

SPORTS

Yellowjacket’s dominated Northland in Doubleheader

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UW-Superior’s Softball team hosted their first Upper Midwest Athletic Conference game with a doubleheader against Northland College at NBC Spartan Sports Complex on March 23.

In the first game of the doubleheader, the game

started slow with both Northland and UWS not scoring any runs in the first inning, keeping it a 0-0 game going into the second.

At the top of the second inning, Northland goes three up three down as the Yellowjacket’s defensive play keeps this game tied going into the bot-

tom of the second. The Yellowjacket’s bats began to heat up in the second inning after two quick outs.

Outfielder Norah Schmit hits a single to left field, bringing in pitcher Bella Garley for the score. Jacket’s up 1-0 after RBI single. With the next at-bat, the Jackets will not stop there, as outfielder Jenna Hopps scores off a wild pitch lost by Northlands catcher, making it 2-0 for the Jackets.

After an error by Northland and a single from infielder Larissa Snyd, the Yellowjackets brought in two more runs. Making it 4-0 in favor of the home team.

The bats stayed hot for the Yellowjacket bringing in three more runs



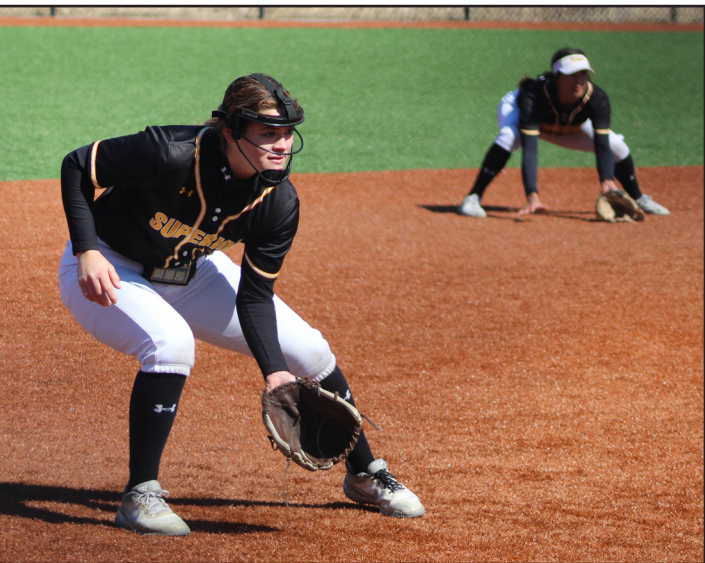
Melissa Fracker during Northland Game
Photo Carter Lansdale

in the second inning, making it 7-0 through two innings. The Jackets would add one more run in the bottom of the fourth making it 8-0, in favor of the Yellowjackets.

With a dominated second inning and errors by Northland. The Yellowjackets will secure the victory 8-0 through five innings.

For the second game of the doubleheader, the bats remained hot for UWS, as they won 16-0 through five innings, sweeping Northland in the doubleheader.

The Yellowjackets are currently 10-6 and will be back in action on April 5 as they host another UMAC match against Crown.



Yellowjacket’s defense holds Northland to a shut out
Photo Carter Lansdale

UWS Baseball Returns From Florida Trip

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The UW-Superior baseball team traveled down to Davenport, Florida, for their spring break to compete in the Russ-Matt Central Florida Invitational starting on March 10-16.

The team put together an excellent double header game on day one of the trip, by beating Concordia College in both games, with scores of 4-2 and 4-1. Pitching in the first two games against the Cobbers was a key to suc-

cess as both Zach Romans and Aiden Pfeifer limited Concordia College to just three runs over two games.

The Yellowjackets then played through the sun and sweat all week, competing for an additional six games. Senior Issac Fugere spoke about how this spring break trip can benefit the team.

“The trip was a great way for us to get to spend time building our relationships with each other as well as a great way to gain experience playing good com-

petition! We had a great time and enjoyed being able to play the game we love,” said Fugere.

With a tough loss against Beloit, 2-3, Beloit’s winning run came dramatically with a ninth inning walk-off single. As well as in their fifth game of the week the Yellowjackets struggled early against Stockton University, when they went down seven runs in the second inning.

UWS was able to get the bat swinging later in the game, unfortunately, it was not enough to

job done as the Yellowjackets fell 12-14. Alongside a tough week of games under the sun, the Yellowjackets finished off the Russ-Matt Central Florida Invitational with a 2-6 record.

As the Yellowjackets return to campus after spring break they are hoping to carry a good run



into conference play with hungry eyes set on the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference title.

OPINION| A Look Into The Twins 2024 Season

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Baseball season is finally here! The best time of the year, and the longest. On March 28, 2024, it is Opening Day for 26 of the 30 Major League Baseball teams, one of those teams being the Minnesota Twins. With the same starting lineup as last year, the Twins are looking to dominate the American League Central.

The starting pitcher will be Pablo Lopez, who the Twins got in a trade from the Marlins last season for Luiz Arraez. Lopez is predicted to make a significant impact for the Twins as one of the aces in the starting rotation.

Since the legendary 2019 season for the Twins, they have been the AL Central champions three of the last five years. With a dominant starting pitching rotation, the

Twins need to back it up with their bats.

Last season, the Twins did not have a good year hitting. They struggled a lot at the plate, which made it difficult to win against tough opponents. In the past couple of seasons, the Twins have struggled with their pitching rotation.

Since they have solidified the starting five, their hitters have not been performing to standard, whether that be from consistent injuries from top to bottom in the lineup, or just underperforming.

The big question going into this season for the Twins is, how are the big three going to perform? The big three being Byron Buxton, Carlos Correa, and Royce Lewis. The hope is to have all three remain healthy throughout the season to

help lead the Twins to a postseason run, preferably longer than last year’s.

Looking forward to the starting lineup against the Kansas City Royals, the Twins are looking to start off the 2024 season hot. Twins manager, Rocco Baldelli, has a certain way he does the line up; based on the opposing team’s pitcher. If the opposing team’s pitcher is a leftie, then his lineup will consist of mostly righties, with a couple of switch hitters.

The same is done for righty pitchers. He has consistently done this since being the manager and believes it gives hitters an advantage over the pitcher as it will be easier to see the ball come out of his hand.

I do not think it makes that much of a difference because at this level, the hitter should be talented

enough to hit well off both righties and lefties. I am optimistic when it comes to this season.

I am hoping for a deep postseason run and as always, a Twins World Series appearance. All the players need to remain healthy for this to happen, which I believe

is what would kill us the most. Hopefully, they did a lot of work in the off-season to remain healthy.

Opening Day for the Twins is set to start at 3:10 p.m. CT in Kansas City. Let’s go Twins, and let’s get some early season wins!



Norah Schmitz meets Byron Buxton (25) of the MN Twins after a softball game in Fort Myers, FL.
Photo Courtesy of Norah Schmitz