

Red Goes on Defense, Moves Back into First

By Greg Schmidt

July 18, 2005

The Red couldn't shake their hitting woes July 18, so they improvised with a stellar defensive performance to edge White Bear 4-3 to get back on track in the Fourth District.

Key plays were plentiful and highlighted by a pair of outstanding foul ball catches by third baseman Bjorn Anderson. The first was of the acrobatic variety in the third inning.

Two innings later Anderson (3AB, 2-BB, HBP) showed no fear hauling in another — this time inches away from a date with the fence in front of White Bear's dugout.

Shortstop Derek McCallum (1 for 3, RBI), who normally is good for a few dynamite plays in every game, managed to amaze and even fool the umpires with an over-the-shoulder grab in left field in the sixth. It appeared to be the third out, but the umpires needed more proof. McCallum obliged and got the "fourth out" by gunning down the runner heading to third base.

The super defensive work was more than necessary as the Red struggled mightily against White Bear starter John Goneau, who amazingly made his return only four weeks after breaking his left arm in a game against the Red. "It's good to see him back again," said Red skipper Jeff Larsen about the dominant right-hander. "He's got some pop on the ball and had a good outing for them."

Although the Red was out-hit 10-5, they were efficient getting RBI triples by Justin Hemauer (1 for 3) in the first and Evan Eid (1 for 3) in the fourth. The latter made it 4-2 and ended up being the game-winner as reliever Mark Ries (3-SO) entered in the sixth to get his first save of '05 and preserve the team-leading eighth victory for Sam Weber (3-SO).

"It wasn't [Weber's] best performance, but held us in there, and then Ries came in with real good relief," said Larsen.

The win puts the Red (29-8, 9-3) back into first place just percentage points ahead of Hamline (10-4 in the district) and a game in front of North End (8-4). White Bear (8-15, 4-7) slips to fifth behind North St. Paul (5-7). Hamline has the toughest road of all playing two each against the Red and North End.

Fourth District July 18 (Game 37)

Tri-City Red 4, White Bear 3

White Bear 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 — 3 10 2

TCR 2 0 1 1 0 0 x — 4 5 0

Goneau, Turnbull (5) and Firminger, Grayden (5); S. Weber, Ries (6) and Moen, Field (6). W-S. Weber (8-2). L-Goneau (0-1).