

## **Hemauer Hacks Hamline into Submission**

By Greg Schmidt

July 24, 2005

Tri-City Red wrapped up the Fourth District regular season title in style July 24 destroying second place Hamline 15-6 in front of a near capacity crowd at Irondale High School.

Although the score was one-sided, it was the Red that had to come from behind — way behind as they faced a four-run deficit heading into the bottom of the second. Not quite what the Red had in mind. “It’s rough, but we always stick with it. No matter what the score is,” said designated hitter Justin Hemauer.

The Red definitely stuck with it and stuck it to Hamline in grand fashion by batting around in their second at bat chalking up seven runs on as many hits including two by Matt Frakes (3 for 3, RBI). The veteran third baseman got it started with a leadoff single to left and finished the carnage with another single to left to put the Red in control 8-5.

The huge haul even surprised manager Jeff Larsen. “I just thought we could hold them and still chip away, but they didn’t do just that, they took it away [from Hamline] and then [Sam Weber] came in with three nice innings.”

Weber (9-2), who entered in the third, nearly blanked Hamline, but an error in the fifth pulled Hamline to within three at 9-6.

No problem for the Red as they batted around for the second time scoring six times in the sixth capped by Hemauer’s fifth hit — a two-run double to left-center.

Since dropping two of three at the Princeton tourney, the Red has reeled off five straight wins.

Hemauer (5 for 5, 2B, 3B, 3-RBI) has noticed a difference in the dugout. “We’re a little more talkative,” he said. “When we’re chatting and having a good time, that’s when we play our best.”

Along with Hemauer and Frakes, eight others recorded hits: Brady Field (2 for 3, 2-RBI), Chase Traeger (2-RBI), Derek McCallum (BB, SF, 2-RBI), Billy Gazich (RBI), Cory Sheets (BB, 3B), Evan Eid (RBI), Blake Searles (RBI) and Derek Moen (RBI).

The familiar postseason tirade has got an early start this summer.

“We want to get to the playoffs. We’re hitting the ball now — everybody is coming around . . . we want to get to state,” Hemauer said.

They’ll get the chance for a 10<sup>th</sup> state trip in the past 13 seasons, but will have to wait a day longer than everybody else in the district.

Securing the top seed with the win against Hamline also gave the Red a bye in the first round six-team single elimination bracket Tuesday, July 26. Said Larsen: "I've been in the knockout round. I'd rather be where we are. You could have a real good season and then go down."

Tri-City will meet the lowest-seeded survivor on Wednesday at North St. Paul. First pitch is slated for 8 p.m.

Following the game, it was announced that Arcade-Phalen would forfeit their final regular season game against the Red scheduled for Monday in what was supposed to be a double header. However, the Red/North End regular season finale will proceed Monday at 6 p.m. at Irondale.

**Fourth District July 24 (Game 41)  
July 24, 2005**

**Tri-City Red 15, Hamline 6**

**Ham 050 010 0 — 6 8 2**

**TCR 171 006 x — 15 17 1**

**Grabko, Jones (3), Salmen (5), Tolbert (6) and Gabriel, Borer (3), Marzolf (5); Ries, S. Weber (3), Rosin (6), Porten (7) and Field, Moen (6). W-S. Weber (9-2). L-Grabko (3-2).**