

Red uses field goal, not touchdowns in North End rematch

By Greg Schmidt

July 16, 2006

It wasn't quite the one-sided affair the Red (17-8, 9-1) enjoyed the first time with North End (4-7, 4-7) on Father's Day, but the second meeting ended with the same result: another shutout by Red pitching, 3-0 at Irondale July 10.

In the latest matchup, scoring runs proved a much bigger challenge, at least after the first inning when the Red notched what would be the deciding run on back-to-back two-out doubles: first to the leftfield fence by Derek McCallum (1 for 3) followed by one into the gap in left-center by Brady Field (2 for 3, 2-RBI).

In the first meeting Tri-City scored at will in every inning (22-0 final), but this time didn't expand on the first inning advantage until the bottom of the fifth. Field and Billy Gazich (2 for 3, RBI) recorded RBI singles to give starter Joe Colwell a three-run cushion. Seth Rosin entered with a runner on first and nobody out in the seventh and faced just three batters. A strikeout and double play secured his second save. It also wrapped up another tiebreaker in the race for the top seed in the district playoffs.

Along with blanking North End for six innings for his second win, Colwell also went 2 for 3 at the plate. Chase Traeger (SB) and Blake Searles both went 1 for 3.

July 10, 2006

Tri-City Red 3, North End 0 (Game 25)

North End	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	4	2		
Tri-City Red	1	0	0	0	2	0	x	—	3	9	1

Colwell, Rosin (7) and Field; Geiger and Weiner. W-Colwell (2-1).
L-Geiger (0-2).

The Bull blanks Hamline

By Greg Schmidt

July 16, 2006

The recent struggles by Hamline (14-13, 4-8) didn't change the importance of the July 11 battle with Tri-City Red (18-8, 10-1) at Midway Stadium. The Red, hoping to capture the tiebreaker after splitting the first two with Hamline, not only achieved that, but also posted their second straight district shutout, 5-0.

Sammy 'The Bull' Weber, who didn't allow a runner to reach third all night, scattered four hits, struck out seven and at one point — retired 11 straight. Hamline thrower Paul Shrewsbury was also impressive setting down the last 13 batters he faced. Before he found his groove, however, the Red managed to rough him up in the third by batting

through the order and putting five across the dish. A one-out, three-run double to the left field fence by Blake Searles highlighted the five-run burst. Just before that, Billy Gazich bounced a hard grounder off the pitcher for the game's first run.

With two out, Searles came home on a double to left-center from Bjorn Anderson. Searles (2B, 3-RBI) finished to 2 for 3 while six of his teammates, Gazich (RBI), Anderson (2B, RBI), Derek McCallum, Brady Field, Brian Marshik and Chase Traeger had one apiece.

The last four innings had little drama, but one oddity as two wanna-be streakers made their way across the outfield before exiting over the fence next to the leftfield line.

July 11, 2006

Tri-City Red 5, Hamline 0 (Game 26)

TCR	0 0 5	0 0 0	0 —	5 8 1
Hamline	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 —	0 4 1

S. Weber and Field; Shrewsbury and Gabriel. W-S. Weber (3-0).
L-Shrewsbury (3-3).

Red secures three tiebreakers in as many days

Regular season title a virtual lock heading into district stretch run

By Greg Schmidt

July 16, 2006

After posting two shutouts in as many days, Tri-City's scoreless streak ended abruptly July 12, but their Fourth District dominance continued in a 6-3 victory over Arcade-Phalen (5-9 in the district) at St. Paul Johnson High School.

The Red scored six unanswered after the three-run trench they slipped into during the first inning. The rally started in the second with a pair of runs and in the third, the equalizer arrived on a sacrifice fly to right by Blake Searles (2 for 2, 2B, SF, RBI). That followed a leadoff walk to Derek McCallum (0 for 1, 2-BB, SF, RBI) and one-out double by Billy Gazich (1 for 3, BB, 2B).

One inning later the Red obtained the eventual game-winner, 4-3, on a single from Brian Marshik (2 for 4, RBI, SB) that scored Bjorn Anderson (2 for 3, BB, RBI). The Red continued their single-run manufacturing in the fifth and sixth to all, but guarantee a victory for starter Blake Searles. After a 30-pitch first inning, Searles held Arcade scoreless the next four innings on 40 pitches. Porten kept the new scoreless string intact in the sixth and seventh to record his second save. Also knocking in runs: Chase Traeger (0 for 2, SAC, SF, RBI) and Brett Cleveringa (0 for 1, BB, SF, RBI). Joe Colwell tripled to finish 1 for 3.

With six games left on the district schedule, the Red now has a four game lead over second place Rosetown.

“This was a very important game,” said manager Jeff Larsen. “It gives us distance between them and closes the gap to the [final district] game — and it gives us another tiebreaker. The only team the Red (19-8, 11-1) doesn’t have two wins [tiebreaker] against is White Bear Lake — which is also the only team they haven’t played twice. The Red won the first meeting June 27, and have a doubleheader on the final day of the regular season July 23. The league champ earns a bye in the first round single elimination July 25 at Midway Stadium.

July 12, 2006

Tri-City Red 6, Arcade-Phalen 3 (Game 27)

Tri-City Red	0	2	1	1	1	0	—	6	9	1
Arcade-Phalen	3	0	0	0	0	0	—	3	4	1

Searles, Porten (6) and Field; Collier, Jameison (5) and Pearson.
W-Searles (2-2). L-Collier. S-Porten (2).