

Gopher Classic Tournament Coverage

By Greg Schmidt

July 17, 2008

Host heroics

Maple Grove catcher Travis Enger capped a stunning comeback for the host team with a two-out single to right field that scored Matt Warnert in a 6-5 win over the Red in first round action July 11.



David Freed lays off high and outside.

It was the first advantage of the game for Maple Grove, after falling behind in the first inning on runs knocked in by Nick Colwell and Ian Goldsmith. Colwell had another RBI single in the sixth to put the Red in front 5-2. Maple Grove (15-2) closed to within a run with a pair in the sixth, setting up the last inning heroics. The Red (23-4) out-hit Maple Grove 13-12 led by Colwell (4 for 4, 2-RBI), Tommy Thompson (3 for 4) and David Freed (2 for 3, 2-BB).

Maple Grove 6, Tri-City Red 5 Game 27, July 11, 2008

Tri-City Red	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	—	5	13	3
Maple Grove	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	—	6	12	4

Wenner and Enger; Freed, Colwell (7) and Tetrick. W-Wenner (2-0). L-Colwell (1-1).



Ries and Freed deliver against Maple Grove, from opposite sides of the plate.



Red better than Gold

The Red (24-4) put one in the win column with an error-ridden 7-3 win against New Ulm Gold July 11 at Maple Grove.

Miscues weren't on the radar in the top of the first, but wild pitches were, as David Freed (1 for 3, SAC, R) led off with a single and moved station-to-station on three straight wild pitches. The big hit of the inning arrived with two out, when Tommy Thompson (2 for 4, 3B, RBI) ripped an RBI triple to left-center for a 4-0 advantage.

But momentum was quickly lost as New Ulm (12-8) plated three in the bottom of the frame, sparked by two Tri-City errors. In the fourth, Brad Blumer scored on a sacrifice fly to center from Ross LaDuke (1 for 2, BB, R, SF, RBI), and in the seventh Blumer (2 for 3, R, RBI) knocked in a run of his own, to complete the scorecard.

Also in the inning, Matt Tetrick (1 for 3, 2-RBI, R) doubled a run home for his second RBI of the game. Adding two hits each for the Red: Ian Goldsmith and Brandon Hershey. Andy Gallagher became the Red's first five-game winner, and Nick Colwell picked up his first save of the summer with a big-time performance. He entered with the bases juiced and nobody out in the seventh. He ended it by striking out the next three batters on 10 pitches (one foul ball).

Tri-City Red 7, New Ulm Gold 3 Game 28, July 11, 2008

Tri-City Red	4	0	0	2	—	7	12	4
New Ulm Gold	3	0	0	0	—	3	5	1

Gallagher, Page (6), Colwell (7) and Tetrick; K. Fischer and G. Fischer. W-Gallagher (5-2). L-K. Fischer (2-2). S-Colwell (1)



Andy Gallagher

Nick Colwell takes off.



Ian Goldsmith connects against NUG.





‘Sconi gets payback

DePere (WI) had revenge on their minds July 12, and they followed through with a critical 5-2 win against the Red (24-5) in the third round of pool play. The victory all but eliminated the Red’s chances of winning the pool and advancing to the tourney quarterfinals.

Two weeks earlier the Red beat DePere, the second-ranked team in

Wisconsin, in the championship of the Fargo-Moorhead tourney. This time around, DePere again didn’t rack up the hits, but they did capitalize on multiple Red errors, three of which led to DePere’s first three runs for a 3-2, fourth inning advantage.

The Red had taken an early lead on an RBI single up the middle by Ian Goldsmith (1 for 2, BB, RBI). Nick Colwell (2 for 3, 2-R, HR, RBI) scored on the hit, and two innings later, he added his team-leading third home run, a solo shot to right, but that would be it, as the Red managed only one additional hit over the last four innings — a leadoff single by Jack Ries (2 for 2, SAC) in the seventh.

Leading 5-2 heading into the sixth, DePere put down any chance for a Red comeback with a pair of double plays.

DePere 5, Tri-City Red 2
Game 29, July 12, 2008

Tri-City Red	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	2	6	4
DePere	0	2	0	1	2	0	x	—	5	4	2

Page and Wessberg; Byrne and Soderlund. W-Byrne. L-Page (2-1).
HR-TCR, Colwell (3).

Red batters Papillion

With their chances of winning the pool at slim to none, the Red (25-5) took out their frustrations on Papillion North (NE) in a commanding 14-6, six-inning triumph in the fourth round of pool play July 13 at Maple Grove.

Tri-City batted around in the second inning, while netting a touchdown on four hits, a walk, and two errors, to grab an insurmountable 6-1 advantage. Brandon Hershey (2-2B, BB, 2-RBI, 3-R), who went 3 for 3, started it with a double to the gap in right-center that scored Ian Goldsmith (1 for 3, BB, SB, 3-R). Jesse Nickols (1 for 4, RBI, SB, R) followed with a run-scoring single and scored moments later on a double by Ethan Indieke (1 for 2, 2B, SF, 2-RBI, R).

After a brief respite, the Red went back to work in the fourth, scoring twice before pulling away with a trifecta in both the fifth and sixth innings. Matt Tetrick (3-RBI, 2-R) and Jack Ries (RBI, R) added three hits apiece. Starter Paul Myers took the support and ran with it – to join Andy Gallagher as the Red’s only five-game winners.

Tri-City Red 14, Papillion North 6, 6 inn.
Game 30, July 13, 2008

Tri-City Red	0	6	0	2	3	3	—	14	13	2
Papillion North, NE	1	0	2	0	1	2	—	6	12	8

Myers, Indieke (6) and Tetrick; Carlson and Jones. W-Myers (5-1). L-Carlson.
HR-PN, Daeges.

**Tri-City goes unbeaten on final day, but comes up short
Anheuser Busch takes pool, but falls in quarters to eventual tourney champ
Richfield**

Tri-City wanted to go out on a winning note July 13, and they accomplished just that by holding off the eventual pool winner, Anheuser-Busch (MO), 11-9 at Maple Grove.

After mustering only one base runner in the first couple of innings, the Red got it rolling in the third with a five-hit display. Reaching base suddenly became contagious, as seven straight batters: Brad Blumer (3 for 4, RBI, R), Matt Tetrick (BB, R), David Freed (2 for 5, 2-R), Ross LaDuke (RBI), Nick Colwell (3 for 5, 2-R, RBI), Andy Kurkowski (BB, R), Brandon Hershey (4 for 4, BB, R, 2-RBI) and Tommy Thompson (1 for 4, BB, R, SB, RBI) all made a trip to first base in some fashion.

Recording RBIs during the offensive tirade were LaDuke, Colwell, Hershey and Thompson and the rout was on. Or was it?

It certainly appeared that way, as the Red racked up another chunk of runs in the fifth. Another run in the sixth on a sacrifice fly from Luke Ross (SF, RBI) put the Red in front 10-4. However Anheuser-Busch wasn't done yet. They closed the gap with four dish stomps in the latter half of the sixth, and suddenly it was a game again at 10-8.

But it would be a game the Red (26-5) could put in their win column, as Nick Colwell kept any further rally in check with his second save of the tournament – a save that made starter Jack Ries the 10th, that's right, the team's 10th player to record a victory this summer.

**Tri-City Red 11, Anheuser-Busch (MO) 9
Game 31, July 13, 2008**

Tri-City Red	0	0	5	0	4	1	1	—	11	13	1
Anheuser-Busch	3	0	1	0	0	4	1	—	9	12	4

Ries, Page (5), Gallagher (6), Colwell (7) and Tetrick; Gordon, Cebulski (4) and Myers. W-Ries (1-0). L-Gordon. S-Colwell (2).