

Searles seals the deal

By Greg Schmidt

June 21, 2007

After blasting their sister Legion team (Tri-City Blue) in a season-opening doubleheader sweep, the Red (ranked fifth in the latest state poll) continued their offensive tirade two days later with a 10-1 wallop of arch-rival Hamline (ranked 14th).

The Fourth District and home opener at Irondale High School was the first meeting since the Hamchucks stunned the Red in the Fourth District playoff championship last summer.

With 10 new players on the Red roster, the revenge factor was minimal at best according to third-year player Blake Searles. "Last year was last year . . . I think every year we always come out thinking we're going to be one of the better teams in the district and we'll play our best game no matter who [we play]," said Searles, who was celebrating his 19th birthday.

The birthday boy provided the punctuation with a three-run double to the right-center wall in the sixth inning. Yes indeed, Searles was the game MVP finishing 2 for 4 with a pair of doubles and three RBI. He also faced the minimum (4-SO) in his two innings of no-hit relief of Red ace Seth Rosin (8-SO, 2-H).

Also with two hits each for the Red: Tommy Thompson (2 for 3, BB, 2B, 3B), Nick Colwell (2 for 3) and Erik Fiegel (2 for 4). Brandon Porten (2-RBI) and Rosin added one hit apiece.

"It's a good win especially because it's Hamline and they've got a lot of Cretin guys and Cretin just won state so obviously they have a lot of talent on their team so I think this is a good way to start the season off," Searles said.

Tri-City Red 10, Hamline 1 (Game 3, June 18, 2007)

Hamline	000	100	0	—	1	2	3
TCR	110	026	x	—	10	11	1

Punch, Jones (6) and Kelly; Rosin, Searles (6) and Anderson. W-Rosin (1-0). L-Punch (0-1). S-Searles (1).

Red scoring binge continues

By Greg Schmidt

The Red struck early and held off a late surge to grab an 8-3 win June 19 at North St. Paul.

Tri-City (4-0, 2-0) blew open a one-run game by touching home five times in the third on four run-scoring singles by Reichart, Searles (3 for 4, 2-RBI), Fiegel (1 for 3, SF, 2-RBI) and Cleveringa) and an error — one of four on the night for the 39ers (3-3, 0-1).

Brandon Porten tossed five strong innings before a jam in the sixth prompted a change. In his Legion pitching debut, Tommy Thompson entered with nobody out and the bases full and kept the damage to a minimum with the help of a double play. In the seventh he struck out three to finish with four in two innings.

Tri-City Red 8, North St. Paul 3 (Game 4, June 19, 2007)

TCR	105	110	0	—	8	12	0
NSP	000	102	0	—	3	8	4

Porten, Thompson (6) and Anderson; Gunderson, Hubbard (6) and Adams. W-Porten (1-0). L-Gunderson (1-1).



Red ranked fifth, win fifth

By Greg Schmidt

June 21, 2007

The Red remained unbeaten June 20 by using the same formula applied in their first four games: score first and don't look back. This time, it was a six-run, first inning punch capped by a three-run double to left-centerfield by Brian Marshik (1 for 3, 2B, 3-RBI) that led to an 8-4 win at Rosetown (4-4, 3-1). The triumph included steady performances for both starter Paul Myers and Brock Pedersen, who earned the victory with four innings of solid relief. Pedersen retired seven of the last eight Rosetown batters. Erik Anderson (2B) and Jack Ries each collected two hits and an RBI. Jake Lechner and Tommy Thompson also doubled while Blake Searles (RBI) and Dan Reichert each singled. The Red (5-0, 3-0), ranked fifth in the latest state poll, has scored at least once in the first inning of all five games and has yet to fall behind (31 innings).

Tri-City Red 8, Rosetown 4 (Game 5, June 20, 2007)

TCRed	6	1	0	0	—	8	9	2
Rosetown	1	0	1	0	—	4	6	2

Myers, Pedersen (4) and Anderson; Hagan, Libra (1), Ettl (5), Streker (7) and Forsythe. W-Pedersen (1-0). L-Hagan (1-1).

Red handles Bears, enters West St. Paul tourney unscathed

By Greg Schmidt

The Red (6-0, 4-0) completed their first week of Fourth District action in style with a 9-2 victory over White Bear (7-5, 1-4) at Irondale.

A quick start put the Red in complete control once again. Nick Colwell (2 for 3, 2B, RBI) got it started with an RBI double in the first at bat. Back-to-back run-scoring singles by Dan Reichert (2 for 3, 2-RBI) and Jack Ries completed the three-run burst. Ries was just getting started. He added a two-run single in the third and another in the fourth to finish 3 for 3 with five RBI. Blake Searles (1 for 2) also logged an RBI with a bases-loaded walk in the fourth. Brett Cleveringa became the team's first multiple game winner going five innings with two strikeouts. Reliever Erik Fiegel retired the side in order in both the sixth and seventh.

Tri-City Red 9, White Bear 2 (Game 6, June 21, 2007)

WB	0	0	0	0	—	2	4	0
TC	3	0	2	0	x	9	9	2

Johnson, Schilla (6) and Bircher; Cleveringa, Fiegel (6) and Tetrick. W-Cleveringa (2-0). L-Johnson.