

Tri-City Red Powers to a Day One Split at State Tournament

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (July 29, 2021)— Tri-City Red split its first two games of the 2021 Minnesota American Legion Baseball state tournament Thursday, falling to the host St. Cloud Chutes 4-0 in the first game -- before crushing Grand Rapids in its second game of the day. Both games were played at Dick Putz Field at the St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex.

Against Grand Rapids, Ike Mezzenga had two home runs, both of which went almost to the same spot in right field. Ben Rosin also got in on the home run derby, leading off the second with a solo shot off the scoreboard in left field. Red got another run in the fourth, when Sean Goldman doubled -- then proceeded to steal third base and home, giving Red a 4-1 lead.

TC Red's offense really came alive in the fifth inning, as the team posted seven runs on four hits. Connor Chervany had a two-RBI double, before scoring on a wild pitch. Meanwhile, Cooper Kleppe, Reid Thurston and Maddox Folska all picked up singles, with Folska's being an RBI single up the middle. Paul Diekoff delivered a sacrifice fly that allowed Kleppe to score, opening up the lead for Red.

After Grand Rapids scored a pair in its half of the fifth, Red continued its offensive onslaught in the top of the sixth; the first three batters of the inning all reached base, with Diekoff recording an RBI single. With the bases loaded, the Grand Rapids pitcher issued two walks, forcing in the final two TC Red runs.

Andrew Boeser delivered a gem on the mound for Tri-City, throwing all six innings, allowing three runs on five hits with two strikeouts. Mezzenga finished the game 2-3 at the plate, with two RBI and three runs scored. Rosin was 2-3, with three runs scored and one RBI.

The first game of the day saw Red take on the St. Cloud Chutes -- the tournament host. It was a tough game for Red, which only recorded three hits, despite 12 hard hit balls. Kleppe reached base twice, thanks to a leadoff double in the first and a passed-ball third strike in the third. Red strung together back-to-back hits in the second, when Cole Hinkel and Leo Fleischhacker both singled, but nothing resulted from it. Brandon Cook threw two and two-thirds of an inning of shutout ball, allowing two hits and recording two strikeouts.

Tri-City Red will wrap up pool play on Friday afternoon, when it takes on Rosemount at 1 p.m. The game will be played at Dick Putz Field. A win would almost certainly clinch a spot for Red in the round of 8, which starts Saturday morning.

Game Summaries

St. Cloud Chutes 4, Tri-City Red 0

Tri-City Red 14, Grand Rapids 3 (6 innings)

Game 27 - July 29, 2021

(MN State Tournament, Game 1)

TC Red 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 3 0

SC Chutes 2 0 0 2 0 0 x - 4 8 1

Tri-City Red: Goldman, Cook (4); and Hinkel

St. Cloud: Rott; and Theisen

Win: Andrew Rott

Loss: Sean Goldman

Game 28 - July 29, 2021

(MN State Tournament, Game 2)

TCR 1 1 1 1 7 3 14 11 2

GR 1 0 0 0 2 0 3 5 1

Tri-City Red: Boeser; and Folska

Grand Rapids: Henke, Wohlers (5), Sjostrand (6); and Miller

Win: Andrew Boeser

Loss: Kyle Henke