

ST. ANTHONY, Minn (June 18) -- Tri-City Red opened up their 2018 season with a 9-7 win over rivals Tri-City Blue on Monday night at Palm Field. Tri-City Red now has a 1-0 record on the season.

It was a slow start for Red, as they gave up a run to Blue in the bottom of the first inning. however, they were able to get it back in the top of the second when Ben Jepko led off with a single, advanced on a wild pitch, stole third and scored on a wild pitch to tie the game. Red had Josh Bonde on second, but he was stranded on base.

Red poured on the runs in the third, as Ty Koehn, Carter Traczyk and Justin Langer all reached to start the inning. That brought John Solfest to the plate with the bases loaded, and he delivered a single that scored Koehn to give Red the lead. When the dust settled Red was up 4-1.

Red increased the lead in the fourth, striking for five runs on five hits, including a 2-rbi double from Ben Jepko. He would end the inning stranded at second, one of five runners Red would leave on base on the night.

Blue attempted to make a comeback in the sixth, scoring five runs of their own but they were stopped by John Solfest, who pitched 2 1/3 innings, giving up just one run and two hits while recording two strikeouts. He picked up the save, while Justin Langer picked up his first win of the season.

Red will be back in action on Tuesday night when they open District 4 play against Hamline Red. First pitch is scheduled for 6 pm at St. Paul Academy.

Game 1, June 18, 2018:

TC Red 013 500 0 -- 9 12 2
TC Blue 100 051 0 -- 7 8 1

Langer, Kaltoff (5), Solfest (5) and Herold.
Fredrickson, Jahnke (6) and Johnson.
W-Langer. L-Fredrickson. S-Solfest.

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