

Weber Takes Duel — Keeps Red on Top

By Greg Schmidt

July 20, 2005

Tri-City's Adam Weber (6-0) continued his summer perfection with a 2-0 win over Fourth District rival Hamline in a key matchup for both July 20 at Midway.

Hamline starter Ty Johnston (5-1, 3.11 prior to the game) was equally impressive, if not more, striking out 11 including the first six batters. He gave up only four hits and one walk. "[Johnston] is a good pitcher — that's the best they've got," said Red manager Jeff Larsen, "but [Weber] did a great job too."

A great job where it counted most — on the scoreboard.

"We knew this was going to be a big game going into it," Weber said. "We have the capability of playing the best ball in the state and I think we proved it tonight."

Hamline had more than one chance to prove the Red wrong, most notably in the fifth with a leadoff double and a walk, but Weber (5-H, 7-SO, 2-BB) retired the next three.

Hamline inched closer to home plate in the sixth on a bloop single to short centerfield with a runner at second. Unfortunately for Hamline, their scouting report was apparently lacking as centerfielder Evan "Bulls" Eid hurled a perfect throw home to catcher Brady Field for the tag. Said Larsen: "Evan on the money. That's why he wins those," said Larsen, referring to Eid's first place exploits in the outfield arm accuracy contests in both the Tri-City and Miles City tournaments.

It was the second time Eid and Field teamed up for a big play. They completed one the other way so to speak, during their own at bat in the top of the fifth.

Eid (1 for 2, BB) led off the inning by beating out an infield single. With two out Field (1 for 2, RBI) singled to right and Eid beat the throw home to make it 2-0. The Red's first run arrived in the third when Adam Weber (1 for 3, 2B) led off with a first-pitch double to the left field track and scored when the next batter, Bjorn Anderson (1 for 2, RBI), singled to right.

The game was enormous for both Fourth District powers. Tri-City Red (31-8, 11-3) now has the tiebreaker over third place Hamline (20-8, 10-5) by taking the first two games in the three-game season series. The Red also owns the tiebreaker with second place North End (10-4), which meets Hamline in a doubleheader Thursday, July 21. Tri-City travels to fifth place North St. Paul (5-7) for a 6 p.m. tilt. "North St. Paul is always tough and I'm sure we'll see their best guy," said Larsen.

The Red's latest victory reduces their magic number to three for the regular season district title. The champ earns a first round bye in the playoffs that begin next Tuesday, July 26. "It's shaping up to be something really exciting," Weber said.

Fourth District July 20 (Game 39)
Tri-City Red 2, Hamline 0

TCR **0 0 1 0 1 0 0 — 2 4 0**
Hamline **0 0 0 0 0 0 0 — 0 5 1**

A. Weber and Field; Johnston and Borer. W-A. Weber (6-0). L-Johnston (5-2).