

Red ends first week unbeaten

By Greg Schmidt

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Red unleashes stable of arms in opener

Tri-City Red (1-0) scored first and never looked back in a 7-2 season opening win June 15 at Hopkins (0-1). A sacrifice fly from Jack Ries scored Ross LaDuke to put the Red on the board in their first at bat, before a five-run surge in the third put the squad in complete control. LaDuke (2 for 3, RBI) had an RBI single in the monster inning, and Brandon Hershey (1 for 2, 2B, 2-RBI) had a two-run double.

The Red drew six free passes, led by Dan Reichert, with three. On the mound, the Red displayed their depth by sending out six pitchers, including Andy Gallagher, who picked up the win by tossing a scoreless second and third inning, allowing just one hit for his first Red victory.

Tri-City Red 7, Hopkins 2

Game 1, June 15, 2008

TCRed	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	—	7	6	2
Hopkins	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	—	2	3	3

Page, Gallagher (2), Freed (4), Nickols (5), Thompson (6), Colwell (7) and Tetrick; Forester, Bouts (4) and Stern. W-Gallagher (1-0). L-Forester (0-1).

Hamline Purple gets full dose of Colwell

Tri-City's Nick Colwell anticipated a good game, but didn't know for sure what to expect when the Red met Hamline Purple June 16 at Midway Stadium.

In the preseason Colwell said, "Last year we pitched [Seth Rosin, now at the U of M] against them, so it was tough to really gauge because Seth is such a good pitcher."

Colwell got a first hand look this time, tossing six strong innings in an 8-3 victory. So what does he think now? "I still think they're a pretty good team . . . They hit the ball pretty hard," he said.

The Red hit well too, including Colwell who went 4 for 4 (3B, RBI), including a single in the fourth, when the Red blew open a one-run game to take a commanding 6-0 advantage.

"That two out rally in the fourth really helped us," Colwell said.

Yes, the Red 2-0, 1-0) proved that two outs are not enough with a pair of two-run singles by David Freed (2 for 4, 3-RBI) and Brandon Hershey (1 for 4, 2-RBI) sandwiched around an RBI single from Ross LaDuke (2 for 4, RBI).

Hamline (1-1, 1-1) indeed hit the ball, but were caught several times, three to be exact, sleeping on first base. Colwell picked off all three to stop any potential burst by Hamline and in the process set a one-game record by a Red pitcher.

“I learned the move from coach [Chris] Fink [Irondale varsity coach],” Colwell said. “Anytime I feel like they’re leaning at all I just try to get ‘em over and keep them honest . . . sometimes you catch them leaning the wrong way. I guess I got lucky.”

Lucky or not, the picks were well executed.

“It helped me a lot,” Colwell added. “You start off the inning with a walk or a hit . . . it puts me in a hole so it’s nice to clear it off and start over again.”

Said manager Jeff Larsen: “It was almost four guys . . . you think they would have learned . . . he got a hat trick.

Tri-City Red 8, Hamline Purple 3

Game 2, June 16, 2008

Hamline Purple	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	—	3	8	1
Tri-City Red	1	0	0	5	1	1	x	—	8	11	0

Gregory, Hudalla (5) and Lulic; Colwell, Myers (7) and Tetrick, Wessberg (7). W-Colwell (1-0). L-Gregory (0-1).

Red holds off Purple

What a difference a day makes! Or maybe it doesn’t matter at all, as the Red held off Hamline purple 8-7 at Cretin-Derham Hall. The Red (3-0, 2-0) piled up eight runs for the second time in as many days against the Purple (1-2, 1-2), but this time they didn’t go down without a fight.

After trading runs in the first inning, the Red took control by plating four in the second, highlighted by Nick Colwell’s two-run single to right that scored David Freed (1 for 3, BB, 2-R) and Ross LaDuke (3 for 4, 2B, RBI, 3-R). Colwell (2 for 4, 2-RBI) later scored on a base hit up the middle by Brandon Hershey (1 for 2, 2-BB). Aaron Page entered with one out and eventually stranded runners at the corners for his first Red career save.

The victory clinched the tiebreaker for Tri-City over the Purple, a preseason favorite to challenge the Red for the league title.

Tri-City Red 8, Hamline Purple 7

Game 3, June 17, 2008

Tri-City Red	2	4	0	1	1	0	0	—	8	11	2
Hamline Purple	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	—	7	11	2

Freed, Gallagher (5), Page (7) and Wessberg, Tetrick (7);
Bettenburg, Hudalla (3), McQuillan (6) and Lulic.
W-Freed (1-0). L-Bettenburg (0-1). S-Page (1). HR-Ham, Bettenburg (1).

Another big inning, another victory

The Red (4-0, 3-0) remained unbeaten in district play with a 7-4 win June 18 against North End (1-2, 1-2) at Midway Stadium.

It would be another big inning that propelled the Red to victory, as the squad racked up five in the fourth inning on run-scoring singles by David Freed and Ross LaDuke, along with a bases-loaded walk to Ian Goldsmith.

Brandon Hershey capped the inning with a two-run single. Hershey (2B, 2-RBI) and Tommy Thompson both went 3 for 4.

Starter Paul Myers blanked North End until the fifth, when they closed the gap with four runs. Phil Wessberg tossed a scoreless seventh for his first career save in a Red uniform.

Tri-City Red 7, North End 4

Game 4, June 18, 2008

Tri-City Red	0	0	1	5	1	0	0	—	7	12	2
North End	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	—	4	5	6

Myers, Gallagher (5), Wessberg (7) and Wessberg, Tetrick (7);
Novak, Paitich (5) and Zwach. W-Myers (1-0). L-Novak (0-1). S-Wessberg (1).

Hershey delivers sweet outcome

Tri-City fans knew it was just a matter of time before the hot-hitting Brandon Hershey got going, and he couldn't have picked a better time as his two-out RBI single to right-center lifted the Red (5-0, 4-0) June 19 to a dramatic 3-2 win over Hamline Red (2-2, 2-2) at Irondale.

Indeed, it was the first hit of the night for Hershey, and it couldn't have come at a better time. The knock to right-center scored Ian Goldsmith, who recorded his third hit of the night with a two-out double that set up the game-winner for Hershey. Goldsmith narrowly missed hitting for the cycle with a single, double and triple.

The Red never trailed after Andy Kurkowski scored on a passed ball followed by an RBI single from Matt Tetrick in the second inning.

Meanwhile, Aaron Page had the most effective start for a Red pitcher this summer, tossing five scoreless innings and allowing only two hits. Hamline eventually rallied for two in the seventh to prompt overtime. The Red's Andy Gallagher picked up his second win of the summer with a solid two innings of relief.

Tri-City Red 3, Hamline Red 2, 10 inn.

Game 5, June 19, 2008

Hamline Red	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	1
Tri-City Red	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	3

Killa, Selim (8) and Elliott, Falvey (8); Page, Wessberg (6), Gallagher (9) and Tetrick. W-Gallagher (2-0). L-Selim (0-1).