

**Friday, July 8, 2005**

## **Tri-City Reds dominate Play Day at Bill Newhouse Tournament**

By JOSH SAMUELSON  
MILES CITY STAR

Thursday was Play Day at the 25th Annual Bill Newhouse Tournament. Teams of four from the teams participating in the tournament competed in: golf, canoe races and bowling.

Individual athletes competed at Denton Field in: outfield arm accuracy, base running and the always popular home run derby.

The Tri-City Reds dominated the day. In the golf competition, the Reds tied for first place with the team of umpires.

The Reds also won the canoe races that were held on Scanlan Lake.

The Miles City Mavericks brought home the trophy in the bowling. The team of: Nate Dunning, Ryan Harris, Darron Alderman and Josh Hetler.

It was the individual events, held at Denton Field, that brought out the crowds. A large crowd filled Denton Field to watch these athletes compete.

The outfield arm accuracy competition had the players throw from a box in center field. A screen was set up behind home plate, that the players attempted to hit, either on the fly or on the bounce. Points were given on how many bounces it took to reach the net. Three points were given for a throw on the fly, two points for a throw with one bounce, and one point with multiple bounces.

In the outfield arm accuracy: Evan Eid of Tri-City, Ross Hudson of Shepherd, Scotty Berke of Las Vegas, Beau Grezik of Rapid City, Jesse Haidle of Miles City, Chuck Howard of Las Vegas and Joe Colwell of Tri-City advanced to the final round.

In the final round, Eid set a new record by scoring six points. All three of his throws were on the mark, and hit on one bounce. Berke came in second place with three points, one of only two throws to hit the net on the fly.

Grezik, Haidle, Howard and Colwell each scored two points to finish third.

The base running event, had the players start at home plate and run around the bases, touching each base, and ending at home plate.

The top five times in the first round moved on to the championship. Justin Hemauer of Tri-City had the top time in the first round at 14.28, Miles City's Pat Regan was second with a time of 14.64, Berke was third with a time of 14.69, Cory Sheets of Tri-City was

fourth with a time of 14.71 and Tanner Crevier of Miles City qualified with a time of 14.90.

The places held to form, for the most part, as Hemauer won with a time of 14.47 in the final round. Regan was third with a time of 14.70 and Crevier was fifth with a time of 15.59.

Everybody's favorite event, the home run derby, was next. Fourteen athletes signed up to take part in the event.

Players were given 10 outs in the first round.

Jake Wichman of Great Falls led after the first round with two home runs. Miles City's Brian Laney and Tom Miller from Las Vegas each hit one to move on. No other player had any home runs in the first round.

In the final round, Wichman and Laney each hit one home run. Three more rounds of five outs were given to Wichman and Laney to break the tie, but neither could hit one.

Finally in a round of ten, and the lights needing to be turned on, Wichman hit a long fly ball that landed about 20 feet over the fence and was 10 feet fair to win the competition.

Tournament play will resume today with four games scheduled. Games start at 12:30 p.m. and the last game starting at 8 p.m. at Denton Field.

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## **Time for Miles City to give back**

On June 16, one of the scariest things in all of sports happened, again.

Taylor Roberts, a 14-year old member of the Laurel Dodgers American Legion team, was throwing batting practice before their game against the Broadus Mudcats.

Roberts threw a pitch. The batter hit the ball. Roberts was unable to get behind the "L" in the L-screen. The ball hit Roberts in the temple.

The teammates were in a batting cage when it happened.

According to reports, Roberts fell to the ground immediately, but didn't lose consciousness. An ambulance was called, and Roberts was rushed to the hospital where he began treatment for a fractured skull and a crushed temple.

According to the pastor at Roberts church, Taylor was pulled out of his induced coma a couple of days ago. His memory and speech have been affected, but he is recovering well.

More information on Roberts injuries will come later next week as more tests are being done.

The Laurel community has rallied around Roberts, and his family. There have been many different fund raisers to help support the family. From a float in the Laurel Fourth of July parade, to a 2-on-2 basketball tournament. Classmates at Laurel have done car washes that have raised a substantial amount of money.

When Miles City lost Brandon Patch in a similar incident, our community and many around the state rallied. And now it's time to rally around Laurel and the Roberts family.

Miles Citians should know first hand how this type of incident can affect everyone, just remember the funeral at Denton Field. So Miles Citians, it's time to give back the sympathy and support that we received in 2003.

If this story sounds similar, it should and it shouldn't. Yes, a metal bat was used. Yes the kid pitching was hit in the head. It does remind us a bit of our own tragedy, Brandon Patch.

But there are differences in the story. Roberts was hit while in a batting cage. In most batting cages, there is around 30 feet between the pitcher and batter. Some even as close as 15 feet. There is absolutely no time to react.

I have been throwing batting practice in batting cages for around 10 years now, and I have become very adept to getting behind the L-screen. A couple of broken teeth will do that to you. So I know how fast that ball can get to the pitcher.

In Brandon's case, there is a chance that a wood bat could have saved his life. In this case, I don't think so.

At that close range, there isn't much that could have been done. A ball off a wood bat at that range would have done much the same. But the argument is still there that wood bats are safer than metal bats.

So this brings up the wood bat debate again.

I don't mean to jump on my soap box, but I'm going to anyway.

I have made my feelings on this subject well known. And will continue too. There are too many kids being hurt, or killed, with the use of metal bats. Somewhere along the line, people need to figure this out. This is no longer just a "Miles City" issue.

So Miles City, I urge you to keep Taylor Roberts, and his family, in your prayers and support them as much as you can.

Checks or cash donations may be made to the Taylor Roberts Medical Fund, c/o First Citizens Bank of Laurel, P.O. Box 277, Laurel, Mont. 59044.

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I was watching Baseball Tonight last night, as I do every night, on ESPN when at the end of the broadcast they announced that the International Olympic Committee has decided to cancel baseball and softball at the 2012 Olympics in London.

The IOC will choose two sports from: golf, rugby, squash, karate and roller sports. Roller sports, squash????!?!?! Over baseball and softball?

Something ain't right here.

I don't know if it's the fact that these two sports are largely American sports. Or the fact that most baseball teams in the world would get beat horribly by the USA Softball team.

But either way, an Olympics without these two sports seems a bit crazy. Granted there are a lot of countries out there that don't play baseball or softball. But there are a lot of countries that do.

No offense to curlers out there, but something is wrong when curling is an Olympic sport and baseball and softball aren't.

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For those that haven't checked out the Newhouse tournament yet. Make sure you come down this weekend. There are some very good baseball teams in Miles City right now, and the games will be excellent during the weekend as teams jockey for position for the championship round.

EDITORS NOTE: Josh Samuelson is the Sports Editor at the Miles City Star. His haystack intake level is very high thanks to the Newhouse.

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**Thursday, July 7**

## **Mavs drop second game to tough Sierra Vista**

By JOSH SAMUELSON  
MILES CITY STAR

The offenses came out of hiding in the second day of the 25th Annual Blue Rock Distributing/Pepsi-Cola Bill Newhouse Invitational Tournament.

After letting the pitchers control the first day of the tournament, the offenses combined to score 32 runs in the four games, with two of the games being called by the 10-run mercy rule.

But pitching and defense weren't completely forgotten about. There was a no-hitter in one game, and a shutout in another.

All of the teams are off on Thursday for the Play Day. There are a golf competition, canoe races, bowling tournament and a skills competition. The skills competition will be held at Denton Field at 7 p.m.

## LAS VEGAS 12, MILES CITY 2

The Sierra Vista Lions (Las Vegas, Nev.) came out of the gate swinging, and never stopped, en route to a 12-2 victory over the Mavericks in the second day of the 2005 Bill Newhouse Tournament.

"We just got flat out beat tonight," Mavs Head Coach Brian Larson said. "They came out and stung the ball. Even their outs were hit hard. And we didn't come alive until the fourth inning."

Las Vegas lead-off hitter, Scotty Berke, led off the game with a long triple, and that set the tone for the game. The Lions scored a run in each of the first two innings off of Miles City's starter, Jesse Haidle. In the third, the Lions took advantage of a couple of walks, and scored three more runs.

After giving up the three runs in the third, with no outs, Haidle settled in and retired the next six batters.

Down 5-0 in the fourth, the Mavs' offense finally got rolling.

Craig Parry led off the inning with a double. Brian Laney followed with a sharp single to right field. The Lions' right-fielder overthrew everybody on the field, and Parry was able to score and Laney moved on to third base.

Haidle helped himself when he grounded out to the third baseman, which brought in Laney to bring the Mavs closer, 5-2.

In the top of the fifth inning, the Lions seemed to want to end the game early with the 10-run mercy rule. They needed to score seven runs in the inning, and they did just that.

Three Miles City pitchers were used in the inning, which saw the Lions score seven runs on five hits, and three walks by Mavs pitching.

In the bottom of the fifth, with the Mavs needing to score at least one run to keep playing, the Mavs got two runners on base but were not able to score them, and the game ended by the mercy rule.

"It was a combination of things," Larson said. "Sometimes you play well, and get beat. There's not much you can do about that."

There are different schools of thought in the game of baseball: Some think a win is a win, and a loss is a loss, while others think that losing to a good team is better than beating a bad team.

"I don't know if it's better in the sense that a win is a win and a loss is a loss," Larson explained. "But you can learn a lot more from getting beat by a team like that, rather than beating a team where you can capitalize on errors, and bad baseball. We definitely learned a few things tonight."

The Mavs picked up only four hits in the ball game. Pat Regan, Parry, Laney and Chris Bogner each had hits in the game. Parry's double was the lone extra base hit.

All but one of the Lions' starters had base hits, and all nine scored at least once.

Berke was 2-3 with two runs scored and a triple. Kyle Gutchewsky, Pat Grennan, David Stretz and Thomas Miller were each 1-2 with two runs scored and an RBI, and Drew Leary was 2-4 with two RBI's, a run scored and a double.

The Mavs, 0-2, will play again on Friday at 5:30 against the Tri-City Reds.

#### TRI-CITY 12, SHEPERD 2

In their first game of the day, the Tri-City, Minn., Reds easily took care of the Shepherd, Mont., Bullets.

Reds starting pitcher, Blake Searles, tossed a no-hitter for the Reds.

The Reds scored runs in each of the six innings that were played. Their big inning came in the fifth, when they scored five runs on two hits.

Derek McCallum had the big bat for the Reds. He hit the tournament's first home run, an inside-the-park shot to the right-center field gap. He was 2-4, with four RBIs and two runs scored to go along with the home run.

The Reds also got good offensive support from Joe Colwell, who was 2-2 with three runs scored and a double; Chase Traeger, 2-3, three runs scored, RBI; and Justin Hemauer, 1-4, two runs scored and an RBI.

Searles threw all six innings, giving up two runs, but unearned, on no hits. He struck out six Bullets and walked five.

The Bullets got on the board in the third inning, with a walk, a stolen base and a throwing error that allowed two runners to score.

Searles retired the final 11 batters he faced. He walked three in that stretch, but Reds catcher Derek Moen threw all three runners out attempting to steal second base.

Shepherd, 0-2, will be in action again on Friday when they play the Great Falls Black Sox at 12:30 p.m.

## RAPID CITY 2, TRI-CITY 1

Two outstanding pitching performances in the second game of the second day of the tournament were turned in by A.J. Butt of Rapid City, S.D., and Seth Rosin of Tri-City. A couple of early mistakes by Rosin gave the Rapid City Post 320 Stars the 2-1 victory over the Reds.

Kyle Starkey led off the game for Rapid City by being beamed by Rosin. Nathan Jacobson laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Starkey to second. Zane Roduner, the third batter in the order for Rapid City, was also beamed by Rosin. A wild pitch allowed Starkey to move to third and Roduner to move to second.

After striking out Nick Miessner, Rosin gave up a two-RBI single to Travis Burhans.

Rosin retired the next five batters, and then gave up back to back singles to Jacobson and Roduner in the third inning.

Miessner stepped up to the plate and drilled a hard ground ball to the right of second base. Reds second baseman Chase Traeger dove full out and caught the ball cleanly, laying down, and tossed the ball to Derek McCallum, who fired to first to complete the double play.

In the final three innings, Rosin allowed three more base runners. But none got as far as third base.

The potent Reds offense didn't get going until the fourth inning, and even then Butt was able to control the game.

With one out, Justin Hemaer stepped up and drove the first pitch he saw into the batting cages over the right field wall for the first home run to leave the park.

Butt promptly struck out the next batter and got out of the inning with no more runs.

In the top of the seventh inning, with the Reds down 2-1, the Reds were on the verge of tying up the game.

Walks to Adam Weber and Brady Field to lead off the inning caused the Rapid City coaches to pull Butt off the mound and bring in Burhans.

Burhans quickly picked off Weber from second base, and struck out Matt Frakes to get two quick outs. Bjorn Anderson was the final hope for the Reds, but he grounded out to the first baseman.

Butt ended the game, throwing six innings, giving up one run on five hits. He struck out four and walked four. Burhans picked up the save, facing two batters, getting three outs with a strike out mixed in.

Rosin took the tough loss for the Reds. He threw six innings, giving up two runs on six hits. He struck out seven, walked none and hit two batters.

Burhans led the Stars' offense, going 2-3 with two RBIs. Hemauer was the offensive leader for the Reds, going 2-3 with the lone run and RBI on his home run.

The Reds, 2-1, will play on Friday against Miles City at 5:30 p.m. Rapid City, 2-1, will meet Canby, Ore., at 8 p.m. on Friday.

LAS VEGAS 1, CANBY 0

The final game of the day turned out to be the best game of the day. The match-up of Sierra Vista (Las Vegas) and Canby, Ore., provided two outstanding pitching performances, with a bit of an anti-climactic ending.

The two pitchers, Matt Klein for Sierra Vista and Taylor Hunter for Canby, were dominant throughout the game.

Klein, in his six innings of work, allowed six base runners; only three made it to second base and none as far as third. Hunter was equally as dominant in his six-plus innings of work. Hunter gave up nine hits in the game, but only once did a runner get to third base.

In the seventh inning, Hunter started to tire. He gave up two singles to start the inning, and walked the third batter to load the bases with no outs.

Ben Shaw came in to relieve Hunter. And on his first pitch to Kyle Gutchewsky, he beamed him to score the lone run of the game.

The Sierra Vista offense grinded out nine hits in the ball game. Scott Berke was 2-3. The Lions catcher, Chad Claus, was 3-3 in the game. Pat Grennan, Thomas Miller, Drew Leary and Chuck Howard were each 1-3 in the game.

The Canby Cougars' offense only had three hits in the game, all singles. Josh Strom, Ben Shaw and Travis Lockwood each picked up hits.

Klein pitched six innings, giving up no runs on three hits. He struck out two and walked three. But he didn't get the victory. Justin Mettelka came in to pitch the seventh inning, and was the pitcher of record for Las Vegas when they won.

Las Vegas, 3-0, will play the Great Falls Black Sox at 3 p.m. on Friday. Canby, 1-2, will play Rapid City at 8 p.m. on Friday.



**Wednesday, July 6**

## **Mavs open Newhouse with 5-0 loss to Canby**

By JOSH SAMUELSON  
MILES CITY STAR

The Miles City Mavericks opened their 2005 Bill Newhouse Tournament Tuesday with a tough 5-0 loss to the Canby Cougars from Canby, Ore.

"We knew coming in that we have been playing well," Head Coach Bryan Larson said. "We are still struggling a bit at the plate. But our pitching and defense was pretty good tonight."

The Mavs' main problem, as it has been through most of the year, was hitting with runners on base.

"We had five guys on base," Larson said. "The problem was that we couldn't get any of them in to score. We really need to get production out of the whole line-up. The bottom of the order needs to step up and take the pressure off the top of the order."

The Mavericks only managed to get four hits off of Canby's starting pitcher, Derek Johnson.

Pat Regan, who has struggled at the plate lately, came up with two of the hits.

"It's good to see," Larson said of Regan. "When you get the lead-off hitter on base, it picks up the rest of the team."

The Mavs got a spark in the sixth inning, when Craig Parry laced a one-out double.

Parry, trying to move up on Brian Laney's ground ball to the pitcher, was caught in a rundown, and the Mavs' best scoring chance was gone.

Laney, the Mavs' starting pitcher, got into trouble in the second inning.

Laney gave up four runs on five hits in the inning, and found himself in trouble again in the third.

He hit the first batter of the third inning, Thomas Greiner, and he was moved to second base on a ground-out. Matt Bailie stepped up with an RBI single.

But Laney stepped up and shut the door on the Cougars' rally.

"I thought he (Laney) did good," Larson said. "Even in that inning, he gave up a couple of bleeders that cost us a couple of runs. But I thought he did fine."

"He's not going to fold in the tent on us," Larson continued. "He's battled through those situations before."

Following the third inning, Laney allowed three runners to second base, and none to third.

In the game, the Cougars picked up 11 hits off Laney. Matt Bailie was 4-4 with a run scored and an RBI. Tanner Cutsforth and Travis Lockwood each had multiple hits in the game.

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## **Solid pitching performances dominate first day of 25th Annual Bill Newhouse Tournament**

By JOSH SAMUELSON  
MILES CITY STAR

A string of excellent pitching performances was the name of the game at the first day of the 25th Annual Bill Newhouse Tournament Tuesday.

Two of the four games ended in shut-outs, and the other two were dominated by pitching as well.

LAS VEGAS 7, RAPID CITY 3

A solid pitching performance from Justin Garcia gave Sierra Vista (Las Vegas, Nev.), a 7-3 victory in the first game of the 25th Annual Blue Rock Distributing/Pepsi-Cola Bill Newhouse Invitational Tournament over the Rapid City (S.D.) Post 320 Stars.

Sierra Vista gave Garcia a 4-0 lead before Garcia even stepped onto the rubber.

The Lions sent all nine batters to the plate in the top of the first inning, scoring four runs on only one hit. Rapid City helped out the Lions with three errors in the inning.

Rapid City answered with two runs of its own in the bottom of the first inning, on three hits.

The Stars pulled to within one run in the bottom of the second inning, thanks to two Sierra Vista errors.

But after that Garcia settled in nicely, allowing only four base runners in the final five innings. None of those runners made it past first base.

Sierra Vista added three more runs in the top of the sixth inning.

They only had two hits in the inning, and took advantage of three more Rapid City errors.

Offensively the Lions were led by Drew Leary. Leary was 2-4 on the game with a run scored and an RBI.

Garcia finished the game throwing all seven innings. He gave up three runs, two earned, on six hits. He struck out six batters and walked only one.

Rapid City was led by Nate Jacobson and Nick Miessner.

Both were 2-4 in the game. Miessner had a double and an RBI.

Miessner started the game on the mound for the Stars. He went 5 2/3 innings, giving up all seven runs. Only one was earned. He pitched seven hits. He struck out two and walked four.

Las Vegas will play a double header on Wednesday. Their first game will be against Miles City at 6 p.m. followed by Canby, Ore., at 8:30 p.m.

#### RAPID CITY 5, SHEPHERD 0

The Rapid City Post 320 Stars took a little time waking up in their second game of the Newhouse Tournament, but they came around late and picked up a 5-0 shutout of Shepherd.

Both starting pitchers, August Farruggia for Rapid City and Nate Bell for Shepherd, were dominant early on.

Bell kept the Stars' bats quiet. He allowed only one base runner, a walk, through the first four innings.

In the fifth inning, Nick Miessner led off by reaching on an error. He stole second base, and was sacrificed to third base by George Ceremuga.

Wes Robertson followed with an RBI single that scored Miessner and gave Farruggia all the run support he would need.

Farruggia gave up a base hit in the second, but got a double play two pitches later.

Shepherd didn't threaten again until the sixth inning. Mark Perreault led off with a single.

With one out Steven Graham reached on an error, and Ryan Tuttle followed with another single.

With the bases loaded, Farruggia coaxed Cotton Cornwell to line out to second base. Tuttle got stranded on the line drive, and was thrown out at first base.

The Stars added another run in the sixth inning, and took a 2-0 lead into the top of the seventh.

In the seventh, Jimmy McClellan led off by reaching on another error, and Robertson laid down a sacrifice bunt to move McClellan to second.

Farruggia, in his first at bat of the game, hit a single and Beau Grezik followed with a walk. With the bases loaded, lead-off hitter Nathan Jacobson walked to bring in McClellan.

A.J. Butt followed two batters later with a two-RBI double to end the scoring.

Shepherd went down one, two, three in the bottom of the seventh to finish the game.

Rapid City only managed four hits in the game. Butt, Zane Roduner, Robertson and Farruggia picked up the hits with Roduners being the lone double.

Shepherd managed to get only three hits off of Farruggia. Tuttle, Bell and Perreault each picked up singles.

Shepherd takes their 0-1 record into their game on Wednesday at noon against Tri-City, Minn. Rapid City will play Tri-City at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

#### TRI-CITY 3, CANBY 1

Two outstanding pitchers were on display in the final game of day one at the Bill Newhouse Tournament.

Josh Strom for Canby faced off against Sam Weber of Tri-City. While Strom was solid for Canby, Sam Weber was a bit better for Tri-City, picking up the 3-1 victory.

Tri-City struck quickly in the first inning. After the first two batters of the game got out, Derek McCallum followed with a long line drive off the right field wall. Billy Gazich followed with an RBI single that scored McCallum.

Adam Weber followed with a long double of his own that scored Gazich.

Brady Field singled after Adam Weber, but both runners were stranded.

In the first inning, Tri-City scored four runs on two hits, all with two outs.

Sam Weber took the lead, and ran with it. He allowed only one hit, in the first inning, through the first four innings.

In the top of the fifth, Canby finally got on the board.

With one out, Travis Lockwood walked, and moved on to second base.

With two outs, lead-off hitter Tanner Cutsforth singled to drive in Lockwood.

But Sam Weber was able to get out of the jam, with no more harm done.

In the top of the sixth inning, Adam Weber led off with his second double of the game. Weber moved to third on Field's sacrifice bunt, and Matt Frakes followed with a sacrifice fly to right field that scored Weber.

Neither team was able to get anything going in the seventh inning, and Tri-City went on to win, 3-1.

In the game, Strom pitched all seven innings. He gave up three runs on seven hits. He struck out five and walked three.

Sam Weber was a bit more impressive. Weber also threw all seven innings, giving up one run on two hits.

He struck out six and walked four.

Tanner Cutsforth and Thomas Greiner each picked up singles for Canby.

Adam Weber led the offense for Tri-City. Weber was 2-3 with two doubles, a run scored and an RBI. Justin Hemauer, McCallum, Gazich, Field and Bjorn Anderson also had hits on the game.

Canby, 1-1 in the tournament, will play Las Vegas at 8:30 p.m. Tri-City will take their 1-0 record into a double header beginning with Shepherd at noon and Rapid City at 2:30 p.m.

Thursday is a play day, with no games scheduled.