

2007 SEASON RECAP

NANSTAD HONORED AT HTL BANQUET -- Albion ace Mike Nanstad was honored with the Kendall Murray Award as the league's outstanding pitcher Sunday night at the Home Talent League Awards Banquet in Waunakee. The award is presented annually to a "dominant pitcher and outstanding leader" in memory of Kendall Murray, a UW-Platteville legend and Dodgeville Home Talent standout who died tragically in an auto accident in 1973. Nanstad is Albion's second recent winner of the award, as lefty teammate Ben Everson won the honor in 2004. On the season Nanstad was absolutely dominant, posting a 9-1 record and recording one save in his 13 appearances, including three complete games. He threw 76 2/3 innings, striking out 99 while only walking 17. His 1.29 ERA led the Tigers to a 12-3 record in the Southeast Section and their fourth straight playoff appearance.

GENERALS END TIGERS' SEASON FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR -- The Fort Atkinson Generals have become a hump that the Albion Tigers just cannot get over. Last year, the Generals defeated the Tigers in Albion in the Southeast Sectional final and rode that momentum all the way to the league title game. This year, it was a different park (Jones Park in Fort) and a closer game (a 2-1 Generals win), but the results were the same - the Generals are moving on and will face Lake Mills in next week's sectional final while the Tigers will be headed home. The Tigers finish their year with a 12-3 record in the Southeast Section, good for second place in the West division and their fourth straight playoff appearance.

TIGERS SHUTOUT GRAYS; CLIMB TO 12-3 -- The Albion Tigers hosted a matchup of playoff contenders on Sunday, and responded with a 10-0 thrashing of the visiting Lake Mills Grays. Starting pitcher Ben Everson struck out 5 on his way to 5 scoreless innings and his first win of the year. The Tigers are now 12-3 and have clinched second place in the West Division of the Southeast Section. The Grays fell to 10-5, and remain in second place in the East Division. The Tigers pounded out 12 hits as a team and rode Marty Johnson's 2-run double to a 4-run first inning and never looked back. The top 4 hitters in Albion's lineup (Max Cordio, Jesse Appel, Ethan Vaade, Kris Agnew) each had multiple hits, led by Agnew's 3-hit, 2 RBI effort.

ALBION BEATS STOUGHTON 11-2; CLINCHES PLAYOFF SPOT -- The Albion Tigers rode the capable left arms of Kris Agnew and Ben Everson and clinched their fourth straight playoff berth with a 11-2 win at Stoughton on Sunday. The veteran lefties combined to throw eight innings and allow only two runs, both unearned. Aaron Manogue threw a scoreless 9th to close out Albion's 11th win in 12 games. After falling behind 2-1 in the bottom of the third, Albion took the lead for good with a 5-run 4th. A bases-loaded RBI single by Aaron Manogue tied the game, then Max Cordio and Ethan Vaade had back-to-back 2-run singles to give the Tigers a 4-run lead.

NANSTAD RUNS RECORD TO 9-0, STRIKES OUT 16 -- Albion's Mike Nanstad had his best day of the year on the mound and at the plate in leading the Tigers to a dominating 7-0 win over the Jefferson Blue Devils on Saturday. On the mound Nanstad threw a complete game shutout, struck out 16, walked none, and allowed only 3 hits. At the plate he collected 2 hits, including a double, and drove in the first run of the game with an RBI single in the 2nd inning. The Tigers also got major offensive contributions from left-fielder Aaron Manogue, who had 4 RBIs including a 2-run single in the 4th. Adding key extra-base hits to the mix for Albion were Jim Eastman, Dan Millar, and Jesse Appel, while Jason Millar had 2 hits as well.

TIGERS BEAT O'S 12-7 -- The Albion Tigers have been living on pitching all year long, but it was the Albion offense that provided the Independence Day fireworks in a 12-7 victory over the Orfordville Orioles at Racetrack Park. Kris Agnew and Marty Johnson led the way for the Tigers, each collecting 3 hits and multiple RBIs. Agnew also scored 3 runs and got the Tigers on the board with a leadoff home run in the second. Johnson had 3 RBIs of his own, including a key single in the decisive 5-run 7th for Albion. Jesse Appel also had 3 hits, while Max Cordio and Jason Millar each added 2 hits as well. Starting pitcher Ben Everson held the Orioles in check over the first 6 innings, allowing only 1 earned run and striking out 4. However, it was reliever Mike Nanstad who earned his 8th victory of the year by throwing a solid 7th and 8th innings. Agnew threw a perfect 9th to nail down the win for the Tigers, who are now 9-1 on the year and remain in first place in the Southeast Section's West Division.

NANSTAD, TIGERS ROLL OVER JAYS 5-1 -- The Evansville Jays became the latest victims of Mike Nanstad's roll through the Southeast Section on Sunday, falling 5-1 to the host Tigers. Nanstad went 8 innings for the win, striking out 10 while allowing only 4 hits and 1 earned run along the way. Nanstad earned his 7th victory in as many decisions and maintains an ERA of under 1.00 for the season. The Albion offense was once again a balanced attack, with Max Cordio going 3x5 with 2 RBIs to lead the way. Jesse Appel and Jim Eastman chipped in with two hits apiece to help the Tigers run their section record to 8-1.

TIGERS WIN 4-3; REGAIN TOP SPOT -- The Albion Tigers regained a share of first place in their division Sunday with a 4-3 win over Deerfield. As usual, the story for Albion was pitching, with Mike Nanstad going the distance and striking out 14 Demons while walking only two. After a rough first inning in which he allowed 4 hits and 2 runs, Nanstad settled down and allowed only one hit and one unearned run the rest of the way.

Despite sputtering at times, the Albion offense got on the board in the 3rd when Kris Agnew took a bases-loaded walk, then drew even in the 4th on Max Cordio's sacrifice fly. Pete Millar's RBI single in the 5th and Ethan Vaade's sacrifice fly in the 8th provided the runs needed to support Nanstad's gem and run Albion's record in sectional play to 7-1.

TIGERS BEAT ORIOLES 3-2 TO REMAIN UNBEATEN -- The Albion Tigers used some opportunistic offense and another outstanding pitching performance Sunday to beat the host Orfordville Orioles 3-2 at Purdy Park. Once again, the Tigers were led by Mike Nanstad, who struck out 13 while walking only one over the first six innings to earn his fifth win of the year. Albion took the lead with two unearned runs in the third inning, one on an RBI single by Jason Millar. The Tigers then scored what proved to be the game-winner in the sixth when Marty Johnson singled, was bunted to second by Casey Schmeling, and then scored on a throwing

error. Three solid innings of relief from Ben Everson and Kris Agnew made the lead hold up, running the Tigers' league record to 6-0. **ALBION WINS 9-1 AS AGNEW SHUTS DOWN JAYS** -- The Albion Tigers got another dominant pitching performance, this time from left-hander Kris Agnew, and beat the Evansville Jays 9-1 on Memorial Day in Evansville. Agnew went the distance, allowing seven hits and only one run while striking out 13 and earning his first win of the year in league play. Albion is now 5-0 in Southeast Section play, and sits in first place in the West division. The Tigers got another ensemble performance from their offense as well, with six different players picking up RBIs, including 3 from Pete Millar and 2 from Max Cordio. First baseman Ethan Vaade went 3x3, and is now batting .737 in league play.

NANSTAD DOMINATES; ALBION GOES 4-0 -- Mike Nanstad continued his dynamic start to the Home Talent League season by leading Albion to a 5-1 victory over the homestanding Whitewater Swingers on Sunday. Nanstad, now 4-0 on the year, went the distance while allowing only three hits, two walks, and one unearned run. Nanstad also had nine strikeouts, and dropped his ERA to under 1 run for the year. Offensively, the opportunistic Tigers got 2 runs in the third when Pete Millar's RBI ground ball was compounded by a throwing error. Millar struck again in the fifth with another RBI, and two batters later Jim Eastman drove in Kris Agnew with a sacrifice fly to left. Corey Vickers added an RBI for Albion in the ninth to provide the final margin.

TIGERS BEAT COLTS 9-3 -- The Albion Tigers continued their winning ways and improved to 3-0 in league play with a 9-3 win over the Oregon Colts Sunday in Albion Park. Once again the Tiger pitchers set the tone, with starter Mike Nanstad and Kris Agnew combining for nine strikeouts and allowing only one earned run. Nanstad is now 3-0 on the season, while Agnew threw two scoreless frames to pick up his second save. The Tigers relied on two big innings in overcoming an early 2-0 deficit. A four-run fifth, highlighted by Aaron Manogue's two-run double, got the Tigers into the lead. A five-run eighth inning was highlighted by Jeff Stone's three-run double to put the game out of reach. Stone and Manogue each finished with two hits, while Ethan Vaade went 3x4 with 2 RBIs.

TIGERS SHUTOUT BLUES 10-0 -- One week after surrendering ten hits and eight runs, the Albion Tiger pitching staff returned to form Sunday afternoon in shutting out the visiting Cambridge Blues. Mike Nanstad and Ben Everson combined for eleven strikeouts and issued only one walk in a game that was shortened to seven innings due to the Tigers ten run lead. Nanstad earned his second win in as many weeks. At the plate, the balanced Tiger offense was paced by a trio of familiar faces. Pete Millar, Jason Millar, and 2006 Southeast Section MVP Jesse Appel combined for six hits and five RBIs, including Jason Millar's bases-clearing triple in the second inning that gave the Tigers a 5-0 lead.

TIGERS OUTLAST MERCHANTS; WIN OPENER 11-8 -- The Albion Tigers started their 2007 season off with a bang on Sunday with an 11-8 defeat of the visiting Stoughton Merchants. The Tigers scored eight runs in the first three innings, never trailed, and banged out 15 hits for the game. Ethan Vaade led the way at the plate for the Tigers, going 5x5 while driving in four runs and scoring three himself. Pete Millar added three RBIs while going 2x4, while Kris Agnew and Jason Millar also collected two hits apiece. On the mound, Mike Nanstad earned the win in relief of starter Ben Everson. Agnew threw two scoreless innings to record his first save of the season.