

# PINSTRIPES TIMES

JUNE 16, 2021  
ISSUE NO. 25

*The Official Newsletter of the Dassel-Cokato Saints*



**LAST WEEK  
RECAP**



**UPCOMING  
SCHEDULE**



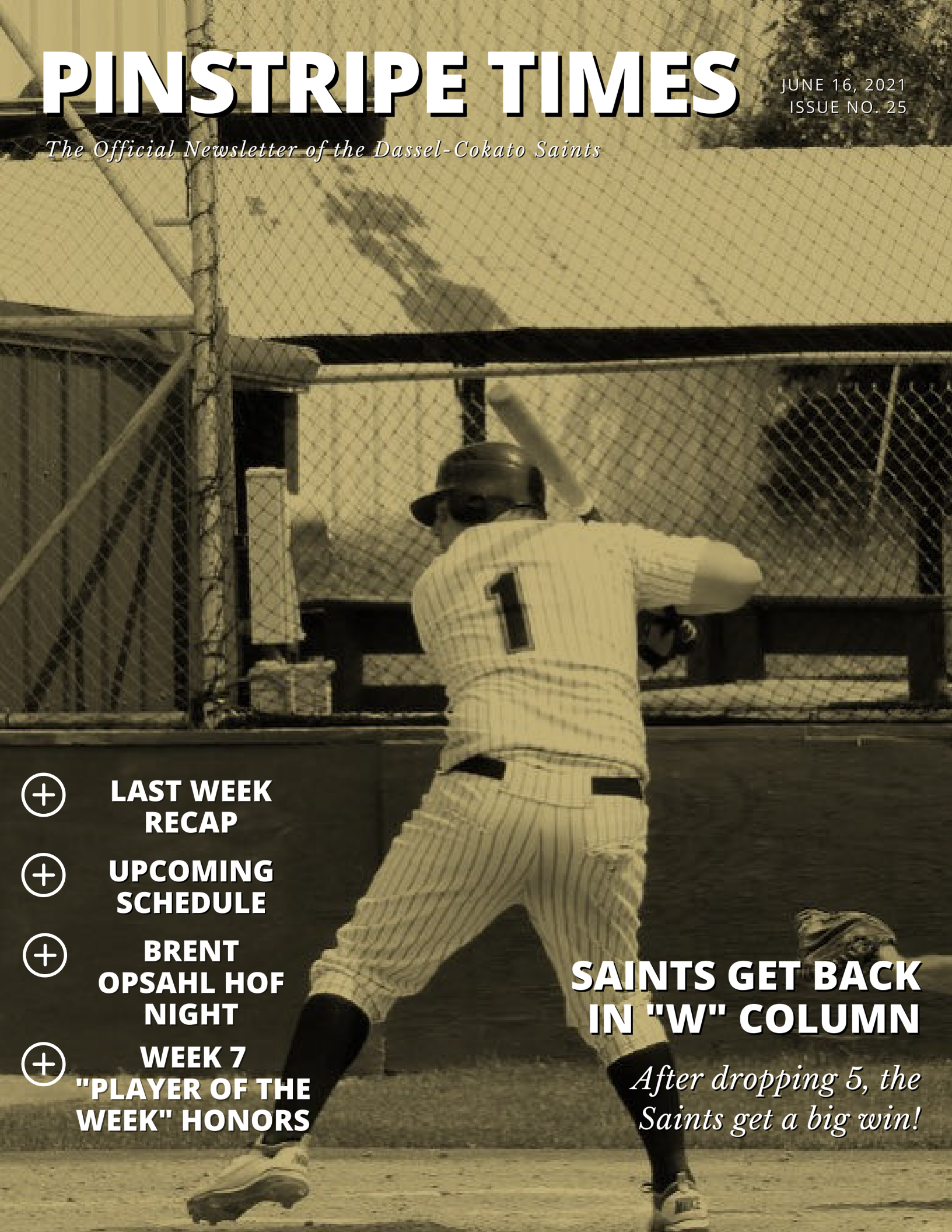
**BRENT  
OPSAHL HOF  
NIGHT**



**WEEK 7  
"PLAYER OF THE  
WEEK" HONORS**

**SAINTS GET BACK  
IN "W" COLUMN**

*After dropping 5, the  
Saints get a big win!*



# SAINTS GET BACK IN THE WIN COLUMN, BUT GO 1-2 ON THE WEEK

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## A Much Needed "W"

The Saints kicked off the first of three North Star League matchups with Maple Plain on Wednesday night.

Getting the ball would be Jacob Niemela, fresh off a very solid high school senior season. Jacob kept the Diamond Devils off balance all night with a good mix of fastballs and off-speed pitches, attacking the zone. Nikolai Niemela, Jacob's younger brother, would make his first start of the season as well, teaming up to be the battery for the night.

After a first inning zero from Niemela, the Saints would bounce on Maple Plain pitcher Kyle Bode for five runs in the bottom of the first, after five consecutive hits, including doubles from Tyler Brandel and Niemela helping his own cause.

Another big inning in the 6th would add 4 more runs, and eventually lead to a 9-5 final score, earning Niemela his first Saints win.

Offensively, Tyler Brandel had the biggest day, going 4-5 with three doubles and driving in three runs. Ben Lindquist, Steve Boger, and Jim Althoff would also have multi-hit games, adding to the Saints 15 total hits in the game.

## Saints Lose an Extra Innings Thriller to Loretto

On Friday night, the Saints would take on the Loretto Larks. There has been a history of close games and extra inning affairs between the two teams, and this night was no different.

Jordan Flick took the mound and would work through 8 innings, striking out 6 and giving up 4 earned runs. The biggest blow would come in the 6th inning, where the Larks would score 3 runs.

There would be five lead changes in the game, and even after a strong relief appearance by James Howell, the Larks would eventually score in the top of the 10th to take the game by a final score of 7-6.

At the plate for the Saints, Tyler Brandel had another good game, driving in two of the six runs. Lindquist, Boger, Althoff, and Collin Krick would also add hits. Nikolai Niemela would collect his first Saints hit of his young career as well.

## Athletics Take down Saints

In the final game of a four-game home stand, the Saints would host the Delano Athletics. On this day, you could call them the Delano Colt 45's with their nifty new baby blue throwback tops.

Making his return to the mound for the first time in almost exactly one year was Ben Lindquist. After an arm injury would sideline him from pitching for the 2020 season after just one start, Ben would toe the rubber after months of rehabbing.

Ben was placed in an "opener" role on Sunday, given the task of pitching the first inning to get a feel for the mound again. He was around the zone and can use the short outing to build on for the future.

Collin Krick took over after the first inning and gave his team a chance to win, completing the rest of the game on 106 pitches (71 strikes).

Mike Leffler lead the way on offense, going 3-3 and drawing a walk. Steve Boger also had two hits. However, at the end of the day, the Saints would fall to the top of the standings A's by a final score of 8-4.

## Key Takeaways

The Saints are still working out the kinks with the pitching staff and on defense, but after averaging nearly 7 runs per game last week, the offense seems to be starting to click.

*Full box scores for all games can be found at [dcsaints.com/blog](https://dcsaints.com/blog).*

# FRIDAY NIGHT!

## BRENT OPSAHL

2008 NSL MVP

2008 BATTING CHAMPION

2000 STATE ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

.337 CARRER BATTING AVERAGE

696 CAREER HITS (2ND ALL-TIME)

413 RBI (2ND ALL-TIME)

44 HOME RUNS (2ND ALL-TIME)




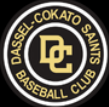


1998-2015

# BRENT OPSAHL HOF NIGHT!

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# J. NIEMELA AND BOGER NAMED PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

<p><b>JACOB NIEMELA</b></p>  <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PITCHER OF THE WEEK</p> <p>WEEK 7</p>	 <p><b>1</b> WIN (FIRST SAINTS WIN)</p> <p><b>7</b> INNINGS PITCHED</p> <p><b>1.29</b> ERA</p> <p><b>1.29</b> WHIP</p> <p><b>#19</b></p>	<p><b>STEVE BOGER</b></p>  <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">HITTER OF THE WEEK</p> <p>WEEK 7</p>	 <p><b>.625</b> BATTING AVERAGE</p> <p><b>.769</b> ON BASE PERCENTAGE</p> <p><b>1.394</b> OPS</p> <p><b>2</b> RUNS BATTED IN</p> <p><b>3</b> RUNS SCORED</p> <p><b>#27</b></p>
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In the 7th week of the season, Jacob Niemela and Steve Boger took home the honors of "Players of the Week". Jacob made his first start on the mound of the season and was able to lock down his first Saints win. He pitched 7 innings and gave up just one earned run in a key NSL win over Maple Plain.

Boger has been every bit as good as advertised, catching fire over the past couple weeks. Last week, he batted .625 and reached base at an astounding .769 clip. He's been a catalyst for an offense that is starting to heat up.

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## JACOB NIEMELA EARNS FIRST WIN

The Week 7 Pitcher of the Week has been shutting down opposing offenses all spring. For the Chargers, the senior would hold a 2.09 ERA over 70+ innings pitched. The keys to his success in the spring were his ability to be efficient, walking just 17 batters over the course of the season, as well as his prowess to put hitters away, striking out 83 batters for a 28.1% strikeout rate. On Wednesday, he continued his success, pitching 7 strong innings in an effort that would earn him his first Saints win. Congrats, Jacob!



Jacob Niemela was the ace of the Charger staff in 2021. Now he's worked his way in to the Saints rotation.



## 2021 NSL STANDINGS THRU 6/15



1. DELANO (8-1)
2. HUTCHINSON (7-1) .5 GB
3. BUFFALO (7-2) 1 GB
4. LORETTO (6-2) 2 GB
5. MAPLE LAKE (4-3) 3 GB
6. LITCHFIELD (4-4) 3.5 GB
7. HOWARD LAKE (3-4) 4 GB
8. DASSEL-COKATO (3-6) 5 GB
9. MAPLE PLAIN (2-7) 6 GB
10. COKATO (2-8) 6.5 GB
11. MONTROSE-WAVERLY (1-9) 7.5 GB



# THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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**BRENT OPSAHL HOF NIGHT!**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 18TH - 7:00PM**  
**SAINTS VS COKATO KERNELS**

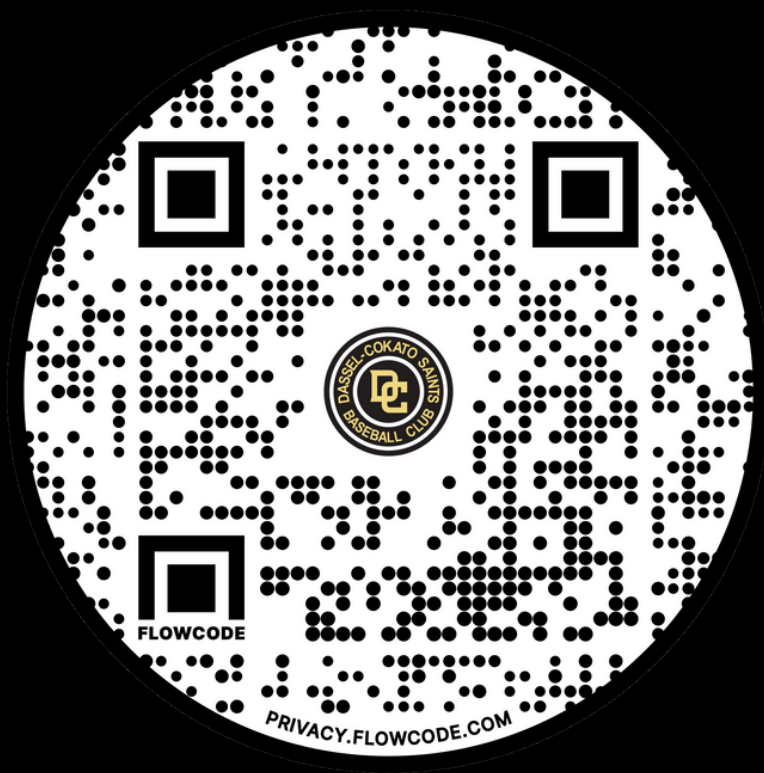
Three gold trophy icons with stars on them.



The Saints are on the road both Wednesday (In Maple Lake) and Sunday (in Howard Lake), but one of the biggest nights of the year will take place this Friday at 7:00pm at home as we'll take on our "Bike Path" rival Kernels. Sticking with the Bike Path theme, we will be raffling off bicycles during the game; your paid admission will put you in the drawing.

It's also "Brent Opsahl Hall of Fame Night"! We're excited and proud to honor Brent's career and legacy with the Saints over an 18 year career. "Bernie" was a leader both at the plate and on defense. For his career numbers, head on over to [dcsaints.com/stats](http://dcsaints.com/stats). You'll see his name all over the Career Leaderboard. Be sure to come out early and join us in an exciting night of celebration!





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