

## Red clears off cobwebs

By Greg Schmidt

July 12, 2007

It wasn't one of their crisper games, but it was enough to keep the Red unbeaten in the Fourth District as they defeated Arcade-Phalen 8-4 at St. Paul Johnson High School.

The July 9 matchup marked Tri-City's first game in eight days. The problem, as expected, showed up on the mound. Four pitchers combined for a season-high eight walks. "Yeah, the pitching is about what I expected," manager Jeff Larsen said. "We had to get the rust out a little bit."

Luckily the rust was only superficial as Arcade (7-12, 2-7) failed to capitalize and was blanked until the bottom of the fifth. By that time, Tri-City had raced ahead 8-0 highlighted by a three-run double in the fourth by Nick Colwell, who showed no setback from the break after going 9 for 16 at the Fargo-Moorhead tourney.

Arcade cut the deficit in half with the help of a one-inning season-high three errors from Tri-City in the fifth. Prior to that, the Red (17-3, 8-0) made two double plays along with a great throw by Colwell in leftfield to gun down a runner at home that ended the second inning. Both teams managed six hits. Colwell (2-2B, 4-RBI) and Dan Reichert (BB) each had two hits with the other two recorded by Erik Anderson (BB, RBI) and Brian Marshik (SB, 2-BB).

### Tri-City Red 8, Arcade-Phalen 4 (Game 20, July 9, 2007)

Tri-City Red	2	0	1	3	2	0	0	—	8	6	3
Arcade-Phalen	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	—	4	6	3

Fiegel, Myers (4), Norgard (6), Porten (7) and Anderson, Tetrick (6); Welle, Burkhardt (5), Zuniga (7) and O'Keefe. W-Fiegel (3-0). L-Welle (0-1).

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## Rosin blanks 39ers

It was a much-anticipated return to the mound for Tri-City ace pitcher Seth Rosin and he delivered with a brilliant two-hitter in a 5-0 shutout of district rival North St. Paul July 10 at Midway Stadium.

Like his previous start, an 8-7 loss at Moorhead June 30, Rosin was given a 4-0 first inning lead. But unlike the previous appearance when he struggled and lasted only one inning, this time he wasn't battling through soreness after making numerous appearances in a hectic week of all-star and Legion appearances.

“The Moorhead game was the fourth game I had [appeared] in a week so it was tough, but it was nice to have a week off . . . It made the whole difference,” Rosin said.

If not for two errors, Rosin would have faced the minimum in the first two innings. Said manager Jeff Larsen, “I thought I’d see a little more rust, but we didn’t.”

To prevent any chance of that, Rosin tuned up the day before.

“It was nice to throw a little bit yesterday so I could loosen up for today,” Rosin said. “I had some good pitches and better control.”

What he had was the typical Rosin start over the last three years in a Red uniform: 10 strikeouts with no walks.

North St. Paul’s pitcher didn’t mirror Rosin’s performance. Ross Metcalf battled through an incredible 46-pitch first inning and didn’t return. After logging two strikeouts following a leadoff walk to Brian Marshik (1 for 1, 3-BB, 2-SB), the next batter, Erik Anderson (1 for 2, BB, RBI), turned the tide with a marvelous eight-pitch at bat that ended with an RBI single to center. Two walks and two wild pitches later, Jack Ries (1 for 3, 2-RBI) capped the two-out rally by looping a single to right field to plate a couple more runs.

Rosin then went to work and at one point retired eight in a row. His double-digit knockout total included at least one in every inning.

It was the team’s fourth shutout of the summer, but the first that went the full seven innings.

The victory carried huge playoff implications as the Red clinched the tiebreaker by winning the first two of the three-game season series against North St. Paul (13-7, 6-3).

“That was good that we could get another game up on them so playoff time we can get a good seeding — maybe a bye,” Rosin said.

The Red improved to 18-3 overall and 9-0 at the halfway point of their Fourth District schedule.

**Tri-City Red 5, North St. Paul 0  
(Game 21, July 10, 2007)**

NSP	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	2	0	
TCR	4	1	0	0	0	x	—	5	8	2

Metcalf, Lindberg (2) and Adams; Rosin and Anderson. W-Rosin (2-0). L- Metcalf (2-2).

## Red walks away with one-hitter

It seemed like a daunting task with the Red (19-3, 10-0) attempting to follow up staff ace Seth Rosin's two-hitter the night before with a similar performance in their July 11 match up with North End (4-7, 4-7) at Midway Stadium.

As it turned out, statistically anyway, the Red accomplished that in a one-hitter behind the combined efforts of Blake Searles (4-IP, 5-SO), David Norgard (2-IP, 3-SO) and Tommy Thompson (1-IP, 1-SO) on the way to a 9-1 victory.

Manager Jeff Larsen was pleased by all three: "I was really hoping I could get Searles through four and below 70 pitches and he did really well and then 'Norgs' comes in and what a nice two innings. I didn't want him to go over 20 pitches because he's one of those pitchers I want to use every day for an inning . . . he's going to change that pace and keep it on the ground. Thompson was just great, no walks, no deep-in-the-counts. I couldn't have been happier."

Although the Red didn't score in the first inning, a rarity this summer, they did manage to plate at least a run in the next five. The Red finished with eight hits led by Brandon Porten (2 for 4, BB, RBI). Erik Fiegel (1 for 2, BB, 2B, 2-RBI) notched the Red's lone extra base hit with a two-run double down the right field line in the fifth inning. Also pushing runs across: Thompson (SF, BB), Erik Anderson (SF, 2-BB), Nick Colwell (SAC), Brett Cleveringa (1 for 1) and Jack Ries (SF, SAC, 2-BB).

Tri-City drew a season-high 11 walks led by leadoff extraordinaire Brian Marshik (1 for 1, 3-BB, SB, RBI), who extended his amazing streak of reaching base to 10 consecutive at bats. That includes seven walks and three hits over the last three games. Speaking of 10, the Red's 10-0 mark in the Fourth District is looking tough to top as the season enters the stretch run. North St. Paul, Hamline and Rosetown are the teams giving chase, but all of them are at least three games back.

"We've got the tiebreak against Hamline and North St. Paul and they had a big double header tonight. If they split that's great for us," Larsen said.

Later that night the scores came in and indeed there was a split of the North St. Paul / Hamline twin bill. That reduced the Red's magic number to four in their run for the regular season title and coveted top seed along with a first round bye (knockout round).

### Tri-City Red 9, North End 1 (Game 22, July 11, 2007)

Tri-City Red	0	1	1	3	2	2	0	—	9	8	2
North End	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	—	1	1	3

Searles, Norgard (5), Thompson (7) and Anderson, Tetrick (6); S. Paitich, Gruber (4), Bowen (5), Flaherty (7) and Gengler. W-Searles (2-0). L-Paitich (0-1).

## **White Bear no match for Fourth District leader Gopher classic starts Friday at 'Tonka**

It wasn't Midway Stadium and it wasn't a Fourth district heavy, but it was a critical game for Tri-City and their quest for the regular season title.

"I told them there are games you want to win and there are games you 'gotta' win and this was a 'gotta' game. We can't go in there flat," said manager Jeff Larsen.

With that message firmly implanted the Red got right to business in the 9-4 win at White Bear Lake (2-8 in the district).

Tri-City scored twice in their first at bat and took complete control, 7-1, with a five-run second. The Red chalked up six of their nine hits while batting around. Matt Tetrick (2 for 3) singled twice to lead the way. In between, the Red also knocked in a few runs on base hits by Joe Phillippi (2 for 4, BB, 2-RBI), Luke Ross (1 for 2, HBP, 2-RBI), Brett Cleveringa (2 for 3, RBI) and a ground out by Dan Reichert (0 for 2, BB, RBI). Oddly enough, the carnage ended with a ground out to the pitcher by Brian Marshik (1 for 3, RBI). He singled earlier in the inning and walked in the first stretching his on-base streak to 12 consecutive at bats. But the damage was done as the game went into cruise control.

Blake Searles (1 for 1, RBI) and Marshik both pushed some insurance home in the sixth to keep the Red unbeaten at 11-0 in district play (20-3 overall) and at the same time, reduced their magic number to three for a share of the district crown.

"There isn't that many games to go and now it's harder on the teams behind us," Larsen said. "We've got it in our hands and that's what you want."

The Red's road trip continues with the prestigious Gopher Classic. Pool play for Red begins Friday at 9 a.m. against Adrian (Mich.). At 5 p.m. they meet Rapid City (S.D.), a huge rival from the '90s.

### **Tri-City Red 9, White Bear Lake 4 (Game 23, July 12, 2007)**

Tri-City Red	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	—	9	9	2
White Bear	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	—	4	10	5

Reichert, Myers (5), Cleveringa (7) and Tetrick, Anderson (6); J. Claeson, S. Claeson (4) and Bates. W-Reichert (2-0). L-J. Claeson (1-1).