

Red edges Red

Wessberg goes distance

by Greg Schmidt

July 19, 2008

The question appears to be: which Red team is better, Hamline or Tri-City? For now it's the latter, as Tri-City Red (27-5, 10-1) hung on for a narrow 2-1 win July 14 at Midway Stadium. It was the second nail-biter in as many meetings (Tri-City won 3-2 in 10 innings, June 19), but early on, it had signs of a shootout, at least for Tri-City.

Red scored twice in its first at bat, starting with a run-scoring single by Ian Goldsmith (1 for 4, R, RBI). He took second on a wild throw home – and was back in the dugout a moment later on a double from Brandon Hershey (1 for 3, BB, 2B, RBI). However, after a leadoff double by Tommy Thompson (1 for 3, 2B) in the second, Tri-City managed just two hits the rest of the way.

Meanwhile, Hamline got on the board in the third inning on a sacrifice fly to right, which followed two walks and a base hit. Hamline was on its way to the tying run, but was stopped cold by Thompson in right field. He made a spectacular running catch to end the threat.

Tri-City starter Phil Wessberg was nearly untouchable after that, except for a base hit that slipped right under the glove of Thompson, who made a hard-charging grab for it. However, that base runner was eliminated in short order, as he tried to stretch the hit for extra bases. Thompson promptly gunned him down at second to end another inning. In the seventh, with Tri-City clinging to the 2-1 lead, Hamline (6-15, 3-10) got the tying run to third base with a one-out walk and two-out error, but Wessberg (7-IP, 4-H, 1-ER, 3-BB) put it away by fanning the next batter, his ninth of the game. Jesse Nickols led both clubs going 2 for 4 (SB) and Jack Ries reached base three times (2-BB, HBP, SB).

Tri-City Red 2, Hamline Red 1

Game 32, July 14, 2008

Tri-City Red	2	0	0	0	0	—	2	5	1	
Hamline Red	0	0	1	0	0	0	—	1	4	1

Wessberg and Tetrick; VanRanst, Goodman (6) and Falvey.
W-Wessberg (4-0). L-VanRanst (2-2).

Red takes reins as race enters stretch run

by Greg Schmidt

For only the second time this season, the Red was stuck in second place. However this time it was only because rival North St. Paul had played more games (and won them all). Both teams

were holding steady with one loss apiece. The latest battle on July 15 guaranteed somebody would suffer a second defeat in the Fourth District.



Ian Goldsmith (1 for 3, HBP, RBI) made sure it wasn't the Red (28-5, 11-1) by punching a hard ground ball down the left field line that scored Ross LaDuke and lifted the Red to an important 2-1 win at North St. Paul (22-9, 13-2).

It was a fitting end to a hotly contested game that had plenty of intensity on both sides. That, of course, included one of the biggest 'gamers' in Red history — Nick Colwell.

"If you don't come to play in a game like this, I don't know what you're doing here. It's one versus two. It's the real deal," Colwell said after the game.

The 39ers, who were designated visitor because all three league games are in their house this summer, showed why they were among the preseason favorites – by grabbing the lead 1-0 in the first inning and holding it tight until the sixth inning. After Brandon Hershey was beamed with one out, Jesse Nickols (2 for 3, 2B) pushed pinch runner Paul Myers to second on a bloop to short left field. With two out, Matt Tetrick (1 for 2, BB, RBI) ripped the first pitch to left, bringing home Myers to knot the score at 1-1. The momentum, that had begun swinging towards the Red dugout in the top of the frame, was now secure.

In that pivotal defensive set, Nick Colwell picked off a runner for the second time on the night. An infield single and an error allowed the 39ers to put runners at first and second with nobody out. Colwell fanned the next two. Seconds later Troy Larson, a friend of Colwell, appeared to catch him pondering his next pitch and attempted to take third. With a roaring cue from the Red dugout, Colwell did a quick about-face and gunned him down at third to end the threat. Catcher Matt Tetrick followed Colwell's example and ended the top of the seventh, also by nabbing a runner, this time going to second.

Colwell couldn't say enough about his catcher and the rest of the defense. "It was a good overall game by everyone and good pitch selection by Matt Tetrick," he said.





The only question heading into the bottom of the seventh was which Red player would be the hero. It turned out to be several.

With one out, LaDuke reached on a towering high pop up to first – that was dropped just inside the line. Colwell (1 for 4) followed with a single to right-center, setting the stage for Goldsmith.

He knew what to do: “I was focused on getting the bat on the ball,” Goldsmith said. “Basically, anything in the air to the outfield – or on the ground through the infield.”

The hard single over third base made it two straight for the Red over the 39ers, with one left for sure and likely one or two in the playoffs.

“I think it was a huge win. I can see these teams in the final,” Goldsmith said.

Yes, another Red/39er battle for the district crown. The names change, but clearly the rivalry hasn’t missed a beat.

“Yeah, I’d say it’s as good as ever,” Colwell said.

**Tri-City Red 2, North St. Paul 1
Game 33, July 15, 2008**

NSP	1	0	0	0	0	—	1	5	1
TCR	0	0	0	1	1	—	2	6	1

Gunderson and Puhl; Colwell and Tetrick. W-Colwell (2-1). L-Gunderson (4-2).

Rosetown fizzles under Red pressure

By Greg Schmidt

The Red (29-5, 12-1) followed up their magnificent triumph over North St. Paul the night before with a 12-3 drubbing of Rosetown (10-14, 6-9) July 16.

The host put up quite a fight trailing just 4-3 after five innings, but then the wheels came off of the upset wagon, as the Red pulled away with six runs in the sixth. Rosetown committed three

errors (they finished with eight) and the Red pounced with five hits, all of which arrived with two out. In fact, all of the hits were consecutive – and each knocked home a run, beginning with Nick Colwell (1 for 4, SF, 2-RBI) and continuing with Ian Goldsmith (2 for 4, BB, RBI), Brandon Hershey (2 for 4, 2B, HBP, 2-RBI), Jesse Nickols (2 for 5, RBI) and Ross LaDuke (1 for 2, RBI). In the seventh Colwell and Hershey each added an RBI to complete the rout.

Andy Gallagher tossed a scoreless sixth, and Paul Myers followed suit in the seventh to lock up starter David Freed’s fifth victory, making him the team’s third, five-game winner, along with Gallagher and Myers. Freed went five innings and scattered six hits with two strikeouts and no earned runs.

**Tri-City Red 12, Rosetown 3
Game 34, July 16, 2008**

Tri-City Red	0	0	2	2	0	6	2	—	12	11	2
Rosetown	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	—	3	9	8

Freed, Gallagher (6), Myers (7) and Wessberg; Philip, Ettl (6) and Odegaard.
W-Freed (5-0). L-Philip (1-3).

**Red destroys Arcade
Team enters final week on top of district**
By Greg Schmidt

Tri-City Red (31-5, 13-1) returned to the ‘scene of the crime’ July 18 at St. Paul Johnson to avenge their only loss in the district this summer.

They left with full redemption and a strangle hold on first place in the district. The final score against Arcade-Phalen (7-14, 5-9) was 14-7 and it was truly a team effort as nine players recorded at least one hit. And once again it was another ‘gigantor’ inning that put the Red in complete control. A seven-run second included an RBI single to right by Luke Ross (1 for 4, RBI, BB) followed by a two-run single from David Freed (1 for 4, BB, 2-RBI) and two-run double by Tommy Thompson (1 for 5, 2B, 2-RBI).

They weren’t done yet. Thompson scored two batters later on a base hit to left by Ian Goldsmith (3 for 4, BB, 3-RBI) — his second hit of the inning. Brandon Hershey (1 for 3, SF, BB, RBI) made it 7-0 with the Red’s seventh and final knock of the inning.

Tri-City moved into double digits in their very next at bat with an assorted scoring fundraiser: RBI single by Nick Colwell (3 for 5, RBI), bases loaded walk to Goldsmith and a sacrifice fly from Hershey. Ethan Imdieke (RBI) also added three hits to the carnage. Brad Blumer (RBI) and Phil Wessberg (3-BB) had one hit apiece.

The 10-0 advantage was cut in half in the bottom of the third, as pitcher Aaron Page (5-SO) withstood three errors, but kept the lead and eventually picked up his third victory. Jack Ries (2-SO) tossed a scoreless fourth before Andy Gallagher (2-SO) scattered five hits over the last three innings to claim his third save.

Tri-City Red 14, Arcade-Phalen 7
Game 36, July 18, 2008

Tri-City Red	0	7	3	0	3	0	1	—	14	15	5
Arcade-Phalen	0	0	5	0	1	0	1	—	7	11	2

Page, Ries (4), Gallagher (5) and Wessberg; Jamieson, Ekman (2), Zuniga (6) and Leary.
W-Page (3-1). L-Jamieson (1-2). S-Gallagher (3).