

Meet the 2017 Tri-City Red Staff:

Nik Anderson, Head 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).

Nik lives in Arden Hills and currently works as a B2B Sales Consultant with Staples Business Advantage. He also has coached with Great Lakes Baseball Academy and is the Head JV Coach for Bethel, as well as an Assistant Varsity Coach there. 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!

Lars Anderson, Assistant Coach

With Lars joining the staff in 2016, in addition to Red having had four Anderson brothers play for the team, it now has the distinction of having two Anderson brothers coach for the team! ... Lars is a 2013 graduate of Mounds View -- and a member of Mounds View's first High School State Championship team in 2013. Like Nik, at Mounds View, Lars was a three-sport athlete, playing football, basketball, and baseball -- being a three-year starter as the Mustang's catcher. He also served as a team captain for both baseball and football and earned all-conference honors in both of those sports. After graduating, he was invited to tryout with the Minnesota Twins.

As starting catcher for Red (2011-2013), "Lars, the laser" was well known for his expert ability to pick off base runners, as well as sending those attempting to steal trotting for their dugout instead. (In addition to being the team's catcher, Lars was known to step onto the mound on occasion as well!) In 2012, he and his teammates earned a trip to the Minnesota American Legion State Tournament (hosted by Chaska), after defeating Hamline Purple in the District Playoff Tournament. In that State Tournament, being down to Eden Prairie 11-3 after 5-1/2 innings and facing elimination, Lars and his teammates mounted one of Red's greatest comebacks of all time, holding Eden Prairie scoreless the rest of the game, clawing back inning-by-inning to tie the score in the 8th inning, and sending the game into extra innings.

Graduating from Bethel University in 2017, with a degree in Marketing and Finance, Lars was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Six Team (11-player list of Division III standouts from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.) As the Royals' catcher, he has been a starter since he was a freshman. In 2017, he amassed a .313 average with 26 hits, including 6 doubles and a home run; he had 16 runs and 17 RBI in 88 plate appearances, helping Bethel to a 29-8 record, with a 14-4 mark in MIAC play. Lars continues to live in Arden Hills and leads the YoungLife ministry group at MVHS.

Scott Becker, Assistant Coach

Originally from Austin, Minnesota, Scott is a graduate of Pacelli Catholic School, where he was all CCC (Central Catholic Conference) in baseball and football. He captained Pacelli to appearances in the Minnesota State High School Baseball Tournament in 1972 and 1973. Scott also played with the Austin Post 91 American Legion team for three years.

After high school, Scott attended the College of Southern Idaho (1974-1975) -- and, as captain, helped lead the Golden Eagles to the 1975 NJCAA World Series, in which the team finished in the final four. Thereafter, Scott transferred to St. John's University in Collegeville, where he played both football and baseball -- and completed his BA degree. (He went on to earn an MBA at the University of Minnesota and a JD from the William Mitchell College of Law.) As a defensive back with the Johnnies football squad, Scott played on the 1976 National Championship team, which beat Towson State 31-28 on the last play of the game -- and Scott was the last man to handle the ball! On the baseball side, as a Johnnies outfielder, Scott was a member of the 1977 MIAC championship team, which advanced to the N.A.I.A. National tournament. During his college career, Scott has the unique distinction of having played for two Hall of Fame coaches -- Jim "Skip" Walker at the College of Southern Idaho (baseball), as well as the legendary John Gagliardi (football) at St. John's University.

After college, Scott continued his involvement with baseball by playing Men's Amateur -- in all, 18 years worth! In addition, he unselfishly volunteered his time to serve as a youth baseball coach within the Shoreview community for a number of years. Scott resides in North Oaks with spouse, Julie, is an active marathon runner, and is the founder and current Managing Partner of Northstar Capital in Minneapolis. With Scott's love of the game being very evident, we are thrilled that he will be back in a uniform once again -- but now as a member of the Tri-City Red staff!

Brett Becker, Assistant Coach (part time)

Graduating from Mounds View in 2011, Brett was a two-year starter in the outfield and at second base for the team. In his senior year, he was named Suburban East All-Conference and was also selected as a participant in the Minnesota High School All-Star [Lion's] Series, held annually in Chaska.

Along with teammate, Nik Anderson, Brett played Red Baseball for three years (2010-2012), with the two creating a phenomenal middle-infield defensive presence. Brett mastered the art of the bunt, racking up one infield hit after another -- but he always kept the competition off-guard by mixing in plenty of line-drive hits, besides. In fact, Brett's average exceeded .400 in every season with Red. As a captain in his final year, Brett was involved in leading the team to its 2012 state tournament appearance, in which he had an average of .375, slugging percentage of .438 and on-base percentage of .444 -- highest on the team.

After high school, Brett went on to play at St. John's University, where he was a four-year starter (OF and 2B), graduating in 2015 with a Bachelors in Accounting & Finance. In 2012 and 2015, he led the Johnnies to two MIAC Tournament Championships. He was named All-MIAC (2B) in 2014 and 2015, as well as Division II All-Midwest Region (2B). In addition, Brett received Division III Academic All-American honors in 2014 and 2015. With respect to stats, Brett hit .458 (2nd) in the MIAC in 2015, his career average with the Johnnies was .369, and he amassed 47 collegiate bunt base hits, believed to be an NCAA record (although actual records on this stat are not maintained.) Overall, at the conclusion of his career at St. John's, Brett was in the career Top 10 in batting average, stolen bases, hits, and games played. While in school, Brett studied abroad in Japan. He worked at the big-four accounting firm, KPMG, and has been most-recently working in Baseball Operations with the San Diego Padres' front office.

Jake Hanzalik, Assistant Coach

Jake played with Tri-City Red for three years -- from 2011 through 2013, having served as a Team Captain in 2013. He graduated from Mounds View in 2012, and went on to play ball and pursue his education at Bethel University.

As a right-handed pitcher and third-baseman for Red, Jake was instrumental in helping the team earn their berth in the 2012 Minnesota American Legion State Tournament. Immediately following the conclusion of Red's 2013 season (having also completed his freshman year at Bethel), Jake was signed by the Alexandria Blue Anchors of the Northwoods League, for the remainder of their 2013 season. (During that final season with Red, Jake posted a 4-1 record, with a 1.84 ERA in 33 innings pitched. He also struck out 33 batters and allowed just 16 hits.)

As a four-year pitcher at Bethel (2013 through 2016), along with his teammates (including Nik Anderson), Jake helped lead Bethel to participating in its first-ever MIAC playoff championship game, as well a MIAC regular-season championship in 2015, when the team had a record of 30-9.

Graduating from Bethel in 2016 with a Degree in Education, Jake is currently a Spanish Teacher at Sartell High School, north of St. Cloud -- so resides in that area during the school year. He is very excited to be part of the Tri-City Red staff, and is looking forward to specifically working with the team's pitchers during the season.

Steve Grasley, Business Manager

Steve Grasley is a Tri-City Red pitching legend. He is a 2000 graduate of Mounds View, amassing an incredible 117 strikeouts in his senior year, and 99 as a Junior (check out the Mustang pitching records!). He played for Red for three years (1998 – 2000), and, along with his 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 Legion 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 American Legion coaching peers. In 2013-2014, Steve also served as an Assistant Coach with Bethel University.

Steve lives in Woodbury, and is employed as a Law Firm Consultant with Thomson Reuters. After serving as an Assistant Coach for Tri-City Red in 2010 and 2011, then as Manager & Head Coach for the 2012 through 2015 seasons, Steve transitioned to Team Business Manager in 2016 (versus combining those duties with the head coaching role.)

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, and then coaching Red thereafter. 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 entire league), she is on the State Baseball Board, she handles many programs and administrative duties for the statewide Legion Baseball program (including coordinating statewide team registration, helping run the Gopher Classic tournament, and maintaining a multitude of State, District, and team 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). While Jason never actually played Legion Baseball, 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 region. We appreciate your support of the team and your cooperation throughout the season, so that we can try to provide the best possible experience for all!