

Tri-City celebrates Father's Day in style

By Greg Schmidt

June, 2006

The Red hit for the cycle and much more June 18 giving each father in attendance an extra special treat with a 22-0 trouncing of North End at Irondale.

Originally scheduled for last week at Arlington, North End held favor as the home team in the makeup date at the Red's field.

That was the only advantage North End could muster as they endured a beating of epic proportions. The Red's exploits got more amazing as the game went on and started with a two-run triple by Erik Anderson (1 for 5, 3B, 3-RBI) in the first inning.

"That big hit [Anderson] had in the first to get us those two runs — that got it started," Larsen said. "And then in the second that was the game."

Indeed it was as Brady Field (1 for 4, 2B, HBP, 3-RBI) expanded the highlight reel with a moon-launcher off the left-centerfield wall for a three-run double. Field's blast was part of a nine-run burst as the Red took complete control 11-0. About the only thing left to prove was . . . could the Red hit a home run with the '06 change to wood bats. Two innings later and the advantage now at 15-0, Derek McCallum completed a far more difficult challenge with a spectacular inside-the-park homer to right-center. Said McCallum: "I know it's a big gap out there so I was thinking get to three." Larsen had another idea. McCallum continued: "I was starting to pull up at three and coach kept waving his arm . . . I had to keep going."

And he did — racing home well ahead of the throw.

Some wondered the last time a round-tripper of that type had occurred. Turns out, it was last year — also by McCallum during the Red's visit to Montana.

He finished 4 for 4 with 4-RBI. "We hit the ball well and took advantage of a few mistakes," McCallum said. North End committed six errors along with a ton of wild pitches. Also on the scorecard for the Red: Joe Colwell (2 for 4, BB, 2B, RBI), Chase Traeger (2 for 2, 2B, 2-RBI, 2-BB, HBP, 5-R), Bjorn Anderson (2 for 4, 2-RBI) and Seth Rosin (1 for 1, RBI).

Not lost in the blow out was the strong performance by Brett Cleveringa (4-SO), who allowed just two hits in his four shutout innings.

"I thought he did a heckuva job out there today. He battled and didn't give up anything despite [the score]," Larsen said.

June 18, 2006

Tri-City Red 22, North End 0, 5 inn. (Game 4)

TCR	2	9	4	2	5	—	22	13	1
NE	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	4	6

Cleveringa, Colwell (5) and Field; A. Paitich, Lietner (2), S. Paitich (5) and Allen, Gruber (3). W-Cleveringa (1-0). L-A. Paitich (0-2). HR-TCR, McCallum (1).

Searles makes it five straight for Red

By Greg Schmidt

June, 2006

For the fifth time in as many games, a Tri-City pitcher tossed another quality start and the Red gained another victory with a 4-1 defeat of Fourth District dark horse Arcade-Phalen June 19 at Midway Stadium.

Blake Searles was the latest to offer up a great performance in his longest stint of 2006. The complete-game gem ended up a three-hitter with six strikeouts and made him the fifth starter to begin the '06 campaign at 1-0.

Searles, who was a reliever in the spring, actually appeared to get stronger as the game progressed and retired 13 of the last 14. "The only way you can learn to be a reliever and a closer is to be a starter first in this league and tonight was his night," Larsen said. "He had a really nice outing. All his pitches were working and the double plays helped too." One of those helped Searles escape a bases-loaded jam in the third.

The Red struck first on a sacrifice fly to left field from Brady Field (0 for 2, SF, RBI) in the first inning. After Arcade tied it in the third on a bases-loaded walk, Tri-City regained the lead in the fifth on another sacrifice fly, this time by Billy Gazich (0 for 3, SF, RBI) that scored Joe Colwell (1 for 3, 2B), who led off the inning with a double to right. An RBI single to shallow center by Chase Traeger made it 3-1 and that margin held until the seventh when Seth Rosin (1 for 2, HBP, RBI) completed the scorecard by knocking Erik Fiegel (1 for 2, SAC, SB) home on a single to center. Traeger (RBI) and Erik Anderson led Tri-City — each going 2 for 4. The victory by the fifth-ranked Red makes them the only unbeaten left in the district after the first week.

June 19, 2006

Tri-City Red 4, Arcade-Phalen 1 (Game 5)

TCR	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	—	4	7	1
A-P	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	1	3	2

Searles and Field; Bruchu and Collier. W-Searles (1-0). L-Bruchu (1-1).

Hamline gives Red first blemish

By Greg Schmidt

June, 2006

In a rematch of the favorites for the Fourth District title June 20 at Irondale, Hamline (5-4, 2-2) came out the victor, but it took an extra session and some extraordinary defense to deliver a 2-1 defeat to the Red (5-1, 5-1).

It was the first loss for Tri-City (ranked fourth in the latest state poll), who had knocked off Hamline 9-6 in the season opener.

Hamline got the game-winner with a two-out single by Rich Hall in the top of the eighth, but the Red got hits by Brady Field (2 for 4, 2B) and Blake Searles (2 for 3, BB) in the bottom of the frame to make a play for the equalizer. Unfortunately a double play took the punch out of the rally as Hamline hung on for the early season split setting up a possible huge matchup July 11 at Midway for the right to the standings tiebreaker when the teams meet for the third and final time of the regular season.

The eighth inning rally was one of two stopped by Hamline. After putting two on in the second inning, the Red failed to get on the scoreboard because of a nifty 4-6-3 triple play. Hamline immediately followed up the momentum shifter with a run in the third, but in the fourth Tri-City tied it on a ground out by Bjorn Anderson (1 for 4, RBI) that followed a leadoff double by Field and single by Searles.

Seth Rosin was left with a no-decision despite seven strong innings with three strikeouts and four hits allowed. Chase Traeger reached base four times going 3 for 3 with a walk.

June 20, 2006

Hamline 2, Tri-City Red 1, 8 inn. (Game 6)

Ham	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	—	2	7	1
TCR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	1	9	2

Shrewsbury, Selim (3), Salmen (5) and Marzolf, Kelly (5); Rosin, Porten (8) and Field. W-Salmen (1-0). L-Porten (0-1).