

## Coverage of Final Week of 2008 League Season

### Tri-City enters stretch run with another victory

By Greg Schmidt

July 27, 2008

The Red (33-6, 14-1) carried their strong third place finish from the Princeton tourney into district action, with an 8-1 win against North End July 21 at Irondale.

But early on, North End (7-11, 7-11) kept the Red in neutral, as they went without a hit until the third inning. Oh, but what an inning it was, as Tri-City chalked up four runs on three hits, including an RBI single by Tommy Thompson (1 for 4, RBI, R) that brought Luke Ross (0 for 1, HBP, BB, R) home, and an RBI triple to the right field corner from Brandon Hershey (3 for 3, BB, 3B, RBI) that scored Ian Goldsmith (1 for 1, 2-HBP, BB, R). In between those timely hits came a wild pitch that scored David Freed (2 for 4, 2-R) and a sacrifice fly to right by Nick Colwell (2 for 3, 2B, SF, 2-R, 3-RBI).

Matt Tetrick (1 for 3, RBI) made it 5-0 with a single to shallow right-center, before North End finally got one back in the top of the sixth. That was as close as North End would get, as the Red brought three back to the dugout in the bottom of the frame. Colwell sparked the extension with a two-run double – and then scored three batters later on a sacrifice fly to right-center by Ethan Indieke (SF, RBI). Phil Wessberg struck out four in his complete game performance, to become the team's third five-game winner.

### Tri-City Red 8, North End 1

#### Game 39, July 21, 2008

North End	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	1		
TC Red	0	0	4	0	1	3	x	8	10	1

Wessberg and Tetrick; Hecker, Bowen (6) and Nowak.

W-Wessberg (5-0). L-Hecker (1-4).

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### Red pitchers hit their stride with three straight shutouts

#### Red leaves a bunch, but gets win against White Bear

The 5-0 final score between the Red and host White Bear Lake July 22 was in no way indicative of the play on the field, but it did leave the Red with another victory, as they continued their tirade through the Fourth District – to remain in first place at 15-1 and 34-6 overall.

Tri-City stranded a season-high 15 base runners and did manage seven hits, but not many at opportune times. As it turned out, they only needed one timely hit and got it in the first inning on an RBI single up the middle by Ian Goldsmith (2 for 3, BB, RBI). That two-out hit, the Red's

first of the game, scored Tommy Thompson (BB, 2-SB, R) and proved to be the game-winner. Tri-City extended that lead over the course of the game, but all four runs were plated either by miscues or a wild pitch.

With one hit apiece for the Red: David Freed (1 for 4, SB), Brandon Hershey (1 for 3, BB), Jesse Nickols (1 for 3, SB, BB), Matt Tetrick (1 for 4) and Jack Ries (1 for 2, SB). The big story actually was the great outing by Aaron Page, who went the distance. His three-hit shutout included six strikeouts – and he put down eight straight, after a pair of one-out hits in the fifth.

**Tri-City Red 5, White Bear Lake 0**  
**Game 40, July 22, 2008**

TC Red	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	—	5	7	0
White Bear	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	3	7

Page and Tetrick; Peterson, Cropsy (4) and Moos, Ramisch (5).  
W-Page (4-1). L-Peterson.

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**Five innings enough against North End**

By Greg Schmidt  
July 29, 2008

After having a slow start in their game against North End (7-12, 7-12) 48 hours earlier, the Red (35-6, 16-1) went right to work July 23 at Irondale to complete their three-game season sweep with a 10-0 win in five innings. A run-scoring single by Ian Goldsmith (1 for 2, BB, RBI) in the first inning put the Red in front for good. That was just an appetizer, as they piled up five in their next at bat on five hits. Highlighting the frenzy were back-to-back RBI doubles by David Freed (1 for 4, 2B, RBI) and Tommy Thompson (2 for 4, 2B, 2-RBI), both to left field.

In the third, the Red stretched the 6-0 lead with two more, by unleashing even more power than was utilized in the second inning. Jesse Nickols (1 for 2, BB, 3B) led off with a triple and scored seconds later on a fly to center by Ross LaDuke (1 for 2, SF, RBI). Phil Wessberg (2 for 2, HR, BB, 2-RBI) stepped it up even further with a cloud kisser to left. It was Wessberg's first home run this summer, making him the sixth player to record a long ball: Nick Colwell has three, while Andy Kurkowski, Brandon Hershey, Goldsmith and Freed have one each. Speaking of Colwell, he led both teams with a spectacular day at the plate, going 4 for 4 (2-RBI, SB). His bomb over the centerfielder scored Jack Ries (1 for 2, BB, RBI) in the fifth, to end the game on the 10-run rule.

The support was more than enough for Paul Myers, whose five-inning two-hitter included three strikeouts. He retired 10 of the last 11 batters and is now one of two pitchers (Freed) with six victories.

**Tri-City Red 10, North End 0, 5 inn.  
Game 41, July 23, 2008**

North End	0	0	0	0	—	0	2	2	
TC Red	1	5	2	0	2	—	10	13	0

Myers and Wessberg; Bowen, S. Paitich (3) and Zwach.  
W-Myers (6-1). L-Bowen (0-1). HR-TCR, Wessberg (1).

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**Another Season Sweep of Opponent**

For the second straight game, the Red (36-6, 17-1) destroyed an opponent and was done after five innings. In fact, they even matched the score from the day before, in a 10-0 trouncing at Irondale July 25 that secured a season sweep of White Bear Lake.

But this demolition took some time to develop, with the Red only in front 2-0 after four innings. In the bottom of the fifth, Tri-City needed eight runs and got exactly that. With one out, Brandon Hershey (1 for 3, 2-RBI, SF, R) started it with a single down the right field line — the first of four hits in the inning. Nick Colwell (1 for 2, BB, HBP, 2-SB, 2-R), who led off the ‘rally’ with a walk, scored on Hershey’s hit. Little did he know at the time, but Hershey would step to the plate later, after eight batters reached safely on three hits, two walks, a bean ball and two errors. With the bases juiced and one out, Hershey ended what he started with a sacrifice fly to left-center that brought home Tommy Thompson (2 for 4, RBI, R).

On the mound, White Bear got their lead off man aboard on a base hit in the first, but Jack Ries sent the next dozen batters back to the dugout, before a harmless single in the fifth. The two-hit gem included six strikeouts and no free passes – and made him the ninth pitcher to gather two or more victories this summer. He also knocked in a pair in the fifth and finished 1 for 3.

Completing the hit parade for the Red: Luke Ross (2 for 3, RBI, SB, R), Ian Goldsmith (1 for 2, 2-BB, 3B, 2-RBI) and Phil Wessberg (2 for 2, BB, R).

**Tri-City Red 10, White Bear Lake 0  
Game 42, July 25, 2008**

White Bear	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	2	3
Tri-City Red	1	0	1	0	8	—	10	10	0

Jensen, Paulson (5) and Ramisch; Ries and Wessberg. W-Ries (2-0). L-Jensen.

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## **NSP sends message, tightens race**

By Greg Schmidt

July 29, 2008

If you're only as good as your last game, then North St. Paul (25-9) has the edge over Tri-City Red (36-7) heading into the postseason, as the host 39ers rallied from a four-run deficit for a 5-4 win in the teams' final regular season meeting.

Just like the previous battle (won by the Red 2-1 on July 15), the outcome was settled very late in the game. After tying it up with three in the bottom of the sixth, the 39ers got the game-winner on a squeeze bunt off the bat of Forest Murphy that scored Dave Cascalenda, who led off the inning with a double – and moved to third on a base hit from Tom Horner (3 for 3). The Red meanwhile, had built a strong 4-0 lead, starting with two in the second inning on a two-run double to deep left-center by Luke Ross (1 for 3, 2B, 2-RBI) that plated Brandon Hershey (1 for 2, BB, R, RBI) and Ross LaDuke (0 for 3, BB, R). Hershey singled home Tommy Thompson (1 for 3, BB, R) in the third, extending it to 3-0. In the fifth, Ian Goldsmith (1 for 3, 2B, BB, R) notched a one-out double to right-center and later scored on an error.

North St. Paul's victory moves them in front, with an extra win at 18-2, with one game left. Meanwhile, Tri-City sits at 17-2 with two left. The Red holds the tiebreaker, having taken the first two meetings with the 39ers.

### **North St. Paul 5, Tri-City Red 4**

#### **Game 43, July 27, 2008**

TCR	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	—	4	5	1
NSP	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	—	5	11	3

Page, Wessberg (3), Freed (5), Colwell (7) and Tetrick; Hubbard, Gunderson (6) and Rubbelke. W-Gunderson (4-2). L-Colwell (2-3).

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## **Red takes it to Rosetown again**

### **Shutout locks up regular season title**

Tri-City (37-7, 18-2) rebounded quickly July 29 from a tough defeat the night before – with yet another district shutout – as they cruised 6-0 past Rosetown (12-18, 8-13).

Andy Gallagher and Paul Myers combined on the six-hit shutout, the Red's fourth in the past five games, and the triumph made Gallagher (4-SO) the Red's third, six-game winner this summer. Great defense was on display all night, including a spectacular play by right fielder Tommy Thompson (3 for 4, BB, SB, R). He gunned down the leadoff hitter in the seventh, on what appeared to be a typical base hit to right. It was a close play and, not surprisingly, prompted a chorus of negativity from the Rosetown dugout. After the next batter also singled to

right (this time without a reasonable chance for a throw to first), Rosetown players and fans stepped up their remarks to the umpires. It was just a matter of time and, sure enough, the very next Rosetown batter struck out and said ‘something’ to the home plate umpire – and that led to an immediate ejection. It was the second time in three games between the teams this summer that a Rosetown player was ejected.

Getting back to the marvelous performance by Gallagher and Myers — the pair didn’t walk a single batter. On the other side, the Red drew eight free passes, three in the first and that led to the game’s first run, a bases-loaded walk to Phil Wessberg (1 for 2, 2-BB, 2B, 2-RBI, R). In the third Wessberg pushed Hershey (1 for 3, BB, 2B, R) across the dish, with a double down the left field line. Another run came home on a wild pitch to make it 3-0. Jesse Nickols (1 for 1, 2-RBI, SB) put the Red up 5-0 in the fifth, with a hard grounder in the hole to the left side that sent Wessberg and David Freed home. Nick Colwell capped the league-clincher in the sixth, with a monster smash (his team leading fourth homer) over the right field wall. Colwell (HR, BB, RBI, R) finished 2 for 3. Also with two hits for the Red: Luke Ross (2 for 4).

The win put the Red (18-2) into a tie for first place with North St. Paul (18-2), but the former has the tiebreaker by taking the season series two games to one. North St. Paul has decided to forego their final tilt against Hamline Purple, in order to rest up for the playoffs – and the Red’s final opponent, Hamline Red (5-16), opted for the same. League officials marked both as forfeits and awarded the Red (19-2) the regular season district title, without the need for a tiebreaker. North St. Paul finishes second at 18-3, and Hamline Purple takes third (15-6).

**Tri-City Red 6, Rosetown 0**  
**Game 44, July 29, 2008**

Tri-City Red	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	—	6	10	0
Rosetown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	6	1

Gallagher, Myers (6) and Wessberg, Tetrick (6); Funk, Philip (6) and Podobinski.  
W-Gallagher (6-2). L-Funk (2-4). HR-TCR, Colwell (4).