

## Miles City Tournament Coverage – Part 3 of 3

### Red Gets Past Rapid when it Counts

By Greg Schmidt

July 14, 2005

A walk off single by Chase Traeger pushed the Red (27-4) past Rapid City (31-12) July 10 and into the championship game at Miles City. It was the second timely hit for Traeger, who had another RBI single in the third.

A one-out single to right by Justin Hemauer set the stage for the go-ahead in the last at bat. Hemauer, winner of the tourney's base running contest, stole second and third setting the stage for Traeger's heroics.

Tri-City finished with seven hits while Rapid City managed just one off Adam Weber. Weber struck out eight to remain undefeated at 5-0. The Post 320 Stars led early with a run in the third, but the Red answered quickly in the bottom of the frame starting with Traeger's single to right to score Blake Searles, who singled to lead it off. Hemauer, who singled right after Searles, advanced to third on Traeger's hit and scored on a sacrifice fly to right by Derek McCallum.

#### Tri-City Red 3, Rapid City 2 (Game 31)

July 10, 2005

Rapid City    0 0 1    0 0 0    1 — 2    1 0

TCR            0 0 2    0 0 0    1 — 3    7 1

Burhans and Merchen; A. Weber and Field. W-A. Weber (5-0). L-Burhans (6-2).

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### Vegas has Better Luck in Rematch, Deals Red a Runnerup Finish

By Greg Schmidt

July 14, 2005

Tri-City avenged a pool play defeat to Rapid City by taking the rematch in the semifinals, but had the same scenario used against them in the championship game as Sierra Vista of Las Vegas (19-8) avenged an earlier nine-inning loss to the Red with a 3-1 victory to claim the hardware for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Bill Newhouse tournament in Miles City (Mont.).

Scott Berke (2 for 4, 2-RBI), who was named the tourney's most valuable offensive player, led the way for the Lions with a pair of solo round-trippers, first with one out in the third followed by a lead off blast in the fifth. Thomas Miller added an RBI single to put the Lions in front 3-1.

The Red (27-5) had pulled even in the previous inning on a one-out single to center by Bjorn Anderson (2 for 3, 2B, RBI) that scored Adam Weber. That was the lone threat until the seventh when the Red tagged Lions' starter Justin Garcia with a leadoff double by Anderson and single from Billy Gazich. However, Garcia promptly set down the next three in a row including two strikeouts. Garcia has proven a tough competitor throughout his career including this spring as Sierra Vista captured Nevada's big school state baseball title finishing 35-5.

Just as impressive was the Red's Sam Weber (5-SO). He was dealt his first defeat, but still leads the team with seven victories. Tri-City finished the Dickinson/Miles City trip with an 11-2 mark including a championship and runner-up finish. They outscored their opponents 72-23 and surrendered two runs or less in 11 of the 13 games. "With 13 games in nine [playing] days — the kids did really good," said manager Jeff Larsen. "The pitching was unbelievable. All 13 were quality starts."

And there was quality off the field — quality time for the Red to build a chemistry.

"They've grown and become more self reliant, more appreciative of things . . . and the memories, the experience. You won't remember the scores, but you'll have good memories."

The reflections are put on hold for now as the Red enters the stretch run of the regular season. With about a third of it left to play, Larsen has watched the development closely.

"You get to see who emerges, where they are, what roles people are going to fit into. It's pretty well set who would start in certain situations," he said.

The Red left for their trip atop the Fourth District (8-2). They returned two weeks later in the same spot.

"We're in a position right now — if we play good we could get that top seed and get that bye, but there's a lot of baseball [eight district games] out there to play," said Larsen.

The Red also has to compete in the Princeton tourney. Said Larsen: "We got Hopkins, and Apple Valley is there . . . That'll be a good test." The Red opens tourney play against Hopkins July 14.

### **Las Vegas 3, Tri-City Red 1 (Game 32)**

**July 10, 2005**

<b>Las Vegas</b>	<b>0 0 1</b>	<b>0 2 0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3 8 1</b>
<b>TCR</b>	<b>0 0 0</b>	<b>1 0 0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1 7 0</b>

**Garcia and Temple; S. Weber and Moen, Field (7). W-Garcia (5-1). L-S. Weber (7-1). HR-LV, Berke 2.**

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