

TC Red Falls to Hamline Purple in Game One, Game Two Suspended Due to Darkness

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. (June 22, 2021) — Tri-City Red suffered its first 4th District loss of the season Tuesday afternoon, falling to Hamline Purple 9-8 in nine innings. The two teams began the second game of the evening -- but it was suspended due to darkness at the end of the sixth inning, with the score tied at seven apiece. The game will be continued at the point at which it was stopped, when the teams next meet -- on Monday, July 5th.

In game one of the doubleheader, Red (as the visiting team) scored two runs right away in the top of the first. Cooper Kleppe led off with a four pitch walk, before stealing second and scoring on an RBI single from Paul Diekoff. Cole Hinkel then singled up the middle to score Diekoff, giving Red the 2-0 lead.

Red added a pair in the third, thanks to a massive swing from Ben Rosin, which sent the baseball clear into the parking lot beyond the left field fence. After Purple put up four runs, Red scored three of its own in the fifth on three hits, thanks in part to an RBI single from Landon Both. Red scratched across the tying run in the seventh, when Diekoff singled to start the inning, advanced to second on a Both single, and then scored on a throwing error by the third baseman.

Unfortunately for Red, Hamline Purple got the last word in game one, recording a walk-off win in the bottom of the ninth. Diekoff was the offensive leader for Red, going 2-2 at the plate, with four runs scored and one run batted in. Both went 3-5, while Leo Fleischhacker was 2-3.

In the second game, it was Purple (as visitor) who scored first, posting three runs in the top of the first -- then holding Red scoreless in the bottom, through the benefit of a triple play. A dogfight ensued thereafter, with Red chipping away at Purple's margin by scoring one in the second; Diekoff was hit by a pitch, advanced to second by Rosin, and then batted in by Both.

Red collected another two in the third, which included a Kleppe triple -- who barely paused at third, when a throwing error allowed him to come all the way home. In the fourth, Red took a one-run lead, when Kleppe flew out to the left fielder -- who then airmailed the throw to home, allowing Diekoff to score from third. The teams continued to exchange runs, with Thurston nailing a triple in the fifth; a Diekoff sac fly then got him across the plate. Before darkness set in (forcing the game to be suspended), Purple scored two in the top of the sixth -- with Red tying it up yet again in the bottom of the inning on a two-RBI double off the bat of Ike Mezzenga.

Red will be back in action Wednesday night when they travel to North St. Paul to take on the 39ers. First pitch at McKnight Field is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Game Summary

Hamline Purple 9, Tri-City Red 8 (9 innings)

Game 5, June 22, 2021:

(4th District League Game 2)

TC Red 2 0 2 0 3 0 1 0 0 -- 8 12 4

Ham Purp 0 2 0 4 0 0 2 0 1 -- 9 6 3

Red: Hinkel, Fleischhacker (4), Goldman (7); and Folska

Purple: Gnetz, Odlaug (5); and Cavanaugh

Win: Kevin Odlaug, Hamline Purple

Loss: Sean Goldman, Tri-City Red

*Game 6, June 22, 2021:

(4th District League Game 3)

Ham Purp 3 0 0 0 2 2

TC Red 0 1 2 1 1 2

Red: Diekoff, Mezzenga (4), Kleppe (6); and Hinkel

Purple: Black, Menternach (4); and Taxdahl

*Denotes game suspended due to darkness after the sixth inning, with score tied 7-7.

The game will be continued prior to the start of the teams' July 5, 2021 scheduled game.