Marathon Bus Ride Can't Slow Red

By Greg Schmidt July 6, 2005

The Red (17-3) showed plenty of intensity despite a nearly 10-hour bus cruising to a convincing 9-1 victory against Pierre (S.D.) in the first round June 30 at Dickinson.

Pierre (21-9) trailed early as Brady Field (3 for 4, 2-2B, 3-RBI) got things started driving in a pair with a double in the first inning. He scored a moment later on a single from Matt Frakes (2 for 4, RBI). Justin Hemauer (3 for 4, 2B, 2-RBI) doubled another home to make it 4-0 in the second. In what has become somewhat customary this summer, the Red feasted late when Hemauer added an RBI single to kick off a five-run sixth. With the bases jammed, Derek McCallum (1 for 4, 2B, BB, SB, 3-RBI) cleared them with a double to left-center. Field then knocked him home with a single. With one out in the sixth and two runners in scoring position, Red starter Sam Weber (4-SO) was replaced by Brandon Porten, who retired the next two including a game-ending highlight reel scoop and toss by the shortstop McCallum. That prompted the tourney's eight-run rule and early exit back to the hotel. Also with two hits for the Red: Chase Traeger (SAC, SB) and Joe Colwell (BB).

Tri-City Red 9, Pierre 1, 6 inn., (Game 20) June 30, 2005

TCR 310 005 — 915 0 Pierre 010 000 — 1 3 0 S. Weber, Porten (6) and Field; Knox and Dowling. W-S. Weber (5-0). L-Knox (3-1).

Glendive No Match for Hemauer Hurricane

By Greg Schmidt July 6, 2005

Justin Hemauer's second inning slam into orbit led Tri-City (18-3) to an early surge and eventual 6-2 victory over Glendive (Mont.) in the second round July 1 at Dickinson.

Hemauer's grand bash was the second of his three hits on the day while the Red finished with only six. Glendive managed the same, but could only muster two runs off starter Blake Searles (6-SO), who went four innings. Brandon Porten came on in relief with two aboard in the fifth for the second straight game and blanked Glendive on one hit for the final three innings to secure his first Red save. Also pushing a run home for the Red was Brady Field on a single in the second. All of the Red scoring arrived with two out.

Glendive (14-4) finished as high school state runnerup for Montana this spring.

Tri-City Red 6, Glendive 2, (Game 21) July 1, 2005

TCR 150 000 0 — 6 6 0 Glendive 020 000 0 — 2 6 2 Searles, Porten (5) and Moen; Bakken and Radakovich. W-Searles (3-0). L-Bakken (4-2). S-Porten (1). HR-TCR, Hemauer (1).

Moose Jaw Gets Wired Shut by Rosin

By Greg Schmidt July 6, 2005

For the sixth straight game the Red (19-3) managed to strike the first jab and in the process record their sixth consecutive victory in a 7-1 trouncing July 1 of Moose Jaw (14-8) from Saskatchewan, Canada.

Seth Rosin led the way on the hill with a Legion career-high and season team-high 13 strikeouts. The complete game three-hitter was more than enough for his teammates at the plate.

Matt Frakes put the Red in front with a single in the second that scored Adam Weber, who finished with a walk and two singles. The two combined again in the fourth. Weber singled and three batters later Frakes doubled him home for a 3-1 lead. Brady Field's two-bagger made it 4-1 in the fifth before the Red pulled away with three runs in the sixth on an error, RBI single by Justin Hemauer and ground out from Derek McCallum.

The Red has not fallen behind in their last 41 innings.

Tri-City Red 7, Moose Jaw 1 (Game 22) July 1, 2005

Moose Jaw 001 000 0 — 1 3 3 TCR 020 113 x — 7 9 2 Duvvel, Hazeil and Riendeal; Rosin and Field. W-Rosin (4-2). L-Duvvel (2-1).

Red Reaches 20 with Seventh Straight Win

By Greg Schmidt July 6, 2005

After getting his last two starts rained out, Brett Cleveringa was finally able to get Mother Nature on his side and he stepped up big nearly blanking Weyburn (9-8) of Saskatchewan, Canada in a 4-1 triumph July 2 at Dickinson. It was the second victory in as many days for the Red (20-3) against a team from north of the border. Tri-City got all it would need with three in the third by exploiting a pair of walks. Chase Traeger drew a free pass to lead it off and trotted home on a triple by Justin Hemauer. Derek McCallum walked and also stole second. Brady Field immediately made Weyburn pay by smacking a two-run single to right-center. In the fifth Hemauer continued his torrid pace with a one-out single. With two out, Adam Weber singled him home. Brandon Porten picked up his second straight save with a scoreless seventh.

Tri-City Red 4, Weyburn 1 (Game 23) July 2, 2005

Weyburn 000 010 0 - 1 5 1TCR 003 010 x - 4 6 0Shupe, Betterfield (6) and Lobatte; Cleveringa, Porten (7) and Moen, Field (7). W-Cleveringa (2-0). L-Shupe (1-1). S-Porten (2).

Weber One-hits Rapid City to Lock up Tourney Title

By Greg Schmidt July 6, 2005

Although it wasn't the storied Post #22 varsity team, it was a talented Rapid City team (14-5) nonetheless, and that was enough to keep the Red (21-3) on task July 3, as they rolled to a 5-0 win to clinch first place in the Jablonsky Wood Bat III Classic tourney at Dickinson (N.D.).

Adam Weber was simply magnificent nearly pitching to the minimum. He allowed only three base runners on one hit and two walks while fanning seven in his complete game gem. Aiding his effort was some superb defensive work highlighted by two double plays.

Weber (2 for 3, BB, RBI) also shined at the plate with an RBI single in the first inning that followed a run-scoring single by Brady Field (2 for 4, RBI). The two-run edge stood firm until the fifth when the Red padded their lead with three more on singles by Bjorn

Anderson and Blake Searles and an RBI double from Chase Traeger. Tri-City extended its streak of not falling behind to 55 innings.

Tri-City Red 5, Rapid City S.S. 0 (Game 24) July 3, 2005

One Streak Falls, but Another Rages on for Red

By Greg Schmidt July 6, 2005

Tri-City Red had their non-deficit streak come to an end July 3, but extended their winning streak to nine with an impressive rally for a 9-5 decision over Dickinson (N.D.). The host RoughRiders (10-7) plated five in the bottom of the sixth to stop the Red's streak at 60 innings in which they'd been either tied or ahead. Apparently insulted by the sudden turn of events, the Red reacted with a vengeance in the top of the seventh by knocking in six. Derek McCallum (2 for 4, BB, SB, 3-R, RBI) and Billy Gazich (3 for 4, 3B, SB, 2-RBI) each singled a run home and a wild pitch brought in another. Frakes (2 for 4, 2-RBI) continued the punishment with a two-run single and Chase Traeger (2 for 4, BB, RBI) closed it out by knocking in the final run with his second base hit. Reliever Sam Weber (2-SO) entered with one out in the sixth and picked up his team-leading sixth win. Gazich was voted co-player of the game. Tri-City finished 6-0 in the tourney followed by Pierre (S.D.) 4-2, Rapid City S.S. 3-2, Glendive (Mont.) 3-3, Dickinson 2-3 and the two Canadian teams from Saskatchewan, Weyburn and Moose Jaw, both 1-5.

The win improves the Red to 22-3 — matching the best start in team history originally set by the Red's 1999 World Series championship squad. The 2000 team began 21-4 and went on to win the state championship before ending their season on a controversial pool play tie-breaking procedure at the Central Plains Regional in Rapid City (S.D.).

Tri-City Red 9, Dickinson 5 (Game 25) July 3, 2005

TCR 200 010 6 - 9 11 2 Dickinson 000 005 0 - 5 6 1 Ries, S. Weber (6) and Moen; Slroevik, Frenzel (7), Wallner (7) and Quintus. W-S. Weber (6-0). L-Slroevik (3-1).

Grasley Update

Former Red star, Stephen Grasley (1998-2000) picked up his fourth win this summer for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (44-38) by tossing 2-1/3 innings of perfect relief July 4 in a 7-6, 13-inning victory over the Beloit Snappers (39-43). The Timber Rattlers compete in the Midwest League and are a Class A affiliate of the Seattle Mariners. Grasley (4-0, 3.97, 2-S) has appeared in 26 games and struck out 37 in 57 innings. To follow Grasley's progress, check out the Timber Rattlers website at http://www.timberrattlers.com.