, Pat Tschida.

An Opening Day starter has not yet been named for the Saints, but you can expect a full lineup to be released prior to first

pitch. Game time is slated for 7:00pm, and there will be a Saints Keychain Giveaway at the gates.

Sunday Road Trip

After Friday's home opener, the Saints will hit the road and travel to Elrosa, in the depths of Stearns County, to face off with a team of the same name.

The "other Saints" finished 2020 with the best record in the Stearns County League, but fell just short of a state tournament berth last year. First pitch is scheduled for 2:30pm.

Ethan Brandel placed on 60-day IL

A tough pill to swallow for the Saints as rookie Ethan Brandel is placed on the 60-day IL before Opening Day. "Big Puma" has suffered a ruptured left achilles tendon. He had a successful surgery last Tuesday, but his debut for the Saints will need to wait until he is fully healed and back to 100%.

SIGN UP TODAY!

SAINTS
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LEAGUE
2021



Session 1: Saturday, May 8th

Session 2: Saturday, May 15th

Session 3: Saturday, May 22nd

Game Day: Wednesday, May 26th

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NORTH STAR LEAGUE PREDICTIONS

The 2021 North Star League "Spectator" was released on Sunday, and provided predictions and summaries for the league's 11 teams. In this edition of The Spectator, the NSL teams were predicted to finish in this order for 2021:

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



This would be a similar finish as the 2020 season. Finishing in the top 7 in the regular season standings is key, as that earns you an automatic bid in to the Region 12C tournament. Here is what was written about the Saints in The Spectator:

"The Saints will be without innings eater Tyler Zweibohmer and lead off hitter John Hohenstein. Filling those two holes may be the key to D-C's success this year and for that, they will rely on returners Jim Althoff, Tyler Brandel, Jordan Flick, Noah Halonen, Paul Jacobson, Collin Krick, Mike Leffler, Ben Lindquist, Jacob Niemala and Dylan Weber. Also being counted on are Cy Flick, Gus Flick, James Howell, Jeff Janckila, Nikolai Niemela and Paul Vetsch. Newcomers Ethan Brandel, Josiah Bullivant and Steve Boger could also help fill the Saints holes. When their young players come together, they expect to return to competing for high Region seeds and a return to State."

NSL HOF CLASS OF 2021

The North Star League Hall of Fame class for 2021 has been named. Included in the class are Andy Snyder of the Mound Mallards, Adam Gregg of the Maple Plain Diamond Devils, Ramon Vega of the Buffalo Bulldogs, and Dassel-Cokato's very own Brent Opsahl.

Each of the four entrants in to the NSL Hall were dominant hitters since the 1990s and through the 2010s.

Opsahl is one of the best players to ever don the Saints pinstripes. He ranks very high in most offensive categories in team history, including being 2nd all-time in both at-bats and hits (696/2066). Those



Brent Opsahl was one of the most feared hitters in the NSL for over a decade.

numbers give him a .337 career batting average, which qualifies him for the 7th best in team history. He is also 2nd in RBI (413) and doubles (142), as well as 3rd in triples (10) and home runs (44).

Brent made the State All-Tournament team in 2000, won the 2005 league MVP, and was the 2008 league batting champion. He also holds the records for most RBI in a game (10) and triples in a season (4).

He will be inducted prior to the Friday, June 18th game against the Kernels. Look for a more in-depth article on Brent in the 6/15 edition of the Pinstripe Times.



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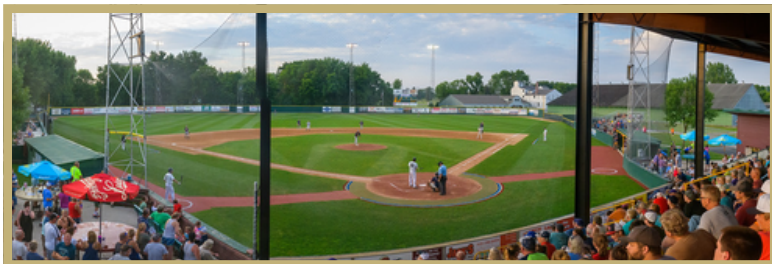
MBA 100TH ANNIVERSARY TO BE HELD IN DASSEL-DELANO-LITCHFIELD

If you're in-tune with amateur baseball in Minnesota, you know that the biggest event of the year is the annual Minnesota Baseball Association State Tournament. Every team wants to make it to the dance, and it's an honor for the communities that get to host. In 2023, the MBA will have it's 100th anniversary of the State Tournament, and after a lengthy, thought-out selection process, a group consisting of Saints Field (Dassel), Delano Municipal Baseball park (Delano), and Optimist Park (Litchfield) was able to secure the hosting duties.

Delano has hosted five times since the creation of the tournament (1975, 1984, 1997, 2013, 2019) and Litchfield has hosted twice (2005, 2016). This will be Saints Field's fourth time hosting (2005, 2016, 2019). Since each of the three sites have hosted in recent years, much of the upgrades and field work that would typically need to be done have already been completed. However, there are still projects and plans in the works to make the experience of the 100th anniversary even bigger and bolder.

It was a long process, and a team of baseball minds from each of the three sites were able to come up with a proposal that they felt highlighted specific reasons on why Dassel-Delano-Litchfield would be the perfect hosts for the 100th anniversary. Here is a blurb from the minutes from the last MBA State Board Meeting:

"The Board received four great, big proposals. After an hour of discussion and two votes, the Board awarded the bid to Dassel, Delano, and Litchfield. The swaying factor was the attention to detail of the programs and marketing that gave a one vote edge to the winning bid."



Saints Field - Dassel

Home of the D-C Saints, D-C Chargers, and various summer teams in Dassel-Cokato.

Delano Municipal Baseball Park - Delano

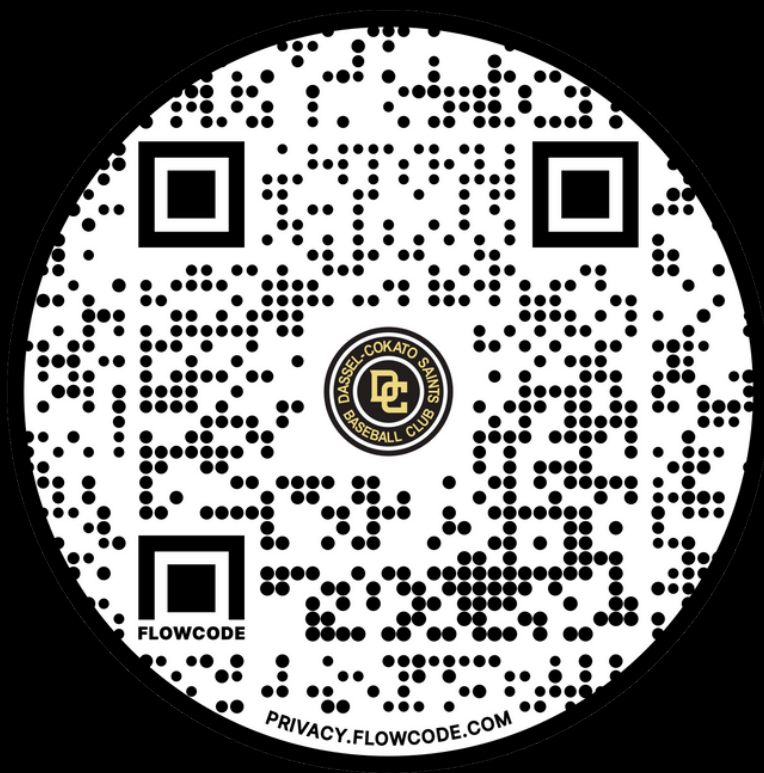
Home of the Delano Athletics, Delano Tigers, and various summer teams in Delano.



Optimist Park - Litchfield

Home of the Litchfield Blues, Litchfield Dragons, and various summer teams in Litchfield





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