

## **Rosetown accepts Red's defensive gift**

By Greg Schmidt

July 27, 2007

With the regular season championship wrapped up, the Red fell a little flat defensively and that led to a 5-4 defeat to 'host' Rosetown at Irondale July 24.

The makeup game of a rainout the week before at Rosetown (15-10, 10-6) didn't carry any weight for the Red's postseason plans, but it did make Rosetown the first and only team in the district not to give up the first two meetings of the district's mandatory three-game summer sets.

The five errors committed by the Red (26-9, 13-2) kept the game even, but it was the long ball that spelled their ultimate doom as Dan Forsythe started and ended the bottom of the seventh inning with a walk-off blast over the left field fence. That capped a perfect night for Forsythe (3 for 3, BB, 2B, HR, RBI).

Blake Searles (BB) and Jack Ries (RBI) each had two hits for the Red. Nick Colwell (3B, RBI), Brian Marshik (2B, BB, HBP, SAC, SB), Brett Cleveringa (SAC), Jake Lechner (2-RBI) and Dan Reichert had one hit apiece as the Red out-hit Rosetown 9-4.

### **Rosetown 5, Tri-City Red 4 (Game 35, July 24)**

Tri-City Red	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	—	4	9	5
Rosetown	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	—	5	4	2

Thompson, Norgard (6) and Tetrick, Anderson (6); Berquist, Hagan (4), Strecker (6), Libra (7) and Forsythe. W-Libra (4-1). L-Norgard (0-2). HR-Rose, Forsythe (2).

## **Tie-breakers aside, Red is best**

By Greg Schmidt

July 27, 2007

Tri-City (27-9) put a stamp on their Fourth District regular season championship with a convincing 7-1 rout of Arcade-Phalen (9-17, 4-13) July 25 at Midway Stadium. Leaving all tiebreakers in their wake, the Red scored early and often to capture their 14th victory — a number that no other district foe has a chance to match for 2007.

And they did it with contributions throughout the roster.

Ahead 2-0, Brandon Porten doubled the lead — with, of all things, a double over the leftfielder with two out in the second inning. Porten (2-RBI), who also doubled and scored in the first inning, finished 3 for 3 and had a sacrifice bunt in the sixth. That led to Erik Anderson's RBI single to complete the scorecard. Also with two-base hits: Brett Cleveringa (2 for 3, BB, 2B, RBI) and Jake Lechner (1 for 4, 2B). With one hit each:

Erik Feigel (RBI), Brian Marshik (BB, SB), Seth Rosin (RBI), Luke Ross, Anderson (HBP, RBI) and Jack Ries (BB). Pitching duty was also a team effort with all four Red hurlers proving effective: Paul Myers (2.2-IP), Nick Colwell (1.1, 2-SO), Blake Searles (1.2, 3) and Dan Reichert (1.1, 2). Colwell earned the win in relief making him the 10th player to earn a victory this summer.

**Tri-City Red 7, Arcade 1  
(Game 36, July 25)**

Tri-City Red	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	—	7	12	1
Arcade-Phalen	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	—	1	5	1

Myers, Colwell (3), Searles (5), Reichert (6) and Anderson; Reisdorf, Jamieson (4), Zuniga (7) and Kaufenberg. W-Colwell (1-0). L-Reisdorf (2-5).

**Red stunned by North End**

By Greg Schmidt  
July 27, 2007

A day after dispatching all tiebreaker issues for the Fourth District title and top seed in the playoffs, the Red (27-10, 14-3) fell flat in a 1-0 loss July 26 to North End (6-12, 6-12) at Irondale.

Nobody from either side figured as much, but the game-winner arrived on a double steal in the top of the first inning. With runners at the corners, North End's Alex Paitich (2 for 4, SB) raced home as the Red attempted to end the inning by nabbing the runner heading to second.

The attempt fell short and suddenly the Red was down a run. Not a big deal, right? After all, the Red averaged 6.25 runs per game and was never shut out in district play heading into the North End tilt. But on this night it would prove tough to put hits on the board. In fact, the Red was held hitless until Brian Marshik reached on an infield single in the fourth. A single to left in the fifth by Jack Ries would be the Red's second and final base runner of the night. Not only did Paitich score the game-winning run, he also earned the win on the mound while retiring seven in a row to finish off his four-inning relief stint. Red starter Seth Rosin took the hard-luck loss despite fanning eight in his four innings of work.

**North End 1, Tri-City Red 0  
(Game 37, July 26)**

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

Monsour, A. Paitich (4) and Gengler; Rosin, Reichert (5), Norgard (7) and Anderson. W-A. Paitich (2-1). L-Rosin (4-1).

## **Red finishes regular season on a winning note Postseason begins for top seed Aug. 1 at North St. Paul**

By Greg Schmidt

July 29, 2007

After being shutout the day before for the first time this summer in district play, the Red (28-10, 15-3) was in desperate need of something positive to ride into the postseason.

They got it with a workman-like 7-4 win over Rosetown (15-11, 11-7).

The July 27 match up at Irondale was the regular season finale for both teams and each already knew their playoff schedule. Despite that, there was still something on the line as Rosetown was the only team to gain a split with the Red this summer. Early on, they looked like they were determined to capture the three-game season series by scoring twice in the first inning, with the help of chaotic defense by the Red.

The home team cut the lead in half in the bottom of the frame before taking control with multiple home plate touches in the next three innings. Tied 2-2, Blake Searles put the Red in front for good with the second of his three hits, a two-out RBI single to right in the second inning. Also with one hit apiece in the game: Nick Colwell, Brandon Porten, Jake Lechner, Luke Ross (2B) and Brian Marshik.

On the mound, the Red continued the turnstile rotation in preparation for the playoffs by sending out four hurlers: Brandon Porten (3-IP, 3-H, 2-R, 0-ER, 1-SO), Nick Colwell (1-IP, 1-H, 0-R), Erik Fiegel (2-IP, 1-H, 2-R, 0-ER, 1-SO) and Brock Pedersen (1-IP, 0-H, 0-R). Colwell earned the win, his second in three days and Pedersen picked up his first save. The game was full of defensive gems including fantastic catches by outfielders Marshik and Ross along with the fine effort put in by David Norgard. A late reliever all season, Norgard made an appearance in the seventh at first base for the first time this summer and made all three put-outs.

But the fact remains the Red finished the season with three losses in their last six district tilts.

“I think everybody kind of goes through a slump and I think the kids were really pressing,” said manager Jeff Larsen. “I think they were a little upset they were popping the ball up and making a lot of bad outs.”

Two of the losses were by a run and the other, two runs. “I told them last night it wasn’t so bad the way I look at it [loss to North End]. You look up there and it’s still 1-0. We had a chance. That tells you they do play pretty good. They were right there in each game,” Larsen said. “It’s better to get it out of the way than wait for it to happen in the playoffs.”

Against Rosetown, the Red couldn’t have asked for a better showing heading into the postseason. “I think tonight they pulled out of it,” Larsen said. “That last win is important for any club and they’ll come to practice tomorrow with a smile on their faces.

**Tri-City Red 7, Rosetown 4**  
**(Game 38, July 27)**

Rosetown	2	0	0	0	—	4	5	2	
Tri-City Red	1	2	2	0	x	—	7	8	2

Porten, Colwell (4), Fiegel (5), Pedersen (7) and Tetrick; Ettel, Zeece (2), Strecker (4) and Odegard. W-Colwell (2-0). L-Zeece (1-1).