

## Mistakes mar tourney opener

by Greg Schmidt

July 4, 2006

A pair of two-out miscues left the Red (11-4) with an unfortunate 5-4 loss to Grand Forks (N.D.) in the first round of pool play at Matson Field.

The first error arrived with two out in the fourth and Grand Forks holding a 1-0 advantage. The bonus at bats led to a couple of walks and a two-run single that left the Red trailing 3-0. After the Red broke through with a run in the bottom of the fourth, another mistake, this time with two-out in the fifth put Grand Forks (11-7) ahead again by three. To their credit, Tri-City continued to battle back getting a pair in the sixth on Brady Field's second sacrifice fly of the game along with an RBI single to right-center by Joe Colwell. That left the Red only one run back at 4-3. But then came the seventh as Grand Forks again capitalized on a Red miscue and gained an insurance run. The insurance was utilized during the bottom of the inning as Tri-City pulled within a run on an RBI single to left field by Erik Anderson. He made it to second on an error, but was marooned on second. The Red had left three aboard in the sixth. Over the last two innings they tallied six hits.

"The last [two innings], throughout the order we were hitting the ball," Larsen said. "We just didn't get the key hit."

Tri-City out-hit the victor 10-7 led by McCallum (3 for 4, 2-3B), Colwell (2 for 3, RBI), Erik Anderson (2 for 4, RBI) and Billy Gazich (2 for 4, SB, 2B). Chase Traeger went 1 for 4 and Field (2-SF, 2-RBI) 0 for 2.

Blake Searles (7-IP, 1-ER) was forced into the hard-luck loss. "He only gave up one earned run — it was an outstanding performance," Larsen said.

But the defense was less than stellar. "It's uncharacteristic to let the ball eat us up out there and it cost us," added Larsen.

### June 29, 2006

#### Grand Forks (N.D.) 5, Tri-City Red 4 (Game 15)

Grand Forks	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	—	5	7	3
Tri-City Red	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	—	4	10	4

Spies and Sadler; Searles and Field. W-Spies (1-2). L-Searles (1-1).

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## Red falls late to Blues

by Greg Schmidt

July 4, 2006

Late inning heroics are expected when Tri-City Red (11-5) and rival Moorhead (20-5) battle and the June 29 matchup in the second round of pool play at Matson Field continued that trend. Unfortunately for Tri-City fans, it was the Blues pulling out the last minute surprise and what a big one it was when Andy Stone hit a grand slam with two out in the bottom of the sixth to deliver a 5-3 victory.

The mega round-tripper was certainly timely for the host team after leaving the bases juiced in the previous inning. Tri-City had chances too, but in their case, stranded a small village (five) in the last two innings.

The Red built a 3-0 lead on a two-out, two-run double by McCallum (3 for 4, 2B, 2-RBI) in the third inning and ground out from Brandon Porten (1 for 3, RBI) in the fourth. Others with a hit: Bjorn Anderson, Chase Traeger and Blake Searles.

**June 29, 2006**

**Moorhead 5, Tri-City Red 3 (Game 16)**

Tri-City Red	0	0	2	1	0	0	—	3	7	1	
Moorhead	0	0	0	1	0	4	x	—	5	11	3

Rosin, Fiegel (5), Cleveringa (6) and Field; Gnadt and Dahl. W-Gnadt (3-1). L-Fiegel (2-1). HR-MH, Stone.

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## Colwell pitches, powers Red to crucial win

By Greg Schmidt

July 4, 2006

The Red (12-5) was in desperate need of a savior to spark the team to victory and they got just that in Joe Colwell for a critical 8-3 win June 30 over Bismarck (N.D.) at Matson Field.

Along with being an everyday starter in right field, it turns out he's also a quality pitcher.

Colwell made just four starts during the entire high school season, but in the last week he's made two for Tri-City. "I didn't even expect to pitch much [this summer] — maybe spot duty," Colwell said.

And what a spot to be put in . . .

A loss would have left the Red 0-3 in pool play — their worst start in the tournament since they began making the trek in '93.

Colwell came through with a complete-game four-hitter with two earned runs and three strikeouts. Said Larsen: “It was a gutsy performance for a kid that pitched just a little [in the spring]. It gave the team a lot confidence too . . . it all starts with pitching and you saw a great outing right there — and he hit the ball hard too.”

Colwell went 2 for 4 while accomplishing the rare feat of two triples in one game.

Other big contributors were Brady Field and Derek McCallum.

McCallum (2 for 3, 2B, SF, 3-RBI) knocked in runs nearly every time he came to the plate. Field (2 for 4, HR, 2-RBI) had the monster hit of the game with a towering two-run blast in the fifth that completely shifted momentum in the Red’s favor.

The round-tripper made it 5-1 and proved more than huge as the Governors (14-11) plated two in the bottom of the fifth to make it a two-run game at 5-3. The Red put it away in the seventh by scoring three times on a sacrifice fly by McCallum and two-run double from Chase Traeger (3 for 4, 2-2B, 3-RBI).

Colwell offered no chance for a Bismarck rally in their last at bat. Instead, he struck out the first two batters and got the next one to ground out. In five of the seven innings, Colwell faced the minimum. Larsen couldn’t have been more pleased.

“That’s what you’re looking for here — to develop all these guys because you’re going to need those in the nine inning games [postseason],” he said.

**June 30, 2006**

**Tri-City Red 8, Bismarck (N.D.) 3 (Game 17)**

TCR	0	1	1	0	3	0	3	—	8	12	1
Bismarck	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	—	3	4	1

Colwell and Field; Allen, Fraase (7) and Connell. W-Colwell (1-1).  
L-Allen (0-1). HR-TCR, Field (1).

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## First ever meeting ends in defeat for Tri-City

by Greg Schmidt

July 4, 2006

The Red (12-6) had met Fargo plenty of times over the years and proved they could handle the North Dakota powerhouse time and time again. But against the sister team, West Fargo, a team they met for the first time in team history June 30 at Matson Field, the same result failed to materialize as the Patriots scored four unanswered to secure a 4-2 victory.

The score indicates a mild pitchers' duel, but in reality it was far from the garden variety. Patriots' starter Cole Horsager didn't record a strikeout, but kept throwing strikes. That allowed him to go the distance, not to mention the momentum boost he received in the second inning. West Fargo (12-10) quickly erased a two-run deficit with a three-run burst in the bottom of the frame. Luckily the Red was able to keep it a one-run affair, 3-2, by stranding three.

But the tying run proved impossible as Horsager held the Red to one hit over the next four innings with a variety of fly outs and a double play. Tri-City used three pitchers with the last two, the Anderson brothers Bjorn and Erik, making their first appearances on the mound in about three years. The makeshift duo proved effective as did starter Brett Cleveringa (4.1-IP, 1-ER, 2-SO), but the Red bats were unable to rally.

However, they certainly made a reach for it late when Bjorn Anderson (1 for 1, 2-BB, SB) and Billy Gazich (2 for 4, 2-RBI) started the seventh with back-to-back singles. Once again though, the RBI punch was nowhere to be found and the Red was stuck without a shot for a top-five finish in the 10-team tourney.

### June 30, 2006

#### West Fargo 4, Tri-City Red 2 (Game 18)

Tri-City Red	0	2	0	0	0	0	—	2	7	1	
West Fargo	0	3	0	0	0	1	x	—	4	6	0

Cleveringa, B. Anderson (5), E. Anderson (6) and E. Anderson, Field (5); Horsager and Thorson. W-Horsager (2-0). L-Cleveringa (2-2).

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## **Red crushes Wayzata in Fargo finale Enters mid-season break 13-6, fourth in state poll**

By Greg Schmidt

July 4, 2006

Well it wasn't 10th place and in reality even ninth place isn't a fair assessment of Tri-City Red's true performance at the 34th annual Fargo-Moorhead tourney June 29-July 1, but that's what they received after ripping apart Wayzata 11-0 in five innings in the first of five pool-crossover placement games played at Jack Williams Stadium in Fargo and Matson Field in Moorhead.

The Red, which played all their games at Matson, used the big inning twice to destroy Wayzata starting in the third when they plated five on a host of walks and a costly error. Wayzata starter Anders Fallt had retired the first seven he faced until a one-out single by Bjorn Anderson in the third. That prompted a strike zone drought as Fallt missed on 12 of his next 13 pitches. Joe Colwell's bases-loaded walk put the Red on the board and Derek McCallum beat out a grounder to make it 2-0. A pitching change didn't change matters as Brady Field singled to left for what appeared to be an RBI single, but the ball skipped past the leftfielder who was racing in for a possible throw to the plate. That allowed two additional runs and a commanding 5-0 advantage.

In the fifth, the Red chose to end the game early by adding another six and what better way to start the carnage than with the team's first official wood bat, over-the-fence home run by Derek McCallum, who was the only Red player still opting to retain the wood bat from district play even though metal was an option. Ironically, it was McCallum who led the Red at the plate during the tournament going 11 for 18 (HR, 2-3B, 2-2B, BB, SF) with seven RBI.

The Red went on to collect three more hits in the fifth including a first-pitch, two-run double to the left field corner from Billy Gazich. That made it 11-0 for reliever Erik Fiegel who gave up a double to the leadoff hitter before retiring the next three batters to secure the win for Erik Anderson.

Anderson was making his first start on the mound in three years and the victory makes him the ninth player to record a win this summer (a number not seen since the Red's 2000 state championship season). "It was really encouraging and we'll need that depth for the [postseason] nine inning games," Larsen said.

Overall the Red finished 2-3 at the tourney and 1-3 in an extremely competitive pool. A 2-2 mark would have bumped them up to the third place final because of the runs-against tiebreaker. Despite missing two of their top pitchers in Adam Weber and Sam Weber, Tri-City led the 10-team tourney allowing only 17 runs-against — ahead of champion Moorhead, 19, and fifth-place Eau Claire, 20.

Both Red victories arrived shortly after the wake-up call.

“What I liked out here is we played two morning games at 9 a.m. and played two good games so that tells you a little bit about the habits of the kids,” said Larsen, who, like in years past, also used the tourney as a proving ground.

“I’ve got to find some versatility and we did that. I was really pleased with what I learned, sometimes the results weren’t there, but we’re getting to where we want to be,” he said.

One area that prevented a higher finish was the lack of timely hitting in late innings.

“We left too many on base yesterday in the key part of the lineup and that will come,” Larsen said. “We’ll just keep working at it.”

The Red has won the tourney twice in the last 10 years (1997 and ’99). Both tourney titles were followed up by World Series appearances. The Red also has one runner-up finish (’98), two third-place finishes (’05, ’02) and they took fourth on three occasions (’04, ’03 ’01). In 2000 the final day was rained out.

Next up is the Gopher Classic July 7-9 and it will mark the first time since the opening week that the Red will have a full complement of players.

### **July 1, 2006**

#### **Tri-City Red 11, Wayzata 0, 5 inn. (Game 19)**

Tri-City Red	0	0	5	0	6	—	11	7	0
Wayzata	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	3	4

E. Anderson, Rosin (4), Fiegel (5) and Field; Fallt, Torrison (2) and R. Anderson. W-E. Anderson (1-0). L-Fallt (1-2). HR-TCR, McCallum (2).