

## **Fiegel and first inning rally enough to hold off Park**

By Greg Schmidt

June 27, 2007

The hittin' shoes were on again for the Red in their first at bat as they plated four on their way to a 5-2 win against St. Paul Park in the first round June 22 at St. Thomas Academy.

Erik Fiegel (4-H, 2-SO, 0-BB) took the advantage and ran with it keeping Park in check before David Norgard (1-SO) closed the door with a 1-2-3 seventh.

The first inning rush has become commonplace for the Red in their first seven tilts. In the latest showing consecutive singles by Brian Marshik (2 for 3, BB), Nick Colwell (1 for 4, SB), Dan Reichert (2 for 4, 3B, RBI) and Jake Lechner (1 for 2, SF, 3-RBI). Moments later Lechner was home on an error.

Fiegel held Park hitless until a leadoff double in the fifth. According to manager Jeff Larsen, it was the first meeting between the two teams since the 1997 state tournament, a game won by the Red on a home run over the left field wall by legendary leadoff hitter Billy Schneider in the 12<sup>th</sup> inning. "It's been a long time . . . '97 to 2007," Larsen said.

But the memories never fade.

### **First round pool play**

#### **Tri-City Red 5, St. Paul Park 2 (Game 7, June 22)**

Tri-City Red	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	5	6	2
St. Paul Park	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	—	2	4	3

Fiegel, Norgard (7) and Tetrick; DeFlorin and Nordtvedt. W-Fiegel (1-0). L-DeFlorin (2-1). S-Norgard (1).

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## **Thompson lifts Red**

By Greg Schmidt

The Red needed a boost June 23 and Tommy Thompson (2 for 4, HR, SF, 3-RBI) provided just that with a towering two-run cloud kisser to right field that turned a tense one-run affair into an eventual 11-3 rout of Northfield (1-5).

Also in the fourth, Jake Lechner doubled, took third on a wild pitch and scored on an errant throw back to the Northfield pitcher. After a leadoff double in the bottom of the frame, Red pitcher Paul Myers kept the momentum by retiring Northfield in order with the help of some spectacular glove work by third baseman Luke Ross, who made all three putouts. Reliever David Norgard, making his second appearance in less than 24 hours,

got the Red out of a jam in the fifth on one pitch that led to a double play. In the seventh, another double play, the Red's third of the game, kept the squad unbeaten in pool play (2-0) and overall (8-0). Along with Thompson, Dan Reichert (SF, 3-RBI) and Nick Colwell (2-BB, 2-RBI) added two hits each. Other contributors: Cleveringa (1 for 2, 3-BB), Matt Tetrick (1 for 2, BB, RBI), Brian Marshik (1 for 4, BB, SB), Lechner (1 for 5, 2B), Erik Fiegel (1 for 1, 2B) and Joe Phillippi (1 for 4, RBI).

### **Second round pool play**

#### **Tri-City Red 11, Northfield 3 (Game 8, June 23)**

Tri-City Red	3	0	0	3	1	0	4	—	11	12	3
Northfield	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	3	6	4

Myers, Norgard (5) and Tetrick; Dimmick, Paulson (5) and Loven Holt. W-Myers (2-0). L-Dimmick (0-1). HR-TCR, Thompson (2).

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### **Red reacts to new drama**

By Greg Schmidt

For the ninth straight game, the Red (9-0) drew first blood in the first inning, but this time the favor was quickly returned to put a Red victory in doubt June 23 in the final round of pool play.

That all changed in the fifth as the top of the order rallied the Red from their first deficit of the season (53 innings) to win the pool on a 6-3 final against district rival Rosetown (6-7).

Said Red starting pitcher Brandon Porten: "I think the team felt a little urgency in the dugout — a little bit more need to get it going We were pressing a little bit."

Assistant coach Russ Poser, who made his managerial debut because of a schedule conflict for Red manager Jeff Larsen, said he felt the guys were a little down, a little tired, but eventually reacted to the deficit: "Yeah, by the fifth inning the guys figured out what was going on and the bats came alive."

Down 3-2 after Rosetown (6-7) gained the advantage with three runs in the top of the second, Tri-City managed just one hit per inning until the fifth when Brian Marshik (2 for 3, BB) tapped a one-out single and scored the equalizer on a double over the leftfielder by Nick Colwell (2 for 3, BB, 2B, 2-RBI). Tommy Thompson (2 for 4, 2B) followed with a base hit and following a pitching change with runners at the corners, Dan Reichert (1 for 2, SF, 3-RBI) hit a first-pitch sacrifice fly to left for what turned out to be the game-winner.

Brett Cleveringa (1 for 1, 2B, RBI) provided a bit of breathing room in the sixth with a run-scoring double to left-center. He later scored on a fielder's choice. The cushion put Red starter Brandon Porten (7-IP, 6-H, 0-BB, 3-SO) at ease in the seventh as he closed out the team's first complete game toss of the summer. And the great performance couldn't have come at a better time (the Red's seventh game in six days). "I think it's pretty big going a complete game with us being shorthanded (ace Seth Rosin and closer Blake Searles were unavailable) here during this tournament. The more we can save on arms the better," Porten said.

Tri-City finished 3-0 in their pool to advance into the semifinals. Also with two hits was Erik Fiegel (2 for 3, SB). Porten and Jake Lechner each finished 1 for 3.

### Third round pool play

#### Tri-City Red 6, Rosetown 3 (Game 9, June 23)

Rosetown	0	3	0	0	0	0	—	3	6	1	
Tri-City Red	2	0	0	0	2	2	x	—	6	12	0

Porten and Tetrick; Libra, Strecker (5) and Forsythe. W-Porten (2-0). L-Libra (2-1). HR-Rose, Zeece (1).

## Anderson makes annual start, leads Red to win in semifinals

By Greg Schmidt

Red manager Jeff Larsen dug deep into the bullpen June 24 and found just what the team needed: another arm on short notice. Erik Anderson answered the call with his annual start and led Tri-City (10-0) an 8-2 semifinal victory over Third District foe, New Prague (4-3) in the tourney semifinals.

The game started on an ominous note as the Red failed to score in the first inning for the first time this summer. But they certainly came close with walks to Brian Marshik (0 for 1, 2-BB, HBP) and Nick Colwell (1 for 2, 2B, 2-BB, 3-RBI) to start the inning.

Unfortunately, a highlight reel diving catch in leftfield led to one of the most unique plays in baseball: the triple play.



**Brett Cleveringa winds up to send one out of the park.**



The sting of that miraculous faded as the Red reacted quickly with three runs in the second inning to take control. Jake Lechner's two-run double into left-center got it started. Lechner (1 for 3, 2B, 2-RBI) later scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-2. Tri-City added another run in the fifth before extending that in a big way in the sixth.

Brett Cleveringa (1 for 3, HR, RBI) blasted a one-out, solo moon shot to make it 5-2 and later in the inning Colwell completed the scorecard with a three-run double. Meanwhile, Anderson (1-BB, 2-SO) kept New Prague in check during his four innings of work giving up two runs before handing it over to Tommy Thompson (0-BB, 2-SO), who picked up his first save by blanking New

Prague on two hits in three innings. Said manager Jeff Larsen on Anderson's performance: "I gave him 51 weeks so I told him before the game he was very well rested." Anderson, one of the Red's starting catchers this summer and last, made his last pitching appearance at last summer's Fargo tourney. "With him being behind the plate all the time, we got a little directional map for him to find the mound," joked Larsen.

### **Semifinal**

#### **Tri-City Red 8, New Prague 2 (Game 10, June 24)**

New Prague	1	1	0	0	0	0	—	2	10	0
Tri-City Red	0	3	0	0	1	4	x	8	8	1

Anderson, Thompson (5) and Tetrick, Anderson (5); Bergstrom, Hoffman (5) and Perkinson. W-Anderson (1-0). L-Bergstrom (2-1). HR-TCR, Cleveringa (1).

### **Tri-City goes down swinging in tourney championship**

By Greg Schmidt

It was the Red's first loss of the season, but they didn't go down without a fight June 24 before falling 13-9 to St. Paul Park in the championship game of the Moose Country Challenge tourney in tourney at Henry Sibley High School.

Both teams had come full circle after meeting in the first round of pool play less than 48 hours earlier. Unlike the first go-round, the rematch turned into slugfest, particularly late as Park (8-6) regained the lead 6-4 with four runs in the fifth before padding that cushion with two more in the sixth and a seemingly game-ending five run burst in the seventh.

But the Red (10-1) wasn't quite finished. Trailing 13-4, Tri-City went to work gathering six hits and two walks to bring the tying run to the plate. The rally nearly continued if not for a spectacular catch in right field that left the bases full and ended the rally at five. The inning included run-scoring singles from Dan Reichert (1 for 4, RBI) and Erik Anderson (2 for 4, RBI) along with a two-run base knock by Erik Fiegel.(2 for 4, 2B, 2-RBI). Brian Marshik (2 for 4, BB, 2-2B, RBI) drew a bases-loaded walk to make it 13-9. Nick Colwell (2B, SB, 2-RBI) went 3 for 5 and Jack Ries (RBI, BB) finished 2 for 3. The teams combined for 37 hits, 22 by Park.

After being demoralized in the later innings, Larsen was pleased by the strong comeback. "I was just happy as punch," he said. "I think in a nine inning game we would have won it."

It was a balanced effort all weekend for the Red as they won four of five games. "Our pitchers — everybody contributed all weekend," said Larsen. "It's a very versatile team....anybody you put out there is going to perform."

Most of all, the team performed well beyond expectations and did it without the services of veteran arms Seth Rosin and Blake Searles.

"I got to see a lot of other pitchers," Larsen said. "It gave me a good look at what they can do."

### **Championship**

#### **St. Paul Park 13, Tri-City Red 9 (Game 11, June 24)**

St. Paul Park	1	1	0	0	4	2	5	—	13	22	0
Tri-City Red	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	—	9	15	2

Marks, Dorgan (7) and Nordtvedt; Pedersen, Norgard (6) and Anderson. W-Marks (3-0). L-Pedersen (1-1). HR-SPP, Starr, Marks, Ubl.



**Brock Pedersen delivers to Erik Anderson.**