

Sunday SPORTS

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Sunday, May 23, 2010

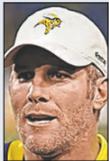
Central Wisconsin Sunday 1B

NFL

Favre confirms ankle surgery

Brett Favre posted a short statement on his website on Friday night confirming he had arthroscopic ankle surgery, possibly clearing the way for the quarterback to return to the Minnesota Vikings next season.

Favre's future has been up in the air since the Vikings lost to New Orleans in the NFC championship game. He had said he would need ankle surgery if he wanted to play in 2010, but there was no word Friday about his playing career.



Brett Favre

"This is to confirm that I did have a procedure to remove some scar tissue and bone spurs from my ankle which had been bothering me for a period of time," Favre said on his website. "I appreciate your concerns."

ESPN.com reported **Dr. James Andrews** operated on Favre's left ankle at the Andrews Institute in Gulf Breeze, Fla., on Friday morning.

Favre, who turns 41 in October, is coming off one of the best seasons of his storied career, throwing for 33 touchdowns and only seven interceptions while guiding the Vikings to a 12-4 record. He is under contract for \$13 million next season if he plays.

— **The Associated Press**

Inside/2B

Brewers lose in extras

Basketball

Still time to register for Gus Macker

Registration for the 19th annual Wausau Gus Macker Tournament is currently under way.

The deadline is May 28 by mail and June 1 online.

To register online, visit www.macker.com.

The Wausau version of the event is the third largest in the country.

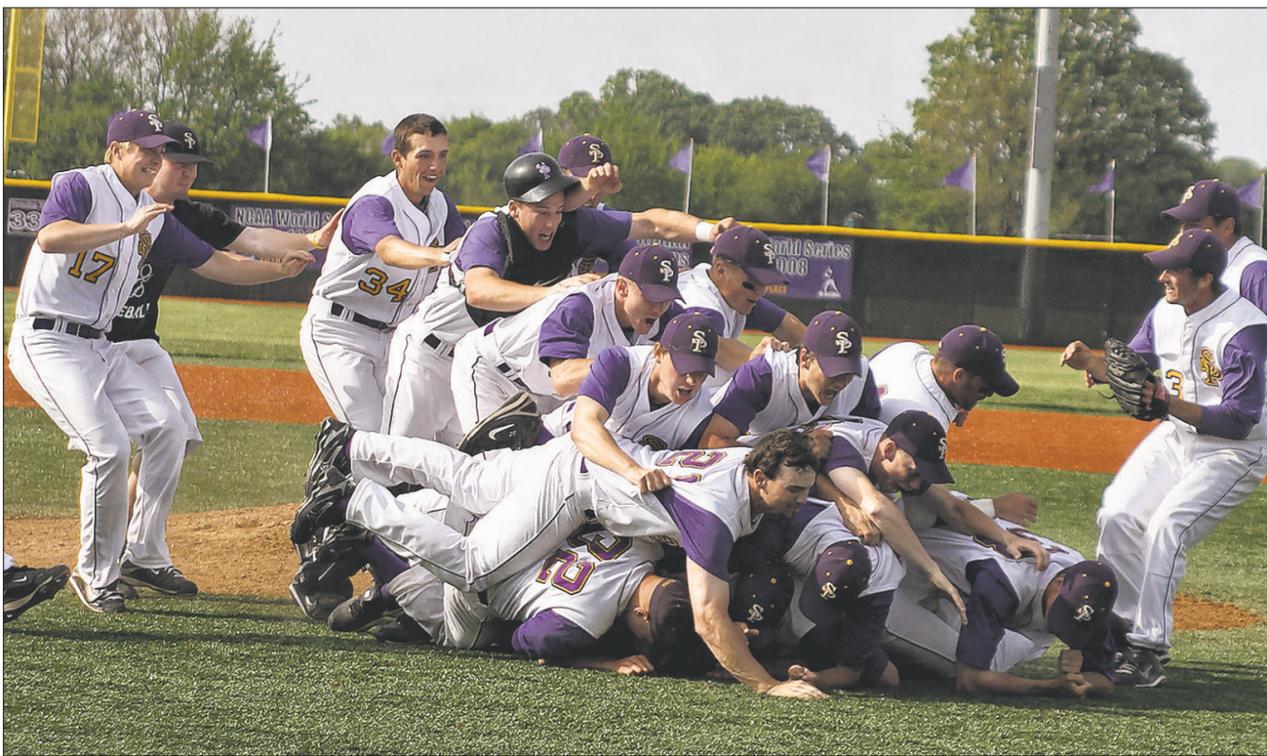
— **For Central Wisconsin Sunday**



POINTERS BASEBALL

Dogs have their day

Pointers win NCAA Division III Midwest Regional by defeating rival Whitewater



RYAN COLEMAN/D3SPORTS.COM

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point baseball players pile near the mound after recording the final out against UW-Whitewater on Saturday in Whitewater. The Pointers clinched the NCAA Midwest Regional championship with the win.

By **SCOTT WILLIAMS**
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WHITEWATER — University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point junior shortstop Eric Fritz felt the cleats in the middle of his back, and there has been no better feeling in his life.

The eight-foot high pile of humanity that engulfed Fritz near the pitcher's mound in the middle of Prucha Field at James B. Miller Stadium showed exactly how much this win meant.

That sums up the emotions of a team heading to the NCAA Division III World Series for the first time since 2007.

When reliever Scott Williams struck out UW-Whitewater's Jordan Stine to put the finishing touches on a dramatic 4-3 win over the Warhawks in the championship game of the Midwest Regional on Saturday, the Pointers had every reason to celebrate.

UW-Stevens Point (33-16) will play the winner of the Newark/New York Regional at 10 a.m. Friday in the first game of the World Series at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute.

"Unbelievable," Fritz said. "We still get to play some more baseball and see what happens."

The Pointers made things happen at the regional all weekend.

"I'm so happy for all our players, and that the entire Pointers family was able to share in this."

Pat Bloom

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point baseball coach after the Pointers defeated UW-Whitewater on Saturday for the regional title

Even after dropping the first championship game of the day 9-3, UW-Stevens Point never wavered in its belief that somehow some way it would find a way to prevail in arguably the toughest regional in the country.

Second-ranked UW-Whitewater, No. 5 and defending national champion St. Thomas, and eighth-ranked St. Scholastica all took their shots, but it'll be the unranked Pointers who will be the regional representative in Grand Chute.

"Finally, we did it," said Williams, who was named the regional's Most Outstanding Player after earning a pair of victories. "We've had a lot of good teams the last couple years that fell a little short."

That wasn't an option this time around.

UW-Stevens Point coach Pat Bloom decided to play it safe with the game on the line and the score at 3-3 in the top of the ninth inning.

After a leadoff double by Jordan

Rennicke, Dan Douglas moved pinch-runner Ryan Iverson over to third base with a sacrifice. With "one of our best bunters" at the plate, Bloom called on Steve Considine to execute a safety squeeze.

Considine got the bunt down, but Warhawks catcher Rob Coe, who started his college career with the Pointers before transferring to UW-Whitewater, pounced on the ball just in front of home plate. However, Coe caught his cleats in the turf and stumbled. By the time he recovered, Iverson was sliding across home plate with the go-ahead run.

"My whole thought process was get the ball down the first-base side. If I get it down, he (Iverson) would score," Considine said. "I knew when they threw to first we had scored."

UW-Stevens Point coach Pat Bloom was having a sense of deja vu on what proved to be the game-winning play.

"It was like a slow-motion replay from Florida," said Bloom

of the Pointers' trip earlier this spring, when they last tried the squeeze play. "We had the exact same guy on third base and we got tagged out at the plate. I was like, 'Please don't tell me, not again.' But I knew Considine would do anything to get the bunt down."

Williams came on in relief of starter Joel Delorit with a runner on second and no outs in the sixth inning, and recorded the next three outs without allowing a run. Williams pitched four hitless innings and struck out three.

The outcome was a fitting conclusion to a wild season for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference rivals, who faced each other 10 times with each team winning five times.

"I was overcome with emotion," said Bloom of his reaction after the final out was recorded. "I'm so happy for all our players, and that the entire Pointers family was able to share in this."

Championship game II
UW-Stevens Point. 201 000 001 — 4 7 0
UW-Whitewater.....100 200 000 — 3 10 2
WP - Scott Williams (10-2). LP - Jason Hooper (7-3). SO - Joel Delorit 3, Williams 3; Hooper 7, Eric Schmitz 0. BB - Delorit 2, Williams 0, Hooper 2, Schmitz 0. 2B - Stevens Point, Jeremy Richter, Jordan Rennicke; Whitewater, Matt Beyer. HR - Stevens Point, Brad Archambeau (6).
Records: UW-Stevens Point 33-16; UW-Whitewater 42-7.

Championship game I
UW-Whitewater.....100 250 001 — 9 14 1
UW-Stevens Point. 100 011 000 — 3 11 1
WP - Riley Tincher (13-1). LP - Eric Van Beck (3-3). SO - Van Beck 2, Ryan Iverson 0; Tincher 3. BB - Van Beck 2, Iverson 1; Tincher 0. 2B - Stevens Point, Brad Archambeau, Eric Fritz, Jared Surman; Whitewater, Daniel Putnam, Travis Wessels. HR - Whitewater, Jeff Donovan (13), Travis Wessels (1).

Packers hope Harrell's injury troubles are behind him

By **ROB DEMOVSKY**
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GREEN BAY — Ask anyone in the Green Bay Packers organization about Justin Harrell, and the first word they utter is almost always the same.

If As in, if he can stay healthy and go through the OTAs and stay healthy and go through training camp, we'll know a lot better," Packers defensive coordinator Dom Capers said this past week

during the organized team activities. It's a legitimate question. Since he was selected 16th overall in the 2007 NFL draft, the defensive end has played in a total of 13 regular-season games, and none

since Dec. 7, 2008. That's the return on the \$7.56 million investment the Packers have made in Harrell.

It's hardly a stretch to say it's a make-or-break year for him. "I guess you can say that," Harrell said. "I'm in Year 4 of my contract and really haven't done anything since I've been here. It's easy for people to say this is going to be the year for me, but I'm just trying to go out everyday and work as hard as I can. I can't control it, but I'm trying to do what I can."

His latest and most trou-

bling problem began in 2008 when he injured his back lifting weights in the offseason. He missed the entire offseason program, training camp and the first seven games of the season while on the physically unable to perform list. He came off the PUP list but played in only six games.

Harrell's back appeared to be healthy when Capers and his staff were hired in

January 2009. The coaches were excited about how Harrell would fit into their 3-4 scheme. They saw the same things general manager Ted Thompson saw when he picked Harrell in the first round. They liked his size (6-foot-4 and 320 pounds) and his strength.

But disappointment quickly set in when Harrell reinjured his back last Aug. 6 during an early morning training camp practice. He returned to the practice field four days later but only for a day. He never came back and was placed



Justin Harrell

on injured reserve on Sept. 5.

Two back surgeries — including one called a microdiscectomy — have Harrell feeling good now. But is it only temporary? He says he has felt fine since late last season and felt he could have played late in 2009 if he wasn't on injured reserve. He went home to Tennessee for a week after the season but returned to team headquarters in late January and has been working out at Lambeau Field ever since.

LeRoy Butler Ford

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