

Red Enters Twilight Zone, but Escapes

By Greg Schmidt

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The only hint of normalcy when the Red (13-2, 8-2) and North End met June 23 at Irondale was the final outcome. Everything else seemed a bit unusual. The Red was playing on their home field, but batted first. Their pitching actually looked vulnerable. They belted out three home runs after entering the game with four in their first 14 games. Last, but not certainly not least, the home plate umpire, to the shock of both teams — and the other umpire — skipped off the field with no explanation and into his car in the top of the sixth with two out. Prior to that the Red had racked up 10 runs in the inning. At first, manager Jeff Larsen speculated the umpire was suffering from heat exhaustion. Later, that speculation expanded to possibly a family emergency.

The following day the umpire notified Fourth District Director, George Bodlovick, that indeed he had fell victim to heat exhaustion and had no recollection of leaving the ballpark.

The hasty exit forced the lone remaining umpire to call the game from behind the mound. It also led to a North End surge and subsequent escape from getting the 10-run rule slapped in their face. The Red held on for a 16-12 final to remain atop the leader board in the Fourth District. Chase Traeger led the Red's offensive highlight reel going 4 for 5 with a triple and two home runs, a solo shot in the fourth and three-run rocket in the sixth. He also had a triple to go with his five RBI. Brady Field (2B) added his team-leading third round-tripper finishing 2 for 4 with three RBI. Justin Hemauer (SF, 2-RBI) and Adam Weber (2-BB, RBI) also had two hits apiece.

Game 15, June 23

Tri-City Red 16, North End 12

TCR 2 0 2 1 1 (10) 0 — 16 12 3

North End 3 0 0 1 1 5 2 — 12 15 3

A. Weber, Ries (6) and Field, Moen (6), Field (7); Brandt, Davoli (5), Hanratty (6) and Wiener. W-A. Weber (3-0). L-Brandt. HR-TCR, Traeger 2 (2), Field (3).