

## **Three-sport star Weber has bright future on gridiron**

By Greg Schmidt

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Whether or not blue chip pitcher Adam Weber has played his last game for Tri-City Red remains to be seen after his verbal commitment in August to the University of Minnesota and its football program. The Mounds View High School senior signal caller will receive a full scholarship.

One thing is for sure: Weber is making his final appearance on the prep gridiron and he's making the most of it as the Mustangs lead the metro area in offense with 460 yards per game. All that success despite being under the microscope with the Division I signing.

The added attention has had no ill effects. "Obviously, the expectations are very high, but he handles it in stride." said 'Stangs grid general Jim Galvin. "I don't think the media coverage affects him or the team at all."

Far more important to Weber than living up the hype is simply putting forth a great effort for his current team, not to mention his future coach Glen Mason. Mounds View Activities Director Bob Madison sat with Mason at the 'Stangs season opener. Madison said that Mason "just wanted Adam to know he was there watching and supporting."

Weber started gaining interest from around the country following his freshman year.

That prompted extra duty for Galvin and Madison. "It was pretty special, pretty neat and it still is . . . just 'cause he's verbally committed doesn't mean other schools aren't interested," said Madison.

Added Galvin: "Every conference I think was represented at the Division I level. It's fantastic. Every year we get all the D-II and D-III interested in our kids — coming around. But nothing like this, so it's been fun that way."

The Gopher program became a big fan of Weber after his sophomore year. In fact, said Galvin, "They were very aware of his potential as a ninth grader."

Weber admits not realizing his full potential until the summer before his junior year. "I went to the Gopher camp playing with guys that were on that level. That's when I knew I could compete with these guys," he said.

He'd been a fan of the Gopher program since birth. His father, Bob, played and starred for the maroon and gold in the early 70's.

But Adam insists that factored little into his final decision.

"Sure it kind of means something," Weber said. "I think [my dad] was happy either way. I think he was happy I get to be in this process. He let the decision come to me."

Late last spring the U of M moved in as the front-runner, but Weber wasn't about to make any hasty decisions.

“I felt really good with Minnesota, but I didn’t want to commit early and then go back on my word. I wanted to be 100 percent sure,” he said. To become fully convinced, he continued visits throughout the Big Ten Conference before narrowing it down to Wisconsin and the U of M.

Minnesota got the nod the first week of August.

“I feel really good about it . . . to actually have a school that you have an identity with now. It’s nice to get that all out of the way,” he said.

Weber is not the first Mustang to don maroon and gold. Pat Cheney is currently a sophomore linebacker. Prior to him were Joe Palke (’98 Mounds View graduate) and Matt Anderle (’96). Former ‘Stangs quarterback Don Eustice (’00), a member of Tri-City Red’s 1999 World Series championship team, was the last ‘Stangs signal caller to reach the higher level of the grid iron when he played for Drake University, a Division I-AA school in Iowa.

In the classroom next year, Weber said he plans to focus on “something to do with film . . . communications, something like that.”

This winter he plans to continue playing basketball before ending his senior year as the top veteran hurler for the baseball team. Weber has a career record of 10-4 and with a long postseason run, could match the school record of 20 wins shared by Steve Grasley (’00) and Mark Pedersen (’97).

**Weber favorites:**

Red memory:

Coming back against Rosetown last year [in the 2004 Fourth District Legion playoffs] and the road trip (two weeks in Dickinson, ND and Miles City, MT this summer.) “We came together really nice. We played wood bat and there were a lot of fun memories. We played really good too.”

Classroom:

“English with Mr. Bennett.”

Music:

Alternative rock “and the hard core stuff like Metallica.”

Cuisine:

A medium rare T-bone “with some shrimp.”

TV show:

Family Guy

And for the little down time he’s allowed:

“Play Super Nintendo in the basement.”