North End takes Red to overtime
Reichert, Phillippi star in eight-inning thriller
By Greg Schmidt
June 27, 2007

After a long and grueling, but successful weekend the Red (11-1, 5-0) got back to work in the Fourth District and was welcomed back with, of all things, extra innings. Fortunately it resulted in another win as they edged North End (1-3, 1-3) in a 4-3 final at Irondale.

Joe Phillippi notched the game-winner on a one-out bases-loaded grounder that North End turned into an ill-fated double play attempt as Erik Anderson, who led off the eighth with a single to left field, raced home with no play at the plate.

Anderson (2 for 4, RBI) also knocked in the Red's first run of the game on a single to right in the third. The Red gained their first advantage, 3-2, in the fifth on an RBI double by Nick Colwell (2 for 3, BB, 2-2B, RBI) and sacrifice fly from Dan Reichert (1 for 3, SF, RBI). North End tied it with a sacrifice fly in the next frame that eventually pushed the tilt to an extra frame.

Not lost in Phillippi's heroics was the spectacular performance of Reichert, who was marvelous in his debut while going the full eight innings and allowing just one earned run and striking out four.

"That was just a great performance by him," said Larsen. Originally the starter was slated to be Blake Searles, but his flight from Florida was delayed. "That changed the plan and it worked out okay," Larsen said.

That might be the understatement of the season thus far as the Red has won 11 of their first 12 with only seven innings combined from Searles and Seth Rosin, the team's projected top-two hurlers.

Tri-City Red 4, North End 3, 8 inn.
(Game 12, June 25)

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North End      0 0 2   0 0 1   0 0 —   3   6   1
Tri-City Red   0 0 1   0 2 0   0 1 —   4   9   2
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Reichert and Tetrick; Gruber, A. Paitich (6) and Flaherty. W-Reichert (1-0). L-A. Paitich (0-1).

Red bombs Arcade early, sets record for pitchers
By Greg Schmidt

Like every Red team before them, this year's squad has gained an identity. The '07 group reinforced that with an 8-3 win against preseason Fourth District dark horse, Arcade-Phalen (4-5, 2-4) June 26 at Irondale.

The Red (12-1, 6-0) stormed out to an impressive 7-0 first-inning advantage. The incredible start marked the 11th time in 13 games that they've scored in the first inning. Highlighting the surge was a two-run triple to right-center by Brett Cleveringa (1 for 2, 3B, 2-RBI). He scored seconds later on a single from Brian Marshik (2 for 4, RBI, 2-SB). It was Marshik's second hit of the inning.

Also with two hits on the night: Nick Colwell (RBI) and Blake Searles. Cleveringa and Searles also shined on the mound. Cleveringa tossed two innings of one-hit shutout relief and Searles struck out six in five innings allowing just two earned runs on four hits in his first start of the summer. The performance made him the ninth player on the team to earn at least one victory. The Red has had 10 or more players earn wins in a summer, but never this early into the season (13 games).

"[The team] has got to feel good about their odds [no matter] who is on the mound," said Larsen.

Tri-City Red 8, Arcade-Phalen 3
(Game 13, June 26)

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Arcade-Phalen   0 0 3  0 0 0  0 — 3  5  1
Tri-City Red    7 0 0  1 0 0  x — 8  9  1
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O'Kiefe, Jenson (2) and Pearson; Searles, Cleveringa (6) and Tetrick. W-Searles (1-0). L-O'Kiefe.

Tri-City enters district break unbeaten, Fargo tourney next
By Greg Schmidt

The Red entered the second part of their three-act Fourth District schedule with a critical 3-2 victory over archrival Hamline June 27 at Irondale.

Brandon Porten (3-0) stayed perfect on the summer while pitching into the sixth. With one out David Norgard kept the potential Hamline rally in check before Seth Rosin picked up his first save with three strikeouts in the seventh.

Said Red manager Jeff Larsen: "I expected a tough one and [Porten] gave us five big innings and then Norgard got us some big outs and that was huge to set it up for Seth."

After taking the lead on a sacrifice fly by Erik Anderson (0 for 2, SF) in the first inning, the scoreboard relaxed until the fourth when Jack Ries (1 for 2, RBI, HBP) singled in the Red's second run. In the next frame Tommy Thompson (2 for 3, RBI) made it 3-0 with a one-base crack to right that scored Nick Colwell (1 for 2, BB), who singled to lead off the inning.

Also with one hit apiece were Dan Reichert, Blake Searles (SB) and Brian Marshik (2B).

"That was a huge win for us, there's no doubt about it. Now we got the tiebreaker," Larsen said. The district schedule has everybody meeting three times. Tri-City crushed Hamline 10-1 in the district opener for both teams June 18.

Tri-City Red 3, Hamline 2
(Game 14, June 27)

Hamline   0 0 0 0 0 2 0 — 2 7 2
Tri-City Red   1 0 0 1 1 0 x — 3 7 1

Swanson and Weisner; Porten, Norgard (6), Rosin (7) and Anderson. W-Porten (3-0). L-Swanson (1-1).