

## **Hamchucks' Kinne wins duel**

### **Appearance even a surprise to manager**

By Greg Schmidt

July 28, 2006

St. Paul Hamline (20-17) spent much of the season with a few key players out of the lineup because of various amateur diamond commitments. The blue chip shortlist included pitcher Sam Kinne, who was not expected to be available for the winner's bracket final against Tri-City Red July 27 at North St. Paul. Even Hamline manager Mike Brown was surprised when he walked up to the field and didn't see his listed starter warming up. Instead, it was Kinne who took the hill. Along with reliever Kyle Berg, the duo posted a two-hit, 1-0 victory over the Red (29-9).

Kinne was making only his second start for Hamline this summer. His seven-inning shutout performance followed three innings of relief for a save in Hamline's first round victory over Arcade-Phalen.

The game's lone run arrived in the top of the second inning starting with a leadoff walk to Kevin Brown. A sacrifice bunt and wild pitch moved him to third before he trotted home on a ground out to short by Max Selim. That led to an endless list of zeros on the scoreboard.

After getting singles by Derek McCallum (1 for 3, BB, SB) and Bjorn Anderson (1 for 3) in the first and second, the Red was no-hit the rest of the way.

But the Red still had multiple opportunities and certainly did their best putting the ball in play with only one strikeout logged by Kinne.

Leadoff walks to McCallum in the sixth and Chase Traeger (0 for 2, 2-BB, SB) in the seventh failed to turn a profit as both were left stranded on third. Berg replaced Kinne to start the eighth and faced one over the minimum. For the game, the Red left eight on base with five in scoring position. Joe Colwell, who pitched his longest stint in a Red uniform with the nine-inning complete game gem, took the unfortunate loss despite allowing only five hits.

The Red's struggle at the plate was historic according to Brown. "I don't think we've ever shutout Tri-City [in the postseason]," said Brown, who remembered the last such thriller of this magnitude in the postseason between the two rivals may have been in 1996. However in the excitement, Brown may have forgotten about the 12-inning classic won by his team 7-6 over the Red in 2004.

The most recent loss ends a 15-game winning streak and also an eight-game playoff streak for Tri-City and leaves the team in a tough spot with a loser's bracket final clash at 6 p.m. July 28 against another rival — host North St. Paul. The winner will be forced to defeat Hamline twice the following day in order to win the championship and state berth.

But it's far from unprecedented.

Indeed the Red was the top seed last year and breezed through three straight to advance to state. But in the previous two seasons they lost early in the playoffs before rebounding to win the playoff title on the final day with amazing two-game sweeps (Rosetown in '04 and North St. Paul in '03).

**Fourth District winners' bracket final, July 27, 2006**  
**Hamline 1, Tri-City Red 0, (Game 38)**

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Kinne, Berg (8) and Gabriel; Colwell and Field. W-Kinne (2-0).  
L-Colwell (4-2). S-Berg (3).