

MANKATO



Moon Dogs



Schedule & Info

May/June

				28 ROC 7:05	29 ROC 7:05	30 WIS 6:35
31 WIS 5:05	1 BRD 7:05	2 BRD 7:05	3 ROC 7:05	4 ROC 7:05	5 WAT 7:05	6 WAT 7:05
7 OFF	8 TB 7:05	9 TB 7:05	10 STC 7:05	11 STC 7:05	12 WAT 7:05	13 WAT 7:05
14 ALX 3:05	15 ALX 6:05	16 GB 7:05	17 GB 1:05	18 TB 7:05	19 TB 7:05	20 DUL 7:05
21 DUL 6:05	22 OFF	23 STC 7:05	24 STC 7:05	25 DUL 7:05	26 DUL 7:05	27 ALX 7:05
28 ALX 6:05	29 EC 6:35	30 EC 6:35	All games are Central Daylight Time			

July

			1 BRD 7:05	2 BRD 7:05	3 LAC 7:05	4 LAC 6:05
5 OFF	6 GB 7:05	7 GB 7:05	8 STC 7:05	9 STC 7:05	10 EC 7:05	11 EC 7:05
12 ROC 6:05	13 ROC 7:05	14 DUL 7:05	15 DUL 7:05	16 ALX 6:05	17 ALX 7:05	18 BRD 7:05
19 BRD 6:05	20 OFF	21 *ALL STAR	22 OFF	23 ROC 7:05	24 ROC 7:05	25 BRD 7:05
26 BRD 1:05	27 STC 7:05	28 STC 7:05	29 TB 6:05	30 TB 6:05	31 TB 6:05	

August

						1 TB 6:05
2 OFF	3 ALX 7:05	4 ALX 7:05	5 DUL 7:05	6 DUL 7:05	7 WIS 7:05	8 WIS 7:05
9 LAC 5:05	10 LAC 7:05	11	12	13	14	15
16	Division Playoff Aug. 11-13 Championship Series Aug. 14-16					

Home games shaded

*All-Star game in Thunder Bay, Canada



Mailing Address:

310 Belle Ave Suite L-8
Mankato, MN 56001

Stadium Address:

Franklin Rogers Park
601 Reed Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Business Phone: 507-625-7047

Business Fax: 507-625-7059

Official Website:

www.mankatomoondogs.com

Broadcast Information:

www.mankatomoondogs.com

Front Office Personnel

Joe Schwei	Owner/President
Kyle Mrozek	General Manager
Jessie Hays	Assistant GM

Field Staff:

Mike Orchard	Field Manager
Jason Belk	Coach

Game Day Staff:

Mike McKenna	Public Address
Ben Nelson	Sound
John Baumann	Scoreboard
Brian Fowler	Photographer
OFC	Trainer
Muttink	Mascot

Media:

Chad Courrier	Mankato Free Press
Shane Frederick	Mankato Free Press
Perry Dyke	KEYC
Barry Wortel	Radio Mankato
Mike Sullivan	Radio Mankato
Randall Harder	KYSM-FM





Alexandria
Beetles

Brainerd
Timbers

Duluth
Bushes

MANKATO
MOONDogs

Rochester
Henkers

St. Cloud
River Bats

Thunder Bay
Border Cats



Joe Schwei
Owner/President

Joe is entering his eighth year as the MoonDogs Owner and President. He had spent the previous five years (1997-2001) as General Manager of the St. Cloud River Bats. During his tenure, the River Bats won four straight North Division pennants and the NWL Championship in 1998 & 2000. From 1998-2000, the River Bats led the league in attendance. Schwei also co-founded the Alexandria Beetles in 2001. Joe graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Political Science and is currently working towards his M.B.A. at the same institution. He is married to Tamara Downs Schwei.

Mrozek enters his eighth year in the Northwoods League and seventh as the MoonDogs' General Manager. The MoonDogs have set a single-season average and overall attendance record in each of his six years at the helm. Prior to Mankato, he served as the media relations intern for the Alexandria Beetles in their inaugural season and then spent a year and a half as a business analyst at Target Headquarters in Minneapolis. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from St. John's University and currently lives in Mankato with his wife Larissa.



Kyle Mrozek
General Manager



Jessie Hays
Assistant GM

Jessie Hays returns to the MoonDogs for the 2009 season as the organization's new assistant general manager. It will mark her fifth year in baseball. Hays, a native of Shoreview, Minnesota, got her start in baseball with the St. Paul Saints in 2005 as a media assistant. Following the Saints season she moved to Kinston, North Carolina and was part of the Kinston Indians (High Class A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians) front office. After she spent the 2006 season as the Indians sales and media manager she was promoted to assistant general manager for 2007. Jessie graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2005 with a major in Public Relations and minor in Business Administration and was also a four-year letter winner on the women's basketball team.

The 30 year old Orchard is in his first year as the MoonDogs field manager but is no stranger to Northwoods League baseball. He was an assistant coach during the summers of 2004 and 2005 in Thunder Bay and La Crosse respectively. Orchard has also spent summers coaching in the Cape Cod League and the Arizona Summer Collegiate League. Orchard currently serves as the pitching coach and pitching recruiter for Central Arizona College located in Coolidge, Arizona. Prior to his current position, he was the pitching coach at Chandler Gilbert Community College and also worked at USC and the Rod Dedeaux Research and Baseball Institute.



Mike Orchard
Field Manager





All-Stars

Mid-Season All-Stars



Left to right - [Front] Jimmy Reyes (Elon), Cory Harilchak (Elon), Carlos Ramirez (Chandler-Gilbert), [Back] Michael Rockett (Texas-San Antonio), Coaches Eric Pfohl, Jason Nell, Ryan Levendoski, and Brendan Lafferty (UCLA).

Postseason All-Stars



Carlos Ramirez

Chandler-Gilbert CC, Catcher
.315, 10 HR, 44 RBI
10 Home Runs - T-1st NWL
29 Extra Base Hits - 1st NWL
.560 Slugging % - 1st NWL
19 Doubles - T-2nd NWL
112 Total Bases - T-3rd NWL
.433 On Base % - 3rd NWL
.315 Average - 7th NWL



Jimmy Reyes

Elon
Pitcher
4-2, 1.63 ERA
60.2 IP, 52 K, 14 BB
1.63 ERA - 4th NWL



Michael Rockett

Texas-San Antonio
Outfielder
.286, 4 HR, 36 RBI
252 At-Bats - 4th NWL



alexandria beetles
brainerd jammers
dubuque huskies
MANKATO MOONDOGS
rochester hornets
st. cloud river bats
thunder bay border cats

2008 Season Review

By: Jessie Hays, Mankato MoonDogs



The 2008 season marks one of the most successful seasons in Mankato MoonDogs history. By winning the first half title and guaranteeing themselves a playoff birth, the 2008 team was the first in MoonDogs franchise history to play in the postseason.

The MoonDogs got off to a very impressive start winning 14 of their first 17 games; including a five-game winning streak from June 3-7. Through the first half of the season, the MoonDogs led the Northwoods League in team offense (.268 batting average) and were fourth in team pitching (3.05 earned run average).

In his third year as MoonDogs manager, Jason Nell (Iowa Lakes Community College) led Mankato to a first half North Division Championship and earned the honor of managing the North Division in the 2008 All-Star game. Joining Nell on the North Division coaching staff was MoonDogs assistant coaches Ryan Levondoski (Western TC) and Erich Pfohl.

Mankato also added five players to the North Division All-Star roster. Pitchers Brendan Lafferty (UCLA), Jimmy Reyes (Elon), outfielders Michael Rockett (Texas-San Antonio) and Corey Harrilchak (Elon) and catcher Carlos Ramirez (Chandler Gilbert CC) all made the roster. The North Division lost the game 8-4 but MoonDog outfielder Michael Rockett brought home the homerun derby championship. He hit five homeruns in each round to edge out the competition.



The MoonDogs did not lose any momentum in the second half. With a regular season record of 41-26, they just missed out on winning both the first and second half titles. Thunder Bay clinched home field advantage for the playoffs on the last day of the regular season so Mankato played host to its first ever playoff game on August 12, 2008. The MoonDogs lost the Divisional Series in two games, with a tough game two loss in Thunder Bay.

alexandra
beetles

brant
lunkers

duluth
hushes

MANIKATO
MOONDODGS

rochester
hankers

st. cloud
river bats

thunder bay
border cats





2008 Season Review (cont.)

Despite the early departure from the playoffs the MoonDogs did have a lot to celebrate as the postseason awards were announced. Jason Nell was named the Manager of the Year after leading his team through an outstanding 2008 season. Nell's 108 career wins ranks him third overall in wins among active NWL managers and eighth overall all-time. Carlos Ramirez was named the league's MVP. Ramirez finished the regular season as league leader in home runs (10), slugging percentage (.560), and extra-base hits (29). Also, the MoonDogs had three Postseason All-Stars as Ramirez, Reyes, and Rockett all made the squad.

The MoonDogs had a lot of help celebrating their on-field success as the team drew over 1200 fans per game during the 2008 season. The team continued its tradition of entertaining the crowd with both great baseball and fun promotions. They invited many people to join them at the "Frank"



including Jim 'Mudcat' Grant on opening night, American Idol Star William Hung joined the fun on July 23rd, and Twins pitcher Pat Neshek made an appearance on

Jim 'Mudcat' Grant, above, and William Hung, right, both visited Franklin Rogers Park in 2008.

Twins Night.

The 2008 season was a great one both on and off the field for the MoonDogs and the staff is looking forward to continuing that success into the 2009 season. The MoonDogs will welcome back some great talent on the field and plan to continue to entertain their fans with new and exciting events and promotions.



alexandria
beetles

brainerd
bunkers

duluth
huskies

**MANKATO
MOONDogs**

rochester
honkers

st. cloud
river bats

thunder bay
border cats



Head to Head Records



Year	Record	ALX	AUS	BRD	GFK	MAD	MIN	ROC	STC	WAT	WIS	TB	DUL	LAC	EAU	BC	GB
1999	28-34		6-3	6-2	2-6			2-10	3-5	3-6	6-2						
2000	27-37			2-6	6-2		6-2	2-8	3-5	4-8	4-6						
2001	36-28	8-2		8-2		3-5		5-3	5-7	2-6	5-3						
2002	33-31	8-2		7-3		3-5		4-4	5-7	3-5	3-5						
2003	27-37	4-4				3-5		2-6	2-6	4-4	2-2	2-6	5-3	3-1			
2004	21-43	3-5				1-7		2-6	3-5	3-5	3-1	2-6	3-5	1-3			
2005	34-34	5-3		6-2		0-4		3-1	8-4	3-1	1-3	2-6	4-4	0-4	2-2		
2006	32-35	4-4		7-1		0-4		1-3	6-6	0-4	3-1	3-5	3-5	3-1	2-1		
2007	35-32	3-5		5-3		0-3		5-3	4-4	2-2	1-3	5-3	3-5	3-1	X	4-0	X
2008	41-27	6-2	6-3	46-22	8-8	2-2	6-2	5-3	4-4	1-3	X	4-4	6-2	X	2-2	3-1	3-1
Totals	314-338	41-27	6-3	46-22	8-8	12-35	6-2	31-47	43-53	25-44	28-26	18-30	24-24	10-10	6-5	7-1	3-1

ALX-Alexandria Beetles, AUS-Austin Southern Minny Stars, BC-Battle Creek Bombers, BRD-Brainerd Mighty Gulls (Blue Thunder 2005), DUL-Duluth Huskies, EAU - Eau Claire Express; GFK-Grand Forks Channel Cats, GB-Green Bay Bullfrogs, LAC-La Crosse Loggers, MAD-Madison Mallards, MIN-Minot Greenheads, ROC-Rochester Honkers, STC-St. Cloud River Bats, TB-Thunder Bay Border Cats, WAT-Waterloo Bucks, WIS-Wisconsin Woodchucks.

alexandria
beetles

brainerd
mighty gulls

duluth
huskies

**MANKATO
MOONDOLDS**

rochester
channel cats

st. cloud
river bats

thunder bay
border cats





Miscellaneous Records

alexandria
beetles

brainerd
lunkers

duluth
huskies

MANKATO
MOOSE DAYS

rochester
hankers

st.cloud
river bats

thunder bay
border cats

	Home Record			Road Record			Extra Inning Record			One Run Record			Shutout Record		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
1999	15	17	.469	13	17	.433	1	2	.333	11	9	.550	2	4	.333
2000	14	18	.438	13	19	.406	4	3	.571	9	7	.563	5	5	.500
2001	21	11	.656	15	17	.469	4	4	.500	7	13	.350	7	5	.583
2002	20	12	.625	13	19	.406	3	4	.429	9	10	.474	3	7	.300
2003	16	16	.500	11	21	.344	2	9	.182	11	15	.423	5	6	.455
2004	15	17	.469	6	26	.188	2	3	.400	9	16	.360	1	6	.143
2005	20	14	.588	14	20	.412	3	2	.600	9	8	.529	4	7	.364
2006	16	18	.471	16	17	.485	6	4	.600	12	19	.387	10	9	.526
2007	18	15	.545	17	17	.500	2	2	.500	15	9	.625	3	6	.333
2008	19	15	.559	22	12	.647	1	1	.500	9	4	.692	3	3	.500
Totals	174	153	.532	140	185	.431	28	34	.452	101	110	.479	43	58	.426



2008 Final MoonDogs Statistics

W-L Record: 41-27



PLAYER	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	SLG	OBP	E
*Belanger, C.J.,OF	.208	52	159	28	33	7	2	2	24	30	43	3	3	.314	.362	2
*Burkhart, Dan,DH	.400	8	20	0	8	1	0	0	1	6	2	0	0	.450	.538	1
Foltz, Alex,OF	.000	5	8	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	0	.000	.273	0
Freie, Wes,1B	.250	59	196	29	49	7	0	3	31	29	44	4	2	.332	.365	5
Hanson, Nate,3B	.283	14	53	13	15	4	0	0	6	11	7	3	0	.358	.418	0
*Harrilchak, Cory,OF	.284	55	208	34	59	12	3	1	23	12	38	10	0	.385	.333	5
Knasvicka, M,C	.500	2	6	2	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	.833	.571	1
Knudson, Kyle,C	.269	47	156	22	42	8	0	1	22	17	38	4	2	.340	.358	3
Krill, Brett,OF	.274	41	106	19	29	5	1	1	10	15	34	1	2	.368	.374	0
*Lobacz, Mike,1B	.253	51	162	25	41	9	0	2	28	30	23	0	1	.346	.371	1
*Milo, Justin,OF	.303	9	33	7	10	2	1	0	7	8	13	3	0	.424	.452	1
Munoz, Bobby,SS	.289	67	239	40	69	10	0	1	26	47	31	10	10	.343	.404	28
*Prokopowicz, Matt,2B	.211	25	76	10	16	4	1	0	5	16	18	3	0	.289	.368	4
Ramirez, Carlos,C	.315	57	200	37	63	19	0	10	44	32	42	2	0	.560	.433	5
Rockett, Michael,OF	.286	62	252	33	72	17	3	4	36	15	43	10	5	.425	.331	4
Rummel, Ryan,3B	.149	20	67	7	10	1	1	0	4	5	11	0	1	.194	.230	6
Strazzara, Tony,2B	.226	50	164	23	37	12	0	2	11	13	30	0	1	.335	.304	14
Via, Cass,2B	.161	39	93	14	15	2	1	0	10	10	33	1	0	.204	.250	5
All Others	.000		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	11
Total-All Batters	.260		2198		571		14		290		453		27		.361	
					346		120		27		300		55		.364	
																96

PITCHER	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WP	AVG
Calhoon, Zach	3-1	4.18	29	0	0	0	3	32.1	24	20	15	1	4	19	48	4	.207
*Castanza, Joshua	2-0	2.12	23	0	0	0	1	34.0	23	18	8	1	3	18	34	2	.183
Dale, James	3-3	2.62	11	7	3	0	0	1	55.0	53	26	16	1	4	12	27	.269
*Demmin, Ryan	3-6	4.29	12	10	0	0	0	65.0	65	40	31	3	6	31	53	7	.269
Devries, Blake	2-0	1.02	7	2	0	0	1	17.2	9	2	2	0	1	7	27	5	.145
Dickerson, Dale	2-3	4.33	28	0	0	0	2	27.0	27	23	13	1	8	26	29	5	.250
Hamren, Erik	1-2	2.04	15	0	0	0	6	17.2	10	4	4	0	7	16	18	1	.169
*Harrilchak, Cory	4-1	2.25	7	4	2	1	1	36.0	32	11	9	4	0	3	28	1	.234
*Lafferty, Brendan	4-1	3.93	9	6	0	0	2	36.2	32	17	16	1	5	17	41	4	.235
Longpre, Bryan	4-2	2.93	12	11	1	0	0	70.2	60	26	23	3	14	31	31	3	.243
Matyas, Scott	0-0	1.59	12	0	0	0	7	11.1	6	3	2	0	1	7	19	0	.150
Phelps, Thomas	1-1	7.71	3	1	0	0	0	7.0	12	10	6	1	1	3	6	0	.353
Reck, Andrew	0-0	3.72	2	2	0	0	0	9.2	13	5	4	0	1	8	3	1	.361
*Reyes, Jimmy	4-2	1.63	11	9	1	0	0	60.2	43	16	11	3	8	14	52	1	.206
Smith, Travis	3-3	3.45	9	7	0	0	0	44.1	35	26	17	4	3	24	31	3	.219
Vine, Luke	2-1	2.70	4	3	0	0	0	16.2	10	5	5	0	2	5	12	0	.182
Wood, Kolby	2-0	4.83	10	4	0	0	0	31.2	26	19	17	0	3	23	17	4	.234
All Others	1-1	5.17	7	2	0	0	0	15.2	17	11	9	1	1	3	9	1	.274
Total-All Pitchers	41-27	3.15		68		3		589.0		282		24		267		44	
					7		24		497		206		72		485		.233

* Bats Left for Batters, Throws Left for Pitchers

Switch-Hitter

Top Five MoonDogs Attendances

June 1, 2007	Rochester	2,134
May 30, 2008	Rochester	2,022
August 10, 2007	St. Cloud	1,997
August 9, 2008	Thunder Bay	1,927
June 2, 2006	Waterloo	1,886





Team Records

Single-Season Batting Records

Category	Name	School	Year
Average	.363 Nate Hanson	Minnesota	2007
RBI	47 Jeremiah Piepkorn	North Dakota State	2003
	47 Shane Buschini	San Diego	2005
Runs Scored	45 Ryan Chiarelli	Santa Clara	2003
Stolen Bases	21 Donnell Boyer	MSU Mankato	2002
Hits	85 Jason Waugh	St. Mary's	2000
Doubles	19 Carlos Ramirez	Chandler-Gilbert CC	2008
Triples	3 Cory Harrilchak	Elon	2008
	3 Michael Rockett	Texas-San Antonio	2008
	3 Andrew Wishy	Arkansas	2002
	3 Doug Deeds	Ohio State	2001
	3 Jason Waugh	St. Mary's	2000
	3 Aaron McEachran	Northern Iowa	1999
Home Runs	10 Gary Lane	Southwestern CC	2000
	10 Carlos Ramirez	Chandler-Gilbert CC	2008
Walks	52 Nick Walsh	Arizona State	2000
At Bats	261 Jason Waugh	St. Mary's	2000
Strikeouts	64 Brett Wayne	St. Mary's	2000
Games Played	67 Tim Smith	Arizona State	2006

Single-Season Pitching Records

Category	Name	School	Year
ERA	1.39 Mike Castillo	UCLA	2001
Wins	8 Will Krout	Sonoma State	2003
Games	39 Kevin Regan	Elon	2005
Strikeouts	80 Ryan Hamilton	Arkansas State	2003
Walks	37 Brian Whinnery	St. Johns	2000
Saves	18 Chad Dawson	Indiana State	2007
Games Started	14 Tyson Brummett	UCLA	2005
Losses	8 Mike Miller	Holy Cross	2005
Innings	109.2 Charly Bigwood	Iowa State	2000
Hits	86 Charly Bigwood	Iowa State	2000
Runs Allowed	49 Brian Whinnery	St. John's	2000
Earned Runs	41 Brian Whinnery	St. John's	2000



Team Records



Career Batting Records

Category	Name	School	Year
Average	.316	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
RBI	72	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
Runs Scored	82	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
Stolen Bases	29	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
Hits	155	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
Doubles	29	Nate Hanson	Minnesota
Triples	4	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
Home Runs	12	Shane Buschini	San Diego
Walks	67	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
At Bats	490	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside
Strikeouts	76	Shane Buschini	San Diego
Games Played	133	Aaron Grant	UC-Riverside

Career Pitching Records

Category	Name	School	Years
ERA	2.02	Will Krout	Sonoma State
Wins	12	Will Krout	Sonoma State
Games	55	Josh Castanza	MSU-Mankato
Strikeouts	126	Tyson Brummett	UCLA
Walks	59	Matt Mossey	North Dakota State
Saves	18	Chad Dawson	Indiana State
Games Started	24	Will Krout	Sonoma State
	24	Clay Tichota	Regis
Losses	10	Clay Tichota	Regis
	10	Matt Mossey	North Dakota State
Innings	175.1	Will Krout	Sonoma State
Hits	162	Will Krout	Sonoma State
Runs Allowed	72	Will Krout	Sonoma State
Earned Runs	57	Jason Conrad	Los Medanos
	57	Matt Mossey	North Dakota State





The Home of the MoonDogs

Franklin Rogers Park "The Frank"

Stadium Facts:

Stadium Name: Franklin Rogers Park

Year Built: 1967

1st NWL Game Played at Stadium: June 1999

Seating Capacity: 1,400

Ballpark Dimensions: 315 L, 383 LC, 381 RC, 325 R

Ticket Info/Prices: Premium \$8, Reserved \$7, Adult General Admission \$6, Child/Senior Reserved/General Admission \$5, Premium Season \$170, Reserved Season \$155, GA Season \$140

Parking: Free in both the Reed Street parking lot and the Hope Street parking lot. The Hope street lot is a lot larger and can accommodate all fans even on the busy nights.

Directions: Hope Street and Caledonia Street, Mankato. Madison Avenue runs east-west from downtown Mankato. The stadium is north of Madison, where it meets Long Street. The ballpark will be right in front of you as you head North on Long Street. The address is 601 Reed Street, Mankato, MN 56001.



The Home of the MoonDogs



Franklin Rogers Park has been home to the MoonDogs for the last seven years. 'The Frank' is an older ballpark that has been renovated through out the years but still holds the charm of being an intimate ballpark where fans love to watch games.

The stadium offers a wide range of seating options including an exclusive deck down the first base line that holds 75 people and fans can rent by the game and another party deck down the third base line that is open to all fans and offers all you can eat and a ticket for the game all for one price. Also, there is a grandstand area that is covered and has three different seating types including lower level seats, grandstand stadium seats and general admission bleachers. The MoonDogs added more premium seats in the upper level before the 2008 season.

A lot of work has been done to make 'The Frank' a great place to play and watch. New stadium lights were added in 2006 to improve the playing conditions and a brand new state of the art sound system was added during the 2008 season making the game experience even more enjoyable. Also, adding to the experience at the Frank the plaza area is full of different vendors with kettle corn, flavored ice, taco-in-a-bag, and the traditional hot dogs and beer. The intimate nature and size of the park means you are never far from the refreshments or the on-field action.

New for the 2009 season: The MoonDogs and the City of Mankato plan to add more permanent restrooms to the park and continue to make necessary updates to keep the park in top condition.



alexandria
beefies
braintree
hunkers
dubuque
huskies
MANKATO
MOONDogs
rochester
honkers
st. cloud
river bats
thunder bay
border cats





Dogs' playoff berth brings excitement

By Chad Courier
The Free Press

Joe Schwei, Kyle Mrozek and Jason Nell huddled in a small office underneath the grandstand of Thunder Bay's stadium, watching a Webcast of a Northwoods League baseball game between Rochester and St. Cloud about midnight Wednesday.

The Mankato MoonDogs had lost that night, but a St. Cloud victory would clinch the MoonDogs' first postseason berth in this 10th season in the organization's history. Finally, a two-run homer in the ninth inning by one of the St. Cloud players allowed the MoonDogs' braintrust to celebrate this long-awaited feat.



Fans cheer from the Dog Pound in Mankato.

"It's probably not the way we envisioned it happening," said Mrozek, who's been the team's general manager for six seasons. "I couldn't be happier, there were a lot of high-fives and hugs. I'm sure it will be one of the more memorable moments for me."

Back at the hotel, the players had gathered around a couple of laptops, and by the time the front office members returned, there was time for another celebration.

"It was a different way to celebrate, there was no dog pile on the field," Mrozek said. "It was more subdued elation."

The MoonDogs now have the next 34 games to get ready for the playoffs, which begin Aug. 12. The MoonDogs will face the North Division's second-half winner in a best-of-3 series Aug. 12-14. The homefield advantage will be determined by which team has the best overall record. The winner of the North Division series will take on the South Division winner in a best-of-3 series Aug. 15-17, with the best overall record again deciding the homefield advantage.

Each team is guaranteed one home game in each series.



Dogs' playoff berth brings excitement (cont.)



Schwei, in his seventh season as owner, was the general manager of the St. Cloud franchise for the previous five seasons, watching the RiverBats win the North Division four times and the league championship twice.

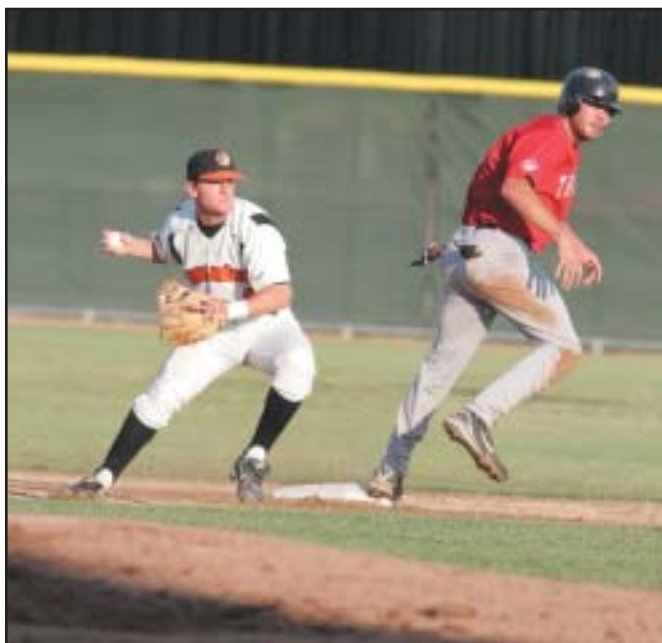
"I don't feel like we backed in," he said. "We won the most games in the division for the first half. I was starting to feel like we had a monkey on our backs, I thought we'd have been in the playoffs by now. It's a big relief to finally get there."

The second half of the season begins with today's game at Duluth. If the MoonDogs were to win the second-half championship, the team with the second-best overall record in the division would be the playoff opponent.

"We still have a lot to play for," Mrozek said. "We want those extra home games. It's important for our players, and it's important for our fans. They want to see the games, too."

Mrozek said by clinching a playoff berth this early, it gives the franchise plenty of time to organize and promote the playoff games.

"We all have a competitive streak inside of us," Mrozek said. "Now, we're all smiling and relaxed."



alexandria
beetles

braintree
jankers

duluth
hushies

MANKATO
MOONDogs

rochester
hankers

st. cloud
river bats

thunder bay
border cats





City Officials

John Brady, *Mayor* City of Mankato



“Having a great baseball team such as the MoonDogs in our community enhances the quality of life for all of us. It provides a great focus for wholesome family entertainment at an affordable cost. In addition, it sparked a restoration of our baseball field which has further enhanced our city.”

Tom Severns, *Supervisor* Park & Recreation Department



“It is wonderful having the MoonDogs and the Northwoods League teams playing in Mankato. We have worked with Joe, Kyle, and Jessie to improve the “Frank” with new lights, a batters eye, and more. Families can go to see great baseball close to home. Kids can have a baseball player hero they can connect with in person. It’s Great.”

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