



Tri-City Baseball Proudly Salutes Tri-City Red 1999 American Legion National Champs

1999 Season Facts and Highlights:

Season Record: 64-5

The team more than doubled the existing State record for home runs, hitting 126 during the season; the team's season batting average was .439, with 954 hits in the 69 games.

Billy Schneider was named Minnesota's Most Valuable Player in 1999. He hit a game winning home run in the 7th inning of the State Championship game.

Team pitchers racked up 404 strikeouts during the season, with 179 earned by Stephen Grasley, who was honored with the National Bob Feller Pitching Award; Stephen had a total season record of 18-2-10, with an ERA of 2.94.

Brian Paone earned 48 total bases and knocked in 26 RBI's in National Tournament play (both being national records yet to be broken), earning him the Rawlings Big Stick and Cowger RBI awards.

Erik Lodgaard pitched a complete game in the World Series Championship game and had a season win-loss record of 10-0-1; his National Tournament ERA was 2.20 and season ERA was 3.94.

Brad Baglien batted 5 for 5 in the World Series Championship game; he had 22 hits and a batting average of .478 in the National Tournaments.

Nine players hit .400 or better during the season: Billy Schneider = .558, Pete Wiedewitsch = .539, Brian Paone = .463, Don Eustice = .451, Brad Baglien = .449, Mark Supina = .432, Jason Vastine = .432, Russ Poser = .429, Donny Mendel = .400 (25 or more games.)

Pete Wiedewitsch was named Most Valuable Player in National Tournament Play for 1999, with a batting average of .511 and 23 hits.

Coaches Jeff Larsen, Mark Paone, and Mike Maslowski were named Coaches of the Year by the National American Legion, earning the Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award.

Billy Schneider racked up 51 stolen bases during the season. Next closest? Don Eustice with 14.

Russ Poser led the team in doubles, hitting 25 in 1999; Schneider hit 20, and Wiedewitsch, 19.

Brian Paone wacked 33 home runs during the year, followed by Brad Bornhorst with 24 and Billy Schneider with 21; Chris Weber added to the total with 11. Season RBI leaders included Brian Paone with 132, Brad Bornhorst with 112, Billy Schneider with 83, Pete Wiedewitsch with 79, and Brad Baglien with 78. These achievements were booked, despite 44 walks each to Paone and Baglien, and 42 to Wiedewitsch.

Our National Champs were flown to the 1999 Braves-Yankees MLB World Series, where they were honored on the field; they received a congratulatory letter from President Bill Clinton, and their jersey, cap and team picture were on display in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY for one year. They were also honored at a Minnesota Twins game, and received numerous community awards. The National Championship trophy and other memorabilia is proudly on display at American Legion Post 513; please stop in to see it!

Tri-City Red of New Brighton, MN 1999 National Champions



Front Row (L to R): Billy Schneider, Dan Stuart, David Tucci, Don Eustis, Chris Weber, Donny Mendel, Tom Strandness, Stephen Grasley, Erik Lodgaard, Brad Baglien. Back Row (L to R): Manager Jeff Larsen, Head Coach Mark Paone, Brian Paone, Cory Oehlerts, Brad Bornhorst, Pete Wiedewitsch, Mark Supina, Russ Poser, Nik Wagner, Jason Vastine. Not pictured: Coach Mike Maslowski.



So, Where Are They Now??

Cory Alfson/Oehlerts: The only married member of the 1999 team! Plays basketball, and works for a local home builder.

Brad Baglien: Graduated from St. Olaf with Economics degree; played football, was all-conference / all-region in baseball. Currently attends Kent Law School / Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Brad Bornhorst: Double majored at Augustana College (Computer Science, Business); played ball and holds several career batting records there. Currently with Diversified Financial Concepts in Minneapolis. Plays ball for the Sharks.

Don Eustice: Earned a degree in Finance from Drake University in Des Moines and played football. Currently a national account executive for IFC Credit Corporation in Chicago.

Stephen Grasley: Expects degree from Creighton University in Omaha, NE (Corporate Communications); earned many awards and set records while playing college ball. Signed with Seattle Mariners and current with A Club in Appleton, WI.

Erik Lodgaard: Attended and played ball at Iowa Lakes and Iowa Central Community Colleges. Has been employed with Pro Contractors for the last two years.

Donny Mendel: Completed a Recreation Degree at the University of South Dakota and currently works for the City of New Brighton and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.

Brian Paone: Attended Iowa Western and Anoka Ramsey Community Colleges, earning degree in Business and Finance. Now with a mortgage company; worked for TCF for three years prior. Injuries ended his baseball career.

Russ Poser: Attended the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Currently works for AT&T and is involved in baseball, helping out with the Red team.

Billy Schneider: Attended the University of Minnesota, but injuries ended his athletic career. Played his father, Buzz, in the hit movie, "Miracle." Currently works in the real estate business in Elk River.

Tom Strandness: Holds a degree in Chemistry from Northwestern University; played on a sports club baseball team while in college. Currently in 2nd year of medical school at Loyola University in Chicago.

Dan Stuart: Attended Iowa Central, played ball in New York, and then attended Santa Rosa Community College in CA. Arm surgery ended his baseball career, and he is locally employed.

Mark Supina: Played hockey in Bozeman, MT for two years after high school. Currently attending Minnesota State University in Mankato, pursuing a marketing degree. Would like to get into coaching someday.

David Tucci: Earned an Economics degree from the University of Wisconsin, and is working in sales for Con-Agra locally.

Jason Vastine: Graduating from the U of M with majors in Microbiology and Psychology. Future plans include law or medical school. Plays ball with the Sharks.

Nik Wagner: Currently working within the Twin Cities - at "Gabe's by the Park" and in New Brighton.

Chris Weber: Attended Des Moines Area Community College and graduated from the University of Sioux Falls with degree in Wellness. Played ball while in college, played with the Sharks, and recently played with the St. Paul Saints.

Pete Wiedewitsch: Attended Iowa Central CC in Fort Dodge, then graduated from Creighton University in Omaha with degree in Communications; set records and earned many awards in college ball. Currently Asst. BB Coach and Recruiter for Iowa Central.