

Young Legion baseball team had successful summer season

BY MICHELLE VAN HEE
VAN HEE MEDIA EDITOR

On Tuesday, September 27, the Madelia Legion Baseball team and coaches attended the Legion meeting held at the hall.

Coach Ben Jacobs told his team he wanted the players to be able to see the faces of the group of Legion members who supported the team and to thank them for the opportunity to play baseball this past summer.

“Many people in the community – and this group specifically – have trust in you and faith in you and donated a lot of money so we can play ball,” Jacobs said.

American Legion Baseball District Director Vern Kitzberger explained how the Junior Legion District is divided into what are

essentially regions (sub-state) and then districts (sub-sub state). After taking second place at the sub-sub state tournament held in New Ulm, that qualified Madelia for the sub-state tournament held in Pipestone. “While they were playing, I had many people come up to me and say how impressed they were with Madelia and how they handled themselves,” Kitzberger said. He went on to say that it was even more impressive knowing that Madelia’s program is very young after re-starting a Legion baseball team just a couple of years ago.

After losing their first game of the sub-state tournament, the local squad played their way back in the double elimination bracket. They won the next four games over three days, including

an extra inning, to take a 19-18 victory over Windom. This win put Madelia in the championship against an undefeated Sleepy Eye team. With the pitching and pitch count rules, Madelia’s team had used up all of their pitching on their run through the loser’s bracket. With no pitchers remaining and having to beat Sleepy Eye twice, in the name of sportsmanship, Madelia did the honorable thing and forfeited to Sleepy Eye. This saved both teams another trip to Pipestone. “This goes down as a forfeit, but is really high level sportsmanship,” Kitzberger said. “Since there was no trophy ceremony over there, I’d like to present the American Legion Baseball Junior Legion Southwest Zone runner-up for 2022 to Madelia Junior Legion.”