

Tri-City Red defeats Stillwater in SS8

New Brighton, Minn. (July 22, 2021) — Tri-City Red will play for its third consecutive Sub-State 8 championship Friday evening, after knocking off #1 seed Stillwater 7-6 in the winners' bracket final. The team will play the winner of the 3 p.m. game, which will feature Lino Lakes and Stillwater in the losers' bracket final.

Red — playing as the visiting team for the first time in the tournament — set the tone immediately, as it scored three runs in the top of the first. The affair started with Cooper Kleppe drawing a five pitch walk, before advancing to third -- when Ike Mezzenga laced a double into the left center field gap. While Landon Both was batting, Kleppe scored on a wild pitch to put Red on the board. Both then drew a walk, putting runners on first and third for Paul Diekoff, who singled, driving in Mezzenga and collecting an RBI. Reid Thurston then picked up an RBI when he grounded into a fielder's choice, giving Red the 3-0 lead.

After Stillwater tied the game, Red retook the lead in the fourth, thanks to back-to-back singles from Thurston and Ben Rosin. Leo Fleischhacker then executed a squeeze bunt perfectly, driving in Thurston. Connor Chervany also picked up an RBI with a single up the middle that made it 5-3.

Stillwater scored a run in the bottom of the frame, to kick off a stretch in which both teams scored one run per inning, through the bottom of the sixth. Red got its run in the fifth on a Diekoff sacrifice fly, which allowed Mezzenga to score. In the sixth, it was a throwing error by the shortstop that allowed Fleischhacker to score a clutch insurance run.

Ben Rosin threw five innings for Red, striking out four batters to earn the win. Andrew Boeser threw the final two innings, striking out three batters, including two in the top of the seventh. Offensively, Mezzenga finished the game 3-4, with two runs scored. Diekoff picked up two RBI while going 1-3 -- and Thurston, Rosin and Chervany all had two hits.

Red will face either Stillwater or Lino Lakes Friday at 5:30 p.m., with a trip to the state tournament on the line. Should Red lose, a final winner-take-all game will take place Saturday at noon. All games are being played at Irondale HS.

Game Summary

Tri-City Red 7, Stillwater 6

Game 25, July 22, 2021

(Sub-State #8 Playoff Game 3)

TC Red	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	-	7	10	1
Stillwater	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	-	6	12	1

Red: Rosin, Boeser (6); and Folska

Stillwater: Zurn; and Voight

Win: Ben Rosin, Tri-City Red

Loss: Gavin Zurn, Stillwater

Save: Andrew Boeser, Tri-City Red

Sub-State 8 Thursday Scores / Friday Schedule

Lino Lakes 16, TC Maroon 11 (Maroon eliminated)

Chisago Lakes 3, Forest Lake 2, 8 innings (Forest Lake eliminated)

Lino Lakes 4, Chisago Lakes 3 (Chisago Lakes eliminated)

Tri-City Red 7, Stillwater 6

Friday, July 23 Schedule:

Lino Lakes at Stillwater, 3 p.m.

Lino Lakes / Stillwater at Tri-City Red, 5:30 p.m.