

**Monday, July 11, 2005**

## **Sierra Vista wins Newhouse Tournament**

By JOSH SAMUELSON  
MILES CITY STAR

The Sierra Vista Lions, of Las Vegas, Nevada, exacted a bit of revenge on the Tri-City, Minn., Reds, and won the championship game of the 25th Annual Blue Rock Distributing/Pepsi Bill Newhouse Invitational Tournament.

Sierra Vista ended the tournament going 6-1, and beat Tri-City 3-1 in the title game.

Tri-City ended the tournament with a 5-2 record, and the only win against Sierra Vista. Rapid City, S.D., and Canby, Ore., each finished 3-3, and lost in the semi-finals.

Shepherd, Mont., ended up 2-3, Miles City was 1-4 and Great Falls, Mont., went 0-4 in the tournament.

### **Sierra Vista 3, Tri-City 1 (Championship)**

A power surge from the Sierra Vista lead off hitter, and a great pitching performance from Justin Garcia earned Sierra Vista the championship of the 25th Annual Bill Newhouse Tournament.

"This was something we were really, really going after," Sierra Vista Head Coach Levi Gill said. "We didn't want to come up here and finish second place, or just show up. In our little Sierra Vista family, there is a guy named Gary Selby that brought teams up here five years in a row, and got seconds all five years. So this first place finish is for him."

Scott Berke hit two home runs, there were a total of three hit during the tournament, and led the way offensively for the Lions.

"He can explode. The guy is unbelievable," Gill said. "He does this all the time. He hit 12 home runs during the regular season. He's just a strong powerful kid."

In the home half of the first inning, Justin Hemauer of Tri-City, led off with a long double to left field.

But Sierra Vista pitcher, Justin Garcia coaxed a ground ball back to the pitcher, and threw out Hemauer who was trying to move on to third base.

That was the best scoring opportunity that Garcia allowed Tri-City until the fourth inning.

In the top of the third inning, with the score knotted at zero, Berke stepped to the plate with one out.

He took the 1-0 pitch, and drove it over the fence in deep left/center field. Tri-City pitcher, Sam Weber, got out of the inning with no further damage, and the Reds looked to get on the board.

In the bottom of the fourth, Derek McCallum led off with a double. Adam Weber followed, and just like in the first inning, Garcia got a ground ball back to himself and he picked McCallum off at third base.

With Weber on at first base, Joe Colwell followed with a single that moved Weber to second. Bjorn Anderson followed with another single that drove in Weber, and tied the score at one.

In the next half inning, the top of the fifth, the Lions answered. Berke led off the inning by hitting the second pitch he saw over the left field fence and near the ticket booth for the football games at Denton Field.

Kyle Gutchewsky hit a single on the first pitch. A sacrifice bunt from Pat Grennan moved Gutchewsky to second base, where he was driven in by Thomas Miller's single.

Weber got the final two outs, to end the inning. But the damage had been done.

Garcia cruised through the fifth and sixth innings. But in the bottom of the seventh, Tri-City attempted to mount a comeback.

Anderson led off the inning with a double, and Billy Gazich hit a pinch-hit single to move Anderson to third base.

But Garcia and the Sierra Vista Lions were not to be denied. Garcia struck out the next two batters, and coaxed Hemauer to ground out to end the game.

"The real player of the game is Justin Garcia. He pitched a great game," Scott Berke, who was named the Offensive MVP of the tournament said. "This was a great win for this team. Hopefully more will come in the future."

Tri-City had beaten Sierra Vista, 5-1 in nine innings, earlier in the tournament. And the Lions were happy to get the win back.

"It's always good to get that revenge," Berke said. "They (Tri-City) are a great team and they played a great game, and we came out on top."

In the game, Garcia allowed only one run on seven hits. He struck out four and walked none. The Lions were led by Berke, who went 2-4 with two runs, two RBI's and the two home runs. Gutchewsky, Grennan, Miller, Chuck Howard, Kurt Temple and David Stretz each picked up hits for the Lions.

Weber, despite the home runs, pitched exceptionally. He threw all seven innings, giving up three runs on eight hits. He struck out five and walked two.

Anderson had the hot stick for the Reds. He went 2-3 with a double and the lone RBI. Hemauer, McCallum, Colwell, Gazich and Evan Eid had the other hits for the Reds.

"Everybody stepped up in the right spots," Berke said. "It was a great effort."

### **Sierra Vista 7, Canby 1 (Semi-final)**

The Sierra Vista Lions exploded for 13 hits in the game, and starting pitcher Drew Leary gave up only two hits in the game that sent the Lions to the championship.

The Canby Cougars got on the board first. In the third inning, lead off hitter Tanner Cutsforth led off with a single. Taylor Hunter sacrificed him to second base. Thomas Greiner followed with a hard shot to the third baseman. The Lions third baseman made an error that allowed Cutsforth to score the games first run.

The Lions got that run back in the bottom of the third. Scott Berke led off the inning with a long triple to left field. Kyle Gutchewsky followed with a sacrifice fly to right field that scored Berke and tied the game.

The Lions scored two runs in fourth, fifth, and sixth innings to put the game out of reach.

Leary pitched all seven innings, allowing one run, that was unearned, on only two hits. He struck out six, walked one and hit three batters.

Chuck Howard led the Lions offense, going 3-3 with two RBI's and a double. Brandon Logan was 2-3, Chad Claus was 2-3 with a double, Pat Grennan was 2-4 with an RBI and a double. Justin Garcia picked up two RBI's as well. As a team the Lions had 13 hits, five of which went for extra bases.

Tanner Cutsforth was the only Cougar to get a hit. He went 2-4 and scored the lone run.

The win sent the Lions to the title game; the loss ended the Cougars tournament with a 3-3 record.

### **Tri-City 3, Rapid City 2 (semi-final)**

The first semi-final game of the tournament was dominated by pitching, and one timely error in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The starting pitchers, Adam Weber for Tri-City and Travis Burhans for Rapid City, were outstanding.

Weber picked up the win. He threw all seven innings, he gave up two runs, only one was earned, on only one hit. He struck out eight and walked six.

Burhans took the tough loss. He also pitched all seven innings, giving up three runs on seven hits. He struck out two and walked one.

Rapid City lit up the scoreboard first in the top of the third inning. With one out, Beau Grezik was issued a walk. Kyle Starkey layed down a sacrifice bunt that moved Grezik to third.

Grezik then scored on an error by the Tri-City third baseman on Nate Jacobson's hard shot.

Weber settled in, and cruised through the fourth and fifth innings.

Meanwhile, the Tri-City offense got rolling in the bottom of the third inning. Blake Searles, Justin Hemauer and Chase Traeger led off the inning with singles. Traeger's single scored Searles and tied the game. Derek McCallum stepped to the plate and hit a sacrifice fly to center field that scored Hemauer, and the Reds took the lead.

In the top of the sixth inning, Zane Roduner led off the inning for Rapid City with a walk. He moved to third base on a passed ball and a wild pitch. A.J. Butt, the next batter, was also walked.

Offensive MVP- Scott Berke, Sierra Vista (Las Vegas, Nevada); .417 batting average, .875 slugging percentage, two home runs, two triples, no strike outs

Defensive MVP- Taylor Hunter, Canby, Ore.; no errors, made exceptional plays in the field

Right-handed pitcher- Sam Weber, Tri-City, Minn.; 7IP, 1 run, 2 hits, 6 strike outs in win over Canby.

Left-handed pitcher- Josh Strom, Canby; 7IP, 3 runs, 7 hits, 5 strike outs in tough loss to Tri-City.

### **All-Tournament team**

Derek McCallum- Tri-City; .478 batting average, .783 slugging percentage, 6 runs, 6 RBI, home run, 3 doubles

Joe Colwell- Tri-City; .588 batting average, .706 slugging, 1 strike out

Justin Hemauer- Tri-City; .423 batting average, .615 slugging, home run, 4-4 stolen bases

Pat Regan- Miles City; .429 batting average, .500 slugging, .588 on base percentage, 0 strike outs, 3-3 stolen bases

Chad Claus- Sierra Vista; .444 batting average

Kyle Gutchewsky- Sierra Vista; .333 batting average, 6 runs, 5 RBI, 0 strike outs

Travis Lockwood- Canby; .400 batting average, 1 strike out

Tanner Cutsforth- Canby; .400 batting average, .466 slugging.

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## **Mavs play well despite 1-4 record in tournament**

By JOSH SAMUELSON  
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The Miles City Mavericks ended the 25th Annual Blue Rock Distributing/Pepsi Bill Newhouse Invitational Tournament with a 1-4 record.

The Mavs played some very tough competition, with three of their four losses coming to teams that played in the semi-finals.

### **Tri-City 7, Mavs 2**

Nate Dunning got the start on the mound for the Mavericks against the Tri-City (Minn.) Reds.

Dunning got roughed up a bit in the top of the first. Tri-City scored two runs, both unearned, on two hits. The Mavs committed three errors in the inning to allow the two runs.

Miles City got on the board in the bottom of the first. Pat Regan led off with a single, and was moved over to second when Jesse Haidle walked. Brian Laney came through with a one-out single that scored Regan.

Tri-City came through with two runs in each the fourth and fifth-innings off of Dunning. They added another run in the sixth.

Miles City tacked on another run in the sixth inning when Craig Parry laced a double to start the inning. Brian Laney came through again, with his second RBI single of the game.

But that would be all that the Mavs could do against Tri-City's starting pitcher, Mark Ries.

Ries ended the game pitching all seven innings. He gave up two earned runs on six hits. He struck out nine Mavs and walked two.

Brandon Sandau came in relief of Dunning in the seventh inning, and got out of it without allowing a run.

Dunning allowed seven runs on 12 hits in six innings. He struck out two and walked two.

Regan led the offense, going 2-3 with a run scored. Laney was also 2-3 with two RBI's. Craig Parry and Ryan Harris had the only other hits in the game, Parry's was a double.

Derek McCallum led the Tri-City offense. He went 3-3 with a double and two runs scored. Joe Colwell was 2-3 with an RBI, Blake Searles and Justin Hemauer were each 2-4 with an RBI each.

### **Shepherd 4, Miles City 3**

The Mavericks played a very sloppy game, and allowed Shepherd to come back and win in the seventh inning.

In the top of the first inning, Tony Kolterer, Rowdy Bell and Colton Cornwell each hit singles off Seth Crawford. Bell's single scored Kolterer and a sacrifice fly from Ross Hudson scored Bell.

Miles City answered in the bottom of the first inning. Three straight walks to Pat Regan, Jesse Haidle and Craig Parry set the table for Laney. Laney hit the ball hard to second base that scored Regan, but retired Parry.

Haidle and Laney would eventually score on errors made by Shepherd.

Following the first inning, both pitchers settled down.

Crawford allowed only one hit through the next five innings. Bell allowed only two Maverick hits through the rest of the game.

Errors plagued the Mavs in the top of the seventh, two very bad errors allowed Shepherd to score the two runs that they needed to come back and win the game.

Miles City squandered an opportunity in the bottom of the seventh, and Shepherd won the game.

### **Miles City 7, Great Falls 6**

The Mavericks finally got in the win column, but not before a late inning rush by Great Falls put the end result in doubt.

After a tough loss to Shepherd earlier in the day. The Mavs came out with a purpose against Great Falls.

Pat Regan led off the game by being walked. He promptly stole second base. Craig Parry followed with a one out base hit, and Brian Laney and Ryan Harris were walked. Harris's walked pushed Regan across for the first run of the game.

In the second inning, Tanner Crevier struck out with one out already recorded. The Great Falls catcher couldn't hang on to the ball however, and the speedy Crevier made it to first base.

Regan stepped into the box, and crushed the fourth pitch he saw for an RBI double that scored Crevier. After a walk to Haidle, Parry followed with an RBI sacrifice fly that scored Regan.

Parry, who started on the mound for the Mavs, ran into a bit of trouble in the fourth inning.

Parry gave up two runs in the inning, on no hits. He walked two, and there were two errors in the inning that allowed Great Falls to score.

In the bottom of the fifth, with the score 3-2 in favor of the Mavs, the Mavs avenged the two runs they gave up. With one out, Nate Dunning was hit by a pitch. With Isaiah Bergman at the plate, the Great Falls defense absolutely fell apart.

Bergman hit the ball through the shortstop's legs, an error on the shortstop. The left fielder overthrew the cut off man, an error on the left fielder. Bergman, running with all the errors, was going to third base when the throw got by the third baseman, error on the third baseman.

When it was all over there were three errors on one play, that allowed two runs to score.

In the sixth inning, the Mavs executed their base running. Haidle led off the inning with a single, he moved to second on a wild pitch. Craig Parry followed with a long fly to center field, that Haidle tagged up on and moved to third base.

Ryan Harris followed with a walk, and on the first pitch he took off for second on a delayed steal. Harris executed perfectly and stayed in the run down long enough to allow Haidle to score.

With Miles City up 6-2, Parry looked to close the door on the Black Sox. A base hit, followed by an error in left field and a walk, proved to be the end of the night for Parry on the mound. Brian Laney came in to pitch, and another error by the Mavs left fielder allowed a run to score.

Paul Gysberg stepped in and hit a two RBI double that tied the game at six. L.J. McCord layed down a bunt that scored Lattin from third base to tie the game at six.

The Mavs were able to get out of the inning with the score still tied.

In the bottom of the seventh inning. Darron Alderman pinch hit for Dunning. With an 0-2 count, Alderman was hit by the pitch. Brandon Sandau came in and layed down a perfect sacrifice bunt that moved Alderman to second. Alderman moved over to third base, with Chris Bogner at the plate.

Bogner hit the ball to the shortstop who tried to make a play on Alderman at the plate. But Alderman slid in safely and gave the Mavs an exciting win.

The Mavericks scored their seven runs on only three hits. They took advantage of six Great Falls errors. Regan, Haidle and Parry picked up the hits for the Mavs, Regan's was an RBI double.

Parry pitched six-plus innings. He gave up five runs, none were earned, on two hits. He struck out three and walked three. Laney picked up the win, giving up one run on one hit and he struck out one batter.

The Mavericks will next be in action on Tuesday when they host the Billings Royals in a Eastern AA conference match-up beginning at 7 p.m. at Denton Field.

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## **My first Bill Newhouse**

Well my first Bill Newhouse Tournament is in the book.

Final line: 20 games, 280 innings, 138 runs, 243 hits, 68 errors, 12 haystacks, 34 lemonades, 17 pounds lost thanks to field duty, 17 pounds gained thanks to haystacks.

It might have been one of the best weekends I have had in my life. For a guy that lives and breaths baseball, it was a perfect week.

I watched a ton of great baseball, and some very poor baseball, and for some reason. I got paid for it.

I have the greatest job in the world.

I have heard that the Newhouse had been going downhill in the past few years. No longer was it the premier tournament in Montana. Back in the day, I heard all the time, the teams that came through here were the best of the best. But that wasn't happening any more.

Well that seems to not be happening anymore. The teams that came to this year's tournament were very good. Sierra Vista, Canby, Tri-City and Rapid City were all very good teams that could have competed against the best of the teams that have ever been here.

Shepherd, Miles City and Great Falls were on a lower level than the other teams, but they also played good ball.

I was impressed by the way that Miles City played in all but maybe two innings.

Granted they only won one game, but they played well against the high quality teams. One thing that I was impressed with was the class of the teams that showed up. Not only were the teams high quality, but they were classy as well.

Five members of the Sierra Vista club got themselves in a bit of trouble. Rather than letting it go, the coach punished them, hard. In the first game of the tournament for them, the five kids had to go line up at the foul pole when there were two outs.

Once the third out was made, they had to sprint from foul pole to foul pole. They did that 14 times.

On another occasion a Sierra Vista batter, one of their better hitters, struck out and slammed the bat in the ground and broke it.

The Sierra Vista coach sent that player to Tedesco Field where he ran until the end of the game. That game went into extra innings, so that kid will never break a bat again.

I don't want to make it seem like Sierra Vista had a bunch of bad kids. Far from it. They are a great group of kids that are very well coached.

But of course there were some unclassy moves. One team, they will remain nameless, allowed their kids to throw bats, helmets and temper tantrums in the field. These kids aren't two years old anymore, so don't let them get away with that anymore. It looks very, very bad.

And tackling a kid on the field after a win. This wasn't the World Series, act like you've done it before.

But for the most part, it was a great tournament. I met some great new people and had the time of my life.

Since I was down at the field all week, I decided to join the field crew. It sounded like a good idea after the first game. By the end of the tournament, I was about dead. I forgot how much work goes into taking care of a field and making it look as good as it looked. And for having 20 games played on it, Denton Field is sparkling.

With any tournament there are a lot of people that need recognition, and don't ever get it.

Jim Regan was the tournament director this year, and he put on a great tournament. He was always there for questions or problems, and he still had a smile on his face at the end of the tournament.

Joining Jim in running the tournament was John Laney. John was right there along side Jim in dealing with everything. And there was a little bit of everything in this tournament.

The grounds crew rarely get recognition, unless they don't get the tarp on in time. Dr. J. Randall Rauh and Travis Rauh led a rag tag group of guys that did a great job. Matt Phillips, Jeff Regan, Mike Patch, Spud Patch, Bryan Larson, Kyle Pryor, Joe Baker, Leonard Dunning, Kevin Thomason and myself all helped out during the tournament.

And of course there is the concession stand. Chris South was in the concession stand all week long. Even when it was 108, she was in there making haystacks and keeping everybody fed and hydrated. The Maverick parents and the junior class at Custer County District High School also helped out in there.

The umpire crew provided one of my highlights of the tournament. In the final game of Saturday night, they are all running together now, Mick Carlyle was behind the plate.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, he yelled down to the other umpires in the stands that it was "T-Rex time."

None of us watching the game knew what was going on. On the first called strike, Carlyle, who is 6'8 and large, with arms limp turned and called the strike.

Tyrel Gentry was the only one to see it happen that first time, but the rest of us paid attention from then on. Once again, Carlyle moved in, with arms limp looking like a T-Rex, and called another strike. The booth that we were sitting in erupted in laughter.

Then he called a strike three and did a little bunny hop with it. I honestly don't think I have laughed that hard at a baseball game in my life.

The rest of the umpire crew: Jeff Hill, Jon Harris, Craig Mills and Don Garner did an outstanding job as well.

All in all it was a great tournament. I am already looking forward to next years and I hope all the teams come back again.

EDITORS NOTE: Josh Samuelson is the Sports Editor at the Miles City Star. He was not joking about the 12 haystacks.