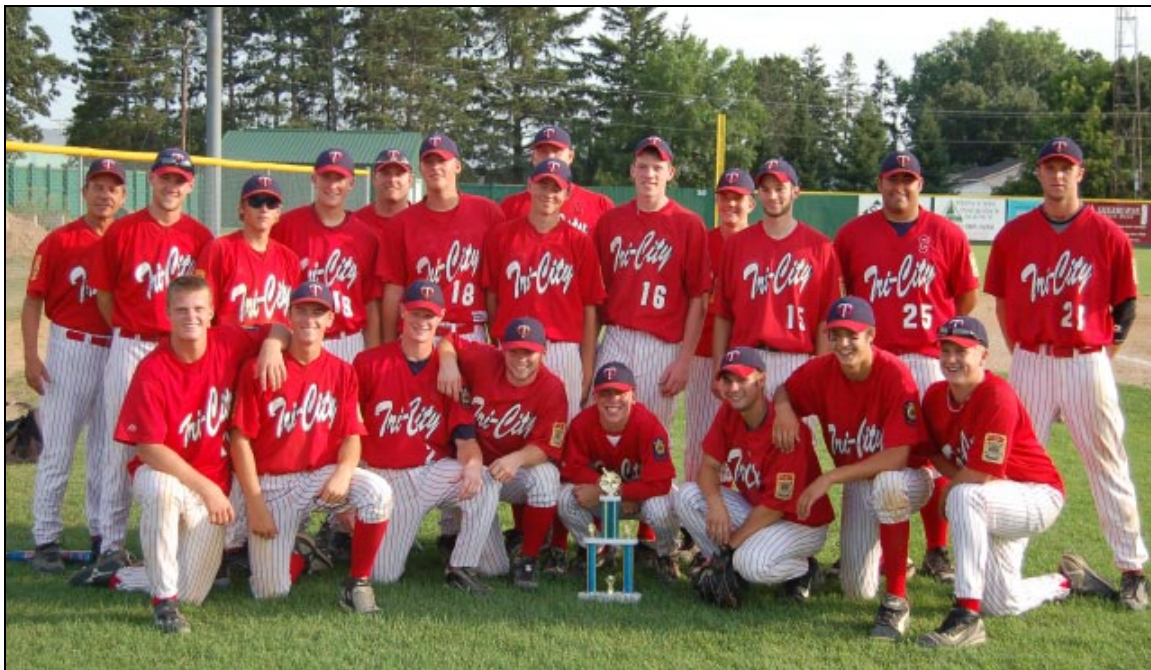# Princeton Tournament Coverage

Red repeats at Princeton
Sixth title sets the mark
By Greg Schmidt, July 24, 2007

A week after a lackluster showing in the Gopher Classic, the Red (25-8) looks to be back on track after repeating as champion of the 38th annual Princeton tournament, July 19-22. Tri-City, backed by yet another great start from Brandon Porten, shutout 10th District leader Hopkins, 4-0, in the championship game.

Porten, who blanked North St. Paul for seven innings (a 1-0, nine-inning win) July 16, did it again while scattering seven hits to extend his scoreless streak to 14 innings.

Hopkins (24-7-1) put the impressive streak in jeopardy by getting runners to second and third in both the fourth and sixth before loading the bases in the seventh, but each failed to step on home.

"'Port' did a heckuva job out there," said manager Jeff Larsen. "I think it's really big and the team feels comfortable with him out there. They played some nice defense — just outstanding."

The Red got what turned out to be the game-winner on a one-out, two-run single to left field by Blake Searles (3 for 3, 2-RBI) in the third inning. With Porten cruising, the Red gave him a little wiggle room with a couple more runs in the sixth on base hits by Jack Ries (1 for 3, RBI) and Brian Marshik (2 for 4, RBI). Also finishing with one hit apiece: Joe Phillippi, Brett Cleveringa and Nick Colwell.

The back-to-back titles boosted the Red's total to six ('93-'94, '97, '99, '06-'07). That breaks the five-timer tie with St. Cloud, Moorhead and the host. Said Larsen on the repeat: "It's been done before, but it's a heckuva accomplishment. There were a lot of good teams in the tournament and any one of those, capable of winning it."

Princeton tourney championship
Tri-City Red 4, Hopkins 0
(Game 33, July 22, 2007)

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Hopkins       0 0 0  0 0 0  0 — 0  7  1
Tri-City Red  0 0 2  0 0 2  x — 4  9  0
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Palkert and Stearns; Porten and Anderson. W-Porten (6-0). L-Palkert (2-2).

Tri-City 8, Excelsior 6
The team's road to the championship carried much more drama including a pair of come-from-behind wins. In the quarterfinals July 19, there was no light curfew to stop the Red from getting past long-time rival Excelsior. The teams met the previous weekend in the final pool play game of the Gopher Classic, but that game was halted in the bottom of the fifth and host Excelsior leading 8-4. Larsen was disappointed the game was stopped, but didn't credit the 'revenge factor' as the main driving force for victory. "None of [the players] said anything, but I'm sure they were thinking it," he said. Down 6-3 in the fifth, Tri-City tied it on a two-out, three-run double by pinch hitter Brett Cleveringa. One inning later, the Red moved ahead for good on an RBI double by Nick Colwell (4 for 4, 2-2B, SB) and RBI single from Dan Reichert (3 for 4, RBI). Seth Rosin earned a save with a scoreless seventh in relief of Paul Myers who entered in the fifth and kept Excelsior (22-18) off the board to claim his fourth victory.

Tri-City 4, Eagan 2
Two days later the Red fell behind again as Eagan (19-12) posted two runs after starter Seth Rosin fanned the first two batters. That deficit remained until the fifth when the Red broke the shutout on a sacrifice fly from Nick Colwell. An Eagan error in the sixth allowed Erik Anderson to score the equalizer.

But the Red had more to do and didn't wait for extra innings. After Brian Marshik led off the seventh with a walk, Tommy Thompson moved him to third with a single. Seconds later Marshik was home on a ground ball. Thompson joined him in the dugout after a double by Anderson (1 for 2, 2B, 2-BB). Meanwhile, Eagan's luck against Rosin was short-lived as the U of M signee and Twins draft choice kept them in check before handing it over to David Norgard, who picked up the save with a no-nonsense seventh inning.