Mother Nature steps in for home cookin'

by Greg Schmidt
July 3, 2006

As quickly as the weather changed June 26 at Irondale, so did the Red's fortunes in a key 3-1 win over district rival North St. Paul.

The first four innings were relatively quiet, but the in the bottom of the fifth the winds went from calm to straight-line gusts and the Red made the most of it.

With the bases full of Red, a routine fly to left field off the bat of Brady Field was stopped cold by a wind shear and plummeted straight down — much to the surprise of the leftfielder. The Mother Nature assisted single broke a 1-1 affair and put the Red in front for the first time 3-1. The Red had loaded the bases twice in the fifth beginning with singles by Blake Searles (1 for 3) and Billy Gazich (2 for 3) sandwiched around a bean ball off Bjorn Anderson (0 for 2, HBP).Chase Traeger (0 for 3, RBI) brought home the equalizer on a ground out to short before Derek McCallum (1 for 2, BB) was intentionally walked with two out to fill the bases again and bring Field (1 for 3, 2-RBI) to the plate.

With the advantage for the first time, Larsen called on Brandon Porten (2-IP, 1-H, 0-R) to save the victory for Erik Fiegel (3-IP, 3-H, 1-ER, 1-SO), who replaced starter Sam Weber (2-IP, 1-H, 0-R, 1-SO) in the third.

The victory not only gave the Red (9-3, 6-1) a two-game cushion over second place Hamline and North St. Paul (9-7, 4-3), but also secured the tiebreaker over the latter.

June 26, 2006
Tri-City Red 3, North St. Paul 1 (Game 12)

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NSP   0 0 1  0 0 0  0 — 1 5 1
TCR   0 0 0  0 3 0  x — 3 6 1
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Holmberg and Adams; S. Weber, Fiegel (3), Porten (6) and Field.
W-Fiegel (2-0). L-Holmberg (2-1). S-Porten (1).

Red picks evens

by Greg Schmidt
July 3, 2006

It was a tale of two games June 27 in Tri-City's 18-2, five-inning destruction of White Bear Lake (7-8, 2-3).

In the first and third innings, it was three up and three down for the Red (10-3, 7-1). However the same couldn't be said for the second and fourth frames when Tri-City racked up 18 runs — nine in each. But even when they went on scoring binges, the routes taken were much different.

In the second with the home team down by two (yes, they actually had to come from behind), the Red recorded seven hits including run-scoring singles by Joe Colwell (1 for 3, RBI), Billy Gazich (2 for 4, 2-RBI, SB), Derek McCallum (2 for 3, BB, 2B, 2-RBI), Brady Field (2 for 2, 2-BB, 2-RBI) and Blake Searles (2 for 3, BB, RBI).

The Red poured it on again in the fourth, but this time needed only three hits. They might have had more, but there weren't many pitches to choose from. The reason? White Bear issued seven free passes. Two of the hits they did log were for extra bases with doubles by McCallum and Erik Anderson (1 for 3, BB, 2B, 4-RBI). Also pushing base runners home: Chase Traeger (0 for 2, 2-BB, RBI) and Bjorn Anderson (0 for 2, BB, RBI).

After gaining the advantage, starter Brett Cleveringa (4-IP, 3-SO) shut the door retiring six straight before giving way to Erik Fiegel, who followed suit with a 1-2-3 fifth.

June 27, 2006
Tri-City Red 18, White Bear Lake 2, 5 inn. (Game 13)

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WBL  0 2 0  0 0  —   2   2  2
TCR  0 9 0  9 x  —  18  10  0
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Johnson, Mellam (3) and Bircher; Cleveringa, Fiegel (5) and Field.
W-Cleveringa (2-1). L-Johnson (2-2). Red picks evens

Tri-City dominates Fourth in first half

By Greg Schmidt
July 3, 2006

The Red completed the first half of their Fourth District regular season schedule June 28 on a solid note by beating host Rosetown 9-6.

The victory leaves Tri-City (11-3 overall) with a near flawless 8-1 mark.

"And the one we lost was in extra innings," Larsen said. "The kids are playing really good and going into the second half we own the tiebreakers now with North St. Paul and Rosetown."

By claiming wins in the first two meetings with both, the Red essentially has a three-game lead over their two closest competitors.

In the latest clash with Rosetown (6-3 in the district), the Red took complete control right out of the chute by chalking up five runs in their first at bat. Blake Searles, who had an RBI single in the first inning, finished 4 for 4 with a double and 2-RBI and two runs scored.

Also in the first, Brady Field (2 for 4, 2-RBI, 2-R) and Joe Colwell (2 for 4, 2-2B, 3-RBI, 2-R) each knocked in a deuce. Starter Brandon Porten kept Rosetown at a distance, before giving way to Erik Fiegel with one out in the fifth. Fiegel ended a potential rally and Seth Rosin (2-SO) slammed the door with a scoreless sixth and seventh for his first save.

Tri-City posted a season-high six doubles. Also with two hits for the Red: Derek McCallum (2-2B), Brett Cleveringa (2-RBI) and Chase Traeger.

"Our first mission is to win the league championship because that [top seed] is very important — to get out of the knockout round and into the next [Final Four double elimination]," Larsen said.

June 28, 2006
Tri-City Red 9, Rosetown 6 (Game 14)

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TCR    5 0 2   0 2 0   0 — 9  16  0
Rose   0 2 1   0 3 0   0 — 6   8  1
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Porten, Fiegel (5), Rosin (6) and Field; Blevins, Ettel (5), Beck (7) and Forsythe. W-Porten (2-1). L-Blevins (2-2). S-Rosin (1).
HR-Rose, Blevins.