

Meet the Tri-City Red Staff:

Steve Grasley, Manager & Head Coach

Steve Grasley is a Tri-City Red pitching legend. He is a graduate of Mounds View (check out the Mustang pitching record book!), and also played with Red for three years (1998 – 2000.) Along with Billy Schneider and their teammates, Steve brought the American Legion World Series trophy home in 1999. The team's overall record that year was 64-5, with Steve posting a pitching record of 18-2, with 10 saves. Like the batters, Steve broke many Tri-City Red records that year: he had 31 appearances, 123.2 innings pitched, and a whopping 179 strikeouts during the season. The National American Legion honored him as the top pitcher in the nation that year, awarding him the National Bob Feller pitching award.



In 2000, the team won another MN State title and went on to regional competition – and Steve, as a team captain, was once again instrumental in the team's phenomenal performance. His record was 12-4, with 4 saves; he had an amazing ERA of .082 and 119 strikeouts – bringing his cumulative, three-season record with Tri-City Red to 42-7, with 16 saves and 381 strikeouts. He was named 4th District MVP in 2000 as well.

Steve graduated from Creighton University in Omaha – and, gee, he also played baseball there. In fact, he earned Division One All-American honors. He joined the Seattle Mariner organization in 2004, spending time in Peoria, the Arizona Rookie League, and with the Mariner's Timber Rattlers affiliate in Appleton WI. In 2013, Steve was named "Coach of the Year" by his 4th District coaching peers. In 2013-2014, Steve also served as an Assistant Coach with Bethel University.

Steve lives in St. Paul, and is employed as a Law Firm Consultant with Thomson Reuters. It gave us great pleasure that "The Legend" (and all around great guy) chose to rejoin Tri-City Red in 2010 as a member of the coaching staff.

Darcy Ruff, Assistant Head Coach

Darcy brings a wealth of baseball knowledge and experience to the team. Growing up in Wishek, ND, Darcy played high school and Legion ball, being a four-year starter in the roles of pitcher and center-fielder. As a star at the plate also, he is his Legion team's all-time home run record-holder. He also played four years of baseball while attending college at Valley City State University in North Dakota. Thereafter, while getting his career going and starting his family, Darcy played amateur ball for twelve years -- in Fredonia and Williston, ND. In addition to pitching and playing outfield, he also handled infield positions, including first base. In 1977, Darcy led his team, as the winning pitcher, to a North Dakota Amateur Baseball State championship; he also led his team in hitting and was selected to the all tournament team.

After he stepped off the field as a player for the last time, Darcy's involvement with the game seemed to just be getting started, anew. His contributions to the game and to his communities have continued through coaching -- both in his hometown of Wishek and in the Shoreview area. Darcy has shared his expertise at many levels -- Little League, Babe Ruth (Including through Shoreview Area Youth Baseball), Legion, and Men's over 35 leagues. In joining the Tri-City Red coaching staff, Darcy also brought the added experience of having been a member of the Tri-City Red Player Parent team, with his son, Derek, having "played Red" in 2011. In 2013, Darcy served as Head Coach of Mounds View High School's Junior Varsity baseball team, and continues his involvement with the Mounds View program, as Varsity Assistant Coach. Darcy owns and operates Ruff Abstracting, LLC and lives in Shoreview with his spouse, Lynn; they have three children -- Derek, Sydney, and Trisha.

Billy Schneider, Assistant Coach

Billy, also a Mounds View alum, graduated in 1999. (As with Steve, check out how many times his name appears in the Mustang record book!) As another 3-year Tri-City Red player (1997-1999), Billy was known as "the sparkplug" of the team. In 1999, as a team captain, he served as leadoff man in the batting order -- and he led the team in more ways than one. He topped the team with a batting average of .558 for the 1999 season. Of the 126 home runs hit by the team that year, Billy contributed 21 of them, third highest on the team. He hit 20 doubles (second, behind Rus Poser) and had 83 RBI (third highest on the team). In addition, he racked up an incredible 51 stolen bases during the year. (Next highest on the team? 14.) At 2nd base in 1999, his range was amazing; and as an outfielder during part of his Red career, Billy was so quick that he probably could have handled the entire outfield single-handedly.

Billy, deservedly, was named 4th District MVP in 1999. In the championship game of the State Tournament, Billy hit a game-winning home run in the 7th inning against Bloomington Blue. He was also named Minnesota American Legion Baseball's Most Outstanding Player for 1999. (As a sophomore, similarly, in 1997, in addition to making a game-saving, somersaulting catch in left field, Billy hit a game-winning home run in the 12th inning of the State Tournament's semi-final game against St. Paul Park, ultimately enabling Red to make its first trip to the World Series.)

While in college, which included a stop at the University of Minnesota, Billy unfortunately suffered a back injury, ending his days as a player. Since then, Billy has worked with his father (Buzz Schneider of the gold-winning US Olympic hockey team) in real estate and is currently employed in sales with Wirtz Beverage. And -- Billy is a movie star to boot! He played his father, Buzz, in the 2004 Disney film, "Miracle." (Bet this little fact will compel you to soon pop the movie into the DVR for another watch!) Needless to say, as is the case with Steve, Tri-City Red is honored -- and blessed -- to have Billy in uniform again! Billy lives in Woodbury, with his spouse, Sarah -- who, is an accomplished hockey player, in her own right (as was Billy too!)

Nik Anderson, Assistant Coach

As a Mounds View graduate (2011), Nik played three sports in high school (baseball, football, and basketball), earning two letters in baseball and two in football. Nik played with Red for three years (2010 through 2012), serving as team Captain for the latter two seasons. His leadership abilities, on and off the field (as well as his ever-positive attitude!), earned him a great deal of respect from players and coaches, alike. (It's no wonder that the team accumulated a record of 93-32 during the years that Nik played Red!) While he called the position of shortstop "home" with Red, Nik also handily handled second or third base whenever required -- and he helped spark the team to a District 4 playoff championship and Minnesota State Tournament appearance in 2012.

Nik went on to attend Bethel University, graduating in 2015, with a degree in Business (Marketing and Finance emphasis). While with Bethel (shortstop, third base), Nik earned much recognition. He was a four-year starter, batting .341 in 2012 as a freshman. In 2014, he was the recipient of the first-ever (and very prestigious!) MIAC Elite 22 award -- in recognition of his combined athletic and academic (highest GPA) achievements. He hit .311 that year, and helped lead Bethel to its first trip to a MIAC playoff championship game in program history -- and, in 2015, Nik was named to the MIAC All-Defensive Team (3B), a year in which Bethel claimed the MIAC regular season championship with an overall record of 30-7 (15-3 MIAC).

Last but not least, Nik has the additional distinction of being one of four (yes, count 'em, FOUR) brothers who played Red over the years (Bjorn, 2005-2006; Erik, 2006-2007; Nik, 2010-2012; and Lars, 2011-2013) -- a first in Red history!

Gail Kalata, Team Administration Manager

In addition to being the team's chief cheerleader, Gail handles much of the administration for the team. Her love of the team stems from the fact that her brother, Mark (who graduated from Columbia Heights, who played Legion ball himself, and who had coached Tri-City Blue), was involved in starting Tri-City Red in 1990. In helping with Tri-City Red's administration over the years, Gail gradually gained a somewhat widespread (good or bad ... we are not quite sure) reputation as being a bona fide "Legion Baseball junkie." As a result, in addition to working with Tri-City Red (and Tri-City Blue and Maroon), Gail volunteers her time at all levels of American Legion Baseball. She is the 4th District League Director (handling all the administration for our league of 10 teams), she is on the State Baseball Board, she handles many programs and administrative duties for the statewide Legion Baseball program (including administering "the Poll" helping run the Gopher Classic tournament, and maintaining a multitude of web pages), and has consulted with National on various issues. If anyone needs info related to Legion Baseball in Minnesota, basically, they contact Gail! Due to her many contributions to the Legion Program over the years, in 2011, Gail was inducted into the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame.

A graduate of Columbia Heights High School, after working in human resources management for local manufacturers for 25 years, Gail returned to school fulltime (University of MN), earning degrees in interior, landscape and architectural design. She lives in St. Paul with husband Steve, has one son (Jason) and a step-daughter (Carly). Surprisingly, Jason never actually played Legion Baseball -- but, as a Little-Leaguer, he served as Tri-City Red's chief ball-shagger, while Gail towed him all over the country to cheer the team on. Have questions on Red's history or Legion Baseball in general? Ask Gail; she's the walking encyclopedia.

All members of the staff devote a great deal of time and energy to make the Red program one of the best in the State. We appreciate your support of the team and your cooperation throughout the season, so that we can try to provide a great experience for all!