Surprise Location, Same Result
By Greg Schmidt
June 20, 2005

There was little doubt whether the Red (11-1, 6-1) could follow up their tourney title five hours earlier with a great effort against Fourth District doormat Arcade-Phalen (2-4, 2-4). The only question really was . . . where would the destruction occur. It was supposed to be at Midway, but a scheduling glitch left the stadium locked — and a quick resolution. The teams found a place familiar to both in North St. Paul. Arcade would likely have chosen for a postponement had they known the outcome as the Red tortured them for seven innings on their way to a 14-3 triumph.

Brady Field (1 for 2, SF, HBP, 3-RBI) got things underway with a two-run single in the first and the Red never looked back. Chase Traeger (2-RBI) continued his dominance over Arcade with another three-hit performance all of which were doubles. Matt Frakes (RBI) and Bjorn Anderson (2B, 3B) both went 2 for 2 while Cory Sheets (2B) and Derek McCallum (BB, 3B, RBI) each finished 1 for 4. Arcade did have opportunities, but the Red's pitching quartet stymied any major rallies. Brandon Porten entered with the bases juiced in the fourth, but quickly prevented any further damage by getting the next batter to fly out to centerfield. Another jam arose in the sixth and this time it was Sam Weber to the rescue. He then struck out three in the seventh.

Game 12, June 19
Tri-City Red 14, Arcade 3

TCR	3 0 1	3 2 1	4	—	14	14	1
Arcade Phalen	0 0 0	1 0 2	0	—	3	5	2

Searles, Porten (4), Cleveringa (6), S. Weber (6) and Field; Englebrecht, Fitzgerald (5), Johnson (6) and Fitzgerald, Frahm (5). W-Searles (1-0). L-Englebrecht (2-2).

NSP, Red Split Close Pair

By Greg Schmidt
June 22, 2005

There seemed only one way to stop the Red's hot streak. Play a bitter district rival like North St. Paul. Few other rivalries can match it and the latest meeting didn't disappoint as the teams split a doubleheader June 21 at Irondale.

The Red (12-2, 7-2) captured the second round 6-3 despite falling behind in the first inning on a two-run homer by C. J. Willms. Clinging to a one-run advantage heading into the bottom of the sixth, the Red gained some breathing room for starter Sam Weber as Derek Moen led off with a single and Chase Traeger followed by reaching on a solid bunt. That led to a sacrifice bunt by Justin Hemauer. A moment later courtesy runner Mark Ries, running for Moen (3 for 3), scored on a wild pitch while Traeger (1 for 3, BB, RBI) went to third. He wasn't there long as Billy Gazich (2 for 3, SF, 3-RBI) pushed him home on a sacrifice fly to center. Sam Weber, who fanned six, retired the last eight of nine batters to remain unbeaten at 4-0.

In the opener, North St. Paul (3-6, 1-3) built a commanding 6-1 lead, before holding on for a 6-4 victory. North St. Paul went up early scoring five in the third all with two out. Willms (3-R, RBI, SB) also provided the offense in the first game going 3 for 4.

Game 13, June 21
North St. Paul 6, Tri-City Red 4

TCR   1 0 0   0 1 2   0 — 4   7   3
NSP   1 0 5   0 0 0   x — 6   11   1
Rosin, Porten (5), S. Weber (6) and Field, Moen (6); Ryan and Cotroneo. W-Ryan (2-0). L-Rosin (2-1).

Game 14, June 21
Tri-City Red 6, North St. Paul 3

NSP   2 0 0   1 0 0   0 — 3   7   4
TCR   1 3 0   0 0 2   x — 6   9   0
Hutchens and Adams; S. Weber and Moen. W-S. Weber (4-0). L-Hutchens (0-2). HR-NSP, Willms (1).