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## Let the Tourney Begin!

By Greg Schmidt

June 20, 2005

Adam Weber's two-run walk-off homer closed out the Red's 13-2 six-inning win over the Gold (2-8) in the first round. It was a signature shot on a seven-run inning in a game where the Red (8-1) trailed 2-1 heading into the bottom of the fourth. That's when the Red stopped nibbling and began feasting as they batted around sending 10 to the plate. It was major exploitation of the power alleys at their home field for the Red with doubles from Brady Field and Justin Hemauer (2 for 4, SB, 2B, 2-RBI) and a triple by Adam Weber (2 for 4, 3B, HR, 3-RBI). The five-run haul was the beginning of 12 unanswered runs. Red reliever Sam Weber, who entered with the game tied and the bases full in the top of the fourth, became the Red's first three-game winner, but had some fine defensive help — most notably that of catcher Brady Field — who stymied two stolen base attempts. Field led both teams going 3 for 4 (2B, 2-RBI). McCallum (2 for 4) also knocked in a pair. Matt Frakes (RBI), Cory Sheets (BB) and Evan Eid (BB) each went 1 for 2 for the Red.

The Blue (5-1) won their tourney opener 5-2 led by Mike Thul, who finished 1 for 2 with a home run and two RBI. Dan Schober blanked the Maroon (6-3) for five innings before giving way to Brandon Schermer, who squelched a potential rally in the sixth for his first save.

### (Game 9 for Red), June 17 first round

Red 13, Gold 2, 6 inn.

Gold 0 1 0 1 0 0 — 2 7 1  
Red 1 0 0 5 0 7 — 13 12 0

Barnes, Schifsky (4), Graupmann (6) and Anderson; Cleveringa, S. Weber (4) and Field. W-S. Weber (3-0). L-Barnes (1-3). HR-Red, A. Weber (2).

### June 17 first round

Blue 5, Maroon 2

Maroon 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 — 2 5 4  
Blue 0 2 0 0 3 0 x — 5 6 0

Quicksell, Fiegel (5) and Hoffman; Schober, Schermer (6) and Halstengard. W-Schober (1-0). L-Quicksell (2-1). S-Schermer (1). HR-Blue, Thul (1).

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## Red and Blue on Collision Course

By Greg Schmidt

June 20, 2005

Of the two Senior Babe Ruth teams in the Tri-City tournament, the Maroon was expected to provide a stiffer challenge to the heavily favored Red (9-1) and they did just that in the second round of pool play June 18. The Red still managed a 6-3 win, but it was far from easy.

In the first inning it appeared scoring was on the menu for both teams as the Maroon (6-4) rolled out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning on a run-scoring single by David Norgard (3 for 4, RBI) and two-run single from Will Espeset (1 for 3, 2-RBI).

The Red answered with a pair in the bottom half on a triple by Justin Hemauer. A moment later Hemauer zipped home on a single to left by Billy Gazich. That was just the start for the Red duo. In their combined eight at bats, they reached base every time.

Gazich went 4 for 4 (2B, 2-RBI) and Hemauer, who walked in his final plate appearance, ended up 3 for 3 (2B, 3B, BB, SB, RBI).

Down by a run in the second, the Red started out the inning the same as the first — with a hit batter and a triple, this time by Evan Eid (1 for 1, HBP, 3B, RBI). He little time to catch his breath as Chase Traeger (1 for 2, HBP, BB, RBI) singled to center for what turned out to be the game-winner.

Neither team proved much of an offensive threat the rest of the way as Maroon reliever Matt Hoffman (4-SO) scattered three hits over the next four innings. Red starter Seth Rosin (5-IP, 7-H, 2-ER, 1-BB, 3-SO) settled in after the first keeping the Maroon in check until the sixth. After a leadoff walk, he was replaced by Sam Weber (2-IP, 0-H, 1-SO), who beamed the first batter he faced before retiring the next six for his first career save with the Red.

The victory kept the Red unbeaten in tournament action and in a tie with the Blue (6-1, 2-0 in the tourney) which rallied past the Gold 5-3 in the earlier game. Designated hitter Kyle Bloom went 3 for 3 for the Blue and Kollin Stevens went the distance for his second win.

**(Game 10 for Red), June 18 second round**

**Red 6, Maroon 3**

**Maroon            3 0 0   0 0 0   0 — 3 7 0**

**Red                2 4 0   0 0 0   x — 6 11 4**

**Moberg, Hoffman (2) and Hoffman, Norgard (2); Rosin, S. Weber (6) and Field. W-Rosin (2-0). L-Moberg (2-1). S-S. Weber (1).**

**June 18 second round  
Blue 5, Gold 3**

**Gold 1 0 0 2 0 0 0 — 3 10 0  
Blue 0 0 1 0 2 2 x — 5 11 1**

**Porten, Quick (5) and Anderson; Stevens and Halstengard. W-Stevens (2-0). L-Quick (0-1).**

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**Red Takes Over Bragging Rights — Four Years Later**

By Greg Schmidt  
June 20, 2005

For only the second time in Tri-City baseball history the Red (10-1) and Blue (6-2) met on the diamond and just like the first meeting four years ago, the latest battle was extremely competitive right to the final pitch. The difference was the outcome as the Red held off the Blue 5-4 in the championship game of the first annual Tri-City tournament at Irondale High School.

The teams traded runs in the second and third innings before the Red grabbed the lead for good in the fourth. With two out, the tie game appeared safe as Blue starter Mike Thul retired the first two batters. But Matt Frakes changed things in a hurry with a double off the left field fence. Derek Moen singled him home for the go-ahead and Chase Traeger added some insurance with a bloop single to right. That insurance proved necessary in the Blue's next at bat when John Higgins led off with a single to left. He ended up scoring on a sacrifice fly by Thul. After a scoreless sixth, the Blue appeared doomed with two out in the seventh, but once again Higgins stepped up with an infield chopper off the glove of Red starter Mark Ries. Seconds later an errant pickoff attempt moved Higgins to second, but Ries (2-1, 2.84 ERA) caught the next batter looking for his fourth strikeout to clinch the first place hardware for the Red.

Higgins led both teams notching three of the Blue's eight hits. The Red finished with six spread out among just as many: Traeger (RBI), Moen (RBI), Frakes (2B), Derek McCallum (2B), Billy Gazich (2B) and Blake Searles.

In the third place game, the Maroon (7-4) scored early and often on their way to a 7-2 win over the Gold (2-10). Jordan Moberg led the Maroon charge going 2 for 3 with three RBI including a two-run single in the third to put the Maroon up 3-0. The Maroon's John Damerow also had two hits while starting pitcher David Norgard allowed only one run and struck out six in five innings to remain unbeaten at 2-0.

Of the six games in the tournament, four were decided by three runs or less. That, coupled with three perfectly sunny days, left everyone satisfied including the “Godfather” of Tri-City baseball, Elmer Buttweiler.

“I’m so pleased . . . It’s great for all the kids,” said Buttweiler, who founded the program in 1985 by starting the Blue team before adding the Red in 1990.

“I was hopeful to have something like this some day. They made it a reality. It’s unbelievable what the volunteers — the kids, coaches and parents have done,” he said, a moment before throwing a pair of first pitches, one to each teams’ catchers.

And the fun won’t stop this year. Buttweiler would like to see the tourney expand. “It would be nice to make it grow and have a few more teams,” he said. Along with that, Tri-City Baseball Executive Director and Red manager Jeff Larsen would also like to have the tourney go to a wood bat format. “That’s the way you play baseball.”

### **Championship June 19 (Game 11 for Red)**

**Red 5, Blue 4**

**Blue 0 2 1 0 1 0 0 — 4 8 3**

**Red 0 2 1 2 0 0 x — 5 6 1**

**Thul and Halstensgard; Ries and Moen. W-Ries (2-1). L-Thul (1-2).**

### **Third place final June 19**

**Maroon 7, Gold 2**

**Maroon 1 0 3 1 1 1 0 — 7 11 1**

**Gold 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 — 2 7 1**

**Norgard, Fiegel (6) and Hoffman; Walen, Barnes (4), Suzukida (6) and Porten, Suzukida (4), Leafblad (6). W-Norgard (2-0). L-Walen (0-1).**

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