

THE STREAK

'The Streak' is actually a term in Eaton that dates back to the 1998-1999 Reds that set the all-time state mark for consecutive wins. The Reds in 2008-2010 went on to create a 2nd version of The Streak, one that even lasted a few wins longer, but does nothing to take away from the original Streak. The Reds ended the spring of 1997 in a very disappointing loss in which the Reds' sophomore-laden stars came to Coach Danley and said matter-of-factly, "Coach Danley, this will never happen again." The Reds owned only two State Championships at that time, and these Reds quickly went to work to win an Eaton record 37 summer games en route to winning an improbable Legion B State Championship over one of the top Class 5A teams in the state at the time. The Reds then entered the spring of 1998 looking to hold on to that promise to show up ready to play, each and every day, with victory the expected result of every 7 inning game...the Reds wouldn't allow many of these games to last more than 5 innings though.

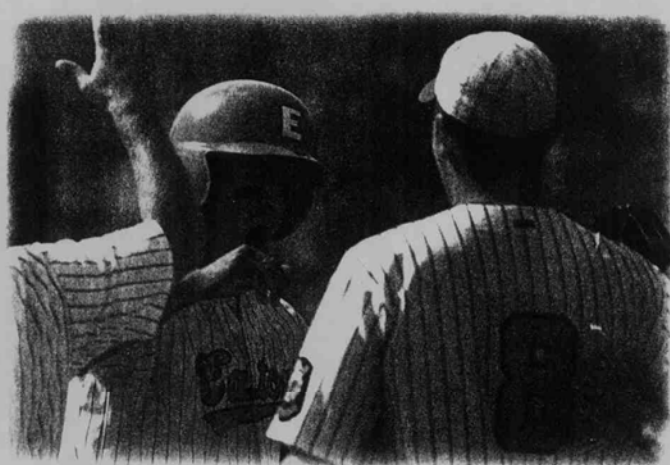
This streak spans nearly 2 entire seasons, including one State Championship title and a perfect season. There are two dozen Reds that played a major role in this steak, including: 1998 graduates—Alex Ochoa, Matt Hagen, Brent Thompson, Nolan Mininger, Jeff Hager, Scott Bangert, and TJ Carsten; 1999 graduates—Mike Carrasco, Jeff Meyers, Jason Smith, Paul Loftis, and Josh Isakson; 2000 graduates—Zack Hughes, Casey Wiederspan, Josh Yarber, Derek Lehr, and Jeff Cazer; 2001 graduates—Todd Stanclift, Scott Souther, Eric Hungenberg, Craig Ayers, and Aaron Kelly; and 2002 graduates—Justin Ginther and Tyler Tateyama. The Reds were coached throughout the streak by Coach Danley, Coach Ervin, and Coach Sparkman.

This list excludes the many dozens of Reds' former players that coached and mentored these players as youths in the Eaton Baseball Program, grooming them for their day under the bright lights as varsity ballplayers for the Eaton Fightin' Reds.

This story is best told in the newspaper articles that followed the Reds throughout this amazing streak, which follow on the pages below, starting with a summary of the streak, and then going back to the start of the 1998 season with articles that follow chronologically on the key games during the 1998 and 1999 seasons.

Sports Extra

Sunday, May 16, 1999 GREELEY (Colo.) TRIBUNE SE1



1 March 13, 1998
Eaton 12, Thompson Valley 2
Winning pitcher — Jeff Hager
Story line: LF Paul Loftis went 3-for-1 with two doubles and 3 RBI.

2 March 14, 1998
Eaton 13, Valley 0
Winning pitcher — Tanner Taleyama
Story line: C Zack Hughes went 3-for-3 with three runs scored and 3 RBI.

3 March 14, 1998
Eaton 10, Greeley West 2
Winning pitcher — Nolan Mininger
Story line: SS Mike Carrasco hit home runs in three consecutive plate appearances and also knocked in eight runs. Isakson gave up just one hit.

4 March 17, 1998
Eaton 8, Denver Christian 4
Winning pitcher — Scott Bergert
Story line: C Zack Hughes went 2-for-4 with a double and 3 RBI.

5 March 26, 1998
Eaton 21, Sheridan 2
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers and C Zack Hughes had three hits apiece and combined for 12 RBI.

6 March 28, 1998
Eaton 20, Way 6
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: 1B Matt Hagen went 4-for-4 with 3 RBI.

7 March 28, 1998
Eaton 23, Way 4
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: LF Paul Loftis had three hits including a home and 1B Matt Hagen also had three hits.

8 April 1, 1998
Eaton 14, Holy Family 4
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: RF Casey Weck spanned 3-for-3 with a double and 3 RBI.

9 April 4, 1998
Eaton 13, Platte Valley 1
Winning pitcher — Tanner Taleyama
Story line: Taleyama threw two-hit shutout with seven strikeouts and no walks.

10 April 4, 1998
Eaton 6, Platte Valley 1
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a 1-hitter with nine strikeouts.

11 April 9, 1998
Eaton 17, Fort Morgan 9
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: The Reds powered out seven home runs — JJ Meyers (2), Todd Stancil, Zack Hughes (1), Paul Loftis (1) and Casey Wederspan.

12 April 11, 1998
Eaton 13, Brush 1
Winning pitcher — Tanner Taleyama
Story line: RF Casey Weck spanned 4-for-4 with two home runs and 5 RBI.

13 April 11, 1998
Eaton 7, Brush 0
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a 1-hitter with five strikeouts.

14 April 18, 1998
Eaton 10, Yuma 0
Winning pitcher — Nolan Mininger
Story line: Mininger and Mike Carrasco combined on a one-hitter with 10 strikeouts.

15 April 18, 1998
Eaton 10, Yuma 2
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: OH Todd Stancil went 3-for-3 with a home run and 3 RBI.

16 April 25, 1998
Eaton 10, Highland 0
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a no-hitter with 14 strikeouts.

17 April 25, 1998
Eaton 12, Highland 2
Winning pitcher — Tanner Taleyama
Story line: SS Mike Carrasco and designated hitter Todd Stancil both homered.

18 April 28, 1998 (District semifinals)
Eaton 11, Yuma 4
Winning pitcher — Scott Bergert
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers went 3-for-4 with a RBI.

19 May 1, 1998 (District semifinals)
Eaton 22, Platte Valley 3
Winning pitcher — Tanner Taleyama
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers (home and 5 RBI), C Zack Hughes (home and 4 RBI) and 1B Matt Hagen (home and 4 RBI) led the Reds.

20 May 1, 1998 (District finals)
Eaton 17, Valley 6
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: 1B Matt Hagen went 4-for-4 with 3 RBI and SS Jeff Meyers went 3-for-4 with a single, double and a home run.

21 May 9, 1998 (District semifinals)
Eaton 10, Machebeuf 0
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a one-hitter with nine strikeouts and one walk.

22 May 9, 1998 (Regional finals)
Eaton 14, Eagle Valley 1
Winning pitcher — Nolan Mininger
Story line: OH Todd Stancil went 2-for-2 with a pair of home runs and broke the school record with 11 total home runs.

23 May 15, 1998 (SA state semifinals)
Eaton 14, Faith Christian 5
Winning pitcher — Nolan Mininger
Story line: SS Mike Carrasco went 3-for-3 with a double, two triples and 3 RBI.

24 May 15, 1998 (SA state finals)
Eaton 3, Lamar 1
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: Trailing 1-0, the Reds scored three runs in the 11th on consecutive singles by CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers, SS Mike Carrasco and catcher Zack Hughes.

25 March 11, 1999
Eaton 21, Sheridan 1
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers (home and 4 RBI) and SS Mike Carrasco (2 RBI) had three hits apiece.

26 March 19, 1999
Eaton 14, Thompson Valley 9
Winning pitcher — Alex Carrasco
Story line: CF Jason Smith (2) and 2B Scott Souther (1) had two hits.

27 March 20, 1999
Eaton 11, Windsor 5
Winning pitcher — Tanner Taleyama
Story line: LF Paul Loftis went 3-for-4 with a double and 4 RBI.

28 March 20, 1999
Eaton 12, Greeley West 3
Winning pitcher — Todd Stancil
Story line: CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers (2 RBI) and LF Paul Loftis (3 RBI) had two hits apiece.

29 March 23, 1999
Eaton 14, Holy Family 4
Winning pitcher — Tanner Taleyama
Story line: CF Jason Smith (4) and LF Paul Loftis (3) had two hits apiece.

30 March 25, 1999
Eaton 9, Eagle Valley 3
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: CF Jason Smith (3) had 3 hits including a triple and 4 RBI.

31 April 6, 1999
Eaton 11, Platte Valley 0
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers went 3-for-3 with two doubles.

32 April 7, 1999
Eaton 12, Platte Valley 1
Winning pitcher — Paul Loftis
Story line: LF Paul Loftis went 3-for-3 with two doubles.

33 April 12, 1999
Eaton 12, Brush 0
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers (2) and LF Paul Loftis (3) had three hits apiece.

34 April 12, 1999
Eaton 3, Brush 2
Winning pitcher — Todd Stancil
Story line: The Reds scored all five runs in the first inning with four double plays by CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers and LF Paul Loftis.

35 April 17, 1999
Eaton 14, Yuma 0
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: SS Mike Carrasco hit two home runs in the first inning and fourth innings for a three-run day and also knocked in five runs.

36 April 17, 1999
Eaton 2, Yuma 2
Winning pitcher — Paul Loftis
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers and 1B Scott Souther (grand slam) had 5 RBI had four hits apiece.

37 April 26, 1999
Eaton 20, Highland 0
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: Carrasco and Tanner Taleyama combined for a no-hitter. OH Todd Stancil, SS Mike Carrasco, CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers and PH Greg Ayers hit home runs.

38 April 27, 1999
Eaton 16, Highland 0
Winning pitcher — Paul Loftis
Story line: Loftis pitched three innings and struck out seven batters and led the Reds with 3 hits on a 12-inning attack as RF Casey Wederspan added a solo home run.

39 May 4, 1999
Eaton 21, Way 1
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: For the second time this season, SS Mike Carrasco hit home runs in three consecutive plate appearances and also knocked in eight runs. Isakson gave up just one hit.

40 May 4, 1999
Eaton 12, Way 2
Winning pitcher — Paul Loftis
Story line: 1B Josh Yarbber went 3-for-4 with 4 RBI.

and THE STREAK continues

Mr. Pinstripes helps deliver record to Reds

story by **t.m. fasano** photo by **richard m. hackett**

Now that the Eaton Reds own the record for the most consecutive baseball wins in the state, school administrators need to look at getting Mike Carrasco a special dispensation to play in the pinstripes for as long as he wants.

Eaton principal Don Cadwallader and athletic director Diane Holmberg could officially designate Carrasco a landmark at third base and call him Mr. Pinstripes. They could lobby the Colorado High School Activities Association for Carrasco, a senior and four-year all-stater, to return every season so he can keep on starting for the Reds.

And now that the Reds, who surpassed Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62) for the all-time winning streak with 43 consecutive wins, romped over Holy Family 17-0 on a Josh Isakson no-hitter in the semifinals of the Class 3A Region I Baseball Tournament at Butch Butler Field on Saturday, they can breathe easier.

Yeah, right.

Carrasco, who has done just about everything a kid can do in a Reds uniform from being a bat boy at the age of 5 to being an all-state third baseman from ages 15 to 18, raised his status as one of the Reds' all-time best players a couple of notches by hitting the game-winning home run against what many consider the state's best pitcher in a 4-3 Reds victory over the Paonia Eagles.

The first 43 in a row were pretty easy, but no one said

See Eaton, Page SE2

TOP 10 STREAK TIDBITS

1. The streak has lasted 14 months, 30 days.
2. The Reds have outscored their opponents 587-95 for an average score of 13-0 and have scored 10 or more runs in 37 of the 44 games.
3. Reds coach Jim Hanley's career record at Eaton went from 394-120 (.767 winning percentage) to 438-120 (.785).
4. Reds pitchers shut out the opposition 14 times.
5. The Class 3A Reds beat four Class 4A teams and four 5A teams.



Relief pitcher Mike Carrasco delivers a pitch in Eaton's 4-3 win over Paonia at Butch Butler Field Saturday. The win was Eaton's 44th straight and advances the Reds to the final four.

RICHARD M. HACKETT
Greeley Tribune

EATON

6. The largest margin of victory was a 16-0 win against Highland.
7. The least runs scored in a game by the Reds was three (twice) — 3-1 win over Lamar and a 3-2 win over Brush.
8. Eleven of the 44 victories came in the postseason playoffs.
9. Josh Isakson has the most wins by a pitcher (9) while Alex Pichoa won eight games.

10. Zack Hughes and Todd Stancilt have hit 13 home runs apiece. Hughes leads the Reds with 11 RBI in the 44 games.

— T.M. Fasano

the next 43 wins were going to be.

In relief of starter Paul Loftis in the fifth inning of the regional championship game, Carrasco gave up a three-run home run to Clint Childs to put the Eagles (17-5) ahead 3-2. Carrasco could have buried his head and called it a nice career.

"I just tried to redeem myself and help the team out," Carrasco said.

One state title. Three Final Fours. Eighty wins in 90 games. Recognition as one of the finest players in the state. That's more than enough.

But this is Carrasco. This is Mr. Pinstripes. This is King Warrior. The aforementioned accomplishments aren't good enough for Carrasco.

So what did he do to make himself even more unforgettable?

With Jason Smith on first base and two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning against Paonia pitching legend Nate Miller, last year's pitcher of the year in all classifications, Carrasco

smacked a 1-2 curveball over the left field fence to put the Reds ahead for good.

"He's a warrior. He and Nate Miller are both winners," Reds coach Jim Hanley said. "They're just old-fashioned warriors. (Miller) threw him one curveball too many. Mike has that quick bat and he just went down and got it. You never saw a curveball hit any harder by a high school player, did you?"

Carrasco's homer was the second of the game surrendered by Miller, who lost for just the third time in 48 decisions over four years. Hot-hitting Zack Hughes opened the scoring for the Reds by pounding a solo shot off Miller that landed somewhere in downtown Greeley in the second inning. Jeff Meyers singled home Casey Wiederspan in the third for a 2-0 Reds lead, which held up until Childs' three-run blast in the fifth.

After Carrasco's two-run homer put the Reds ahead, the right-hander went out the last two innings and retired the Tigers on 23 pitches to keep

alive the defending state champion Reds' hopes of winning a fourth state title in six years. The Reds will play in the state semifinals on Friday at Regis University with the time of the game and team still to be determined. The championship game is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday at All-City Stadium.

Mr. Pinstripes saved the streak. Mr. Pinstripes put the Reds into the Final Four for the seventh straight year.

Loftis, who grew up on the same Eaton street (Elm) as Carrasco, Meyers and Dunley, said Carrasco's homer fixed everything. It's something that Loftis has grown accustomed to from Carrasco through the years.

"Like he always does, he fixes it. What a competitor and what a way to get it," Loftis said. "He says he can do it. He always believes in himself. He went out himself and did it."

Mr. Pinstripes said he knew that something positive was going to happen to him after giving up the go-ahead home run.

"I knew I was coming up to

bat. I didn't want to be denied," Carrasco said. "I believed that I was going to do something. I'm a great competitor. I hate to lose."

After 44 straight wins with the last loss coming on May 16, 1997, Carrasco and his teammates have forgotten how to lose. Now it's time for the Eaton administration to work on getting that dispensation for Mr. Pinstripes.

Region 1 Finals

Eaton 4, Paonia 3

PHS	000	030	0	—	3	5	0
ENS	011	000	x	—	4	6	2
PHS	Hale Miller (L, 9-2, 6H, 4ER, 2BB, 13SO) and Jack Eversman (2B, Miller, 1H, 1ER, 1BB, 3SO) and Jack Eversman (2B, Miller, 1H, 1ER, 1BB, 3SO) and Jack Eversman (2B, Miller, 1H, 1ER, 1BB, 3SO) and Jack Eversman (2B, Miller, 1H, 1ER, 1BB, 3SO).						

Region 1 Semifinals

Eaton 17, Holy Family 0

HHS	000	00	—	0	0	4
ENS	041	0x	—	17	14	0
HHS	Dan Burke (L, 7-3, 10H, 6ER, 2BB, 2SO), Marco Vega (3rd, 4H, 6ER, 4BB, 3SO), Marcus Hancock (1st, 2H, 0ER, 0BB, 2SO) and Jeff Fanning (3B, 1H, 1ER, 1BB, 1SO).					

NORTHERN PLAINS BASEBALL PREVIEW

Reds open season as No. 1 Class 3A team

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

Bad news for the rest of Class 3A, but the Big Red Machine looks to be as powerful as ever.

The Eaton Reds crash the spring baseball season with a No. 1 ranking in Class 3A, six starters back from a 19-4 state semifinal team and nine capable starting pitchers fighting for two spots in the rotation.

Prospects haven't looked much brighter for veteran skipper Jim Danley, who is fielding a squad that won the Legion B state title last summer with a 37-13 record.

Needless to say, the coaches in the Northern Plains Conference are shaking their heads trying to figure

● Girls Soccer preview / B3

out how to stop Danley's latest powerhouse.

So is the rest of the state. When you play for the state championship four out of the last five years, win back-to-back state titles in 1994-95 and have made the state playoffs every year since 1983, everybody around the state wishes they could copy the winning formula.

"Eaton can beat any school in this area," said Platte Valley head coach Jeff Rockwell, who was the only coach in the conference to beat Eaton last year. "They're young and good. If they were to play (Class 5A) Greeley West or Greeley Cen-

tral 10 games, there is no doubt in my mind they could win half of them. They are that good."

Where do you start when talking about the Reds?

■ There is two-time all-state third baseman Mike Carrasco, a junior who is already a Division I-A prospect and one of the Reds' top pitchers. In Danley's 27 seasons at Eaton, he lists Carrasco as one of the top talents to come through the program.

"He's a great athlete and great

leader," Danley said. "He's the kind of kid every coach wants to have out there. He's a very quiet leader, but everyone knows that what Mike says goes."

Danley said Carrasco has great baseball instincts to go with his quick bat and good power. Danley handed Carrasco the ball in last summer's Legion B state title game and he came away with the win over Greeley's Hensel Phelps.

"Certainly, he's one of the best players we've had. He has very soft hands and a fine throwing arm," Danley said. "There's isn't a position he can't play. He's not the most-talented pitcher, but he's the guy you want on the mound. He has the ability to step up to the level that's required."



Carrasco



Meyers

■ Then there's all-state junior shortstop Jeff Meyers, whom Danley says is the best Reds shortstop since Mike Anderson in 1983. Anderson, who

starred at the University of Northern Colorado before signing with the California Angels, is now an assistant baseball coach at the University of Nebraska.

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FROM PAGE B1

BASEBALL

■ Mix returning position players Matt Hagen (first base), Brent Thompson (second base) and Jason Smith (center field) in with talented catchers Zack Hughes and Josh Yarber and outfielders Paul Loftis and Casey Wiederspan, and it's no wonder this team is going into the season with such high expectations.

"The expectations have been high for these kids all the way through. I think our expectations for ourselves are high," Danley said. "We just have to be mentally tough enough to handle it. This is a very competitive group of young men. I like these kids mentally."

■ The Reds have nine pitchers who can step in at any time starting with veterans Carrasco, Alex Ochoa (84-85 mph fastball), Scott Bangert, Nolan Mininger and Jeff Hager. Wiederspan and Josh Isakson will get

close looks, as will freshmen Tanner Tateyama and Todd Stancliff.

Danley said Tateyama has a chance to start, while the 6-foot-3, 230-pound Stancliff throws in the 82-83 mph range.

"I've never had that many contenders for starting positions," Danley said of the stacked pitching staff. "If we have to pitch by committee, we'll pitch by committee. It's no secret that by the end of the year, you're going to get down to your final three or four pitchers. Right now, they're all in competition for those three or four spots."

Danley said he'd rather be ranked No. 64 out of 64 teams heading into a season, but he's going to have to live with the No. 1 ranking a lot of people have placed on the Reds.

Around the Northern Plains (Eaton, Highland, Platte Valley,

Brush, Wray and Yuma) involving other Weld County teams, Platte Valley is looking to better its 8-7 record and it all starts with all-conference shortstop Armando Avila.

"He's the real deal. He's a good one," Rockwell said.

Scott Casselman complements Avila at second base, while third baseman-designated hitter Drew Anderson led the Broncos in hitting as a freshman last year.

Preston Pepler and freshman lefty Justin Nelson are battling for the No. 1 spot in the pitching rotation.

Steve Nale's Highland Huskies have three starters back from a 7-7 team.

Catcher Jason Rusch, center fielder-pitcher Shane Danielson and third baseman Kelly Burndt are back on a squad that will start six sophomores and three seniors.

NORTHERN PLAINS BOYS OF SUMMER

■ **WHO:** Eaton Reds

■ **HEAD COACH:** Jim Danley, 27th season

■ **LAST YEAR:** 9-1 conference, 19-4 overall; lost to Kent Denver in the Class 3A state semifinals.

■ **KEY PLAYERS:** Mike Carrasco, jr., 3B-RHP (.492, 26 RBI, 2-0, 2.50 ERA, 22 Ks in 16 2/3 IP); Jeff Meyers, jr., SS (.333, 20 RBI); Matt Hagen, sr., 1B (.397, 19 RBI); Brent Thompson, sr., 2B (.316); Jason Smith, jr., CF (.375, 20 RBI, 15 steals); Zack Hughes, so., C (.390, 22 RBI), Paul Loftis, jr., LF (.316); Alex Ochoa, sr., RHP (7-1, 3.70 ERA, 69 Ks in 42 IP); Scott Bangert, sr., RHP (4-1, 3.50 ERA, 31 Ks in 38 IP); Jeff Hager, sr., RHP (4-2, 5.40 ERA, 23 KS in 24 2/3 IP).

■ **OUTLOOK:** The Reds won state titles in 1994-95, and finished second in '93 and '96. They've made the state playoffs a remarkable 15 straight years, 19 of Danley's 26 seasons. The Big Red Machine is a serious contender for its third state title of the 1990s. With a loaded pitching staff and all-stars Carrasco and Meyers lead-

ing the way, it's hard to find a weakness on this club. Everyone you talk to says the Reds are deserving of their No. 1 ranking. Look for Danley to be making out the lineup card in the Class 3A state championship game May 16 at All-City Stadium in Denver.

■ **WHO:** Platte Valley Broncos

■ **HEAD COACH:** Jeff Rockwell, second season

■ **LAST YEAR:** 4-6 conference, 8-7 overall

■ **KEY PLAYERS:** Armando Avila, sr., SS (hit in the high .300s and is a two-time all-conference performer); Scott Casselman, jr., 2B (.330); Preston Pepler, jr., RF-RHP; Drew Anderson, so., 3B-DH (.460); Eric Bernhardt, jr., CF-RHP; Justin Nelson, fr., LHP; Chris Carpio, sr., RHP.

■ **OUTLOOK:** The Broncos lost a lot of senior leadership last year and Rockwell hopes some players will step up in that category. "We have a lot of good players. Armando is about as good as I've coached," Rockwell said. The Bron-

cos have a solid defense up the middle with Avila and Casselman. It sounds as though the freshman Nelson has a promising future as a Broncos pitcher, and Anderson led the team in hitting last year as a freshman.

■ **WHO:** Highland Huskies

■ **HEAD COACH:** Steve Nale, eighth season

■ **LAST YEAR:** 3-7 conference, 7-7 overall

■ **KEY PLAYERS:** Jason Rusch, sr., C (.220 last year, but hit .360 as a sophomore); Shane Danielson, sr., CF-LHP (.521 as DH last year); Kelly Burndt, so., 3B (.365); Scott Rodriguez, sr., 2B; Keith Juarez, so., RHP.

■ **OUTLOOK:** With six sophomores pegged for the starting lineup, the Huskies must grow up fast if they want to be competitive. Nale lost his defense up the middle, first baseman and entire outfield to graduation. "We're very young. We just need to play," Nale said. "We'll grow up in a hurry."

— T.M. Fasano

fourth to cruise past Thompson Valley 12-2 in their first game of the season at the Greeley Invitational at Butch Butler Field.

Stanclift allowed only two hits and recorded three strikeouts with no walks before he was replaced by **Jeff Hager** in the fourth. Hager picked up the victory, giving up three hits, a strikeout and two walks.

Paul Loftis led the Reds offense with two doubles and three RBI.

Josh Yarber added a two-run double in the fourth inning and **Casey Wiederspan** also had a big single.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL ...

Freshman **Todd Stanclift** went three strong innings to get Eaton off to a good start and the Reds finally broke loose for eight runs in the

Eaton captures Greeley Invite

BY KEN HAMRICK and
STAFF REPORTS
Greeley Tribune

Nolan Mininger has set his sights on a spot in the starting rotation for the Eaton High School baseball team. Saturday afternoon, he came one step closer to achieving that goal in the championship game of the Greeley Baseball Invitational at Butch Butler Field.

Mininger didn't start the game, but was inserted after Reds' starting pitcher Alex Ochoa aggravated a previous ankle injury in the bottom of the third. Mininger faced a potential Greeley West rally as the Spartans had runners at first and second with just one out. Mininger, however, was up to the challenge as he stopped the Spartans' rally. Eaton went on to take the championship game, 10-2.

Top-ranked Eaton remains undefeated at 3-0. Greeley West falls to 1-2.

"Nolan throws a lot of strikes," said Eaton coach Jim Danley. "He has a very deceptive curve ball and he gave Greeley West a lot of problems with that curve ball."

For Mininger, the championship game marked his first appearance and first win of the 1998 season. He allowed just two runs and four hits as well as striking out six and walking none in 3½ innings.

Mininger says that he did feel some pressure with a 6-0 lead and Greeley West starting to rally. However, he knew that if he was unsuccessful, then the Spartans would be back in the ball game.

"There was a little bit of pressure on me," Mininger said. "But we have a good infield and good defense so I wasn't too worried."

Greeley West also made Mininger's task a little easier as Scott Lacefield was caught in a run-down between first and second. Mininger then struck out Brian Pierson to end the Spartans' rally.

"Getting the base runner in that run down really helped us," Mininger said. "After that, I just concentrated on Pierson and just threw strikes."

"My best pitch is the curve ball," Mininger added. "I just try to throw that pitch over every time and keep them swinging at it and hopefully get ground balls."

This season will mark the first time that Mininger will take his place in the Reds' starting rotation. Last season he was mainly a relief pitcher but during the summer he started to see more time as a starter. He took full advantage of his opportunity as he went 6-0 with a 2.30 earned run average.

However, the Eaton pitching staff has quite a bit of depth. Mininger realizes that even if he doesn't get many appearances in the starting rotation, then he will always be inserted in a relief role.

"I hope to start, but I'm fine with

PREP BASEBALL

relieving," Mininger said. "I'm going to try to get in the starting rotation and see what I can do."

GREELEY WEST 10, THOMPSON VALLEY 5

Danny Plant threw four shut-out innings and allowed just one hit as Greeley West defeated Thompson Valley, 10-5 in the Greeley Invitational at Butch Butler Field.

The Spartans jumped on Eagles' starter Ben Augustine for four runs in the first, two in the second and three in the third. Plant kept Thompson Valley guessing as he struck out four

THOMPSON VALLEY 23, VALLEY 20

Thompson Valley scored four runs in the top of the seventh to defeat Valley, 23-20 in the Greeley Invitational at Butch Butler Field.

Valley scored five runs in the first, seven in the second and eight in the third to take a 20-12 lead. The Vikings defense, however, committed a total of 11 errors on the

day which enabled the Eagles to come back for the victory.

PLATTE VALLEY 9, DENVER CHRISTIAN 7

KERSEY — Erik Bernhardt hit a grand slam in the sixth inning to lead the Platte Valley baseball squad past Denver Christian 9-7 in an upset Saturday at Platte Valley High School.

The Crusaders, ranked fourth in the state, were leading 7-5 when Bernhardt gave the Broncos the lead.

Closer Armando Avila finished off the Crusaders, pitching a perfect seventh inning.

EATON 13, VALLEY 0

EATON — Jason Smith came close to batting for the cycle as Eaton rolled past Valley in the Greeley West Invitational.

Smith picked up a single, a double, and a triple, but failed to homer.

HORIZON 10, FORT LUPTON 3

THORNTON — Fort Lupton had a much better effort on the mound than in its opener, but Horizon held the Bluedevils down at the plate to pick up the nonconference victory.

Bryan Carter and Andy Sterling allowed only two walks for the Bluedevils (0-2) compared to 11 in the opener, but did allow 10 hits.

ROOSEVELT 14-12, ESTES PARK 3-3

JOHNSTOWN — Roosevelt had 21 hits in two games of a double-header with Estes Park as the Rough Riders opened their season with a pair of Longs Peak Conference victories.

It was a home run barrage in the first game as Roosevelt hit four homers in the five-inning affair. Martin Rodriguez (3-for-4) had two of those homers with a pair of two-run shots in the first and third innings. Richard Reyna had a two-run homer in the first and Nathaniel Hess added a solo in the third.

QUICK WORK

■ The Dayspring Christian baseball squad hit eight home runs and recorded 31 RBI as the Eagles beat Weldon Valley a whopping 41-0 Saturday in the first game of a 1A North Central Conference double-header at Forbes Field.

The Eagles (2-0 Conference, 3-0 overall) scored 23 runs in the first inning, 12 in the second, and 6 in the third before Warriors forfeited that game and the second game in the bottom of the fourth inning.

— Staff Reports

No. 1 Reds cruise past Crusaders

DENVER — Zack Hughes keyed a six-run second-inning rally with a two-run double as the No. 1 Eaton Reds beat fourth-ranked Denver Christian 8-4 on Tuesday.

Hughes' shot was a line drive over the center fielder's head, giving him two of his game-high 3 RBI.

"We had a good inning in the second," Eaton coach Jim Danley said. "We scored six runs and that was certainly the turning point. We got some pitches we could hit hard."

Eaton (4-0) tacked on two more runs late in the game, but solid pitching by Scott Bangert (1-0), Nolan Mininger and Mike Carrasco kept the Crusaders (0-2) from sustaining any scoring threats. The infield tandem of Jeff Myers and Brent Thompson turned two double plays for the Reds, killing potentially big innings in the third and fifth.

The game was videotaped by Denver's Channel 9News as its game of the week and will be aired at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.



Hughes



Bangert

— Staff Reports

EATON 13, VALLEY 0

EATON — Jason Smith came close to batting for the cycle as Eaton rolled past Valley in the Greeley West Invitational.

Smith picked up a single, a double, and a triple, but failed to homer.

LOCAL DIGEST

Red-hot bats sink Sheridan

STAFF REPORTS

EATON — Zack Hughes had five RBI and Jeff Meyers added four as No. 1 Eaton (5-0) blew past Sheridan 21-2 Thursday night in nonconference play.

Meyers hit both a double and a triple and Hughes added a double for Eaton, which scored 11 runs in the

second inning and eight in the third before the game was called due to darkness in the fourth inning.

Eaton starter Josh Isakson only gave up two hits and struck out three in three innings. Relievers Nolan Mininger and Alex Ochoa, each had three strikeouts and combined to pitch two no-hit innings.

EATON ... In Wray, Eaton catcher **Zack Hughes** brought his season total to 21 RBI as the Reds destroyed Wray in 20-6 and 23-4 in a 3A Northern Plains Conference doubleheader.

In the first game, Hughes belted a home run and picked up 3 RBI for the Reds (2-0, 7-0 overall).

In the second, Hughes added a double and 2 RBI.

Sports

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WORL

The Greeley Daily Tribune

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Big Red Machine

Freshman's homers keep No. 1 Eaton winning

BY ROSS MAAK

Greeley Tribune

EATON — It takes experience, poise and talent to put together a great baseball team.

But the No. 1 Eaton Reds (8-0 overall, 2-0 in the Northern Plains Conference) Wednesday night needed just one of the above to drop Holy Family (3-3 overall) in six innings, 14-4 in a nonconference game.

Talent was enough to carry the Reds, along with two two-run homers and 4 RBI from a freshman designated hitter.

"That's not normal for me," said Todd Stanclift, who hit the two shots against the wind at Eaton High School. "The coach (Jim Danley) told me that if I get a fastball to hit

PREP BASEBALL

it. I thought, 'Why not? I guess I better do what he says.' And it worked."

It worked twice, which isn't bad for someone who didn't even expect to make the varsity squad at the start of the season.

"No, I didn't expect to make the team," Stanclift admitted. "I just came in and kept trying and hoping. I worked hard in practice and played hard, so here I am."

Even Danley wasn't sure before the season that Stanclift would suit up in a varsity uniform this year.

"I wanted to give him a shot at the designated hitter spot, but not the way it happened," Danley said. "(Sophomore catcher)

Josh Yurber pulled the muscle away from the bone in his hip flexor, and that's a pretty serious injury."

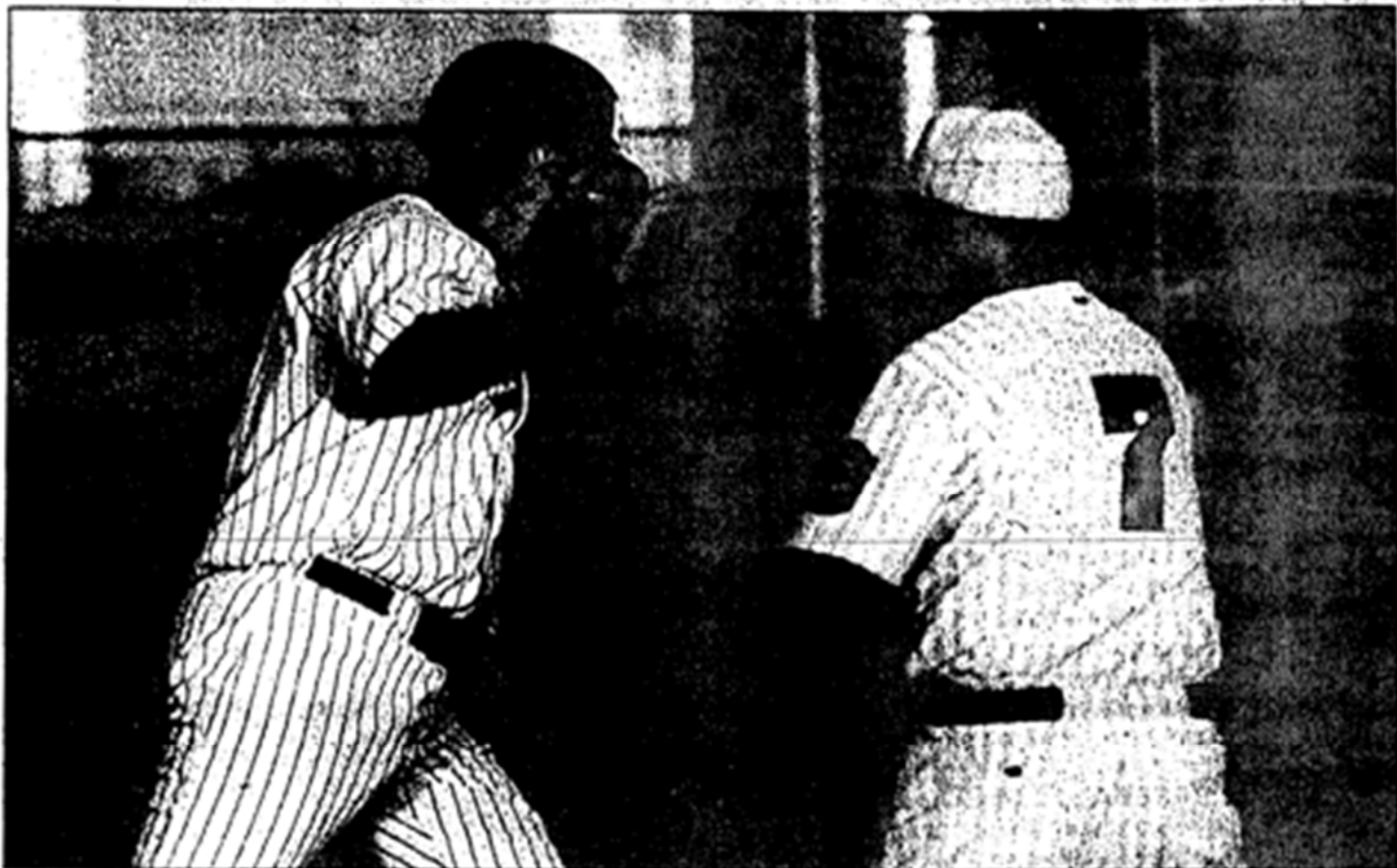
That opened the door for the freshman.

"That allowed Todd a chance to swing the bat on a regular basis, and that's done him some good," Danley continued. "And it's not the fact that he's hitting home runs that is the best part. It's that he's making good, hard contact consistently at the plate.

"The home runs will happen, but he's doing a good job of putting it in play."

With the score tied at 2 going into the third, the Reds decided it was time to take over.

See BIG RED, Page B4



ROSS MAAK / Greeley Tribune

Eaton's Todd Stancliff, left, high-fives manager Jim Danley as he heads for home after hitting a two-run homer in the third inning of the Reds' 14-4 win over Holy Family on Wednesday.

BIG RED

Eaton started the inning with three straight doubles, followed by Stancliff's first two-run shot. A double, single and two walks followed for Eaton as the Reds brought 13 batters to the plate and scored nine runs in the inning to blow the game open, 11-2.

Eaton allowed two more runs in the top of the sixth, but Stancliff hit his second homer in the bottom of the frame. Red Jason Smith was able to

circle the bases before the final out to give the Reds the 14-4 victory via the 10-run rule.

Right fielder Casey Wiederspan had an impressive day from the plate, going 3-for-3 with a double and scoring twice. Smith was 2-for-3 with three runs scored.

Although Eaton was able to blow the game wide open in the third inning and win on the 10-run rule, Danley wasn't all that excited about the

way his team performed.

"It was very sloppy," Danley said. "I wasn't pleased at all with the focus of our team, even though we hit the ball well. That's one of the dangers of playing with an undefeated season — the kids kind of put it on cruise control."

"Right now, they feel like they're 9-feet tall and bulletproof. They've got to play better than this if they're going to be good at the end of the season."

Freshmen dynamic duo = Eaton sweep

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

EATON — It doesn't matter that 5-foot-7 pitcher Tanner Tateyama and 6-3 slugger Todd Stanclift are on opposite ends of the size spectrum.

They produce. And production is all that matters when you play for the No. 1 Class 3A baseball team in the state.

In the world of Eaton Baseball, the rich have gotten richer because of the immense talents of freshmen Tateyama and Stanclift.

Stanclift isn't old enough to drive, but he sure knows how to drive the ball.

Tateyama doesn't have enough hair on his face to shave, but he sure is razor sharp with

Stanclift, Tateyama lead No. 1 Reds over Broncos

PREP BASEBALL

his pitches.

Led by the two young Reds, Eaton swept the Platte Valley Broncos 13-0 and 6-1 Saturday-afternoon in Northern Plains Conference play.

Tateyama, who can throw five pitches, pitched a one-hit shutout in the first game and was in control the whole way. He picked up his second win of the season by fanning seven Broncos and walking no one. "I usually don't have as many strikeouts, but I'm working on getting better control," said the 170-pound Tateyama, who hasn't given

up an earned run in 10 innings this year.

Having an offense with a team batting average of .467 entering the game will take pressure off anyone.

"I'm really relaxed when I go out there. They just get a lot of runs," Tateyama said of the Reds' bats.

Reds catcher Zack Hughes, the state's leader in RBI with 22, was the recipient of Tateyama's masterpiece.

"Tanner's got great control. He's always right around the plate," Hughes said. "He always keeps his curveballs down and split fingers in. For being a freshman he's very mature. He'll be in the dugout cheering and telling guys to stay in the game. He acts like

a senior out there."

Reds veteran skipper Jim Danley said his freshman hurler has amazing control for being so young.

"Honestly, he has five pitches. I don't know when I've ever said some of our more accomplished seniors had five pitches that they could deliver to the plate at any time," said Danley of Tateyama's fastball, curveball, knuckle curveball, split finger and changeup. "Tanner is real special. He's got great stuff. He's a disciplined, focused, bright individual who has a plan out there."

Danley said Tateyama's mature beyond his years.

"He's just light-years ahead of any fresh-

See EATON, Page B3

FROM PAGE B1

EATON

men I've had. We've had freshmen who had good stuff, but we've never had a finished product like that out there," Danley said.

The big blow in the first game was delivered by designated hitter Stanclift. The 220-pound power hitter pounded a first-inning grand slam to give the Reds (4-0 league, 10-0 overall) a 6-0 lead.

Tateyama cruised the rest of the way against the Broncos (0-4 league, 1-7-1 overall).

"He kept the ball down and had a real nice curveball," Platte Valley

coach Jeff Rockwell said of Tateyama. "He sure held us down. You're not going to win any games by not scoring."

Stanclift, who has 13 RBIs in 21 at bats this season and is hitting .421, smacked a 420-foot shot to center field for his team-leading fourth home run in three games as Alex Ochoa (5 innings, 2 hits, 9 strikeouts) won his third of the season in game two.

"He's just crushing the ball. When he stays back and doesn't jump at the ball, he's an excellent

hitter," Danley said of Stanclift. "The best thing about Stanclift is that he puts the ball in play so he's going to hit for average, too. Last year was the first year I really had a freshman who could hit the long ball and that was Zack Hughes. We're very fortunate to have two of them in two years."

Stanclift shook his head and didn't know quite what to say about the way he's producing as the No. 7 hitter in what is arguably the state's most powerful lineup.

"I don't want to get my head too

big. This is my first time hitting them out," Stanclift said. "I'm swinging at fastballs and trying to keep my head down and not fly out."

Stanclift proved his worth last summer when he played on Eaton's Legion B state championship team.

Casey Wiederspan got the Reds on the board with a solo shot in the third inning in the second game. The Reds broke open a 1-0 game off Broncos lefty Justin Nelson in the fifth, on a run-scoring double by leadoff hitter Jason Smith and a towering 425-foot dinger off the bat of

two-time all-stater Mike Carrasco. The Eaton third baseman, who relieved Ochoa in the sixth and struck out four, hit his homer over Third Street to give the Reds a 5-0 lead. Stanclift followed with his second tater of the day an inning later.

"I never hit it that far before," Stanclift said of his second homer.

Carrasco was a star as a freshman for the Reds and understands what Tateyama and Stanclift are going through.

"That whole freshmen class will be something special. They are all

athletes," Carrasco said. "At this level I didn't think (Stanclift) could do it, but he proved me wrong."

That's no surprise.

There are not many things that Tateyama and Stanclift have done wrong yet this season.



Carrasco

See EATON, Page B3

EATON BASEBALL... In Brush, **Casey Wiederspan** batted 1.000, with two home runs in back to back at-bats and hitting in five as Eaton swept Brush 13-1, 7-0 in a Class 3A Northern conference doubleheader.

Wiederspan added an outstanding running catch in right field in the second game.

Brent Thompson also made three tough defensive plays at second base.

Zack Hughes had two hits in game two, including a three run homer in the seventh, and an RBI



Wiederspan

LOCAL DIGEST

Eaton tops Yuma to stay perfect

STAFF REPORTS

EATON — **Mike Carrasco** had a single, two doubles and 5 RBI for Eaton in a doubleheader against Yuma in Class 3A Northern Plains

conference baseball Saturday. The Reds swept Yuma 10-0, 10-2.

Eaton remains perfect this season, 8-0 in conference, 15-0 overall. Yuma drops to 2-7 overall.

Todd Stancliff went 3-for-3 in game two with 3 RBI, including a single, double and a solo homer in the fifth.

Eaton had strong pitching from five different pitchers. **Nolan Mininger** took the win in game one. **Alex Ochoa** was the winner in game two. Both have a 4-0 record.

VIKING BASEBALL... In Gilcrest, Valley's **Jerrold Chacon** hit his first home run of the season as the Vikings fell to Skyline 7-4 in nonconference action.

Chacon, batting .385 at day's end, also picked up his 10th RBI. **Nate Davis** went 3-for-3,

HOME-RUN DERBY ... In Fort Morgan, the wind was blowing out as Eaton (4-0, 11-0) and Fort Morgan combined for 11 home runs in one game. Eaton defeated Fort Morgan 17-9 in the nonconference home-run derby.

Eaton senior sparkles with no-hit 10-0 win

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

EATON — When Alex Ochoa is on, his fastball screams out "ouchoa" to opposing hitters.

Ochoa made his last regular-season start in an Eaton Reds uniform a most memorable one by striking out a career-high 14 Highland Huskies and firing a no-hitter on Saturday.

No one has to worry about Ochoa ever losing confidence.

"I'm pretty confident because I've got one of the best defenses in state," Ochoa said.

The Reds senior right-hander, with artillery that included an 83 mph fastball and knuckle curveball, fired the no-hitter against the Huskies in the first game of a doubleheader sweep.

After Ochoa's master-piece in the 10-0 six-inning victory, the Reds powered their way to a five-inning 12-2 victory over the Huskies (3-7 in Northern Plains, 4-10 overall) in game two.

Eaton was led by **Todd Stancliff's** grand slam, his team-leading eighth homer of the year, and a pair of two-run home runs by **Mike Carrasco** and **Zack Hughes**



Hughes

FROM PAGE B1



JIM RYDBOM / Greeley Tribune

Eaton third baseman Mike Carrasco throws the ball to first base against Highland Saturday.

EATON

that paced the Reds in an 11-run third inning. Casey Wiederspan also went 3-for-3 to aid the Reds' hitting attack against Highland's Jess Muro, Mike Ackelson and Kelly Berndt as Eaton's Tanner Tateyama picked up his third win of the season.

The two wins upped the Reds' regular season record to 17-0, 10-0 in the Northern Plains Conference, and made it the first time ever that an Eaton baseball team finished the regular season undefeated.

Now it's off to the Class 3A District Playoffs Tuesday where the Reds will most likely host Yuma at 4 p.m. in Eaton with Ochoa as the probable starter. The winner of that game plays again Friday in the district semifinals and finals at Fort Morgan.

First things first, though. If the Reds are going to win their third 3A state championship in five years, they must have a dominating Ochoa on the mound.

"It'll be good motivation for Alex because we need him right now. It's crunch time right now," said star third baseman Mike Carrasco, who socked his third homer to go with four RBI in the doubleheader.

When Ochoa broke his right tibia bone during a football practice and was in a walking cast from October until February, Eaton head coach Jim Danley didn't know if Ochoa would be ready until the end of the season.

"Alex is getting stronger all the time," said Danley, who said the no-hitter was Ochoa's best performance in his prep career. "When he gets ahead in the count he just dominates. The future looks bright (for Alex) because there aren't a lot of guys who can bring in at around 85 mph. He's had a good career here, one of the better ones that anyone's had."

Danley said Ochoa started the season out with a pronounced limp and couldn't run from foul pole to foul pole because of the pain.

"The first thing that went through my mind when I cracked my ankle was if I was going to be able to pitch," said Ochoa, who is 13-1 the past two seasons for the Reds. "My mom and dad helped me rehabilitate my ankle."

The only pain Ochoa's causing now is to the other team.

Except for giving up six walks against the Huskies, Ochoa fanned 14 of the 26 hitters he faced and allowed just one ball out of the infield.

Ochoa's no-hitter was the third one he's thrown in his varsity career at Eaton. He threw back-to-back no-hitters last year, when he went 7-1.

Ochoa is about as unhittable as a butterfly this season. The 5-foot-9 Ochoa, who wants to play baseball in college, is 6-0 with 44 strikeouts in 30 1/3 innings and an incredibly stingy earned-run average of 0.46.

Another statistic as impressive as Ochoa's ERA is that opposing hitters are batting just .113 (12-for-106) against him.

"His fastball and curveball were working exceptionally well today," said all-state shortstop Jeff Meyers, who knocked in four runs in the sweep. "It's a good confidence booster for him."

Eaton 10, 12, Highland 0, 2

Game one	Game two
Highland 0-0	1-0
Eaton 10-0	12-2

1985 — Shane Erickson (1-2-4, 6H, 5ER, 50S, 45O), Luke Mathews (5th, 1st, 2ER, 50B, 50SO), Mike Ackelson (3H, 6H, 1ER, 50SO) and Jason Fluch.

1986 — Alex Ochoa (10-0-0, 0H, 0ER, 50B, 145SO) and Zack Hughes (2B, 4H, 2ER, 50). Jeff Meyers, Mike Carrasco, Matt Mayers, Jason Smith, Carrasco, Hughes.

Game one	Game two
Highland 0-0	1-0
Eaton 10-0	12-2

1985 — Jason Muro (1-2-3H, 5ER, 50B, 50SO), Mike Ackelson (3H, 3H, 2ER, 50B, 50SO), Kelly Berndt (3H, 3H, 6ER, 150SO) and Jason Fluch. 1986 — Fluch, Jerrod Wreath, 1985 — Tanner Tateyama (10-2-4H, 0ER, 45B, 45SO), Nolan Mininger (4H, 0H, 0ER, 150), Mike Carrasco (5th, 3H, 0ER, 150) and Zack Hughes (5B, 150). Jeff Meyers (13 on in 3rd), Zack Hughes (1 on in 3rd), FFB — Stancliff 4, Carrasco 3, Hughes 3, Meyers, Brent Thompson.

Meyers, Reds are true love on diamond

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

EATON — Jeff Meyers has that twinkle in his eyes and hop in his step.

Tuesday was the beginning of the official run for the roses in Colorado high school baseball, and Meyers is one horse that got out of the gate early.

The all-state Eaton shortstop banged out three hits and knocked in a pair of runs to help lead the No. 1-ranked Reds to an 11-4 victory over the Yuma Indians in the first round of the Class 3A Northern Plains District Tournament.

The Reds (18-0) advanced to the district semifinals against Platte Valley at 9:30 a.m. Friday at Fort Morgan. The other semifinal game pits Valley against Brush at noon. The two semifinal winners play for the district title at 3 p.m.

Meyers enjoys baseball probably more than the typical couch potato likes "The Jerry Springer Show."

Reds head coach Jim Danley has seen a lot of shortstops come and go during his 27-year stint at Eaton. Seven of them have gone on to play in college. Danley said before the season started that Meyers is the best shortstop Eaton's had since Mike Anderson in 1983.

High praise.

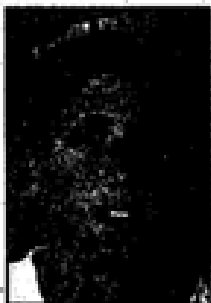
Anderson was a star for the University of Northern Colorado and went on to sign with the California Angels.

"I'm really awestruck that he said that," Meyers said.

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound junior is doing his job to get the Reds a third state title in five years. Meyers is hitting .421 with 23 RBI from the No. 2 hole in the batting order.

A three-sport athlete for the Reds, baseball is Meyers' first love. He's been playing the game since the age of 7 and is just another one of many Eaton ballplayers who grew up loving the red and white pinstripes.

Meyers is one of those players with baseball instincts. He's always at the right place and rarely makes mistakes.



Meyers

See EATON, Page B3

MEYERS

"He understands the game. Jeff's always in the right spot and he's thinking ahead," Danley said.

Meyers is one of those players who understands the history of Eaton tradition on the diamond.

"There is nothing better than Eaton baseball to me," Meyers said. "There is a lot of respect for us. We take pride in our baseball."

Meyers moved from Greeley in the fifth grade and is glad he did.

"It's been so great here. Eaton's had good baseball forever," Meyers said. "I'm just glad to be playing in

this organization because we're at our high spot."

Meyers most likely has a career in baseball after Eaton, but all he's aiming for is the state title.

"My first goal is to win state," said Meyers, who batted .333 with 20 RBI last season on a team that made it to the 3A state semifinals. "It's nice to be on a team that has a chance to win every time we go out no matter who we play."

Danley said Meyers has the talent to contribute to a Division I-A baseball program.

Meyers will certainly accept a Division I-A shot if it comes, but he's enjoying his prep career right now.

"I just want to go on and have a good high school career and, hopefully, have a good college career," Meyers said. "If I get lucky I can play a little baseball after that."

Meyers' defensive skills should open the eyes of a lot of scouts.

"He just has the softest hands for an infielder that we've probably ever had here," Danley said. "He certainly is capable of playing Division I baseball. Defensively, that guy is worth a

lot and is becoming a good hitter, too. His glove is worth several runs to a college team right now."

But Meyers isn't in any hurry to prove that. He relishes his role as one of the leaders on the state's top-ranked team and intends to fully enjoy this time of his life while it's here.

EXTRA INNINGS ... The Reds 10-runned Yuma in the two games during the season, but actually had a difficult time disposing of the Indians (4-9) this time around. With the Indians adding a two-spot in the fourth inning which cut the Eaton lead to 6-4,

Danley rounded up the troops along the third-base line for a few meaningful words. "He really pumped us up.

We didn't come in focused and that's just not like us," Meyers said. "Then we started having good at-bats, our defense didn't let us down and our pitching became strong." Danley said that players get in playoff games, get excited and try to do too much. "It's a good lesson for us," Danley said. ... Eaton's Alex Ochoa, who tossed a no-hitter with 14 strikeouts against Highland on Saturday, picked up his seventh win. Nolan Mininger also

pitched three innings and fanned three batters while Mike Carrasco pitched the seventh inning and struck out two of the three hitters he faced. ... The Reds banged out 12 hits against knuckleballer Nathan Klein. First baseman Matt Hagen and Meyers led the way with three hits apiece. Carrasco added two singles for the Reds.

Eaton 11, Yuma 4

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	R	E	B	O
Yuma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eaton	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	11	12	1

YB — Nathan Klein (L, 2-3, 12th, 6ER, 6BB, 5SO) and Tyler Richards (R) — Mark DeStam, RB1 — Marco Abrego, DW — 7th — Alex Ochoa (W 7-0, 2nd, 1ER, 2BB, 3SO) and Zach Hughes (L) — Todd Stanoff, Casey Wadsworth, RB1 — Jeff Meyers (2, Stanoff 2, Wadsworth 2, Mike Carrasco, Brian Thompson, Matt Hagen).



Todd Stanclift high-fives a teammate after the Eaton freshman hit the second of his two homers in the Reds' 14-1 win in the Class 3A Region 1 championship game on Saturday over Eagle Valley. Stanclift breaks an Eaton record for home runs in a season with his 11th.

RICHARD M. HACKETT / Greeley Tribune

• Stanclift has a big day / B3

Total domination

Eaton cruises en route to regional title

BY MATT SCHUMAN

Greeley Tribune

The home runs that were flying out of Butch Butler Field Saturday seemed to stretch all the way north to Eaton.

However, it's how far south those home runs are taking the Eaton baseball team that has the Reds soaring.

On the strength of five home runs, including two by freshman Todd Stanclift to break a school record, the Reds will travel south to Denver to try for their third state title in five years with a 14-1 thrashing of Eagle Valley in the championship game of the Class 3A Region 1 baseball tournament Saturday.

The No. 1 ranked Reds ran their record to a per-

fect 22-0 and will meet Faith Christian in the final four Thursday at Regis University with the title game Saturday at All-City Field. Eagle Valley's season ends at 16-5.

Stanclift and his teammates were business-like after the game, looking more like a team with quiet confidence with a job left to do than a team celebrating a state berth.

"We just try to take it one game at a time, keep our heads down and not get too cocky," Stanclift said. "We don't want to go in there with big heads and all that."

Stanclift doesn't enter with a big head, just a big bat. The freshman set the Eaton record for most home runs in a season, blasting his 11th this year



Eaton 14
Eagle Valley 1
STAT

■ The Reds used the long ball to dominate Eagle Valley. In total, the Reds hit five homers to win the regional tournament.

See EATON, Page B3

Stanclift hopes to keep power numbers steady

BY MATT SCHUMAN
Greene Tribune

Eaton catcher Zach Hughes takes all the credit for the hitting prowess of his friend Todd Stanclift.

"I have to take credit for his home runs because I give him advice all the time," Hughes said. "Every time you get up, it doesn't matter what you do as long as you hit the ball hard. That's what I tell him."

Of course, Hughes is only joking about taking the credit, but maybe Stanclift is listening. With his two home runs in Saturday's Region 1 baseball tournament at Butch Butler Field, Stanclift broke the school record for most home runs in a season, surpassing the old mark of 10 set by former Eaton slugger Matt Anderson.

Yet when you ask Stanclift what makes him such a good slugger, he can't answer. "I don't know," Stanclift said. "I just swing with the bat and try to do what I can."

Even if he doesn't know, his talent seems limitless. Eaton coach Jim Danley calls him the best slugger he's had as a freshman, comparing him to the likes of former Eaton great Mike Anderson and another pretty good hitter — some guy named Zach Hughes.

"We never expected to see a freshman who hit as good as Zach Hughes," Danley said. "Yet here we have another young, talented kid."

Of course, Stanclift knows his success could change. That's why he hopes that he hasn't peaked as a hitter so soon.

"Yeah, you do worry about that," Stanclift said. "When Matt Anderson did it (broke the record) as a sophomore, he didn't do much his junior and senior year, so you just don't want to do everything all at once."

There seems little likelihood of that. Stanclift is a raw talent waiting to develop even more. He's got a power hitter's frame at 6-foot-3, 238 pounds. Yet he also has quick hands that make him dangerous to op-

FROM PAGE B1

EATON

in the sixth inning with a two-run shot that gave the Reds a 10-1 lead. He earlier had lifted a solo shot to open the second inning.

"They were flying for us today," Stanclift said of the barrage of home runs. "We just came in prepared today and things went our way."

Surprisingly, Eaton hit the ball with authority despite getting no practice time outside this week because of the rainy weather. That left Eaton coach Jim Danley wondering if he should change his practice regimen.

"Maybe we shouldn't let them out anymore if they're hitting like this," Danley said.

The home run parade is something new to the Eaton coach. This is arguably his most power-pact lineup in his 27 seasons with the Eaton program. The Reds have hit 32 round-trippers this season, a mind-boggling amount to the Eaton skipper.

"I don't think we've hit 32 home runs in all the time I've been here," Danley said.

While the Reds' offensive show was spectacular with the home runs and 13 hits, it was Eaton's reliable, but often unheralded defense that helped carry the Reds to the state tournament.

Eaton committed no errors in both the championship and a 10-0 victory in five innings over Machebeuf in the semifinals. The Reds didn't turn any double plays. They didn't have to make many spectacular catches, but they were near perfect in their execution. This season, Eaton has totaled only 31 errors.

"I think it's two things," said Danley, explaining why Stanclift is such a good hitter. "He just has great hand-eye coordination,

"I still think pitching and defense are what win games," Danley said. "It's nice when you have hitting like we do, but it's pitching and defense that wins games. We're certainly facing some good teams next week, and we'll have to have everything going for us."

Of course, the pitching staff helped the defense out. Starter Nolan Minsinger allowed only one run on five hits in the championship and Alex Ochoa threw a dazzling one-hitter with eight strikeouts in the semifinals with a perfect game going until Machebeuf's Matt Howerton broke it up with a two-out single in the fourth.

SEMIFINAL EAGLE VALLEY 11, ROOSEVELT 2

Roosevelt (14-5) could manage only one base hit and committed four errors as it saw its season come to a close with a loss to Eagle Valley High School in the Region 1 semifinals.

Roosevelt's one hit came on a single by No. 9 hitter Joe Gomez in the fifth inning. Eagle Valley pitcher Mick Klabe shut the Rough Riders down with nine strikeouts and three walks.

"He (Klabe) did a good job and you have to give him his due," Roosevelt coach Joe Chacon. "But if you watched us at the plate, we were expecting a fastball pitcher and we prepared for just the opposite this week."

Eagle Valley totaled 14 hits off Roosevelt starter Sez Mesa and reliever Nathaniel Hess.



Eaton's Jeff Meyers watches his lead-off homer fly out of the park in Eaton's 14-1 win over Eagle Valley. Eaton hit five homers en route to winning the Class 3A Region 1 championship tournament.

BY HOWARD M. HACKITT / Greene Tribune

ter, but a good high-average hitter. And then there's the quickness. He has a quick bat."

one to brag about his accomplishments. "He's a freshman, he's broken the home run record, yet he never talks about it."

just keeps to himself." Besides, Hughes can take the credit. After all, he's taught Stanclift every thing he

3A STATE BASEBALL



Even though pitching and defense, like this good play from Eaton third baseman Mike Carrasco, have been a key for the Reds, offense likely will set the tone when the Reds open state-tournament play Friday at Regis University.

TREBLINE FILE PHOTO



Power fuels these Reds

Power fuels these Reds

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

Jim Danley's been down this postseason road many times before, but even the 27-year veteran coach of the Eaton Reds says something's different this time around.

When the No. 1 Reds (22-0) take on Faith Christian (15-6) at noon Friday in the Class 3A semifinals at Regis University, it'll be the 11th final four appearance (eighth in the last 10 years) for a Danley-coached team. No. 2 Lamar (17-1) and No. 3 Olathe (19-3) play in the other semifinal game with the state championship game slated for a 9:30 a.m. Saturday start at All-City Stadium in Denver.

This Eaton team is different than Dan-

Eaton enters state with top offense

● 3A team capsules / B4

ley's past squads because of the lumber it brings to the plate.

"We haven't been in a final four where I've had a team that has hit this well," said Danley, who said bat speed and quickness throughout the lineup are what sets this offense apart.

■ It's peach-fuzz young with seven underclassmen in the starting batting order.

■ It's muscle-man powerful with 37 home runs in 22 games.

■ It's a pitching coach's nightmare with an offense averaging more than 13 runs per

game and hitting at a .439 clip.

■ Seven of the nine starters have 20 or more RBI.

■ It has a freshman in 6-3, 230-pound designated hitter Todd Stanclift who hits in the No. 7 hole, but holds the single-season school record for home runs with 11.

■ It has a freshman (Stanclift) and sophomore (catcher Zack Hughes) who have combined for 17 homers and 77 RBI.

"I knew we were going to hit the ball re-

See EATON, Page B3

FROM PAGE B1

EATON

ally well, but I didn't know we would add Stanclift to an already outstanding hitting lineup," Danley said.

■ Add to the mix a pitching staff with a team earned-run average of 1.53, and one wonders if the Reds can be stopped.

Eaton will not only be shooting for its third state title in five years, but is also gunning for the school's first undefeated season.

Faith Christian coach Ralph Nance, whose team is making its first-ever appearance in the state playoffs, said Eaton is deserving of its No. 1 ranking.

"They know full well they're a good baseball team. They're not overrated," Nance said. "They're very much aware of how good they are."

Lamar coach Dave Fassiotto, who has two junior pitchers (Brad Stiles and Mike Thompson) among the best in the state, knows how good Eaton is and considers the Reds the tournament favorite.

"I've been telling players that Eaton is the best ball team in 3A, but we ain't far behind. They hit the ball better and they're pretty solid defensively."

All Danley has to do, though, is go back a year to recall that anything can happen in the game of baseball.

Still fresh in his mind is what he calls the worst inning in Eaton history during last year's 17-6 state semifinal loss to Kent Denver when the Reds gave up 13 runs in the first inning.

"I think we're hungry. I can't remember an inning that bad in 30 years," Danley said. "This year's team is very focused on that. That bothered the underclassmen an awful lot. They have a desire to prove themselves after last year's debacle."



SPENCE MICHAEL WILSON / Greeley Tribune

Eaton teammates gather around after defeating Faith Christian High School on Friday to secure a spot in the Class 3A state championship baseball game against the Lamar Savages this morning.

One win away

Eaton dominates Faith Christian, sets up title game vs. Lamar

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

DENVER — Matt Hagen's philosophy of life is pretty straightforward.

God.
School.
Baseball.
In that order.

Hagen's graduating from Eaton High School on Sunday and he knows where he's going to college, so forgive the Eaton first baseman if he switches priorities and places baseball ahead of



Hagen



Eaton's Zack Hughes, right, tags out Faith Christian's Luke Eha in Eaton's 14-5 win. Eaton plays Lamar today for the championship.

SPENCE MICHAEL WILSON / Greeley Tribune

school for just one day.

Off the strength of a 12-hit, 14-5 victory over Faith Christian in the Class 3A State Baseball Semifinals at Regis University on Friday, Hagen and the No. 1 Reds will play for the state championship against No. 2 Lamar at 9:30 this morning at All-City Stadium in Denver. Lamar (18-1), behind fireballer Mike Thompson's 88 mph fastball,

downed Olathe 4-1 in the other semifinal game, setting up a No. 1 vs. No. 2 state final. "Winning the state championship might be even more special than graduation," Hagen said.

Hagen led the Eaton offensive attack with three hits and four RBI as the Reds (22-0)

See EATON, Page B3

"Whenever I get up it seems like Paul or Zack or Mike always drives them in, but I can't complain on a team that's hitting this good," Hagen said. "If somebody else drives in the runs, it's fine with me as long as we keep on winning."

Reds head coach Jim Danley remembers when Hagen, a two-year starter, came into the program as a 5-foot-2 freshman who wanted to play second base.

"He was the littlest guy you ever saw," Danley said. "He had second base written all over him, but he's just grown like no one would have imagined. He retained those great hands. He's a pretty special first baseman."

At 6-3, 185 pounds, Hagen's all grown up and wants to leave his mark by helping the Reds capture a state title.

He's leading the powerful Eaton offense in hits (40), doubles (13) and batting average (.541) and has managed to knock in 24 runs for the 23-0 Reds.

"His RBI would be incredible if he were in a different spot. He's just had

an outstanding year. He's an outstanding contact hitter," Danley said. "He's really good with two strikes."

Carrasco said Hagen's had a great playoff run for the Reds.

"Hagen's been on fire in the post-season," Carrasco said. "He had a big day today."

Fellow senior Alex Ochoa, who will start for the Reds against Lamar, said Hagen knows what he wants out of baseball.

"I think he wanted it more than anybody. He's moving to college ball in the fall and he likes baseball," Ochoa said. "Baseball's his No. 1 sport."

It seems as though every Eaton hitter carries two bats to the plate with them, and Hagen's managed to come up big in a lineup full of free swingers.

Danley knows that better than anyone.

"He kind of disappears in the middle of that lineup, but we couldn't be where we are without Matt Hagen hitting like he's been," Danley said.

EXTRA INNINGS: The Reds

have a team batting average of .438 going into the state finals. ... Despite two balks, Tateyama handcuffed the Eagles on three hits and one earned run over four innings. "Tanner came in and gave us the kind of performance we needed. Tanner's performance was huge," Danley said. "You saw him get a little rattled after the balk, but Tanner's one of those rare young guys who knows how to pull himself back together and get focused again. Few young guys can do that."

Carrasco would have had three triples for the day if not for falling at first base on his third at bat resulting in a double. ... The Reds came into the game with 37 home runs in 22 games, but didn't hit a homer in the semifinals. Six of their hits did go for extra bases.

Eaton 14, Faith Christian 5

Faith Christian	001	301	0	-3	6	1
Eaton	633	022	x	-14	12	3

Faith Christian — Sean Pierson (L 6-4, 3H, 5ER, 3BB, 0SO), Jerad Gonzales (1st, 9H, 5ER, 4BB, 6SO) and Austin Moreland-2B-KC Bredehoeve-RBI—Moreland-2, McIntire, Pelek, Gonzales.

Eaton — Nolan Minger (6H, 3ER, 0BB, 0SO), Tanner Tateyama (4th, W 4-0, 3H, 1ER, 0BB, 3SO) and Zack Hughes-2B—Mike Carrasco, Zack Hughes, 3B—Carrasco 2; Matt Hagen; Paul Loffis, RBI—Matt Hagen 4, Todd Stancill 2, Loffis 2, Hughes 2, Carrasco 2, Casey Wiederspan.

T.M.
Fasano



Greeley
Tribune

It's a simple war of hitting vs. pitching

DENVER — The theory that good pitching beats good hitting will be tested in this morning's (9:30) Class 3A State Baseball Championship game against the Eaton Reds and Lamar Savages at All-City Stadium. The No. 2 Savages have the pitching.

The No. 1 Reds have the bats. May the best arm, or swing, win. Lamar comes in with its two top pitchers — right-hander Mike Thompson and left-hander Brad Stiles — throwing BBs in the middle to upper 80s.

Thompson disposed of the heavy-hitting Olathe Pirates 4-1 in Friday's semifinal game at Regis University, while the Reds pounded out 12 hits in a 14-5 victory over Faith Christian.

Now the fun begins.

This is the game everyone's been waiting for. Eaton (23-0) will be trying for its first undefeated season, while Lamar (18-1) will be gunning for its sixth state championship in 10 years.

Eaton's been No. 1 all season.

Lamar's been No. 2 all year. Savages coach Dave Fassiotto said he's told his team all season that Eaton's the best Class 3A has to offer.

Of course, Fassiotto said his team isn't far behind.

The two teams are so rich in tradition with seven state titles through the last decade.

Lamar is known for its tremendous pitching over the years.

"These kids just want to pitch," said Fassiotto, who has been a coach in Lamar's program for 15 years. "They want the ball and get mad if they don't get the ball."

Since turning out Doug Brocaill (pitching for the Detroit Tigers) in 1985, the Savages have produced Doug's younger brother Scott (drafted by the Cincinnati Reds), Tyson Hartshorn (pitching in Class A for the Toronto Blue Jays), and 1994 first-round Houston Astros pick Scott Elarton, who is the Astros' No. 1 prospect in Class AAA New Orleans.

Eaton has a history with the Brocaill brothers. In 1985, the Reds beat Doug 2-1 at Eaton in the state quarterfinals.

EATON

jumped all over Faith Christian pitchers Sean Pierson and Jared Gonzales to lead 9-0 after two innings.

From then on, it was just a matter of whether the Eagles (15-7) would prevent themselves from being 10-runners.

Other hitting stars for the Reds were third baseman Mike Carrasco (3-for-3, 2 triples, double, 2 RBI) and left fielder Paul Loftis (2-for-3, triple, 2 RBI) in a lineup that had seven of the nine starters bang out at least a hit. Catcher Zack Hughes and designated hitter Todd Stanclift also chipped in with a pair of RBI, as freshman Tanner Tateyama pitched four strong innings to pick up his fourth win without a loss after relieving starter Nolan Minger in the fourth inning.

The Reds, trying to win their third state title in five years, will be playing in the state championship game for the fifth time in six years.

Hagen and second baseman Brent Thompson are the only two senior position players on a young and talented team. With Carrasco (37 RBI), Hughes (44 RBI) and Loftis (25 RBI)

FASANO

Scott got revenge in 1989 by beating the Reds 3-2 in the semifinals.

The only other meeting between the power from up north and the pitching studs from the Arkansas Valley was a 5-4 Eaton win in last year's regional semifinals.

The Reds will run into lefty Brad Stiles (5-0, 0.64 ERA, 49 SO in 32 IP) in today's final. Like the 6-5 Doug Brocaill and the 6-8 Elarton, Stiles is big at 6-5, 215 pounds and throws 85 mph.

Eaton is not hurting on the mound, though. Reds coach Jim Danley has ace Alex Ochoa (7-0, 1.03 ERA, 59 SO, 40 2/3 IP) lined up to start with closer Mike Carrasco as insurance.

↳ But he knows how good

Lamar's pitching is...

"Our hitters are being asked to do something they haven't done and that's to face guys who throw major-league hard," Danley said. "Our pitchers are graduating and going onto junior colleges or small colleges. These (Lamar) guys are talking about whether they're going to sign (pro contracts) or go to college at all. It's a different level of pitching there. It's not something that we're used to."

Let the pitching-vs.-hitting test begin.

T.M. Fasano is a sports writer for the Greeley Tribune. Call him at 353-0211, Ext. 287.

hitting ahead of No. 6 Hagen in the batting order, the chance to knock in runs doesn't come easy for Hagen.

You won't hear Hagen, who

earned a baseball/academic scholarship to Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., whine about hitting when the bases are empty.

State champs!



Members of the Eaton High School baseball team swarm around the Class 3A baseball championship trophy on Saturday after the Reds defeated the Lamar Savages 3-1 at All City Stadium in Denver. The win enabled the Reds to finish a perfect season.

SPENCE MICHAEL WILSON
Greely Tribune

"This isn't just for me. It's for the whole team and the whole community. Eaton baseball is just one big family." — Eaton Reds star junior Mike Carrasco

Ochoa, Carrasco lead Eaton past Lamar for title

BY T.M. FASANO
Greely Tribune

DENVER — A bat boy for the Eaton Reds at the age of 5. A hero for the same Eaton program at 17.



Eaton 3
Lamar 1

STAT
The Reds win their first state title in 60 years.

...close when it's time to get on out.
When Eaton coach Jim Danley handed the baseball to Carrasco after starter Alex Ochoa is-

used a walk and wild pitch in the fifth inning of the Class 3A Colorado State Baseball Championship game against the Lamar Savages at All-City Stadium on Saturday, anyone who knew anything about Carrasco had to know the 3-1 Eaton lead was in safe hands.

"I wanted that ball. I told Alex last night, 'You can start but I want to finish it. I want the ball in that situation,'" Carrasco said. "If we lose it's my fault, and if we win I can have some of the credit."

Carrasco struck out the next two hitters and worked scoreless sixth and seventh innings to help lead the No. 1 Reds (24-0) to a 3-1 win over Lamar (18-2). It was the Reds' third state championship in the past five years.

Reds shortstop Jeff Meyers knew the game was over when Carrasco came in relief.
"He's a competitor. I was standing on second



Carrasco

base and I said, 'This is over because these guys just can't handle him.' He's too tough."

Carrasco not only saved the game for Ochoa, who limited the Savages to two hits, but he banged out the game-winning single in a three-run Eaton fifth inning. After Brent Thompson walked and Jason Smith and Jeff Meyers singled to load the bases, Carrasco came back from an 0-2 count, poking a single to left field to give Eaton its first lead at 2-1.

Zack Hughes followed with a single to left scoring Meyers for the Reds' third run.

The Reds fought off a sparkling 15-unlikeout performance by left-hander Brad Soles to win the title pitting the top-ranked Reds against the No. 2 Savages.

Carrasco said the coaching staff talked to him Friday night about relieving for Ochoa in the later innings. The script couldn't have been acted out any better.

"It worked out how we planned it," Carrasco said.

Dooley said Ochoa was pitching a great game.

See CHAMPIONSHIP, Page B3



Paul Loftis encourages Eaton reliever pitcher Mike Carrasco, left, at the start of the seventh inning on Saturday. Carrasco helped Eaton win the Class 3A state championship 3-1 over the Lamar Savages.

SPENCE MICHAEL WILSON
Greely Tribune

CHAMPIONSHIP

and the second guessers would have come out of the woodwork if Carrasco wouldn't have done the job in the fifth. Danley made the decision to pull Ochoa because he said he was losing some velocity off his pitches.

"That was fine. I didn't care. I wanted Mike to come in and finish it for me," said Ochoa, who improved his record to 8-0 and finished 15-1 the past two years. "Carrasco's middle name is Consistency. He's going to throw strikes and that's what wins games."

Danley said Carrasco proved once again that he's the go-to guy.

"It has to do with confidence, self-concept and leadership ability," Danley said of his star junior. "He

has enough self-respect to know that he's one of the guys who can honestly take his game up a level when he has to. Mike knows he's the man. He wants to be in those situations."

Carrasco's been a part of the Eaton program as a bat boy and player for more than a decade.

"This isn't just for me. It's for the whole team and the whole community," Carrasco said. "Eaton baseball is just one big family."

Carrasco has a tendency to be the breadwinner of this rather large family.

"This is a dream come true," Carrasco said. "Hopefully, we can make another run next year."

EXTRA INNINGS: The two-run win was the closest margin of victo-

ry for the Reds all season. The closest anyone came to Eaton was Denver Christian in an 8-4 loss to the Reds. ... Stiles' solo homer snapped a scoreless game in the fourth inning. The 6-5, 215-pound junior couldn't do much more for Lamar. Stiles got out of a bases-loaded, no outs jam in the first inning and another situation with a runner on third and one out in the fourth. Stiles joked that he wants to learn how to throw Eaton's famous knuckle curveball. "Ochoa has that knuckle curve that I have to find out how to throw. I don't even know how to grip the thing. I might ask him, though." ... Danley on Ochoa's six-strikeout, one-run performance: "Alex got to the top of his perfor-

Sunday, May 17, 1998

GREELEY (Colo.) TRIBUNE B3

mance level. I was really proud of Alex." ... Left fielder Paul Loftis was the only Eaton-hitter with an extra-base hit. "It would be nice to do this again, but this is awesome now," Loftis said. "We're all just great friends. We never have team fights or anything." ... Senior pitcher Nolan Mininger, who started in the 14-5 semifinal win over Faith Christian on Friday, was pretty much speechless after the state title win. "It's unbelievable. I'm still wondering how we did it," Mininger said.

Eaton 3, Lamar 1

Eaton	000	030	0	—	3	7	1
Lamar	000	100	0	—	1	2	1

Eaton — Alex Ochoa (W 8-0, 2H, 1ER, 2BB, 6SO), Mike Carrasco (S 1, 5h, 0H, 0ER, 1BB, 2SO) and Zack Hughes. 2B — Paul Loftis. RBI — Carrasco 2, Hughes.

Lamar — Brad Stiles (L 5-1, 7H, 3ER, 3BB, 1SSO) and Mike Kulp. HR — Stiles (solo in 4th). RBI — Stiles.



Eaton's Brent Thompson, left, takes a hit from Lamar's Bobby Wann as he slide into second on Saturday in the 3A State Championship Game at All City Stadium in Denver. Wann's blow flipped Thompson over. Lamar lost to Eaton 3 to 1.

SPENCE MICHAEL WILSON
Greeley Tribune

Eaton ends season on top

DENVER — PERFECTION. Everybody strives for it, but very few attain it.

Frank Sinatra's voice had it in his prime. The undefeated Miami Dolphins displayed it in 1972.

Make room for the Eaton Reds in 1998.

Mention the possibility of an unbeaten season to Reds baseball coach Jim Danley at the beginning of the year and you'd think he walked under a ladder on Friday the 13th while breaking a mirror.

"I heard one of the guys early in the season talking about running the table and I jumped all over him," Danley said. "We don't even want to talk about stuff like that. Now it's OK."

Before this season, Danley coached Eaton baseball for 26 years and never achieved a perfect mark.

He came close during 1995's state title year at 23-1, but it never happened.

Until this year.

Eaton's 3-1 victory over the Lamar Savages on

Saturday in the Class 3A

Colorado State Baseball Championship game at All-City Stadium not only gave the Reds their third state title in five years, but it also concluded a 24-0 season.

Leave it to Danley, arguably the most humble coach who ever met up with success, to sum up his first perfect season.

"When you come down to it, there is no doubt the school librarian could have gone 24-0 with these guys," said Danley amid the hugs and high fives from the Reds and their fans.

That's Danley for you, who started coaching the Reds when he was 24. The Reds just got done outscoring their opponents 91-20 in seven postseason games and Danley's too modest to take any credit.

Maybe that's why it's so easy to like Eaton baseball.

It's sort of normal to hate schools that



**T.M.
Fasano**

Greeley
Tribune

EATON REDS' PERFECT SEASON (24-0)

March 11	Eaton 12, Thompson Valley 2
March 14	Eaton 13, Valley 0
March 14	Eaton 10, Greeley West 2
March 17	Eaton 8, Denver Christian 4
March 20	Eaton 21, Sheridan 2
March 28	Eaton 20, Wray 6
March 28	Eaton 23, Wray 4
April 1	Eaton 14, Holy Family 4
April 3	Eaton 18, Platte Valley 5
April 4	Eaton 6, Platte Valley 1
April 9	Eaton 17, Fort Morgan 9
April 11	Eaton 13, Bush 1
April 11	Eaton 7, Brush 0
April 18	Eaton 10, Yuma 0
April 18	Eaton 10, Yuma 2
April 25	Eaton 10, Highland 0
April 25	Eaton 12, Highland 2
* April 28	Eaton 11, Yuma 4
* May 1	Eaton 22, Platte Valley 3
* May 1	Eaton 17, Valley 6
* May 9	Eaton 10, Macomber 0
* May 9	Eaton 14, Eagle Valley 1
* May 15	Eaton 14, Faith Christian 5
* May 16	Eaton 3, Lamar 1

* postseason

REDS

succeed in a particular sport year after year.

But it's hard to dislike Eaton, which has played in eight Final Fours in the past 10 years and five state championship games during the past six seasons.

"Eaton's a class act," said Lamar coach Dave Fassiotto, who has been involved either as an assistant or head coach in four Eaton-Lamar games, three won by Eaton. "You can go back to 1989 and '85 and it's always a clean-played game. You've got to take your hat off to Eaton."

It's not a stretch to say that Danley will never forget this team.

"This is just a group of talented players who are also mentally tough," Danley said. "Sometimes when you have the one, you don't have the other. We'll enjoy it while

we've got it and realize that it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

Reds assistant coach Bob Ervin, who has been coaching at Danley's side for 30 years, agrees with Danley about the rarity of an unbeaten season.

"It's easy to stumble one way or another," Ervin said. "It says a lot about the character of these kids. They didn't get hung up in being undefeated. They just stayed the course and kept going."

As soon as Danley started drying off from a bucket-full of ice water, the questions started popping up about repeating another undefeated season. The Reds do have seven position players returning and a pitching staff that should be just as good as this season's.

"Expectations are going to be

high, but they were high this year," Danley said. "The one thing I was really proud of was that we were able to maintain our focus and not get distracted."

The Reds started the year No. 1 and finished it a resounding No. 1.

"To me the hardest thing in sports is to be picked No. 1 and stay No. 1 during the season and finish No. 1 after the tournament," Danley said.

The Reds will be picked No. 1 in the preseason next spring and Danley will probably hear the talk early about a second straight undefeated season. He'll have to plug his ears.

By the way, who is the school librarian?

T.M. Fasano is a sports writer for the Greeley Tribune. Call him at 352-0211, Ext. 287.

Greeley Daily Tribune
March 12, 1999

Eaton smashes Sheridan, 22-1

In Englewood, Mike Carrasco could've beaten Sheridan by himself Thursday in Eaton's 21-1 drubbing over Sheridan in the season-opener.

Carrasco went 3-for-5 from the plate with a double, triple and two RBI. He also dominated from the mound, pitching two innings and facing six batters, he walked away with five strikeouts.

Jeff Meyers provided a hot bat for Eaton as well, going 3-for-5 with a solo homerun and four RBI.

Eaton 21, Sheridan 1

EHS	532	110	—	21	19	0
SHS	100	000	—	1	2	3

EHS - Josh Isakson (W, 1-0, 2H, 0ER, 4BB, 3SO), Mike Carrasco (4th, 0H, 0ER, 0BB, 5SO) and Zack Hughes. 2B - Carrasco, Hughes, Paul Loftis, Scott Souther, Todd Stancliff, Casey Wiederspan, Josh Yarber; 3B - Carrasco, Tyler Tateyama; HR - Jeff Meyers (solo in the 3rd); RBI - Meyers 4, Hughes 3, Souther 3, Carrasco 2, Tateyama 2, Wiederspan 2, Jason Smith, Stancliff, Yarber, Eric Hungenberg.

SHS - Gallegos (L, 0-1, 11H, 4ER, 1BB, 3SO), Cullison (4th, 5H, 9ER, 1BB, 0SO), White (4th, 3ER, 3H, 0BB, 1SO) and Dornberger. 2B - Gallegos.

EATON WINS

The Eaton boys baseball team used both the longball and a bevy of hits to overcome a sloppy start in the Reds' 14-9 win over Thompson Valley in the first round of the Greeley West Invitational Friday.

Jeff Myers started the game off with a three run homerun in the first inning to giving the Reds an early lead.

Eaton made use of 10 hits to increase its lead.

"Once we started hitting the ball, we very hitting very sharply, but the way the defenses played for both teams it was obvious that this was early March baseball," Eaton assistant coach Dave Barber said.

The game however, remained close until the bottom of the sixth inning when Eric Hungenberg knocked a bases-loaded single to push across the winning run.

The Eaton hit parade continued when the next hitter Jason Smith launched another three-run home run, accounting for the final margin of victory.

EHS	500	225	0	—	14	8	4
TVHS	040	302	0	—	9	5	4

EHS - Paul Loftis (2 H, 0ER, 1BB, 2SO), Casey Wiederspan (4th, 0H, 0ER, 2BB, 0SO), Todd Stancliff (4th, 3H, 2ER, 1BB, 3SO), Mike Carrasco (W, 1-0, 6th, 0H, 0ER, 1BB, 4SO) and 2B - Scott Souther, Stancliff; 3B - none; HR - Smith (2 on in the 6th), Jeff Meyers (1 on in the first); RBI - Smith 3, Meyers 2, Stancliff 3, Eric Hungenberg 2.

TVHS- Aaron Reyer (4H, 5ER, 5BB, 3SO), Steve Thomas (4th, 4H, 5ER, 4BB, 7SO) and Jeremiah Jewell. 2B - Wascher 1; 3B - none; HR - none; RBI - Stroh 1, Rutherford 1, Wascher 2, Fisbeck 1, Whittet 1.

— Staff Reports

Big Red Machine rolls on

Eaton baseball wins Greeley West Invitational

by Duane M. Robson

The Eaton baseball team has started their 1999 season the same way they finished the previous year; they just keep winning. The defending 3A State champions Reds won a trio of games over the weekend, culminating with an 11-3 win over host team Greeley West to take the Invitational for a second straight year.

"We're starting to come around," said Eaton coach Jim Danley. "Today's game was much better than yesterday. With work, and if we don't have any injury problems, we have a chance to be a very good team by the end of the year," he continued.

A mild understatement from the coach who has won three state titles in the last five years. The Reds are the top ranked in the state, are 4-0

this year, and haven't lost a game since the 1997 season. Add to that a seasoned pitching staff and a potent batting order that would make any pitcher shudder, and you've got a team that's certainly capable of repeating last year's feat.

The Reds made easy work of each of their opponents over the weekend. They began with a 14-9 win over Thompson Valley on Friday, then followed that up with a 15-5 victory over Windsor Saturday morning. They then captured the tournament with an 11-3 win over Greeley West in the final at Butch-Butler field in Greeley. The three other schools each finished with a 1-2 record.

Though Eaton bats were on fire throughout the weekend, it was their pitching that stood out in the end. Josh Isakson breezed his way

to a win in the finale, giving up five hits in four innings, striking out five and walking none. The Senior hurler kept the Spartans off-balance all day with his side-armed fastball and occasional slider. It was Isakson's second win of the season.

"I feel pretty good," said Isakson shortly after the contest. "I was able to keep the ball down for the most part," he added. "When I got the ball up, they started to hit me."

Isakson, who gave way to Todd Stanclift in the fifth, also credits his team's defense for making his job easier. "It really helps out because you have that confidence in the guys behind you," he said.

Coach Danley agreed. "He (Isakson) was doing just fine until he started to get the ball up in the zone. He learned a valuable lesson out there today." "He did a fine job, as did Todd (Stanclift) and Mike (Carrasco)," praised Danley.

Eaton scored a pair of runs in the top of the first to get the game rolling. Jason Smith led off with a single, then immediately stole second base. He was sacrificed to third on a long fly ball to right field off the bat of Carrasco, then scored on a wild pitch. On the very next pitch from Spartan hurler Andy Slaughter, catcher Zach Hughes crushed a 375 foot blast to center field for a solo home run and a 2-0 lead.

Eaton then pushed across another run in the third inning, and held a 3-0 lead when the Greeley West hitters began to pounce on Isakson. With two outs in the fourth, the



Eaton shortstop Jeff Meyers gets a piece of a fastball as Mike Carrasco waits his turn in the on-deck circle. Meyers and Carrasco, along with Jason Smith, Zach Hughes, and Paul Loftis provide one of the most potent offensive line-ups in the state.
Photo by Duane M. Robson



Casey Wiederspan scoops up a low throw at first base against the Wizards Saturday afternoon. Eaton beat Windsor 15-5 and won the Greeley West Invitational with a 3-0 record.

Photo by Duane M. Robson

Spartans put together four consecutive hits; two of them doubles to knot the score at three all. Isakson then got left fielder Gabe Hergenreter to strike out looking to end the inning.

The Reds would come storming back though, with four runs of their own in the top of the fifth. The two out rally began with a Jason Smith triple, followed by a Jeff Meyers home run. After a pair of walks to Carrasco and Hughes, Paul Loftis ripped a double to the right center-

field fence to plate two more.

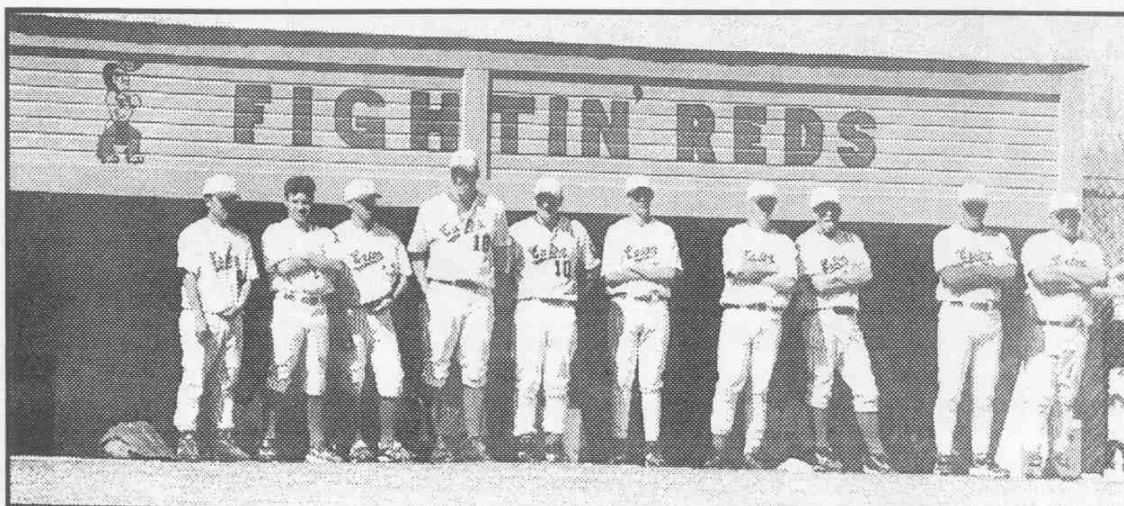
Loftis also hit a solo blast over the left field fence with one out in the seventh to give him three RBI's on the day.

The first five batters in the Reds line-up (Smith, Meyers, Carrasco, Hughes, and Loftis) went 8 for 15 on the day, scoring eight of Eaton's 11 runs and collecting seven RBI's between them. Six of the eight hits were also for extra bases, including three home runs.

"We've got a lot of quick bats in our line-up," admits Danley. "It's

very difficult to pitch around anyone in our line-up, and that in itself, makes everyone a better hitter," he concluded. Todd Stanclift pitched two innings of relief for Isakson, giving up just one hit. Mike Carrasco mopped up in the seventh to get a little work in.

The Reds will next take on D'Evelyn in a 4:30pm match-up tonight in Eaton. They will then begin their conference games with a doubleheader Saturday against Platte Valley in Kersey.



The State Champion Eaton Reds baseball team hangs out in front of the dugout during Saturday afternoon action against Windsor. The Reds finished last season undefeated, and have yet to lose a game in four tries this year.

Photo by Duane M. Robson

greeleywestinvite

Eaton tops Spartans for West Invite title

BY SAMUEL G. MUSTARI
Greeley Tribune

OK, so the Eaton Reds aren't the '27 Yankees.

Yet, at times Saturday afternoon, they pulled off a pretty good impression, pinstripes included.

"Murderer's Row? Nah.

"Call them Eaton's Row," suggested Greeley West pitcher Andy Slaughter, who personally experienced the potency of Eaton's lineup as the Reds captured the Greeley West Invitational with an 11-3 victory over the Spartans at Butch Butler Field.

Eaton's Row — Jason Smith, Jeff Meyers, Mike Carrasco and Zack Hughes — accounted for seven runs on six hits, four RBI, a double, triple and two home runs.

Just about the time Slaughter (0-1) figured he'd get a break, up comes Eaton's No. 5 hitter, Paul Loftis, who was 2-for-4 with a run scored, an RBI and a double and a home run.

In Slaughter's defense, Loftis' dinger came off West reliever Justin Buznedo, and it wasn't until the fifth inning that the Reds really unloaded on Slaughter.

The Reds (4-0) opened the fifth with a triple by Smith, a home run by Meyers, and then followed back-to-back walks to Carrasco and Hughes with a two-run double by Loftis to finally chase Slaughter.

"The first five hitters in that lineup ... well, you can't pitch around them," Slaughter said. "I felt pretty good early in the game, especially after the first inning, getting them to swing a curveball, but once their lineup gets into its

second rotation, it's tougher."

The Reds were a bit tough on Slaughter in the first via a 375-foot home run by Hughes.

"What we do is put the ball in play, but I'm not going to get real confident with our hitting just yet," Hughes said. "But I will say that with the guys who hit in front of me, when they're up, I don't even think about putting my (catcher's) gear on."

Eaton added four runs in the seventh off Buznedo, including a home run by Loftis, who's not known for his power.

"I just try to make contact and put the ball in play," Loftis said. "I'm not a power hitter.

"But it's awesome watching the first four guys in our lineup — any one of them could hit four home runs in a game," Loftis added.

Meyers displayed his power, clubbing a double and a home run off Slaughter after striking out in the first inning.

"Slaughter's a real good pitcher and he held us down for quite awhile," Meyers said. "But with our lineup, you almost have to figure that we'll be able to make a run at the end."

Slaughter did retire 11 of 13 Eaton batters through the middle innings before Eaton's fifth-inning onslaught.

"Andy did a good job, and I think he especially handled their five-through-nine hitters real well," West head coach Dick Ziegler said. "But their first-through-four guys are as good as any I've seen, and Nos. 6-through-9 are no slouches."

Eaton starter Josh Isakson threw three innings and was responsible for

all three Greeley West runs, which came in the fourth on RBI hits by Danny Plant, Slaughter and Ben Ziegler as the Spartans put together four straight hits.

"I was encouraged by that," Dick Ziegler said. "Isakson had baffled us there for awhile, so it was nice to see us show some signs of life."

The Reds unloaded their offense for a total of nine hits, six for extra bases.

"Actually, the top part of our lineup has been hitting the ball like that for about the last year-and-a-half," Eaton head coach Jim Danley said. "It's a part of our game that we're pretty proud of."

■ TOURNAMENT NOTES:

Eaton claimed the tournament title with a 3-0 record, while Greeley West was 2-1, Thompson Valley was 1-2 and Windsor was 1-2. ... In Greeley West's 2-1 victory over Thompson Valley on Saturday, the Spartans got the most out of four hits and received RBI from Kurt Welch and Ziegler to help senior Chris Hathaway to his first victory. ... Eaton's three victories stretch the Reds' win streak to 28 games, dating back to last season.

Thompson Valley 001 0000 — 1 0 1
Greeley West 000 011x — 2 4 0

TVHS: Ben Augustine (1H, OER, OBB, OSO), Steve Thomas (1st, L, 0-1, 3H, 2ER, 5BB, 5SO) and Jeremiah Jewell. **HR:** Tim Stroh (solo, 3rd), RBI: Stroh.
GWHS: Chris Hathaway (W, 1-0, 6H, 1ER, 3BB, 4SO), Justin Buznedo (S, 1, 6th, 0H, OER, OBB, 1SO) and Nate Cervantes. **RBI:** Kurt Welch, Ben Ziegler.

Eaton 11, Greeley West 3

Eaton 201 0404 — 11 10 1
Greeley West 000 3000 — 3 7 0

BHS: Josh Isakson (W, 1-0, 5H, 3ER, 6BB, 5SO), Todd Stancitt (5th, 1H, OER, OBB, OSO), Mike Carrasco (7th, 1H, OER, OBB, OSO) and Zack Hughes. **2B:** Jeff Meyers, Paul Loftis. **3B:** Jason Smith. **HR:** Hughes (solo, 1st), Meyers (5th, 1 on), Loftis (solo, 7th). **RBI:** Loftis, Meyers 2, Carrasco, Hughes, Hungenberg.

GWHS: Andy Slaughter (L, 0-1, 7H, 7ER, 2BB, 7SO), Justin Buznedo (2H, 3ER, 2BB, 3SO), 2B: Slaughter, Danny Plant. **RBI:** Plant, Slaughter, Ben Ziegler.

Reds conquer Windsor

TODD HAMPTON
Greeley Tribune

The Eaton Reds pitching staff needed some relief ... and they got it from a starting pitcher.

After using four pitchers in a win over Thompson Valley Friday, Eaton coach Jim Danley needed a staff-saving effort from a starter Saturday, and Tanner Tateyama came through with an 88-pitch complete game (five innings 10-run rule) as the Reds (3-0) defeated the Windsor Wizards (1-1) 15-5.

"Tanner really rose to the occasion," Danley said of Tateyama's early season effort. "Tanner throws all year round; he never gets out of shape."

After defeating tourney host Greeley West Friday, the Wizards threatened early to win their second Greeley West Invitational game as they broke out ahead of the Reds in the top of the first inning. After loading the bases on a hit, an error and a walk, Windsor scored three unearned runs on a double to left-center by Josh Goldschmidt.

"I was excited," Windsor coach Ryan Elledge said, "because I had heard how good Eaton is. After you get a few runs across, you hope to continue that through the entire game."

Tateyama, however, had other ideas.

Although he gave up a bases-empty home run to Adam Erbes in the second, he faced only 11 other batters through the next three innings while his teammates forged a 12-4 lead.

"I got the ball up a little too much," Tateyama said, "and that's when they hit me. Toward the end of the game I started using my change-up a little more. Our guys backed me up and made some plays. I mean, fifteen runs — that's pretty nice."

Paul Loftis (4 for 4 with 4 RBI) and Casey Wiederspan (3 RBI) provided the big run production numbers for the Reds as they scored five in the bottom of the first inning, seven in the fourth and three in the fifth.

Windsor put together a big inning threat in the top of the fifth as Tateyama began to struggle with his control. The Wizards used three hits and a walk to score a run on Isaac Hinijosas's run-scoring single and had the bases loaded when Tateyama blew a fastball strike past Cody Oglesby for the third out.

Eaton 15, Windsor 5

WHS 310 01 — 5 8 4
BHS 500 73 — 15 14 2

WHS: Matt Densen (L, 6H, 10ER, 2BB, 1SO), Todd Kreykes (4th, 5H, 4ER, 3BB, OSO) and Nate Hain. **2B:** Josh Goldschmidt. **3B:** none. **HR:** Adam Erbes (none on in the 2nd); **RBI:** Erbes, Goldschmidt 3, Hinijosas. **EHS:** Tanner Tateyama (W, 8H, 2ER, 2BB, 2SO) and Josh Yerber. **2B:** Paul Loftis, Casey Wiederspan, Scott Souther. **Yarber:** 3B. **Mike Carrasco:** HR. **none:** RBI: Carrasco, Hughes 2, Loftis 4, Souther, Tyler Tateyama, Wiederspan 3.

■ **EATON 14, HOLY FAMILY 4:** In Denver, the Eaton boys baseball team used a balanced attack of stifling pitching and smart hitting to put away Holy Family in nonconference action.

Tanner Tateyama got his second win of the season (2-0), pitching four solid innings giving up just one hit and no earned runs.

Paul Loftis came on in relief in the fifth and struck out five batters to get the save for Eaton (5-0 overall).

"Tateyama was very effective today in keeping their (Holy Family), hitters off-balance," Eaton coach Jim Danley said.

Eaton produced six of its 14 runs via three home runs and 17 hits.

Scott Souther hit a three-run home run in the third inning, Jeff Meyers hit a three-run shot in the fifth.

In the seventh, catcher Zach Hughes finished off Holy Family with a three-run shot of his own.

"We just had a good day. We were able to find the holes when we were hitting and I'm especially pleased with the run support we gave our pitchers," Danley said.

EHS	106	030	4	—	14	17	3
HFHS	010	000	3	—	4	3	3

EHS — Tanner Tateyama (W, 2-0, 1H, 0ER, 0BB, 1SO), Paul Loftis (5th, 2H, 2ER, 4BB, 5SO) and Zack Hughes, 2B — Jason Smith 1, Mike Carrasco 1, Hughes 1, Todd Stanclift 2; 3B — Jeff Meyers 1; HR — Jeff Meyers (2 on in 5th), Scott Souther (2 on in the 3rd), Hughes (2 on in the 7th); RBI — Hughes 3, Meyers 3, Souther 2, Smith 1, Carrasco 1, Loftis 1, Casey Wiederspan 1, Josh Yarber 1.

HFHS — Vega (L, 6H, 6ER, 1BB, 2SO), Quizada (3rd, 6H, 4ER, 0BB, 1SO), Ramirez (6th, 3H, 4ER, 4BB, 1SO) and Fanning, Beall (6th), 2B — Beall 1; 3B — None; HR — None; RBI — Rubner 1, Burke 1.

Greeley Daily Tribune March 24, 1999

Eaton stays undefeated

STAFF REPORTS

EATON — Jason Smith went 3-for-3 with a double and a triple to lead the Big Reds Machine to a 9-3 win over D'Evelyn.

baseball The Reds improve to 6-0, all in nonconference.

The Reds trailed briefly in the third inning, but Eaton's offense got on track by scoring seven runs in its final three innings.

Zack Hughes went 2-for-3 with 2 RBI. The pitching duo of Josh Isakson and Todd Stanclift limited D'Evelyn to six hits and gave up just one walk between them.

DHS	002	001	0	—	3	6	2
EHS	101	322	x	—	9	10	1

DHS — Sanlarkey (L, 10H, 5ER, 2BB, 5SO), and Pat Johnson, 2B — Brad Swantzlander, 3B — Swantzlander, RBI — Swantzlander, Sanlarkey, Saunders.

EHS — Josh Isakson (W, 2-0, 5H, 2ER, 0BB, 5SO), Todd Stanclift (5th, 1H, 0ER, 1BB, 0SO) and Zack Hughes, 2B — Jason Smith, Mike Carrasco, Stanclift; 3B — Smith; RBI — Hughes 2, Smith, Jeff Meyers, Carrasco, Scott Souther, Stanclift, Casey Wiederspan.

Greeley Daily Tribune March 26, 1999

Reds roll by D'Evelyn

Eaton runs season record to 6-0

by Duane M. Robson

The Eaton Reds baseball team seems to be in prime shape for the start of their conference schedule. The Reds, who begin conference play this Saturday with a double header in Kersey, made easy work of D'Evelyn Thursday, dropping the Jaguars 9-3.

On the mound for Eaton was Josh Isakson, who went five innings to pick up his third victory of the year. The win gives the Reds a 6-0 mark on the year, and an undefeated streak that has lasted almost a season and a half (30-0). Though D'Evelyn was ranked 10th in State 3A baseball, the Reds enjoyed a patched together ballclub that afternoon. The Jaguars had suspended three players the previous day for rules violations, and only brought 10 players with them on the trip to Eaton.

Jason Smith was the star of the Eaton squad, proving himself to be a more than capable leadoff hitter. Smith nearly hit for the cycle, substituting a walk for the home run. He scored four runs, knocked in another, and stole a pair of bases.

"It's my job (as leadoff hitter) and I just try to do the best I can," said Smith, who plays centerfield for the

Reds. "I wasn't really thinking about it (the cycle). I was just trying to get base hits," said the Senior.

Smith stated the bottom of the first with a double to the right field corner. Jeff Meyers then followed with an infield single. Jaguar pitcher Caleb Salankey was called for a balk, advancing both runners before Smith scored on a slow roller to first base of the bat of Mike Carrasco.

D'Evelyn took the lead in the third inning, scoring two runs on three consecutive hits and a sac fly. The big blow was a ground-rule double by clean-up hitter Brad Schwartzlander. It was the first time any team has taken a lead on Eaton this season. It would, however, be short lived.

Smith would again start things off for the Reds in their half of the inning, this time with a walk. He stole second, moved to third on a wild pitch, then scored on a sacrifice fly by catcher Zach Hughes, one of two RBI's for Hughes on the day. The tied score would hold up until the Reds came to bat in the fourth.

Eaton broke the game open in the fourth, thanks in large part to the sun and wind. The Reds hit a pair of

major league fly balls to the outfield, already playing tough because of the sun. The wind played havoc with both balls, and each managed to fall untouched. When coupled with a pair of Jaguar errors, the four runs posted in the inning would be enough for the win. Eaton was able to push across two more in the fifth and also in the sixth to secure the 9-3 victory.

"The wind kind of helped us out there today," said Smith, who also had a ball carry over his head and roll to the wall. "I didn't have many hit my way today," he added, "but that one just kept rising, and rising, and rising..."

Josh Isakson was solid the entire day for Eaton. He pitched himself out of trouble in the first three innings, then got down to business in his final two, needing only seven pitches in the fourth and fifth innings to shut down the Jaguars. Isakson was tagged for just two runs on five hits. He struck out five and walked none.

Todd Stanclift took over the mound in the sixth inning, tossing two innings and giving up a run on one hit and a walk.

Streakin' Eaton hits 31 straight

By Neil H. Devlin
Denver Post High School Sports Editor

KERSEY — The beat went on Tuesday for the Eaton Reds, Colorado's defending Class 3A baseball champions.

The Reds took a while, but finally strung together enough offense late to hammer host Platte Valley 11-0 in the Northern Plains League for their 31st consecutive victory.

Eaton, 7-0 overall, 1-0 in the league, had baserunners in every inning against the Broncos, but didn't break through until the fifth inning, when they scored three runs to increase their lead to 5-0. The Reds, 24-0 in 1998, put it out of reach in the top of the seventh with a six-spot as they batted around.

"We're still not doing some things right," veteran Eaton coach Jim Danley said, "but I think we're starting to come around."

Eaton's Mike Carrasco, a Post All-Colorado selection last year as a junior, ripped three doubles and drove in two runs. He also turned in a stellar play at third base in the sixth, just nipping the Broncos' Scott Casselman at first after coming in and handling a slow roller.

In all, Eaton pounded out 13 hits. Todd Stancliff, a sophomore who came on in relief of starter and winner Josh Isakson in the fifth, had two hits, one of them a triple. Right fielder Casey Wiederspan also had two hits and two RBI.

Isakson had trouble in just one inning, the second. But the Broncos (2-5, 0-1) left the bases loaded in one of many missed opportunities.

"I don't think the final score was indicative of the game," Platte Valley coach Jeff Rockwell said. "We played with them, but we never got the big hit we needed early.

But Eaton's good."

Broncos' left fielder Mike Bojanowski was 3 for 3. Only two other Broncos, third baseman Drew Anderson and starter and loser Justin Nelson, managed safeties.

In all, Isakson and Stancliff struck out 11 Broncos, at least one in every inning but the fourth.

EATON 11, PLATTE VALLEY 0					
Eaton	.....010	130	6	—	11 13 0
Platte Valley	.....000	000	0	—	0 5 2
Eaton	— Smith cf 3-1-1-1, Meyers ss 4-1-1-2.				

Carrasco 3b 4-2-3-2, Hughes c 5-1-1-1, Hungenberg ph 1-0-0-0, Loftis lf 4-1-1-2, Tateyama ph 1-0-0-0, Souther 2b 4-1-1-0, Isakson p 0-0-0-0, Stancliff dh-p 4-2-2-0, Wiederspan rf 3-1-2-2, Yarber 1b 1-1-1-1. Totals 34-11-13-11.

Platte Valley — Pryce Peppler ss 4-0-0-0, Drew Anderson 3b 2-0-1-0, Casselman 2b-p 3-0-0-0, Preston Peppler rf 3-0-0-0, Nelson p 1-0-1-0, Tracey 1b 2-0-0-0, Chavez ph 1-0-0-0, Alles c 1-0-0-0, Bojanowski lf 3-0-3-0, Bernhardt cf 1-0-0-0. Totals 23-0-5-0.

E — Alles, Pryce Peppler. LOB — Eaton 10, Platte Valley 6. DP — Eaton 1, Platte Valley 1. SB — Smith, Carrasco, Tarber. 2B — Carrasco 3, Wiederspan. 3B — Stancliff. W — Isakson (3-0). L — Nelson. Batteries — Isakson, Stancliff (5) and Hughes; Nelson, Casselman (6) and Alles. WP — Isakson 2, Stancliff. PB — Alles. HBP — Meyers (by Casselman). T — 2:24.

Greeley Daily Tribune April 7, 1999

■ **EATON 13, PLATTE VALLEY 0:** In Kersey, Platte Valley was shut out in its first conference game by the Eaton Reds.

Platte Valley drops to 2-5 overall.

Platte Valley coach Jeff Rockwell said the game was respectable until the last inning, when Eaton put up six runs.

"They're too powerful. We made only a few minor mistakes, but you can't make

them against a good team," Rockwell said.

Mike Bojanowski was the bright spot to Platte Valley's game, going 3-for-3, hitting all but one of the Bronco's four hits.

Mike Carrasco had three doubles for Eaton,



Carrasco

as well as 1 RBI. Paul Loftis had one double and 2 RBI.

EHS	.....010	130	6	—	11 13 0
PVHS	.....000	000	0	—	0 4 2

EHS — Josh Isakson (W, 2H, ER, 3BB, 5SO), Todd Stancliff (5th, 2H, 0ER, 0BB, 6SO) and Zach Hughes. 2B — Mike Carrasco 3, Paul Loftis. Casey Wiederspan. 3B — Todd Stancliff. RBI — Jason Smith, Jeff Meyers 2, Mike Carrasco, Zach Hughes. Paul Loftis 2, Casey Wiederspan. PVHS — Justin Nelson (L, 1-3, 9H, 2ER, 3BB, 5SO), Scott Casselman (6th, 4H, 5ER, 3BB, 1SO) and Matt Alles.

Reds erupt in fifth to down Broncos

STAFF REPORTS

KERSEY — It was a game until the fifth inning when Eaton erupted for eight runs and vaulted to a **baseball** 12-1 victory in five innings over Platte Valley Wednesday in a Northern Plains Conference baseball game at Platte Valley High School.

Eaton improves to 2-0 in conference, 8-0 overall. Platte Valley falls to 0-2, 2-6.

Zack Hughes led the Reds with a double and 4 RBI. Jeff Meyers and Casey Wiederspan each drove in a pair of runs.

Paul Loftis pitched a two-hitter for Eaton with eight strikeouts and two walks before he was relieved in the fifth by Mike Carrasco.

Platte Valley's Matt Alles started strong before allowing 11 hits.

"Matt Alles did a really good job of keeping Eaton in check early on," Platte Valley coach Jeff Rockwell said. "He probably just got tired."

Eaton	012	18	--	12	11	0
Platte Valley	001	00	--	1	3	4

EHS — Paul Loftis (W, 2 H, 1 ER, 3 BB, 8 SO), Mike Carrasco (5th, 1 H, ER, 1 BB, 3 SO) and Zack Hughes, 2B — Zack Hughes, RBI — Jeff Meyers 2, Zack Hughes 4, Casey Wiederspan 2.

PVHS — Matt Alles (L, 0-3, 11 H, 6 ER, 5 BB, 2 SO) and Ryan Rainick, RBI — Draw Anderson.



THE TRIB
Online

Thursday, April 8, 1999

More sports

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By T.M. Fasano
Greeley Tribune Columnist

REBEL YELL ... Everyone in the state who follows high school baseball knew that the Eaton Reds would be undefeated at this point in the season.

But what about the Weld Central Rebels in the Class 3A Longs Peak Conference?

Following Eaton's 11-0 whitewash over Platte Valley Tuesday in the 3A Northern Plains Conference opener, the defending state champions are cruising along with a 7-0 record.

Eaton, currently riding a 31-game winning streak, hasn't lost since May 1997 and are 12 wins away from breaking the state record of 42 consecutive victories held by Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction.

Weld Central fans out in Keenesburg are shouting out the Rebel Yell.

When the Rebels outslugged Roosevelt 9-7 on Tuesday and dropped an 11-10 game to Frederick on Wednesday, they're looking at a 7-1 start.

No one is putting the Rebels in Eaton's class because the Reds are in a class all their own, but their 7-1 record and a spot atop the Longs Peak Conference are opening up a lot of eyes in the conference.

The Rebels are coming off a season when they finished 11-7, third place in the Longs Peak and still hurting from the close loss to Roosevelt in the district semifinals.

They've got talent led by seniors Ivan Rodriguez (shortstop, pitcher), Derek Johann (first baseman, pitcher), Lance Fleming (catcher), Vince Rossi (third baseman) and Robert Lanning (right fielder) to go with some talented underclassmen.

Greeley's Mark Avery of Greeley is in his third season as head coach of the Rebels and he admits that the 7-1 record is a surprise to some people.

"We're in a unique position where we're probably not going to sneak up on anybody anymore," Avery said after Tuesday's win over Roosevelt. "I don't know that anybody expected this, but the season's not over. There are 15 or 16 of us around here who really believe in ourselves."

Roosevelt coach Paul Chacon, in his first year as the Rough Riders' coach, said he heard that the Rebels were going to be tough this year.

"They do what they have to do to win," Chacon said.

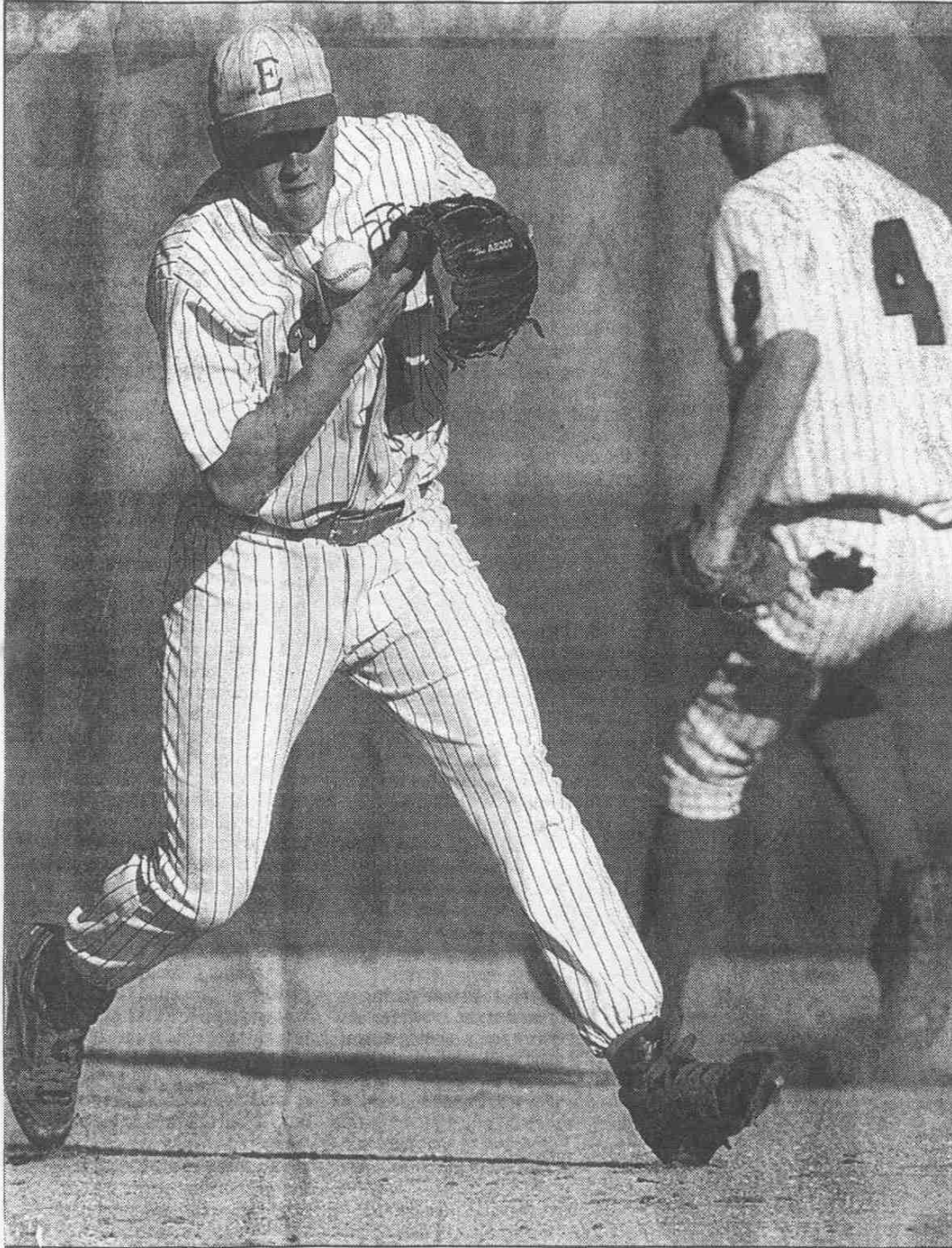
Johann said he hopes the Rebels are surprising people.

"I hope they're just looking past us," Johann said. "When we started playing as a team, we started winning."

T.M. Fasano covers the small schools for the Greeley Tribune. Call him at 352-0211, Ext. 287 with an notes or questions.

Denver Post
April 11, 1999

Eaton cuts path of consistency



The Denver Post / Andy Cross

Eaton's Jeff Meyers tries to hang on to the ball as teammate Scott Souther backs him up.

Denver Post

April 11, 1999

"No question about it, we take pride in it," Danley said.

But not too much — senior center fielder Jason Smith said "coach Danley doesn't want us to think about it because if you do, you're looking toward the state championship and not the next game."

Meanwhile, senior third baseman Mike Carrasco, a Denver Post All-Colorado player last season, likes the 3-0 start but insists the Reds haven't done much — yet. Like others in these parts, he thinks the Reds may have started a little slowly.

"Defensively, we've been OK," Carrasco said. "But last year, we put people away in an hour and a half (by 10-run rule). We hadn't played in two weeks before last Tuesday and it's a different team."

He's quick to point out that the Reds have left a lot of runners on base, but they actually are on a pace to score more runs than they did in 1998.

As for Danley, he assessed his team's first half as "just plain vanilla."

Still, Carrasco and Smith have done a lot of damage offensively, and Zack Hughes, Jeff Meyers, Todd Sanclift, and Casey Wieder-span each have had moments at the plate. Sanclift, a sophomore, has opened up some eyes on the mound. Hard-throwing, 240-pound 10th-graders will do that.

Colorful Colorado has numerous spots oozing with Americana.

But being presented with a slice of apple pie when entering Eaton's town borders wouldn't be a reach.

This land is your land. The locals seem to understand that. It's farm area, but it's neatly kept. So are the trees and buildings.

Traffic, congestion and people who look away instead of saying hello don't live here.

"Eaton's a great place," Danley said.

A native of Greeley, Danley feels, "it kind of combines the best of all things. You can be at a Division I football game in 30 minutes or be in Denver for a show or a Broncos game in another half-hour. Or you could be hunting in five minutes, just head east. It combines a lot of the best things small towns have to offer."

One of them is the love of baseball. Danley, an amicable and distinguished tutor, perhaps the perfect one for this setting, points to how people in town feel about the game. Generally, the Reds have been productive in all athletic events, but baseball was, is and probably always will be Eaton's thing.

Said Danley: "For 25 years we had the worst field on the planet. Yeah, we did. Then, after the '94 state championship, a lot of people went together and made a beautiful field."

Technically, it's a field with no formal name. No matter. "Just the Eaton baseball field," the coach said.

Presently, about 350 kids play softball or baseball in Eaton, 250 in baseball beginning at age 5.

In fact, it's Eaton's pipeline to a reservoir of talent. The main reserve is self-sustaining, too. Generally devoid of front-line stars, major-league and collegiate scouts nevertheless are aware of Eaton's location, particularly its penchant for also manufacturing solid players.

This is an outfit that almost never has noticeable holes. The Reds play sound baseball. It starts in T-ball. Youths frequently have been coached by Danley's players. Togetherness and dreams of one day being a Reds player are instilled almost at a young age.

Grade-school kids are welcome in the dugout during high-school play. There has been competition to become an Eaton batboy.

Carrasco, whose brothers, Ray and Johnny Garza, are former Reds players, is sincere when he said: "It's been a dream come true

to get to this level and play for coach Danley."

Said Smith: "When we were little we always said, 'That will be us some day playing for Eaton.'"

Carrasco said, "We play so many games in the summer . . . there's not a lot of other things to do in a small town."

That may be why lots of locals still remember the Colorado Legion B championship in 1976.

And, yes, Eaton players wore you-know-whats.

"We've had the same uniforms forever," Carrasco said. "But it's kind of a fear factor. You beat everybody when you're little wearing them, then in high school it's in their minds that they're supposed to lose to the guys in pinstripes."

Heading into the second half of the scholastic season, the following is a fair question: Will 3A be overrun by Reds?

"Obviously," Platte Valley third-year coach Jeff Rockwell said, "they're very good. I'll be interested to see how it pans out for the year. Everybody's going to be gunning for them in every game. They

have to deal with that."

But, he added, in between back-to-back losses last week in which his Broncos were whipped by an aggregate 23-1, "I don't know that I've seen a better team."

"We'll be good, I think, once we get into it," Carrasco said.

Danley is too smart to even think about repeating, let alone trying to get a handle on 3A baseball. The distances between schools make it difficult, even impossible in some cases, to view other powers. Lamar, last season's runnerup, University, Faith Christian, Paonia and Denver Christian are some notables that will have to be handled.

In addition, the coach said, "We haven't been outside enough to get good reps."

Still, Eaton has others that already feel good about things. They have seen it before and think it's just a matter of time.

"They've worked so hard since they were little kids," said Rod Asbra, Eaton's bus driver. "What they have is togetherness. They depend on each other and they rely on each other. That's what they do."



The Denver Post / Andy Cross

Eaton coach Jim Danley has led the Reds to 32 straight victories.

BIG RED MACHINE

Eaton, one of Colorado's baseball-crazy, small-town jewels, stands tall on the diamond with its beloved high-school Reds.

EATON — They like to tell you they haven't changed their baseball uniforms for 27 years.

Presumably, they have peeled them off for laundry purposes. Maybe a few others because of rips and tears that no longer could be sewn, and, of course, when inevitable, physical growth by young ball-players being raised on or near farm land necessitates a fresh set of red pinstripes.

But the point is, Eaton's Fightin' Reds are consistent.

"We're a one-uniform town," veteran Eaton coach Jim Danley said, "and we have hundreds of them."

Indeed, the reigning power in Colorado Class 3A baseball lies in a rich

yet common area of about 2,000 down-to-earth folks located about 7 miles north of Greeley, which may have more pinstriped duds in closets than Chicago and Harlem in the 1930s.

Sunday Focus

By Neil H. Devlin

Denver Post Sports Writer

are on a glorious run, one of the best in state annals on any level.

How good have these guys been? "Very good, oh, yeah," Kent Denver coach Bill Boatman said. "They're the Big Red Machine."

Dominance in Colorado high-school

Truth is, these Reds and many of the ones before them have been a menace to opponents in Colorado-schoolboy baseball's mid-range level. They

baseball wasn't always relevant. For example, state records, which began in 1950, indicate that no school came close to Revere (Class EA), which won five straight championships in the same classification from 1969-73.

It took years and two big booms in the Rockies, which resulted in urban sprawl, for any instate program to stand up and handle parity. Technically, Colorado dropped its number of classifications from four to three in 1978 (Classes EA and WA became A) and it remained that way until 1991. A switch to five classes lasted for four years and it was dropped to four in 1994.

As a result, baseball, arguably the last holdout against the other 16 sanctioned sports, caved in and joined the haves-and-have-nots club.

Some have taken advantage. Case in point: Centennial League members have won every big-school championship this decade save for 1994 (Arvada West), led by Cherry Creek's four in a row since '95 and another in '92.

Lamar won five titles in six years in the mid-range enrollment group: La Junta (AA) won three straight in 1986-88.

Now in 3A, Paonia won the most-recent three in 2A, from 1996-98.

As for Eaton, it has been right on Reds.

For instance:

■ The Reds have won three 3A titles in five years. Championships have come in 1994, '95 and last season.

■ Heading into the weekend, Eaton had won 32 consecutive games, eight in 1999. The Reds were the only unbeaten team in the state last season.

■ John Elway was a senior quarterback at Stanford University in 1982. Seems like a long time ago, doesn't it? It's also the last time Eaton didn't qualify for the playoffs. Hence, they've been just plain good for years in three, four or five classifications.

■ Eaton scored in double figures in 21 of 24 games last season. The Reds have done it seven times in eight tries this season.

■ The 1999 Reds have beaten two 3A teams (Greeley West and Thompson Valley) and two 4A teams (Sheridan and Windsor).

■ In 28 years as head coach of the Reds, Danley and his kids have piled up a 426-120 mark.

Eaton sweeps doubleheader

Brush hurler gives Reds fits in nightcap, but team holds on

baseball Greeley Daily Tribune
April 13, 1999

EATON — The Eaton Reds baseball team had its first real test of the season, Monday, in a make-up double-header against Brush.

Despite defeating Brush 12-0 in the first game, Eaton's power hitters were virtually shut-down in the second game by Brush's Bill Mundt. Eaton held on to win, scoring all three runs in the third inning for a 3-2 win.

"He (Mundt) did a nice job of keeping us off balance, it was the most effective pitching job against us this year," Eaton coach Jim Danley said.

The first game was as different as night and day for the Reds (4-0 conference, 10-0 overall), when three Reds hitters had three hits.

Jeff Meyers had a double and 2 RBI. Todd Stanclift hit three singles

and Zack Hughes hit a double and ended the shortened contest with a three-run homer in the fifth.

Greeley Daily Tribune
April 15, 1999

■ COUNTDOWN TO THE RECORD ... Nine more to go.

The Eaton Reds were actually in a game on Monday night against Brush pitcher Bill Mundt. They came out of it with a 3-2 win. It was the Reds' 34th straight win, just nine shy of the state baseball record for consecutive wins. If the Reds stay perfect, they will break the record on May 7 in the district championship game at Fort Morgan.

T.M.
Fasano

Greeley
Tribune



Eaton Reds welcome talk about 'the streak'

THE EATON BASEBALL team is a welcoming bunch of players. Over the past two years, they've welcomed challenges. And with those challenges, the Reds have welcomed victories.

An incredible thirty-six straight wins to be exact.

The countdown to the state record for most consecutive baseball victories is down to seven games for the No. 1 Reds. Eaton coach Jim Danley isn't one of those coaches who refuses to talk about the streak to his players or the media, either.

He throws out the welcome mat to such talk.

"Rather than avoid talking about it, which I think is a common approach, we've decided to welcome it and welcome the pressure because it equates to opportunity," Danley said.

The defending Class 3A state champions swept Yuma on Saturday by a combined score of 31-2 and have won 36 straight games — 24 last year and 12 this season.

The Reds' target date to break the record of 42 straight wins held by Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62) is May 7 in the district championship game at Fort Morgan.

Interestingly enough, the Reds will play a Northern Plains doubleheader in Ault against Steve Nale's Highland Huskies at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Nale was the head coach at Valley during 23 games of the streak in '80 and '81.

During the Reds' two-year run of perfection, Danley credits this group's senior class for being focused on nothing but winning. In fact, Danley is using the streak as a motivating factor.

"No one could have predicted this streak. It attaches extra significance and adds pressure to each and every game," Danley said. "The streak is actually helpful in that respect."

To go down in the record books as the owner of Colorado high school baseball's longest winning streak will mean more to the players than to Danley, who has coached Eaton to three state titles in the past five years and has been in charge of the program since 1972.

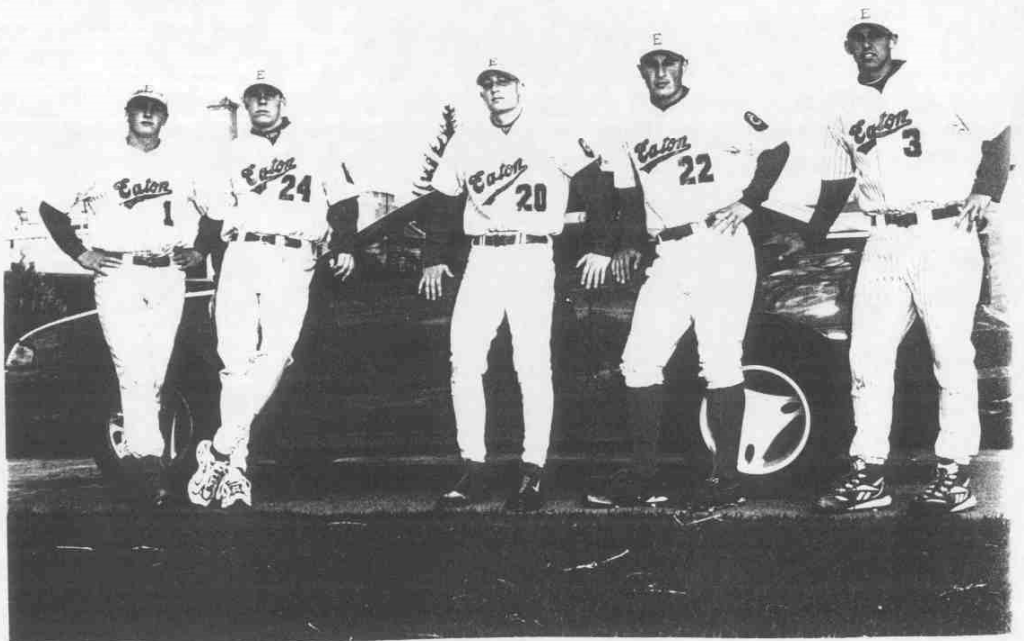
"To me I don't think it has anything to do with coaching. It has to do with a great bunch of seniors," Danley said.

Those seniors with the big stats are third baseman Mike Carrasco (.513 batting average, 3 home runs, 16 RBI), shortstop Jeff Meyers (.447, 5 homers, 22 RBI), center fielder Jason Smith (.419, 14-for-15 steals), left fielder-pitcher Paul Loftis (15 RBI, 2-0 record, 27 SO in 16 IP, 1.75 ERA) and

pitcher Josh Isakson (5-0, 24 SO in 24 IP, 1.75 ERA).

"The big significance is that they've learned how to enter every contest with a hard blue laser-like light that you have to have to be successful," Danley said.

They've also learned to enter the past 36 games with the attitude that anything other than a win won't be welcomed.





ABOVE: Eaton shortstop Jeff Meyers taps the glove of a teammate Monday after he helped turn a double play against Highland on Monday. **LEFT:** Meyers, left, has been strong all year for the Reds on offense and defense.

PHOTOS BY JIM RYDBOM
Greeley Tribune

Pure enjoyment

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

EATON — When you watch Jeff Meyers play baseball, you understand why the Eaton Reds have won 38 consecutive games.

"(The streak) is something that nobody on this team will forget if they're playing or not," Meyers said. "Coach (Jim) Danley won't forget it. The town won't forget it. The streak gives us focus because we don't want to lose."

Watching the expression on Meyers' face as he turns a double play at shortstop or hits a home run at the plate is one of pure enjoyment.

Meyers went a perfect 4-for-4 with a three-run homer as Josh Isakson (6-0) and Tanner Tateyama combined for a no-hitter in a 28-0 rout over the Highland Huskies in the first game of a Class 3A Northern Plains doubleheader on Monday.

Meyers takes his place among Eaton's greats

● Box scores, prep results / B2

Paul Loftis (3-0), who struck out seven of the 10 hitters he faced thanks to a wicked knuckle curveball, and Mike Carrasco also teamed up for a one-hitter in a 16-0 romp over the Huskies (1-7 league, 3-10 overall) in the second game.

The No. 1 Reds upped their league mark to 8-0, 14-0 overall and are just five games away from breaking Colorado's all-time winning streak of 42 held by Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62).

Meyers has a team-leading six homers and 26 RBI this year. Other Reds hitting the long ball in the first game were Todd Stanclift, Mike Car-

rasco (his fourth in three games), Jason Smith (4 RBI) and Craig Ayers. Casey Wiederspan added a solo shot in the second game for the Reds. Josh Yarber and Loftis both hit a double and a triple in the first game, and junior Derek Lehr pounded out two doubles in the first game, his first two hits in a varsity uniform.

The streak takes a couple of days off when Denver Christian comes to Eaton to play a single game at 5 p.m. Thursday. Meyers is a four-year starter whom Reds coach Jim Danley touts as the best shortstop he's ever had in his 28 years at Eaton.

"It's a combination of things. Certainly it's the power and hitting," Danley said. "The other thing is consistency. Jeff just makes all the plays.

He's as good as he needs to be."

Even Huskies coach Steve Nale, the coach at Valley during 23 of the 42 wins in 1980-81, enjoys watching Meyers play.

"He's solid and he plays with a lot of confidence. You can tell that he's having fun out there which makes it even fun for me to watch him," Nale said. "He's out there just making plays."

Winning 38 straight games, capturing a state title and being favored to win another one would put a smile on anyone's face. But playing through this history-making streak has given Meyers even more of an appreciation of why he loves putting on Eaton's pinstripes.

"Everybody wants to win, especially with this streak on the line," Meyers said. "We talk about it at school and we all want to win."

That's Meyers for you. He loves to play. He loves to win.

Greeley Daily Tribune
April 27, 1999

**EATON'S
WIN
STREAK
HITS 38**



Eaton 28-16, Highland 0-0

	First game				
EHS	427	87	-	28	21 0
HHS	000	00	-	0	0 4

EHS - Josh Isakson (W 8-0, 0H, 0ER, 0BB, 2SO), Tanner Tateyama (4th, 0H, 0ER, 2BB, 1SO) and Zack Hughes. 2B - Derek Lehr 2, Josh Yarber, Todd Stanciliff, Paul Loftis. 3B - Jason Smith, Loftis, Yarber. HR - Stanciliff (1 on in 1st), Mike Carrasco (1 on in 3rd), Smith (1 on in 4th), Craig Ayers (2 on in 4th), Jeff Meyers (2 on in 5th). RBI - Smith 4, Meyers 3, Carrasco 3, Ayers 3, Hughes 2, Stanciliff 2, Eric Hungenberg 2, Lehr 2, Chris Michalowski, Yarber, Loftis.

HHS - Mike Ackelson (L 1-5, 12H, 8ER, 2BB, 1SO), Jesse Muro (4th, 5H, 7ER, 5BB, 0SO), Clint Brown (4th, 4H, 5ER, 2BB, 0SO) and Keith Juarez.

	Second game				
EHS	354	40	-	16	12 0
HHS	000	00	-	0	1 3

EHS - Paul Loftis (W 3-0, 0H, 0ER, 1BB, 7SO), Mike Carrasco (4th, 1H, 0ER, 2BB, 5SO) and Zack Hughes. 2B - Todd Stanciliff, Casey Wiederspan, Hughes. 3B - Carrasco. HR - Casey Wiederspan (solo in 3rd). RBI - Loftis 3, Stanciliff 2, Hughes 2, Aron Van Sickla 2, Jeff Meyers, Carrasco, Tanner Tateyama, Wiederspan, Eric Hungenberg.

HHS - Kevin Keil (L 1-2, 10H, 12ER, 9BB, 2SO), Kelly Berndt (4th, 2H, 0ER, 0BB, 1SO) and Keith Juarez.

EATON UPDATE

With 38 straight victories, the Eaton Reds are just five games away from breaking the Colorado high school baseball all-time winning streak. The Reds were on target to break the record in the district championship game at Fort Morgan on Friday, but it will have to wait a week because of the rainy weather.

Last Thursday's game against Denver Christian, postponed for the second time due to weather, will not be made up. If the Reds would have won that game, it would have been win No. 39.

As it stands now, the Reds will go into their Northern Plains Conference doubleheader against Wray on Tuesday in Eaton going for consecutive wins 39 and 40, weather permitting.

Then comes the district semifinals (41) and finals (42) at Fort Morgan on Saturday. Which leaves the regional semifinals on May 15 as the day the Reds could set the record of 43 straight wins.

— T.M. Fasano

Eaton would win battle of all-stars

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 2, 1999

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

Two Weld County baseball programs currently hold two of the longest winning streaks in Colorado high school baseball history — Valley (42 games) and Eaton (38 games) along with Grand Junction, which also won 42 straight games back in the early 1960s.

Inquiring baseball minds want to know. If you pick a lineup from the Eaton and Valley baseball squads during the years of the winning streaks and played a simulated game, which team would come out on top?

That's like trying to choose between Joe Montana and John Elway as the quarterback you'd want if your team was trailing by six points with less than two minutes to go in the game.

Here's a rundown on which team has the edge if the two played.

PITCHING (Valley)

In the pitching department, the edge has to go to Valley. Although Eaton's Alex Ochoa was 8-0 in 1998 with a 1.21 earned-run average, left-handed pitcher Dino Castro was the man for the Vikings.

Castro ended the '80 season with a 10-0 record, threw a fastball that hit 84 mph and had a nasty curveball and changeup that made him virtually unhittable. Going into the state championship game against Burlington, Castro had an ERA of 0.00 with 88 strikeouts in 51 innings.

While Eaton's Mike Carrasco is known as an all-state third baseman, there aren't many better when the game's on the line and he has the ball on the mound. But Valley's Todd Rains had unbelievable control, walking just five hitters in 42 innings in '80 and going 7-0 with a 0.12 ERA.

DEFENSE (Even)

Valley coach Mike Stoffler concentrated on defense more than anything else. First baseman Joe Chacon had a sweet glove and Stoffler said that Vince Chacon had the best arm he ever saw from the shortstop position.

But when you look at how Eaton center fielder Jason Smith can chase down anything and shortstop Jeff Meyers has hands softer than the bottom of a newborn baby, it's hard to give either team an edge in this department.

OFFENSE (Eaton)

The Reds hit .430 as a team last year and are on pace to better that average this year. This team is stacked. When you've got Smith leading off, Meyers in the No. 2 hole, Carrasco at No. 3 and RBI machine Zack Hughes hitting cleanup, you're talking about the four toughest hitters in the state in any classification. Add Stanclift (who set Eaton's all-time single-season home run record as a freshman with 11 last year), Paul Loftis and Casey Wiederspan to the mix and all six can hit the ball out of the park.

BATTLE OF THE BEST

Eaton Reds (1998-99)

1B — Matt Hagen
2B — Scott Souther
SS — Jeff Meyers
3B — Mike Carrasco
C — Zack Hughes
LF — Paul Loftis
CF — Jason Smith
RF — Casey Wiederspan
DH — Todd Stanclift
P — Alex Ochoa
RP — Mike Carrasco

Valley Vikings (1979-81)

1B — Joe Chacon
2B — Kent Miller
SS — Vince Chacon
3B — Junior Chacon
C — Don Huston (offense)/
Tony Asbury (defense)
LF — Mike Huston
CF — Glenn Cunningham
RF — Kevin Rains
DH — Bill Horalek
P — Dino Castro
RP — Todd Rains

Plus, the Vikings would have to learn how to hit Eaton's wicked knuckle curveball.

INTANGIBLES (Even)

Valley won two state titles during the streak and lost in the state championship game the final year of the streak. After losing to Eaton in the season opener in '79, the Vikings rattled off 42 straight. The Reds went undefeated last year (24-0) and are 17-0 heading into the district tournament on Friday. They are well on their way to winning a second straight state title.

Valley had two coaches — Mike Stoffler (19 wins) and Steve Nale (23 wins) — during its streak. Eaton's ship has been run by Jim Danley for the past 28 years.

Players from both teams grew up in a program full of tradition and fundamentals. Playing baseball in summer programs second to none, eating and sleeping were the three things they did.

WINNER (Eaton 3, Valley 2)

It almost seems unfair to pick a winner, but let's do it anyway. Fourteen miles along a stretch of U.S. 85 and 20 years separate these two great baseball schools. Give Danley credit for keeping the Reds' program fresh after all these years. A sense of pride to go with immense talent fills both programs and that's why Eaton and Valley have the two longest winning streaks in Colorado high school baseball history.

Could Valley's strong pitching stop Eaton's offense? For the most part, yes. But I keep going back to last year's state title game when Lamar's big left-handed pitcher Brad Stiles struck out 15 Reds, but Eaton found a way to win the game 3-1. I could see Castro doing the same thing, but I also see the Reds coming up with enough runs to beat Valley.

You'll get arguments from both sides. One thing is certain. It would have been a great game to watch.

Greeley Daily Tribune

April 30, 1999

FINALLY ... After setting an Eaton single-season record for home runs with 11 in just his freshman year last season, Reds designated hitter Todd Stanclift went the first 12 games of this season without a homer. Stanclift changed that with his first homer on Monday in a 28-0 victory over Highland at Eaton.

Stanclift, who stands 6-3 and weighs 230 pounds, hasn't hit the long ball this year but he certainly is hitting for average. Stanclift is leading the No. 1 Reds in hitting with a .524 average.

"The best part about it is that he's not trying to hit home runs," Reds coach Jim Danley said. "He's just trying to go up and hit the ball hard. He's become a very disciplined hitter and certainly one of the state's outstanding hitters. To go from being a home-run leader to having one of the top batting averages is a very unusual progression.

"You win the tough games with line drives and not home runs," Danley said.

Stanclift said he shortened up his stroke from last year.

"It was nice to hit all the home runs last year," said Stanclift, who also knocked in 37 runs and hit .446.

COUNTDOWN ... With 38 straight wins, the Eaton Reds are just five games away from breaking the Colorado high school baseball all-time winning streak. The Reds were on target to break the record in the district championship game at Fort Morgan on May 7.

But it might have to wait a week.

With Thursday's game against Denver Christian postponed and possibly cancelled, the Reds might not break the state record until the regional semifinals on May 15.

Carrasco paces Eaton

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 10, 1999

EATON — Mike Carrasco's three consecutive home runs and 8 RBI in Game one powered Eaton to its 39th and 40th consecutive wins



Carrasco

baseball

and a sweep over Wray Tuesday in a 3A Northern Plains double-header.

Eaton won the first game 21-1 and the second game 12-2.

It was the second time this season Carrasco has

blasted three in a row in a game. He also scored four runs in the game.

The Reds, who are 10-0 in league and 16-0 overall, are trying to take the spotlight off of the record of 42 straight victory's they are trying to break.

"We're trying to focus on winning the district tournament right now," Eaton coach Jim Danley said. "If (the record) comes, it comes. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

baseball playoffs

■ The CHSSA Pairings Committee has set the brackets for the regional and state baseball tournaments. Weld County's representatives in the postseason are Greeley Central, Roosevelt, Fort Lupton and Eaton. Find out who, where and when they will play on **PAGE B3.**

Greeley Daily Tribune May 5, 1999

		First game				
WHS	100	0	—	1	1	4
EHS	2(14)5	0x	—	21	13	1

WHS — T. Bowman (L, 8H, 10ER, 1BB, 1SO), Bard (2nd, 1H, 4ER, 3BB, 1SO), L. Orr (3rd, 5ER, 4H, 2BB, 1SO) Wingfield (4th, 0ER, 0H, 1BB, 3SO) and L. Orr.

EHS — Josh Isakson (W, 8-0, 1H, 0ER, 2BB, 3SO), Todd Stancliff (4th, 0H, 0ER, 1BB, 6SO) and Zack Hughes, 2B — Jeff Meyers 2; Hughes, Casey Wiederspan, Jeff Cazer; HR — Mike Carrasco 3(1 on in 2nd, 3 on in 2nd, 1 on in 3rd); RBI — Carrasco 8, Meyers 5, Josh Yarber 3, Wiederspan 1, Eric Hungenberg 1.

		Second Game				
WHS	011	00	—	2	3	0
EHS	044	13	—	12	10	1

WHS — T. Bowman (L, 4H, 4ER, 3BB, 1SO), Hanson (3rd, 8H, 9ER, 4BB, 1SO) and Orr, HR — J. Bowman (solo in 2nd); RBI — Bowman 1.

EHS — Paul Loftis (W, 5-0, 3H, 2ER, 1BB, 5SO), Tanner Tateyama (5th, 0H, 0ER, 2BB, 0SO) and Hughes, 2B — Carrasco, Loftis; 3B — Hungenberg; RBI — Yarber 4, Hungenberg 2, Meyers 1, Stancliff 1, Loftis 1, Derak Lehr 1.

■ HIGH SCHOOL

Baseball teams learn schedule

The Eaton baseball team will go for its 43rd straight win at 10 a.m. Saturday at Butch Butler Field in the state playoffs. No. 1 seed Eaton (18-0) will face Holy Family (13-5). If Eaton advances, it will face either Paonia or Falcon.

No. 7 seed Roosevelt (13-5) plays D'Evelyn (9-10) at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Runyon Field in Pueblo. If Roosevelt advances, it will face either Lamar or Erie.

Fort Lupton (5-13-1) plays No. 2 seed Dakota Ridge at 12:30 p.m. Friday at All-Star Park in Lakewood. If Fort Lupton advances, it will face either Skyline or Montrose.

Greeley Central (9-11) faces No. 2 seed Arvada at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at All-Star Park in Lakewood. If Central advances, it will face either Pomona or Grand Junction.

Smith's injury could hurt Reds' quest

THE ROAD TO A FOURTH Class 3A state baseball title in six years for Eaton could become rocky depending on today's diagnosis of Reds star center fielder Jason Smith.



Smith

The Greeley Tribune's All-Weld outfielder and three-year starter for the Reds injured his left knee at practice on Friday when he was jumping for a throw. Smith is will undergo a magnetic resonance imaging procedure in Greeley today.

Smith didn't play in the Reds' doubleheader sweep against Wray on Tuesday — Eaton's 39th and 40th straight victories — and is listed as doubtful for the District VI Northern Plains Baseball Tournament at Fort Morgan on Saturday.

"We're worried about cartilage," Reds coach Jim Danley said. "He's not on crutches, but there is lot of swelling. They're going to watch him closely and see if we can get him back when the swelling goes down. Any kind of a scoping now would take him out for the playoffs."

Smith is the catalyst for the Reds' offense as the leadoff hitter and is an excellent defensive player. Last year as a junior, Smith had an on-base percentage of .620, hit .463 and knocked in 28 runs.

Over the past two years, Smith has been caught stealing just once in 41 attempts. This year Smith is hitting .428 with two home runs and 14 RBI.

"He's intimidating with his speed on the bases," Danley said.

Smith is also the toughest regular to strike out, having fanned just three times this season.

"Smith is worth a lot. You can't replace him," Danley said. You just try to do the best you can. Everybody else has to step up because he's a real force out there. He's a player."

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 6, 1999

DESPITE RUMORS, STREAK GOES ON ... There was a rumor floating around this week that Eaton's bid for a state-record 43 consecutive wins had ended because an ineligible Reds player saw action last week.

Contacted about the rumor, Danley said it's not true. He said starting second baseman Scott Souther was ruled academically ineligible to play this week and will not play, but everybody who played last week against Highland was eligible.

"The last thing I'd do is play some ineligible guy," Danley said. "They've taken some truth (Souther's ineligibility this week) and added enough to it to make it

thoroughly untrue."

So at 40 straight wins, the streak is safe and the Reds are just three games away from breaking the Colorado high school baseball all-time winning streak set at 42 by Grand Junction (1960-62) and Valley (1979-81).

No. 41 could come against the winner of Platte Valley and Wray beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the district semifinals at Fort Morgan. The Reds could tie the state record at 42 in the district championship game beginning at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

If the Reds win twice on Saturday, No. 42 could come in the regional semifinals on May 15. With the Reds as the likely No. 1 seed coming out of the district tournament, don't be surprised to see the Reds try to break the record at Butch Butler Field.

Eaton all business about record

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

FORT MORGAN — When Eaton's Josh Yarber crossed home plate to give the Reds the state record-tying 42nd straight victory and a Class 3A Northern Plains Conference District title, there was no major celebration at Legion Field on Saturday.

There was no hooting or hollering.

Just because the Reds, who beat Platte Valley 16-0 for consecutive win No. 41 in the district semifinals and Brush 10-0 for the record-tying No. 42 in the district finals, tied a state record held by just two teams (Valley, 1979-81; Grand Junction, 1960-62) doesn't mean their season is finished.

Heck, the Reds are just getting started. Don't expect them to celebrate in the regional semifinals on

Saturday should they set the all-time record of 43 straight. The defending state champions are shooting for their fourth state title in six years. If they achieve that goal on May 22, then they'll do some serious celebrating.

But when the Eaton players were asked about what they accomplished on Saturday, they had to pause and reflect a bit.

"It's really hard to believe. Forty-two games in a row," all-state shortstop Jeff Meyers said. "It's been great. I couldn't ask for anything better. Everybody here loves baseball and we love winning. That's two good things that are happening for us right now."

Reds left fielder-pitcher Paul Loftis, who came in relief of Todd Stanclift in the title game, said he's glad the team has at least tied the record.

"It's a great accomplishment, but now we can focus on our main goal

and that's the state championship," Loftis said.

Reds coach Jim Danley, whose team hasn't lost a game since a 17-7 defeat to Kent Denver in the state semifinals on May 16, 1997, said he never could have predicted this to happen.

"I'm really proud of the kids for being focused. They've had a lot of pressure throughout this whole thing," Danley said. "We're honored to be mentioned in the same breath as the Valley Vikings."

Now that the Reds have tied the record, Danley said the pressure is lifted going into regionals.

"At this point, the streak is immaterial. We've done something that only probably 40 other kids in the history of state baseball have done," Danley said. "We're focused now on the state tournament."

In Eaton, winning state titles comes before setting state records.

Eaton ties record for consecutive wins



Hughes

Up next: A shot to break it next weekend in regionals

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 9, 1999

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

FORT MORGAN — Streak? What streak.

The RBI machine is so focused on knocking in runs and helping the Eaton Reds win baseball games, the streak seems like an afterthought.

Zack Hughes, Eaton's cleanup hitter, knocked in the Reds' first three runs with

a two-run single and a solo home run in a 10-0 whitewash of Brush (13-6) at Legion Field on Saturday to tie the state baseball record of 42 consecutive victories.

The Class 3A Northern Plains District Championship win not only tied the state record held by Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62), but it also provided the defending state champion Reds with the No. 1 seed heading into Saturday's regional round of 16. The sites and times will be determined today, but it looks as though the Reds (18-0) could break the state record at Butch Butler Field on Saturday in the regional semifinals if they get to play their regional games in Greeley.

"Personally, the 42-0 record is nice, but I'd rather have a state championship instead," Hughes said. "If we didn't win the state championship and we had the record,

it wouldn't mean anything because we didn't get the big one."

Asked if he spent any time thinking about the state record Hughes said: "I haven't really thought about it."

Hughes, Mike Carrasco and Josh Yarber also homered in the Reds' 16-0 victory over Platte Valley in the district semifinals on Saturday morning. Josh Isakson improved to 8-0 with a one-hit, eight-strikeout performance. Todd Stanclift pitched five innings of two-hit ball and was relieved by Paul Loftis in the record-tying championship game against Brush.

Hughes, a starter for the Reds since his freshman year in 1997, is an intense player. He's probably the only person who didn't hear the trains roll by every 20 minutes just behind the field in Fort Morgan.

"People in the stands after the game will say, 'Did you hear me yelling for you when you were hitting?' I can't hear anything," Hughes said. "There are no stands and no field. It's just you and the pitcher."

Hughes proved himself early in Jim Danley's lineup as a designated hitter his freshman year by knocking in 22 runs. Moved to the starting catcher position last season, Hughes followed up his freshman year with a state-leading 45 RBI.

With six RBI on Saturday, Hughes has 31 for the season and an amazing 98 for his career with next year still to go.

And to think that the RBI machine has been fighting a slump. Any kid in America would want to be hitting over .400 with six homers and 31 RBI. But to Hughes, he's battling out of a slump.

"The truth is, he hasn't been hitting as well as he can. Zack's been struggling for a month or so. We've been talking all week about when Zack's going to come out of this slump," Danley said. "The great thing is he picked a very good time. Zack does get better and he turns it up a notch."

Hughes thinks he's breaking out of his so-called slump.

"I feel like I've been doing real bad for the last month," Hughes said. "It felt like everything I hit went right to somebody."

Focus is the word to describe the free-swinging Hughes.

"You can't really be thinking about anything else. Anything the pitcher throws that you can hit, you hit it hard," said Hughes, who has played in 61 victories in 65 games for Eaton.

Stanclift, who also knocked in a pair of runs to help his cause in the championship game, said he expects Hughes to deliver.

"You're just expecting him to drive in runs," Stanclift said.

Zack Hughes. The RBI machine. Don't call him that during the game, though, because he'll never hear you.

GAME NOTES ... Red center fielder Jason Smith (strained ligament in left knee), sat out the first game against Platte Valley but started the second game. He jumped for a line drive in the second inning and came down on the knee, which was in a brace. "I went into the game and it felt pretty good. When I jumped it kind of hurt when I landed," Smith said. "It's just aching right now. I think I'll be ready by next week." Danley said Smith looked a little gimp in the field. "He has the doctor's clearance. I think it's just a matter of getting used to the brace and getting to trust his knee again. He's such an inspirational leader. He wanted to step it up and go for it. With that brace on there, we felt like he couldn't further injure it." ... The Reds beat up on Brush's Bill Mundt in the championship game, the same pitcher with a 1.68 earned-run average who lost a 3-2 game to the Reds on April 12 in Eaton. ... In the first game, the Reds' Yarber, Carrasco, Loftis and Jeff Meyers had three hits apiece. ... Meyers proved once again why he's Division I-A material by making three big-league plays at shortstop in the second and third innings against Brush.

Northern Plains District Finals Eaton 10, Brush 0

BHS	000 000	—	0	2	1
EHS	002 017	—	10	9	0

BHS - Bill Mundt (L, 7-2, 7H, 5ER, 7BB, 4SO), Austin Muniz (6th, 2H, 2ER, 2BB, 0SO), Chad Frieauf (6th, 0H, 0ER, 2BB, 1SO) and Nick Christensen.
EHS - Todd Stanclift (W, 3-0, 2H, 0ER, 2BB, 4SO), Paul Loftis (6th, 0H, 0ER, 0BB, 1SO) and Zack Hughes (2B - Casey Wiederspan, HR - (solo in 5th), RBI - Hughes 3, Stanclift 2, Josh Yarber, Jeff Meyers.

Northern Plains District Semifinals Eaton 16, Platte Valley 0

PVHS	000 00	—	0	1	2
EHS	346 3x	—	16	19	1

PVHS - Scott Casselman (L, 10H, 9ER, 3BB, 2SO), Matt Alles (3rd, 9H, 6ER, 0BB, 1SO) and Ryan Reinick.
EHS - Josh Isakson (W, 8-0, 1H, 0ER, 1BB, 8SO) and Zack Hughes (2B - Jeff Cazer, HR - Josh Yarber (1 on in 1st), Mike Carrasco (1 on in 2nd), Hughes (2 on in 3rd), RBI - Hughes 3, Yarber 3, Carrasco 3, Paul Loftis 2, Cazer 2, Derek Lehr, Casey Wiederspan.

North Weld Herald
May 13, 1999



Jeff Meyers slides home safely after a bases loaded, two out single by Zach Hughes in the third inning of Saturday's championship game. Eaton's 10-0 win over Brush crowned the Reds District champs and extended their unbeaten streak to 42 games, tying the current record held by both Valley and Grand Junction.

Reds just keep on winning!

by Duane M. Robson

Ask most any member of the Eaton Reds baseball team about their 42 game win streak, and you'll likely get the same answer. "The record is nice, but let's concentrate on State," seems to be the definitive response.

The Reds tied the State record for most consecutive wins (42) with a 10-0 thumping of Brush in last week's District finals. Eaton will have a chance to break the 18-year-old mark this Saturday at Butch Butler Field in Greeley as they defend their State Title against Holy Family.

"All we're thinking about is the state title," said catcher Zach Hughes, the offensive star of the game. "If we just focus on State, the record will fall into place," said the Junior. Hughes scored twice and knocked in three runs in the six-inning affair.

Hughes also knows that the pitching rich teams of Lamar, Faith Christian, and Buena Vista will test the potent Reds offense as the tournament progresses. Eaton is the top seed in the 16-team tournament.

"From here on out, we just need to concentrate on putting the ball in play," said Hughes. "We don't have to hit it hard," he added. "Just put it in play with lots of ground balls, and we'll be ok."

Coach Danley also agreed that pitching would be the key from here on out, though he was referring to his own staff.

"Todd Stanclift (0ER, 2H, 2BB, 4K) was just outstanding today," praised Danley, "as was Josh (Isakson)." Isakson threw a one hit shutout in the semifinal game earlier in the day. "Our pitching was great. Giving up no runs in a League Tournament is something else," said the coach.

"The pitching is coming around," Senior standout also wanted to give credit to his team's defense, arguably the best in the state. "It's great to pitch with our defense playing like it is. They were making some tough plays behind me today," stated Loftis.

The Reds will now take their 42 game win streak to Greeley.

Saturday, as they take on a 13-5 Holy Family team. A win would give Eaton the State record for consecutive wins. That would leave just three more wins for the State Title. And that, according to the players, is the grand prize.

"The kids have handled the pressure of this season with a lot of class," said Danley. "They are playing well, and we have as good a shot as anyone to win the whole thing."

Reds Notes: Eaton won their semifinal match Saturday morning 16-0 over Platte Valley. Josh Isakson threw five shutout innings, giving up just one hit while striking out eight. It was his ninth win of the season. Josh Yarber, Mike Carrasco, and Zach Hughes each homered, as well as picking up three RBI's apiece.

continued Danley. "(Tanner) Tateyama has a minor ankle injury, but should be all right by next week. Mike Carrasco might need a little work, but we'll get him that in practice," he finished.

The Reds offense started slow against the Beetdiggers, but finally broke the 0-0 tie with a pair of runs in the third inning. Casey Wiederspan led off with a double, but Brush pitcher Bill Mundt managed to get the next two Reds to strike out. It was Mundt who gave Eaton their biggest scare of the

year, losing a 3-2 decision in their regular conference match-up.

With two down, Mundt walked Jeff Meyers, then followed that by plunking Mike Carrasco with a pitch. Hughes then ripped a bases loaded single to left field that gave the Reds a 2-0 lead. Hughes came up big in the fifth also, blasting a solo homer over the left-center field wall to increase Eaton's lead to 3-0.

Eaton ended matters in the sixth inning, sending 12 batters to the plate, and scoring seven runs to invoke the 10-run mercy rule. The Reds scored 10 runs on nine hits and were errorless in the field.

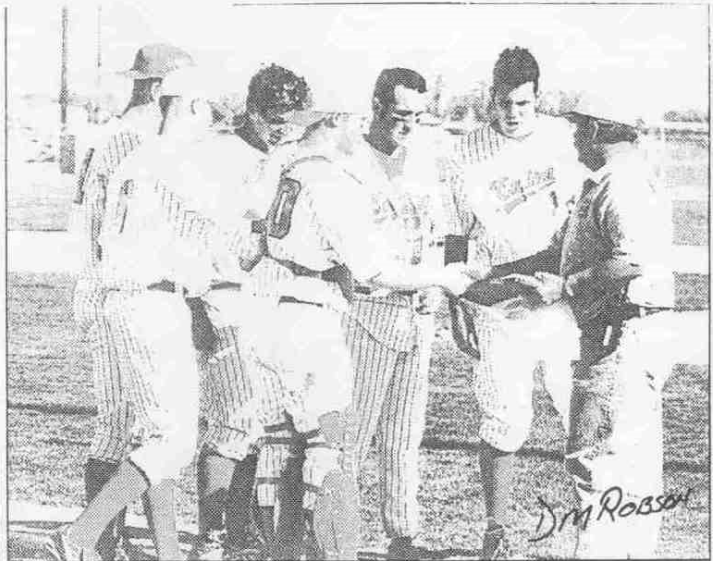
Pitcher Todd Stanclift kept the Beetdiggers off balance all day, scattering two hits and two walks amongst four strikeouts. The sophomore gave way to Paul Loftis in the sixth inning, after giving up a lead-off single. Loftis struck out his first opponent, then followed that with a sharply hit lineout to centerfield. He closed out the inning with a roller up the middle that was corralled by shortstop Jeff Meyers. Meyers throw to first narrowly beat the runner.

"That first strikeout helped out a lot," said Loftis, who has a 4-0 record on the year. "It took a lot of pressure off me," he added. The

North Weld Herald
May 13, 1999



Once again the Eaton Reds Baseball Team is heading to State. This is at least the fifth consecutive year they've gone, bringing the Title home three times. Will this be #4? Above, last year the Rocky Mountain News featured a photo of the winning Reds. Steven's Grill had the photo recreated by Biff Yates, who air brushed a copy of it. It is on display at Steven's. Check it out!



Catcher Zach Hughes, along with some of his Reds teammates, accepts the District Championship Plaque shortly after the Reds 10-0 victory over Brush. Hughes scored twice and knocked in three runs as the Reds continue to roll through the playoffs. Eaton will take on Holy Family this Saturday at Butch Butler Field in Greeley.

Reds go for record win

by Duane M. Robson

The Eaton Reds baseball team will attempt to break the current Colorado state record for consecutive wins this Saturday at Butch Butler Field in Greeley. The team's 42 wins currently tie them with both Valley (1971-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62).

The Reds current streak began last season with a 24-0 record and a State Championship. Eaton is now 18-0 on the year and has advanced to a 16-team playoff. Eaton is slat-

ed to play Holy Family (13-5) at 10:00am as they attempt to break the 18 year old record. A win would advance the Reds to a 3:00pm showdown against either Paonia (16-4) or Faleon (13-4).

If Eaton continues to advance, the State Semifinals will be held at Regis University in Denver on May 12, with the State Championship game to be played at All-City Stadium in Denver the following Saturday.

Denver Post
May 13, 1999

Red Machine may be best in any class

By Michael Kane

Special to The Denver Post

It's been awhile since the Eaton Reds lost. The eastern plains baseball powerhouse is 18-0 this season, a year after going a perfect 24-0 to win the Class 3A championship.

The last time the Reds lost, it was the spring of 1997. Bill Clinton was in the White House, the New York Yankees were the defending World Series champions and a gallon of milk cost \$2.99.

Maybe it wasn't that long ago. It was on the far end of 42 straight wins, however, a streak that matches the state's all-time best. And with a victory Saturday over Holy Family in the postseason round of 16, Eaton could eclipse the mark it shares with Central of Grand Junction (1960-62) and Valley (1979-81).

Advancing to the state tournament's final four, May 21-22 at All-City Stadium, should prove challenging for Jim Danley's Big Red Machine. Some say Eaton could be the best team in the state, regardless of classification. The same might be said for a collection of pitchers that lurk amid the 3A brackets.

Barring the unforeseen, Eaton's path to a repeat title will be obstructed by Paonia right-hander Nate Miller in the quarterfinals and either of two towering hurlers from Lamar. The Reds would meet 16-0 Lamar, the team it defeated in last year's championship 3-1, if both teams reach the title game as expected.

"I think both of us, in the back of our minds, are secretly hoping for another Eaton-Lamar final," said Danley, who also guided Eaton to titles in 1994 and '95. "But we can't afford to talk that way. We can't afford to look ahead."

Danley can, however, look forward to entering the regional round with a team batting average of .455. In the 18 victories this season, Eaton has scored 219 runs and allowed 30. That's an average winning score of 12-1.

Both sides of that discrepancy are largely attributable to senior Mike Carrasco. The pitcher-third baseman is averaging .517 and has pounded eight doubles, eight home runs and 30 RBI this season.

On the mound, Carrasco is the closer. Starter Josh Isakson (8-0, 0.80 ERA, 32 strikeouts) is Danley's ace, but if the Reds can hand Carrasco a lead, the game, too, usually is in Eaton's grasp. In 8 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, Carrasco has knuckle-curved 19 strikeouts, and has an 0.81 ERA.

After winning three straight titles in 2A, Paonia moved up in classification this season. It is said that a hot pitcher can carry a team through the state tournament. That logic alone gives the 16-4 Eagles a shot, should they meet Eaton.

Miller is 9-1 this season, with a 1.80 ERA and 124 strikeouts. In his dominant career, the right-hander is 45-2, and has compiled a 1.38 ERA and 514 strikeouts.

In short, he's been one of the state's best. And, no, he won't be starting in Paonia's opener against Falcon. "We're looking forward to the challenge," Paonia coach Don Emmons said of the possible showdown in the second round against Eaton.

Across the bracket, the Lamar Savages await vindication for last season's championship heart-breaker. In that game, Brad Stiles struck out 15 and hit a homer for Lamar's only run. Now a senior, Stiles is 6-0 and has fanned 76 hitters. He's a 6-foot-5 lefty and a looming presence on the mound. Lamar's other ace is senior righty Mike Thompson, who holds an 0.22 ERA is 5-0 and has struck out 64 batters. He stands 6-4.

"Every once in a while, with the wind at their backs, those guys can hit 90," Lamar coach Dave Fassiotto said of his pitchers' velocity. "What concerns me more is scoring some runs."

Lamar, which has won four state titles in the 1990s, is led by Stiles (.541), catcher Mike Kulp (.556, 21 RBI) and shortstop Bowie Frost (.500, five home runs, 35 RBI).

Faith Christian (20-0) is the third unbeaten 3A team. The Eagles swept the Metro League for their first title. Senior righty Jared Gonzales is 9-0 with 61 strikeouts, and Paul Faust is 7-0 with 75 strikeouts.

BASEBALL/REGIONAL, STATE PLAYOFFS

CLASS 5A

Region 1 at All-City Stadium, Saturday
Douglas County (6-10) vs. Highlands Ranch (15-1), 10 a.m.
Loveland (14-6) vs. Chatfield (12-6), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 2 at All-City Stadium, Friday
Standley Lake (10-8) vs. Cherry Creek (14-5), 10 a.m.
Fort Collins (12-8) vs. Arvada West (17-3), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 3 at Aurora Central H.S., Saturday
Ponderosa (13-5) vs. Fairview (13-6), 10 a.m.
Smoky Hill (12-8) vs. Rampart (16-1), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 4 at All-Star Park, Lakewood, Saturday
Grand Junction (13-4) vs. Pomona (12-7), 10 a.m.
Greeley Central (9-11) vs. Arvada (15-1), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

STATE TOURNAMENT
At All-City Stadium
Friday, May 21
SEMIFINALS

Region 1 vs. Region 2, TBA
Region 3 vs. Region 4, TBA
Championship, Saturday, May 22, 2:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A

Region 1 at Hinkley High School, Friday
Berthoud (11-9) vs. Rifle (18-3), 10 a.m.
Summit (8-10) vs. Niwot (16-1), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 2 at Runyon Field, Pueblo, Friday
Alameda (13-7) vs. Pueblo Central (15-4), 10 a.m.
Lewis-Pomer (13-7) vs. Montbello (13-4), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 3 at Englewood H.S., Friday
P. Centennial (12-7) vs. Brighton (16-2), 10 a.m.
Thomas Jefferson (15-3) vs. ThunderRidge (12-5), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 4 at All-Star Park, Lakewood, Friday
Skyline (15-5) vs. Montrose (11-5), 10 a.m.
Fort Lupton (5-13-1) vs. Dakota Ridge (14-4), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

STATE TOURNAMENT
At All-City Stadium
Friday, May 21
SEMIFINALS

Region 1 vs. Region 2, TBA
Region 3 vs. Region 4, TBA
Championship, Saturday, May 22, noon

CLASS 3A

Region 1 at Butch Butler Field, Greeley, Saturday
Holy Family (13-5) vs. Eaton (18-0), 10 a.m.
Falcon (13-4) vs. Paonia (16-4), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

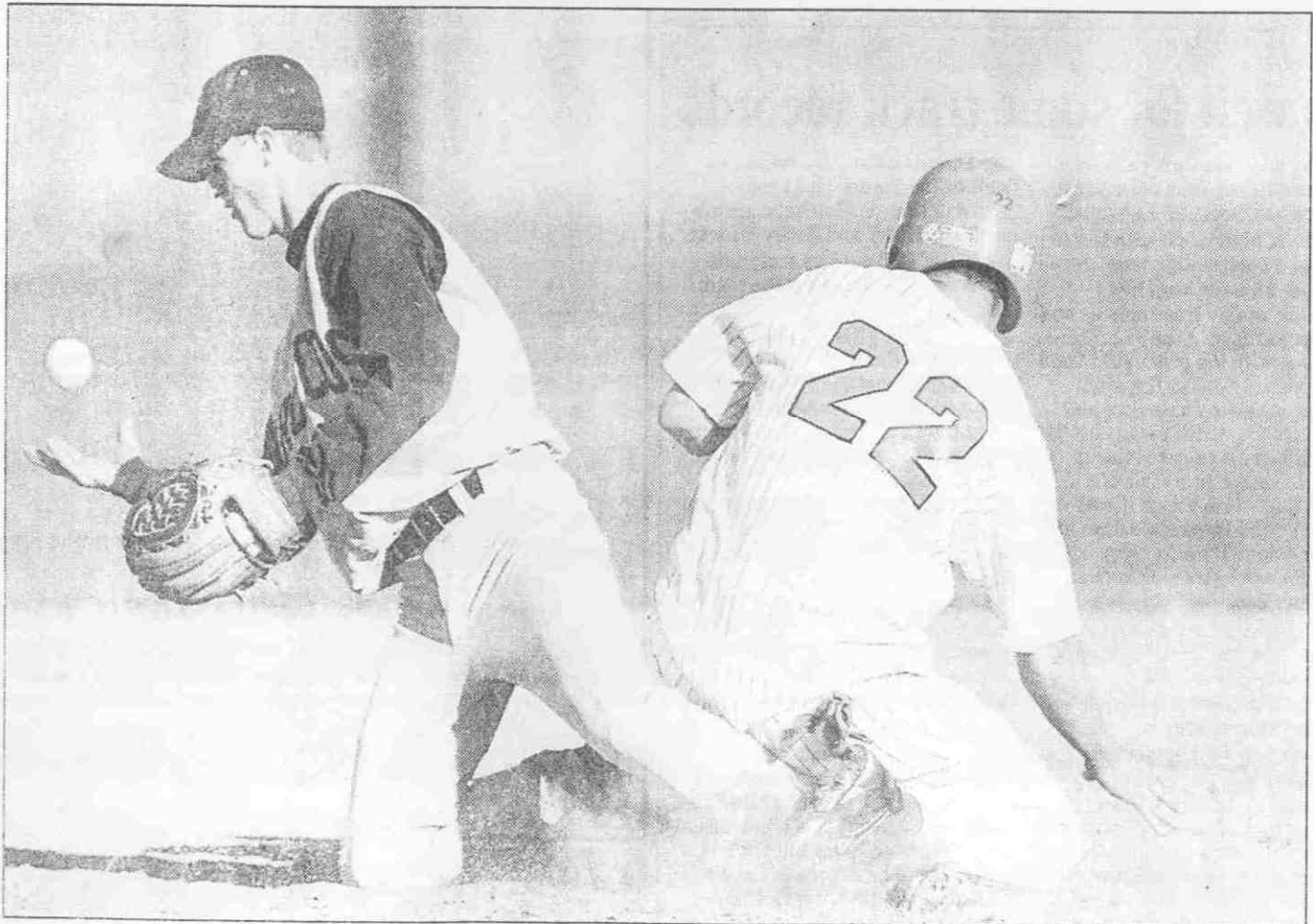
Region 2 at Hinkley High School, Aurora, Saturday
Monte Vista (9-9) vs. Olathe (16-3), 10 a.m.
La Junta (11-7) vs. Buena Vista (16-1), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 3 at Englewood H.S., Saturday
Rangely (8-7) vs. Faith Christian (20-0), 10 a.m.
Brush (13-6) vs. Pagosa Springs (14-3), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

Region 4 at Runyon Field, Pueblo, Saturday
Erie (9-8) vs. Lamar (16-0), 10 a.m.
D'Evelyn (9-10) vs. Roosevelt (13-5), 12:30 p.m.
Winners, 3 p.m.

STATE TOURNAMENT
At All-City Stadium
Friday, May 21
SEMIFINALS

Region 1 vs. Region 2, TBA
Region 3 vs. Region 4, TBA
Championship, Saturday, May 22, 9:30 a.m.



The Denver Post | Andy Cross

Mike Carrasco (22) and Eaton hope to break up another field and play for its second consecutive Class 3A championship.

Fab Four leaves trail of memories behind this week

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 13, 1999

**T.M.
Fasano**

Greeley
Tribune



IT COULD BE THE other side of never when we ever see the likes of Krautschun, Reyna, Carrasco and Meyers.

No, they're not a law firm, but they could have been sued for all the damage they caused the opposition over the last four years.

Platte Valley's Paula Krautschun, Roosevelt's Richard Reyna and Eaton's Mike Carrasco and Jeff Meyers don't have too many more appearances for their respective schools.

These four athletes weren't one-year wonders. They showed early on in high school that the talents they possessed were special.

Let's begin with Krautschun, who is trying to win four state first-place medals at the Class 3A track and field state meet at Fountain-Fort Carson Friday and Saturday.

Krautschun was a standout in softball and basketball for the Broncos, but her track and field performances capture the attention of even the most casual observer.

A state champion in the 100-meter hurdles, 300 hurdles and long jump in her sophomore and junior years, Krautschun is a give-it-all-or-nothing athlete. The proverbial brick wall to run through was made for performers with the will of Krautschun.

You didn't want to take a charge from her on the basketball court. You didn't want to be the catcher with a play at the plate knowing that Krautschun was the runner charging home. And for the track and field competitors who have to face Krautschun in her final state meet this weekend ... pity on them.

Then there's Reyna, who will leave Roosevelt High School with 12 varsity letters in wrestling, football and baseball.

Reyna will always be remembered for his exciting state championship victory in the 3A 160-pound division at McNichols Sports Arena as he helped his team to a 3A state title. He scored four points in the final 50 seconds to upset No. 1-ranked Dustin Randle of Lamar 4-2 to win his first state title after placing at state two prior times.

Saying goodbye

Four athletes will be winding down their prep careers over the next nine days. They competed with a flair and talent that will be missed by sports fans in Weld County for many years to come.



Paula Krautschun,
Platte Valley
State champion in
the 100-meter
hurdles, 300 hurdles
and long jump in her
sophomore and
junior years



Richard Reyna,
Roosevelt
12 varsity letters in
wrestling, football
and baseball.



Mike Carrasco,
Eaton

They're an unbelievable 79-10 in four years for Eaton's baseball team. That means that Carrasco, who also was an all-state tailback for the Reds' 3A semifinalist football team this past season, and Meyers have won 89 percent of their baseball games while at Eaton.



Jeff Meyers,
Eaton

Reyna was a 1,000-yard rusher and All-Weld linebacker for the 2A Rough Riders state-qualifying team. This kid is a money player who comes up huge when his team needs it the most. The Roosevelt third baseman, who tied the school record with 10 home runs last season, will try to lead

the Rough Riders past the regional round on Saturday in Pueblo and into the Final Four next weekend.

If you're a baseball fan in Weld County and never had the opportunity to watch third baseman Carrasco and shortstop Meyers master the left side of the infield, it's your loss.

To say that there will never be another team blessed with the skills of Carrasco and Meyers during the same four-year span isn't a stretch.

They are true marvels on the field and at the plate and have been two of the key reasons why the Reds are 42-0 over the past two years. Carrasco and Meyers will be suited up once again when the Reds play Holy Family at Butch Butler Field in the regional semifinals at 10 a.m. Saturday in what could be a state-record 43rd straight victory for the Reds.

Winning is what this dynamic duo is all about. Since starting as ninth-graders for the Reds, they're an unbelievable 79-10 in four years. That means that Carrasco, who also was an all-state tailback for the Reds' 3A semifinalist football team this past season, and Meyers have won 89 percent of their baseball games while at Eaton.

Meyers has turned into a Hoover vacuum cleaner at shortstop. Charging in on a ground ball and with a flick of the wrist, the ball somehow makes it into the first baseman's glove.

When talking about money hitter and clutch performer, Reds coach Jim Danley knew for the past four years that Carrasco was there to deliver the big base hit. Danley knew who to call on when he needed the crucial strikeout in the seventh inning.

Carrasco and Meyers symbolize what the great Eaton baseball tradition is all about. They do so with dirt on their uniforms and smiles on their faces. Arguably, Carrasco and Meyers are the best baseball players on what has to be considered the greatest baseball team to ever play on a Colorado high school baseball diamond.

What you have with Krautschun, Reyna, Carrasco and Meyers are four winners who played their sports to the fullest. Before we know it, their prep exploits will be remembered in the past tense. If you get a chance this weekend, go out and see them before we're forced to remember their achievements in the past.

They'll never be forgotten. Talents who come along like that make it a pleasure to remember.

T.M. Fasano is a sportswriter for the Greeley Tribune. He can be reached at 352-0211, Ext. 287.



AT LEFT:
Eaton's head coach Jim Danley, right, and assistant coach Bob Ervin have been coaching baseball together for 31 years, 28 of those at Eaton. Danley and Ervin will try to guide their team to a state-record 43rd straight win on Saturday.

RICHARD M.
HACKETT
Greeley Tribune

**BOTTOM
INSET:** Danley,
left, and Ervin
in a 1972
photo.

COURTESY PHOTO

Together forever

Longtime Eaton baseball coaches know what it takes to build winning team

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

EATON — Eaton head baseball coach Jim Danley and his longtime assistant Bob Ervin are into making history these days.

When Danley and Ervin took over the Reds way back in 1972, all they wanted to do was make some kind of success out of the program.

Some would say that they overextended themselves.

Around noon on Saturday, Danley and Ervin could be a part of something that no other coaches have experienced in the history of Colorado high school baseball.

A win over Holy Family (12-6) in the Class 3A Region 1 semifinals, which starts at 10 a.m. Saturday at Butch Butler Field, would be Eaton's 43rd straight, an all-time state record that would pass Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62) on the consecutive wins list.

Top-ranked Eaton (18-0) would then face the winner of Paonia and Falcon in the regional championship game at 3 p.m. for a berth in the Final Four May 21-22 in Denver.

In the other 3A playoff regional of interest to Weld County baseball fans, Roosevelt (13-4) travels to Pueblo's Runyon Field for a Region 4 game against D'Evelyn (9-10) at 12:30 p.m. A Rough Riders win would put them in the championship game against the winner of No. 2 Lamar or Erie for a chance to play in the Final Four.

Danley, 52, and Ervin, 53, started coaching summer baseball together in

1969.

They've been together so long, they're finishing each other's sentences.

"We know what each other is going to say before he says it," Danley joked.

Danley's and Ervin's 28-year tenure with Eaton's high school baseball team has spanned the Nixon Ad-

ministration, Ford Administration, Carter Administration, Reagan Administration, Bush Administration and is on the tail end of the Clinton Administration.

They've made it through the Beach Boys, Hardy Boys and Backstreet Boys, while watching the younger generation wear platform shoes, bell bottoms, leisure suits, black Chuck Taylor Converse high tops, white Air Jordan medium cuts and now back to bell bottoms.

The one outfit that went unchanged over all the years was the pinstripes of the Eaton Reds.

They're the Hope and Crosby, Carson and McMahon and Batman and Robin of Colorado baseball. They've been around longer than traffic on Interstate 25.

Danley coaches third base. Ervin coaches first base. The 5-foot-8 Danley used to have hair. The 6-3 Ervin used to have black hair.

That's when they first met at Eaton High School when Danley was teaching German and Ervin was teaching English. Ervin is still teaching at the high school, while Danley moved over to the middle school and is a counselor.

Both know what it's like to wait for a state title. After 23 years of coaching the Reds, the elusive state baseball title came home to Eaton in 1994. They've won two more titles since '94 and will be favored to win their fourth state title in six years next weekend if they survive Saturday's regionals.

"From 1973 to 1993 we did not win a state title," Ervin said. "We still remember how long it takes to build a team."

This current crop of Reds know what the two men mean to the Eaton program.

"They put so much time into this program. They've been around forever," said all-state third baseman Mike Carrasco, who was a bat boy for the Reds when he was in elementary school and the two coaches were still trying to win their first state title. "They've coached some of the parents here. They keep the tradition going. They just love baseball and that rubs off on us."

Up until three summers ago, Ervin and Danley coached the Eaton high school players in the Legion B program. Ervin, who won his first state title as the Reds' girls basketball coach last winter, gave up coaching summer baseball to concentrate on coaching the girls in the summer.

Growing up in a program since the age of 5 when future Reds start playing T-ball, every Eaton baseball prospect knows what to expect before ever entering high school.

Reds assistant coach Randy Sparkman has been with the baseball program for the past nine years and said it's such a benefit to have players come into a familiar system that they've been in for 10 years.

"The kids know what's expected. They don't have to learn a lot of coaching philosophies," Sparkman said. "It's been the same when they were in the fifth grade watching high school ball. They wear the same uniforms. (Danley and Ervin) have coached players who have boys coming through high school. You just don't see that."

Danley and Ervin have coached baseball together 13 years longer than their center fielder Jason Smith has been alive.

"That's pretty amazing," said the 18-year-old Smith. "They love this game. They make you think about the game. To them, baseball is more of a mental game than a physical game."

Jeff Meyers, a four-year starter and all-stater at shortstop, said Danley and Ervin are great coaches.

"I don't know what else to say. They know baseball probably better than most people in the state. Coach (Danley) has won way over 400 games. He knows how to win."

With a record of 436 wins and only 120 losses in 28 years, win No. 437 against Holy Family would be the one victory that makes state history.

There's the three state titles, 12 Final Four appearances, nine regional championships, 16 league titles and one game away from a state-record 43 straight, but all of that isn't the most important accomplishment to Danley.

He said his biggest accomplishment is that his teams, with Ervin coaching right with him, have made the state playoffs every year since 1983.

"That says more about the youth coaches we have and the dozens and dozens of kids who have played here and have taken the program in the right direction," Danley said. "The credit should go to the entire community and the coaches and players who have worn the pinstripes."

But all along the way, Danley and Ervin have been there to nurture this baby. A baby that has captured the attention of every baseball fan in the state.

WHAT A RUN

THE DANLEY-ERVIN YEARS

Year	Wins	Losses	Final Four
1972	13	5	
1973	11	6	
1974	9	7	
1975	6	9	
1976	13	7	*
1977	9	7	
1978	11	6	
1979	14	5	
1980	13	6	
1981	19	3	*
1982	14	4	
1983	15	1	*
1984	17	1	*
1985	21	2	*
1986	15	4	
1987	17	4	
1988	16	4	
1989	19	3	*
1990	16	3	
1991	14	9	*
1992	14	6	
1993	19	4	*
1994	20	3	*
(1st)			
1995	22	1	*
(1st)			
1996	18	6	*
1997	19	4	*
1998	24	0	*
(1st)			
1999	18	0	???
Overall	436	120	.78-

A LOOK AT THE REGIONS

CLASS 3A REGION 1

■ **TEAM:** Eaton Reds

■ **RECORD:** 18-0

■ **COACH:** Jim Danley, 28th season

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** Mike Carrasco, 3B-P, sr. (8 HR, 30 RBI, .517 BA); Jeff Meyers, SS, sr. (5 HR, 33 RBI, .493 BA); Todd Stanclift, DH-P, so. (1 HR, 11 RBI, .491 BA); Josh Yarber, 1B, jr. (1 HR, 17 RBI, .490 BA); Casey Wiederspan, LF, jr. (2 HR, 22 RBI, .475 BA); Zack Hughes, C, jr. (5 HR, 31 RBI, .439 BA); Jason Smith, CF, sr. (2 HR, 15 RBI, .412 BA); Paul Loftis, LF-P, sr. (2 HR, 20 RBI, .393 BA); Scott Souther, 2B, so. (2 HR, 12 RBI, .372 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Josh Isakson, RHP, sr. (8-0, 0.80 ERA); Paul Loftis, RHP, sr. (4-0, 1.46 ERA); Todd Stanclift, RHP, so. (3-0, 1.37 ERA); Tanner Tateyama, RHP, so. (2-0, 0.50 ERA); Mike Carrasco, RHP, sr. (1-0, 0.81 ERA).

■ **TEAM:** Paonia Eagles

■ **RECORD:** 16-4

■ **COACH:** Don Emmons, sixth season

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** Nate Miller, P-DH, sr. (7 HR, 26 RBI, .440 BA); Andy Vincent, SS, jr. (4 HR, 14 RBI, .434 BA); Brady Bledsoe, 3B, sr. (6 HR, 17 RBI, .429 BA); Gabe Shirm, RF, jr. (3 HR, 12 RBI, .420 BA); Clint Childs, 1B, sr. (3 HR, 15 RBI, .385 BA); Jack Eversman, C, sr. (0 HR, 14 RBI, .375 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Nate Miller, RHP, sr. (9-1, 1.60 ERA); Andy Tuin, RHP, sr. (6-2, 3.75 ERA); Jeff Carr, RHP, jr. (1-0, 4.00 ERA).

■ **TEAM:** Holy Family Tigers

■ **RECORD:** 12-6

■ **COACH:** Steve Meyer, second season

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** Marco Vega, P-OF, jr. (3 HR, .457 BA); Marcus Ramirez, 1B, jr. (.450 BA); Dan Burke, P-OF, sr. (.382 BA); Jeff Fanning, C, sr. (.350 BA); Rudy Duran, SS, sr. (.350 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Dan Burke, RHP, sr. (7-3, 2.50 ERA); Marco Vega, RHP, jr. (3-2, 5.00 ERA).

■ **TEAM:** Falcon Falcons

■ **RECORD:** 13-4

■ **COACH:** Nathan Wadman, second year

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** Daren Freeman, P-CF, sr. (7 HR, 27 RBI, .464 BA); Ted Perry, 1B, sr. (1 HR, 16 RBI, .429 BA); Casey DeBusk, P-SS, sr. (3 HR, 15 RBI, .388 BA); Brian Wilfong, C, sr. (0 HR, 11 RBI, .364 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Daren Freeman, RHP, sr. (4-1, 2 Saves, 6.30 ERA); Casey DeBusk, RHP, sr. (4-0, 5.25 ERA).

REGION 4

■ **TEAM:** Roosevelt Rough Riders

■ **RECORD:** 13-4

■ **COACH:** Paul Chacon, first season

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** Justin Post, 2B, jr. (3 HR, 27 RBI, .569 BA); Ricky Zuniga, CF, sr. (8 HR, 24 RBI, .438 BA); Hector Olivas, SS, so. (2 HR, 13 RBI, .426 BA); Mo Pribble, RF, so. (0 HR, 10 RBI, .415 BA); Nathanel Hess, LF-P (3 HR, 11 RBI, .390 BA); Devon Shable, 1B, fr. (2 HR, 17 RBI, .369 BA); Frank Jojola, DH, sr. (2 HR, 15 RBI, .361 BA); Richard Reyna, 3B, sr. (6 HR, 23 RBI, .351 BA); Lewis Hastings, C, sr. (2 HR, 13 RBI, .320 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Sez Meza, RHP, sr. (7-2, 3.57 ERA); Nathanel Hess, RHP, sr. 3-1, 4.66 ERA); Robert Meza, RHP, so. (2-1, 6.72 ERA).

■ **TEAM:** Lamar Savages

■ **RECORD:** 15-0

■ **COACH:** Dave Fassiotto, fifth season

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** Mike Kulp, C, sr. (3 HR, 21 RBI, .556 BA); Brad Stiles, 1B-P, sr. (3 HR, 15 RBI, .541 BA); Bowie Frost, SS, sr. (5 HR, 35 RBI, .500 BA); Damian Kerr, 3B, sr. (0 HR, 7 RBI, .500); Mike Thompson, RF-P, sr. (0 HR, 15 RBI, .417 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Brad Stiles, LHP, sr. (6-0, 1.57 ERA); Mike Thompson, RHP, sr. (5-0, 0.22 ERA); Chad Schibblehut, RHP, so. (4-0, 1.24 ERA).

■ **TEAM:** Erie Tigers

■ **RECORD:** 9-8

■ **COACH:** Doug Kudrna, 9th season

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** Matt Boshell, SS, sr. (4 HR, 14 RBI, .472 BA); Matt Kosorok, LF, so. (0 HR, 10 RBI, .417 BA); Junior Rodriguez, 2B, so. (3 HR, 10 RBI, .412 BA); Rory McKim, DH-P, so. (0 HR, 3 RBI, .352 BA); Rick Martinez, CF-P, sr. (4 HR, 10 RBI, .317 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Rick Martinez, LHP, sr. (6-3, 2.26 ERA); Rory McKim, RHP, so. (2-4, 5.93 ERA); Junior Rodriguez, RHP, so. (1-1, 5.60 ERA).

■ **TEAM:** D'Evelyn Jaguars

■ **RECORD:** 9-10

■ **COACH:** Dan Porreco, third season

■ **LEADING HITTERS:** V.J. Walbridge, CF, sr. (1 HR, 15 RBI, .458 BA); Aaron Abrams, C, sr. (1 HR, 10 RBI, .346 BA); Reed Saunders, 1B, sr. (2 HR, 10 RBI, .327 BA); Caleb Salankey, 3B-P, jr. (5 HR, 12 RBI, .321 BA).

■ **LEADING PITCHERS:** Brad Swartzlander, RHP, jr. (4-3, 5.74 ERA); Caleb Salankey, RHP, jr. (2-4, 4.24 ERA).

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 14, 1999

REGIONAL BASEBALL

CLASS 5A REGION 4

■ **WHO:** Greeley Central

■ **WHERE:** At All-Star Park,

Lakewood

■ **WHEN:** Saturday

■ **SCHEDULE:** Grand Junction vs. Pomona, 10 a.m.; Greeley Central vs. Arvada, 12:30 p.m.; Championship Game, 3 p.m.

CLASS 4A REGION 4

■ **WHO:** Fort Lupton

■ **WHERE:** At All-Star Park,

Lakewood

■ **WHEN:** Today

■ **SCHEDULE:** Skyline vs. Montrose, 10 a.m.; Fort Lupton vs. Dakota Ridge, 12:30 p.m.; Championship Game, 3 p.m.

CLASS 3A REGION 1

■ **WHO:** Eaton

■ **WHERE:** Butch Butler Field

■ **WHEN:** Saturday

■ **SCHEDULE:** Holy Family at Eaton, 10 a.m.; Falcon at Paonia, 12:30 p.m.; Championship at 3 p.m.

CLASS 3A REGION 4

■ **WHO:** Roosevelt

■ **WHERE:** Runyon Field,

Pueblo

■ **WHEN:** Saturday

■ **SCHEDULE:** Erie vs. Lamar, 10 a.m.; D'Evelyn vs. Roosevelt, 12:30 p.m.; Championship at 3 p.m.

Reds streak to record

Eaton boys baseball headed to semifinals after winning No. 44

HOLY FAMILY, a Catholic school from Denver, didn't have a prayer against the powerful Eaton Reds baseball team.

Holy Moly, a Catholic saying of amazement, is about all you can say about the record-setting Reds.

The Reds played flawless baseball in the Class 3A Region 1 semifinals at Butch Butler Field on Saturday and made state history in the process. The 17-0 win over Holy Family, sparked by Josh Isakson's overpowering no-hitter, was Eaton's 43rd straight victory and placed the Reds at the top of the state baseball list for consecutive wins topping Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62).

The Reds extended their winning streak to 44 straight victories by nipping Paonia in the regional championship game 4-3 later in the day. The win put the Reds into the 3A state semifinals on Friday at Regis University. It's the ninth Final Four appearance in 11 years for the defending state champion Reds.

Poor Holy Family coach Steve Meyer. In his second season as head coach, Meyer was forced in the regional semifinals to face a juggernaut staring down state history. It also was the third time he's faced Jim Danley's Reds during the streak.

In a pair of nonconference games last year and this season, the Reds pummeled the Tigers 14-4 both times.

"They're a machine. They're just rolling. They have a great tradition," Meyer said.

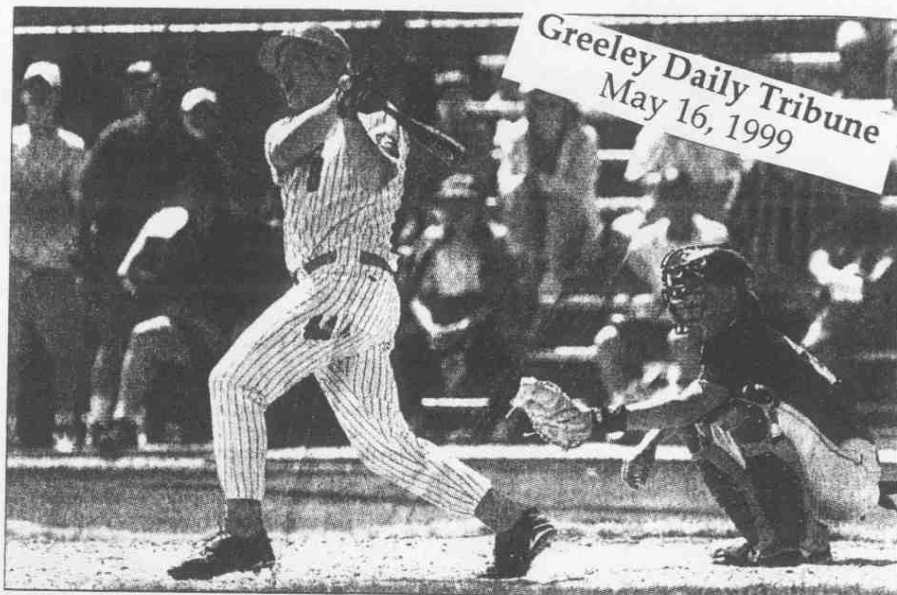
"Jim's done a hell of a job.

He's got some great assistants over there. I'm waiting for the day to get a crew like that."

The game that broke the state-winning streak was vintage Eaton. The Reds couldn't have been more dominant over the five innings against Holy Family, a game that ended early because of the 10-run rule.

Isakson (9-0) struck out eight, faced the minimum number of batters and didn't allow a base runner until a fifth-inning walk. Only one ball was hit out of the infield by the Tigers. The Reds didn't commit an error and were powered by a grand slam rocket from designated hitter Todd Stanclift and a two-run shot from catcher Zack Hughes.

Eaton has put together a baseball program that everyone is trying to emulate throughout the state, regardless of classification.



RICHARD M. HACKETT / Greeley Tribune

Eaton's designated hitter Todd Stanclift watches his grand slam leave the park in the Reds 17-0 win over Holy Family at Butch Butler Field in Greeley on Saturday.

Even the way the Reds prepare before a game catches the attention of the opposition. It's all business and the business the Reds are in right now is winning.

"Just watching them take infield and the way they handle themselves, you can tell they play a lot of ball," said Meyer, whose team lost games Nos. 8, 29 and 43 during the streak.

The Reds have been so much better than the opposition during this streak, it almost borders on the ridiculous. "It was men against boys," Meyer said. "They're a class bunch of guys. They've got the tools of the summer program. They've just got a machine and they keeping rolling through."

Lamar head coach Dave Fassiotto, victim No. 24 of the streak in last year's state championship game, was an assistant coach during the years the Savages won five state titles in six years in the early 1990s.

He said the longest streak Lamar had was 38 straight wins in 1993-94. He knows it hasn't been easy for the Reds.

"That's a hell of a feat to win that many games. I don't care what the level is," Fassiotto said. "Danley does a great job up there. You've got to have the right players, the good Lord and Lady Luck on your side."

Just how good have these Reds been during the streak?

"We told our kids it wouldn't have mattered if the Yankees were out there. If we had Roger Clemens

throwing, it would probably be 0-0," Meyer said. "There was an article in the paper about them having possibly the best team in any classification. That may be right. Eaton could play anybody in Class 5A or 4A and give them all they want and then some."

Danley, who will be trying to win his fourth state title in six years this weekend, said the streak says more about the Reds' overall program, one that he's been running since 1972.

"It calls attention to a program that for many years was secondary to some of the other ones around (the area)," said Danley, who is 438-120 at Eaton. "We never had the full combination of hitting, pitching and defense that we have right now. This is just an extraordinarily talented group. What they've done is call attention to hundreds and hundreds of kids who have gone through the program and have worn the pinstripes."

Danley has created a Big Red monster at Eaton.

Every game the Reds win now sets a new state record. Now they get to do what they set out to accomplish from the start and that's win another state title.

If the Reds come home with state title No. 4 in six years on Saturday, what's left to say?

Holy Moly!

and **THE STREAK** continues



Friends and family take photos of the Eaton baseball team after its 4-3 win over Paonia at Butch Butler Field Saturday.

RICHARD M.
HACKETT
Greeley Tribune

1 March 13, 1998
Eaton 12, Thompson Valley 2
Winning pitcher — Jeff Hager
Story line: LF Paul Loftis went 3-for-3 with two doubles and 3 RBI.

2 March 14, 1998
Eaton 13, Valley 0
Winning pitcher — Tanner Tateyama
Story line: C Zack Hughes went 3-for-3 with 5 RBI.

3 March 14, 1998
Eaton 10, Greeley West 2
Winning pitcher — Nolan Mininger
Story line: 3B Mike Carrasco went 3-for-3 with three runs scored and 3 RBI.

4 March 17, 1998
Eaton 8, Denver Christian 4
Winning pitcher — Scott Bangert
Story line: C Zack Hughes went 2-for-4 with a double and 3 RBI.

5 March 26, 1998
Eaton 21, Shendan 2
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers and C Zack Hughes had three hits apiece and combined for 12 RBI.

6 March 28, 1998
Eaton 20, Wray 6
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: 1B Matt Hagen went 4-for-4 with 3 RBI.

7 March 28, 1998
Eaton 23, Wray 4
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: LF Paul Loftis had three hits including a home and 1B Matt Hagen also had three hits.

38 April 27, 1999
Eaton 16, Highland 0
Winning pitcher — Paul Loftis
Story line: Loftis pitched three innings. Two hit ball striking out seven and also led the Reds with 3 RBI in a 12 hit attack as RF Casey Wiederspan added a solo home run.

37 April 26, 1999
Eaton 29, Highlands 0
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: Isakson and Tanner Tateyama combined for a no-hitter. DH Todd Standliff, 3B Mike Carrasco, CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers and PH Craig Ayers hit home runs.

36 April 17, 1999
Eaton 14, Yuma 2
Winning pitcher — Paul Loftis
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers and R Scott Souther (grand slam and 5 RBI) had four hits apiece.

35 April 17, 1999
Eaton 17, Yuma 0
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: 3B Mike Carrasco hit three runs in the first, second and fourth innings for a three-run homer day and also knocked in RBI.

34 April 12, 1999
Eaton 3, Brush 2
Winning pitcher — Todd Standliff
Story line: The Reds scored all five runs in the third inning with two also scored by CF Jason Smith, SS Jeff Meyers and infielder by 3B Mike Carrasco.

33 April 12, 1999
Eaton 12, Brush 0
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers, C Zack Hughes shorter and 3B Mike Carrasco hit three hits.

39 May 4, 1999
Eaton 21, Wray 1
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: For the second time this season, 3B Mike Carrasco hit home runs in three consecutive plate appearances and also knocked in eight runs. Isakson gave up just one hit.

ESports Extra

Sunday, May 16, 1999

GREELEY (Colo.) TRIBUNE SE 1



Eaton's Mike Carrasco celebrates with teammates after hitting a two-run home run that gave the Reds the lead — and eventually the win — over Paonia at Butch Butler Field on Saturday. The win advances the Reds to the state semifinals and keeps alive their winning streak at 44.

40 May 4, 1999
Eaton 12, Wray 2
Winning pitcher — Paul Loftis
Story line: 1B Josh Yarber went 3-for-4 with 4 RBI.

8 April 1, 1998
Eaton 14, Holy Family 4
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: RF Casey Wiederspan went 3-for-3 with a double and 3 RBI.

9 April 4, 1998
Eaton 13, Platte Valley 0
Winning pitcher — Tanner Tateyama
Story line: Tateyama threw a two-hit shutout with seven strikeouts and no walks.

10 April 4, 1998
Eaton 6, Platte Valley 1
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a 1-hitter with nine strikeouts.

11 April 9, 1998
Eaton 17, Fort Morgan 9
Winning pitcher — Josh Isakson
Story line: The Reds poured out seven home runs — Jeff Meyers (2), Todd Standliff, Zack Hughes (1), Paul Loft (1) and Casey Wiederspan.

12 April 11, 1998
Eaton 13, Brush 1
Winning pitcher — Tanner Tateyama
Story line: RF Casey Wiederspan went 4-for-4 with two home runs and 5 RBI.

13 April 11, 1998
Eaton 7, Brush 0
Winning pitcher — Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a 1-hitter with five strikeouts.

and THE STREAK continues

Mr. Pinstripes helps deliver record to Reds

story by
t.m. fasano

photo by
richard m. hackett

Now that the Eaton Reds own the record for the most consecutive baseball wins in the state, school administrators need to look at getting Mike Carrasco a special dispensation to play in the pinstripes for as long as he wants.

Eaton principal Don Cadwallader and athletic director Diane Holmberg could officially designate Carrasco a landmark at third base and call him Mr. Pinstripes. They could lobby the Colorado High School Activities Association for Carrasco, a senior and four-year all-stater, to return every season so he can keep on starting for the Reds.

And now that the Reds, who surpassed Valley (1979-81) and Grand Junction (1960-62) for the all-time winning streak with 43 consecutive wins, romped over Holy Family 17-0 on a Josh Isakson no-hitter in the semi-finals of the Class 3A Region

I Baseball Tournament at Butch Butler Field on Saturday, they can breathe easier.

Yeah, right. Carrasco, who has done just about everything a kid can do in a Reds uniform from being a bat boy at the age of 5 to being an all-state third baseman from ages 15 to 18, raised his status as one of the Reds' all-time best players a couple of notches by hitting the game-winning home run against what many consider the state's best pitcher in a 4-3 Reds victory over the Paonia Eagles.

The first 43 in a row were pretty easy, but no one said

See EATON, Page SE2

April 7, 1999
Eaton 12,
Holy Family 1
Winning pitcher -
Paul Loftis
Story line: 1B Josh Yarbber went
4-for-4 with three bases

April 6, 1999
Eaton 11,
Platte Valley 0
Winning pitcher -
Josh Isakson
Story line: 3B Mike Carrasco
went 3-for-3 with 2
home runs and hit 2

March 25, 1999
Eaton 9,
D'Evelyn 3
Winning pitcher -
Josh Isakson
Story line: CF Jason Smith
went 3-for-3 with three runs
and a double, a triple and
three bases

March 23, 1999
Eaton 14,
Holy Family 4
Winning pitcher -
Tanner Tateyama
Story line: CF Jason Smith
went 4-for-4 with a double
and stolen bases

March 20, 1999
Eaton 11,
Greely West 3
Winning pitcher -
Todd Stanciliff
Story line: CF Jason Smith, SS
Jeff Meyers (2 RBI) and LF
Loftis (3 RBI) had two hits

March 20, 1999
Eaton 15,
Windsor 5
Winning pitcher -
Tanner Tateyama
Story line: LF Paul Loftis went
4-for-4 with a double and 4

March 19, 1999
Eaton 14,
Thompson
Valley 9
Winning pitcher -
Mike Carrasco
Story line: CF Jason Smith
hit 1 and 2B Scott Boulter
had two hits

42 May 8, 1999
(District finals)
Eaton 10,
Brush 0
Winning pitcher -
Todd Stanciliff
Story line - Stanciliff gave up
two hits in five innings. C Zack
Hughes homered.

25 March 11, 1999
Eaton 21,
Sheridan 1
Winning pitcher -
Josh Isakson
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers
(homer and 4 RBI) and 3B
Mike Carrasco (2 RBI) had
three hits apiece.

24 May 16, 1998
(3A state finals)
Eaton 3, Lamar 1
Winning pitcher -
Alex Ochoa
Story line: Trailing 1-0, the Reds
scored three runs in the fifth on
consecutive singles by CF Jason Smith,
SS Jeff Meyers, 3B Mike Carrasco
and catcher Zack Hughes.

23 May 15, 1998
(3A state semifinals)
Eaton 14,
Faith Christian 5
Winning pitcher -
Nolan Minger
Story line: 3B Mike Carrasco
went 3-for-3 with a double, two
triples and 3 RBI.

22 May 9, 1998
(Regional finals)
Eaton 14,
Eagle Valley 1
Winning pitcher -
Nolan Minger
Story line: DH Todd
Stanciliff went 2-for-2 with a pair
of home runs and broke the
school record with 11 total
home runs.

21 May 9, 1998
(Regional semifinals)
Eaton 10,
Machebeuf 0
Winning pitcher -
Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a one-
hitter with nine strikeouts and
one walk.

14 April 18, 1998
Eaton 10,
Yuma 0
Winning pitcher -
Nolan Minger
Story line: Minger and Mike
Carrasco combined on a one-
hitter with 10 strikeouts.

15 April 18, 1998
Eaton 10,
Yuma 2
Winning pitcher -
Alex Ochoa
Story line: DH Todd Stanciliff
went 3-for-3 with a home run
and 3 RBI.

16 April 25, 1998
Eaton 10,
Highland 0
Winning pitcher -
Alex Ochoa
Story line: Ochoa threw a no-
hitter with 14 strikeouts.

17 April 25, 1998
Eaton 12,
Highland 2
Winning pitcher -
Tanner Tateyama
Story line: 3B Mike Carrasco
and designated hitter Todd
Stanciliff both homered.

18 April 28, 1998 (Dis-
trict Tournament)
Eaton 11,
Yuma 4
Winning pitcher -
Scott Bangert
Story line: SS Jeff Meyers went
3-for-4 with a RBI.

19 May 1, 1998
(District semifinals)
Eaton 22,
Platte Valley 3
Winning pitcher -
Tanner Tateyama
Story line: SS Jeff
Meyers (homer and 5 RBI), C
Zack Hughes (homer and 4 RBI),
and 1B Matt Hagen (homer and
4 RBI) led the Reds.

20 May 1, 1998
(District finals)
Eaton 17, Valley 6
Winning pitcher -
Alex Ochoa
Story line: 1B Matt Hagen went
4-for-4 with 3 RBI and SS Jeff
Meyers went 3-for-4 with a sin-
gle, double and a home run.

TOP 10 STREAK TIDBITS

1. The streak has lasted 14 months, 3 days.
2. The Reds have outscored their opponents 587-95 for an average score of 13- and have scored 10 or more runs in 37 of the 44 games.
3. Reds coach Jim Danley's career record at Eaton went from 394-120 (.767 winning percentage) to 438-120 (.785).
4. Reds pitchers shut out the opposition 14 times.
5. The Class 3A Reds beat four Class 4A teams and four 5A teams.

6. The largest margin of victory was a 10-0 win against Highland.
7. The least runs scored in a game by the Reds was three (twice) — 3-1 win over Lamar and a 3-2 win over Brush.
8. Eleven of the 44 victories came in the postseason playoffs.
9. Josh Isakson has the most wins by a pitcher (9) while Alex Schoa won eight games.
10. Zack Hughes and Todd Stancilitt have hit 13 home runs apiece. Hughes leads the Reds with 17 RBI in the 44 games.

— T.M. Fasano



Relief pitcher Mike Carrasco delivers a pitch in Eaton's 4-3 win over Paonia at Butch Butler Field Saturday. The win was Eaton's 44th straight and advances the Reds to the final four.

RICHARD M. HACKETT
Greeley Tribune

EATON

the next 43 wins were going to be.

In relief of starter Paul Loftis in the fifth inning of the regional championship game, Carrasco gave up a three-run home run to Clint Childs to put the Eagles (17-5) ahead 3-2. Carrasco could have buried his head and called it a nice career.

"I just tried to redeem myself and help the team out," Carrasco said.

One state title. Three Final Fours. Eighty wins in 90 games. Recognition as one of the finest players in the state. That's more than enough.

But this is Carrasco. This is Mr. Pinstripes. This is King Warrior. The aforementioned accomplishments aren't good enough for Carrasco.

So what did he do to make himself even more unforgettable?

With Jason Smith on first base and two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning against Paonia pitching legend Nate Miller, last year's pitcher of the year in all classifications, Carrasco

smacked a 1-2 curveball over the left field fence to put the Reds ahead for good.

"He's a warrior. He and Nate Miller are both winners," Reds coach Jim Danley said. "They're just old-fashioned warriors. (Miller) threw him one curveball too many. Mike has that quick but and he just went down and got it. You never saw a curveball hit any harder by a high school player, did you?"

Carrasco's homer was the second of the game surrendered by Miller, who lost for just the third time in 48 decisions over four years. Hot-hitting Zack Hughes opened the scoring for the Reds by pounding a solo shot off Miller that landed somewhere in downtown Greeley in the second inning. Jeff Meyers singled home Casey Wiederspan in the third for a 2-0 Reds lead, which held up until Childs' three-run blast in the fifth.

After Carrasco's two-run homer put the Reds ahead, the right-hander went out the last two innings and retired the Tigers on 23 pitches to keep

alive the defending state champion Reds' hopes of winning a fourth state title in six years. The Reds will play in the state semifinals on Friday at Regis University with the time of the game and team still to be determined. The championship game is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday at All-City Stadium.

Mr. Pinstripes saved the streak. Mr. Pinstripes put the Reds into the Final Four for the seventh straight year.

Loftis, who grew up on the same Eaton street (Elm) as Carrasco, Meyers and Danley, said Carrasco's homer fixed everything. It's something that Loftis has grown accustomed to from Carrasco through the years.

"Like he always does, he fixes it. What a competitor and what a way to get it," Loftis said. "He says he can do it. He always believes in himself. He went out himself and did it."

Mr. Pinstripes said he knew that something positive was going to happen to him after giving up the go-ahead home run.

"I knew I was coming up to

bat. I didn't want to be denied," Carrasco said. "I believed that I was going to do something. I'm a great competitor. I hate to lose."

After 44 straight wins with the last loss coming on May 16, 1997, Carrasco and his teammates have forgotten how to lose. Now it's time for the Eaton administration to work on getting that dispensation for Mr. Pinstripes.

**Region 1 Finals
Eaton 4, Paonia 3**

REDS 000 030 0 — 3 5 0
EAGLES 011 020 X — 4 9 2
PH — Holtzinger (3-2, 8th), Carrasco (28th, 25th) and Jack Eversinger (28th, Miller (1st), Clint Childs (2 out in 5th), Miller — Chede (3-3)
BPS — Paul Loftis (4th), BER (28th, 45th), Mike Carrasco (1st, 5th, 11th, 18th, 18th, 35th) and Zack Hughes (1st, 11th, 18th, 18th, 35th) Carrasco (1 out in 5th), RBI — Carrasco (2), Hughes, Meyers

**Region 1 Semifinals
Eaton 17, Holy Family 0**

REDS 500 00 — 5 0 4
EAGLES 041 4x — 17 14 0
PHS — Dan Bunka (1, 7, 3, 10th, BER, 28th, 25th), Marco Vega (2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 35th), Marcus Hammar (3rd, 10th, 18th, 25th) and Jeff Fanning (5th — Josh Hanson (1st, 5th, 11th, 18th, 18th, 35th) and Zack Hughes (2nd — Josh Vetter, Scott Souther, Eric Haggard (3rd — Mike Carrasco, PH, Hughes (1 out in 1st), Todd Stancilitt (2 out in 4th), BER — Schoa (4th), Hughes (3rd), Vetter (3rd), Souther, Jason Smith, Jeff Meyers, Casey Wiederspan

Hughes picks perfect time to get hot

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

Eaton catcher Zack Hughes picked the time of the year to get hot.

In a bit of a slump leading into the postseason, Hughes has turned up his sweet swing.

Beginning with last Saturday's district tournament, Hughes has four home runs and 10 RBI in four playoff games.

His solo shot well over the center field fence against Paonia standout pitcher Nate Miller in the Class 3A Region 1 title game at Butch Butler Field on Saturday sent shock waves all the way to Grand Junction.

When Hughes hit the ball, he did a Sam Sosa hop. Not known to show his emotion, Hughes raised both arms into the air before giving his home-run trot. He then pumped fists in the air as he crossed home plate.

SON 1, DAD 0 ... Reds assistant coach Randy Sparkman got one up on Dad. Sparkman's Dad, Gary, is an assistant coach for Paonia.

CHAMP VS. CHAMP ... The regional championship game pitted two defending state champions from different classifications. Eaton is 3A's state champion from a year ago, while Paonia was the three-time defending state champion in 2A. The Eagles moved up a classification this season.

FAILED CHANCES ... The Eagles, who stranded eight runners, failed to score with bases loaded in the first two innings. "We (put) in a bad bracket. We feel it was the championship game. We had our chances. We just couldn't get that hit," Eagles coach Emmons said.

ALMOST ALWAYS AHEAD ... Paonia Lamar, in last year's state title game, are the only teams to take a lead into the fifth inning against the Reds during their current 44-game winning streak.

JUMPING JOSH ... Eaton's Josh Isakson, whose fastball was jumping all through the strike zone, was near perfect in the regional semifinal giving up just one walk to lead off fifth against Holy Family (12-7). He improved his record to 9-0 and has 40 strikeouts in 117 innings pitched this year.

FINAL CHAPTER ... Here's a final look at Miller's brilliant pitching career. Miller struck out 13 Reds and has signed to play for Mesa in Grand Junction. He ended his career with 527 strikeouts in 309 innings. He gave only 52 walks in four years. With a bat in his hands, Miller hit 33 home runs and knocked in 72 runs.



Hughes

North Weld Herald
May 20, 1999

A day for the record books



THE NUMBERS GAME!

The number on the back of Jeff Meyers jersey says it all for the Eaton Reds - No.1 in the State, and No.1 in consecutive wins (44). In the background, Jason Smith sports the number of Eaton victories this season.

Carrasco powers Reds to Final Four

North Weld Herald

May 20, 1999

by Duane M. Robson

Mike Carrasco stole a page from the Eaton girl's basketball team Saturday. The Lady Reds used the chant "We Believe" to propel themselves to a State Title earlier this year. Carrasco used that same sentiment to help down the Paonia Eagles 4-3 and send Eaton to their sixth straight final four appearance.

After breaking the State record for consecutive wins (43) earlier in the day, the Reds were matched up against the defending 2A State Champs, and their All-Everything pitcher Nate Miller.

Carrasco, Eaton's version of Mr. Baseball, went from goat to hero in a matter of minutes Saturday. By the time the dust had settled, he had staked his Reds to a 4-3 lead and shut the Eagles down for the win.

With the Reds on top 2-0 in the top of the fifth inning, starting pitcher Paul Loftis got into trouble by allowing a pair of Paonia hits. With one out, Eaton coach Jim Danley opted to replace Loftis with Carrasco, his best reliever. Ahead in the count 0-2, Carrasco left a fastball out over the plate, which was promptly deposited over the right field wall by first baseman Clint Childs. Childs' blast gave the Eagles their first lead of the game, and Miller a chance to do what no team has done in the past two years. Beat the Reds.

"It was supposed to be a fastball up and in that I left up and out," said

Carrasco about the home run. "He just put it in play and it got out of here." Carrasco vented his frustration by striking out the next two Eagles to end the inning.

"I felt bad," he continued. "I felt I let the team down." "All I wanted was a shot at redemption," said the four time All-State player.

His chance at redemption came just a few minutes later.

With two out and Jason Smith at first base via a walk, Carrasco got his chance in the bottom of the fifth. The senior reached down and yanked a low curve ball over the left field wall for a two run homer. The blast gave Eaton a 4-3 lead, one that they would never surrender.

"You've got to believe," said a smiling Carrasco. "You've got to believe you're going to come through or it won't happen. And it did!. It's such a good feeling."

Zack Hughes got the Reds on the board first with a towering lead off homer in the second inning. Jeff Meyers followed that up in the third by knocking in Casey Wiederspan, who had singled earlier. The 2-0 score stayed that way until the fireworks in the fifth inning.

In his final performance in a high school uniform, Miller gave up four runs on six hits and struck out 12 Reds batters. He will continue his career in the college ranks with Mesa State.

"It was a shame either team had to lose this game," lamented Coach Danley. "Miller is a truly outstanding pitcher. We knew we would only get a few pitches to hit, so I just told the kids "when you get em', don't miss em'."

"This is a great day for Eaton baseball," he continued, "and we're not done yet." "We'd love to win another championship, but as you saw here today, there are some very fine teams in the state. We're going to have to play great."

The Reds will continue their quest for a third State Title in four years by taking on Olathe this Friday at noon on the Campus of Regis University in Denver.

Isakson "As good as it gets"

by Duane M. Robson

There wasn't much doubt about the hype and buzz that surrounded Butch Butler Field in Greeley Saturday. The Eaton Reds, the No. 1 baseball team in the state and the defending State 3A Champions, were trying to break the Colorado State record for consecutive wins at 43 games.

The Eaton bats, poised to pound their way into the record books, did just that. The Reds lit up both Holy Family, and the scoreboard en-route to a 17-0 shellacking of the Tigers. However, with the game over and the new record firmly in the hands of the Reds, the talk was not about the dominance of their baseball team, nor was the amazing feat of 43 straight wins.

No, the buzz of the ballfield was the near perfect performance of Reds pitcher Josh Isakson.

Isakson came within one walk of a perfect game, one of the rarest accomplishments in all of baseball. In his five inning workout, the "Ace" of the Reds staff faced the

minimum number of batters (the player who walked was thrown out trying to steal), struck out eight of 15 batters faced, induced five ground ball outs and one lazy pop up to center.

Period!

No fuss. No muss. No messing around. Three up; three down.

"Josh was just great out there today," said Eaton coach Jim Danley. "That's as good a game as I've ever seen, and that's as close to a perfect game as I've ever seen." High praise from a man who's coached over 2000 games in 30 plus years.

Isakson didn't seem fazed at all by his stealing the thunder of the moment, opting instead to praise his teammates. "Our hitters had a lot of the thunder today," said the quiet star. "Pitching with a six run lead in the second inning makes it easy."

"I was getting good movement today," said Josh. "I don't think I was throwing any harder than usual." Isakson has now compiled a 10-0 record in this, his senior year.

"I just go out there and do what I can, then let the guys play behind me," he finished.

Isakson has been exceptionally stellar as of late, tossing a one hit shutout a week earlier in Eaton's District Semi-final game. He's also only given up one run in his last seven starts. The question of whether he was peaking, or rising to the occasion was answered by his coach.

"He's doing both," said Danley. "He's one of those kids who's come along slowly in his career. He's worked hard, he's battled, matured, and become a mental warrior out there. He's grown up and I'm very proud of him. He stepped up in a big, big game, a record breaking performance, and pitched the game of his life," praised the coach.

The game itself was never much of a contest. The Reds batters made sure of that.

Catcher Zack Hughes got the scoring started with a two run blast after two were out in the first inning. Eaton would push across

four more runs before taking the field in the second inning. They batted around again in their half of the second, posting four more runs and taking a 10-0 lead.

After picking up a run in the third, the Reds pounded out six more runs in the fourth, sending 10 batters to the plate. The scoring was capped off by a grand slam off the bat of Todd Stanclift. The sophomore hit a towering homer over the left field fence that went as high as it did long.

Stanclift finished the game with four RBI's while Hughes had three. Mike Carrasco reached base and scored each of the four times he came to bat.

The win would match the Reds against former 2A State Champion Paonia, who went on to defeat Falcon 9-1 in the game following. The winner will then advance to the State Semi-finals Friday at Regis University in Denver.

North Weld Herald
May 20, 1999



NEAR PERFECT - JOSH ISAKSON CAME AS CLOSE TO THROWING A PERFECT GAME AS YOU CAN GET LAST SATURDAY AGAINST HOLY FAMILY. ISAKSON FACED THE MINIMUM OVER FIVE INNINGS (15 BATTERS), STRUCK OUT EIGHT, AND INDUCED FIVE GROUND BALL OUTS. THE SENIOR HAS ALLOWED ZERO RUNS AND ONLY ONE HIT IN HIS LAST TWO PLAYOFF STARTS.

44 and Counting

North Weld Herald
May 20, 1999



A smiling Todd Stanclift gets a handshake from Coach Jim Danley as he circles the bases following his fourth-inning grand slam that capped a 17-0 Eaton win over Holy Family. The win vaulted Eaton into the Colorado High School record books with 43 consecutive wins.

*This is a great day
for Eaton Baseball!*

**- Eaton Coach
Jim Danley**

By Duane M. Robson

The Eaton Reds baseball team broke the Colorado High School record for consecutive wins (43) last Saturday with a 17-0 thumping of Holy Family at Butch Butler Field in Greeley. Eaton then squeaked by a tough Paonia club 4-3 in their quarterfinal match-up to advance to the final four of the State Tournament.

The Reds (20-0) will square off against Olathe (19-3) at Friday noon

on the campus of Regis University in Denver. A victory over the Pirates would send Eaton to their second consecutive title match, against either Faith Christian (22-0) or Lamar (17-0).

The championship game will be played this Saturday, 9:30am at All-City Stadium in Denver. Eaton is the defending State Champion, and the Reds have won the title three of the last four years.

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 19, 1999

tribuneopinion

Area youth, adults working

▲ Eaton's baseball team, area track stars impressive

Weld County athletes are always impressive.

This past weekend, Weld County outdid itself. Not only did Weld student-athletes bring home plenty of hardware from the state track meets, but the Eaton baseball team broke the state record for consecutive wins with a victory over Holy Family Saturday.

The Reds continued their attempt to gain back-to-back state titles with an impressive 4-3 win over late that day, facing one of the best pitchers in the state. Eaton's winning streak stands at 44 games.

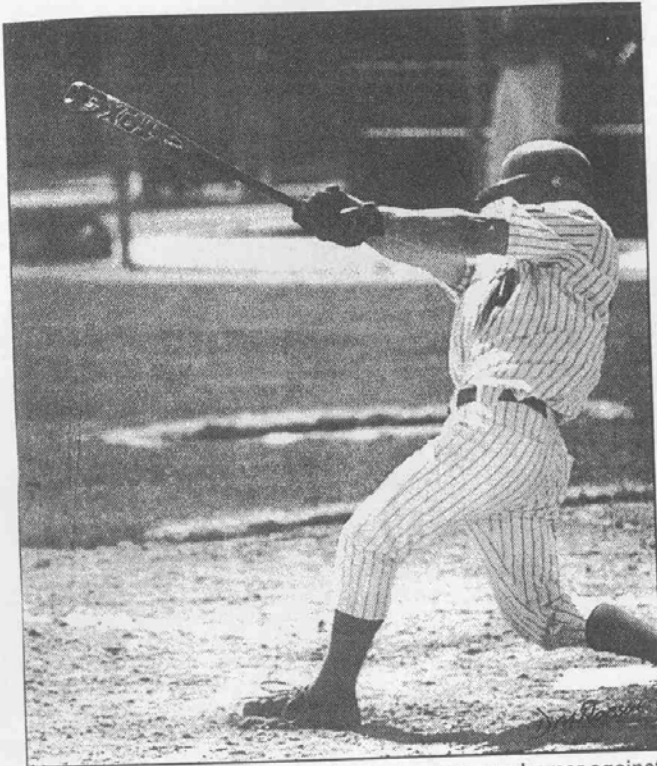
In baseball, state titles are rare. Back-to-back titles are even more rare. Eaton has a chance this weekend to have back-to-back undefeated seasons capped with back-to-back state titles.

It speaks equally well of Weld County that the record Eaton broke was held by Valley during the 1979-81 seasons (Grand Junction also shared the title.).

This record shows an amazing team effort. It shows pitching, depth, impressive coaching. It shows the pride and determination of the whole team.

While we wish Eaton well in its pursuit of its state title, Weld's track athletes have already earned their honors. These individuals and teams have shown the state the speed, grace and strength of our county, and we are all proud.

North Weld Herald
May 20, 1999

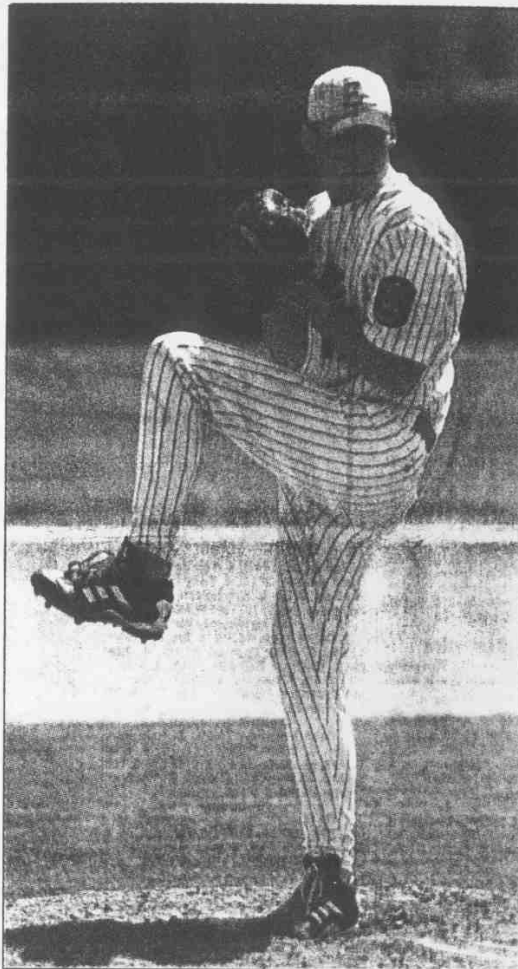


Catcher Zack Hughes drills a first inning, two-run homer against Holy Family in Eaton's 17-0 record-breaking victory Saturday. Hughes also jump-started the offense in game two with a lead-off solo shot in the second inning of their 4-3 win over Paonia.

prebaseball

Eaton pitcher Josh Isakson winds up to deliver a pitch in the Reds' 17-0 victory over Holy Family at Butch Butler Field on Saturday. The win was Eaton's 43rd straight, which set a new state record.

RICHARD M. HACKETT
Greeley Tribune



Secret is out on Reds' ace

Senior enjoys best season

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

Eaton Reds pitcher Josh Isakson is the true example of good things happening to those who wait.

3A FINAL FOUR

FRIDAY

at Regis University
■ Olathe (19-3) vs. Eaton (20-0), noon
■ Faith Christian (22-0) vs. Lamar (17-0), 2:30 pm.

SATURDAY

at All-City Stadium
■ Championship at 9:30 a.m.

As a junior last season, Isakson was 3-0 but logged just 7½ innings and didn't pitch the second half of the season.

When the opposing teams look at Isakson's numbers this year, they've got to be wondering where the Reds came up with this one. Isakson has been about as unhittable as you can get this season.

With his nasty sidearm motion that delivers a moving fastball in the 83 mph range, the right handed Isakson has become a nightmare to hitters.

The 6-foot-3, 185 pound senior is 9-0 with a stingy 0.70 earned-run average. In a team-leading 40 innings, Isakson has fanned 40 batters and has given up only 16 hits and four earned runs. Those people who said the No. 1 Reds

would be hurting for a stopper when Alex Ochoa (8-0, 1.21 ERA) graduated last year didn't know anything about Isakson.

Reds coach Jim Danley said Isakson wasn't ready last year as a junior, but he knew he had somebody special when Isakson beat Greeley West in the state playoffs last summer during the Legion B state tournament.

"If you use a kid who is not ready, mentally and physically he loses his confidence," said Danley, who didn't use Isakson after the 11th game last year. "I felt like he needed last summer to take that next big step."

Isakson wasn't sure what to expect in summer baseball.

"Last summer we were three or four (pitchers) deep. I knew I was going to really have to work at it in the off-season," Isakson said. "I wanted to pitch quite a bit my senior year. I lifted some weights and ran quite a bit."

Isakson will either start for the defending state champion Reds against Olathe in the Class 3A baseball state semifinals at Regis University at noon on Friday. If the Reds win their 45th straight game against Olathe without Isakson, he could get the start in the championship game against the

WAITING HIS TURN

A look at the two year career of Eaton pitcher Josh Isakson.

Yr.	W	L	H	IP	SO	BB	ERA
Jr.	3	0	11	7½	10	3	1.91
Sr.	9	0	16	40	40	18	0.70

winner of No. 2 Lamar or No. 3 Faith Christian at All-City Stadium in Denver at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Olathe coach Joe Archuleta, who is making his second straight trip to the Final Four, said Isakson's success doesn't surprise him.

"They do such a good job with their kids over there. They kind of reload every year," Archuleta said. "Those kids step in there knowing they're going to make a run for it."

Isakson said he wants a chance to pitch in the Final Four.

"I just want to throw. I don't really care which game or whatever, as long as it helps the team to win," Isakson said. "Last year I sat there on the bench and I warmed up in the bullpen. I almost went in, but I didn't get to. I

want to get in there and throw."

Isakson, a quiet farm boy who lives outside of Pierce, just wants to contribute. He's done more than that in the postseason for the Reds. In the district semifinal against Platte Valley, Isakson struck out eight and surrendered one hit in the Reds' 16-0 win.

In last Saturday's regional semifinal against Holy Family at Butch Butler Field, Isakson pitched a no-hitter and allowed just one ball out of the infield.

One walk short of a perfect game, Isakson's eight-strikeout masterpiece was a big highlight in a historical game that saw the Reds break the state baseball record for consecutive wins with 43.

Reds catcher Zack Hughes said Isakson has surprised a lot of people this season.

"Everybody that he did pitch against (last year) just remembered that mostly all he threw were fastballs," Hughes said. "Now he's got so much movement on his fastball."

Hughes said Isakson's fastball picked up movement last summer during the Legion B season.

"He worked real hard over the summer and he's gotten so much better in the last couple of years," Hughes said. "I knew he was going to be real hard to hit after last summer. You've got this big, huge monster on the hill throwing sidearm and you don't know if he's going to hit you half the time or not."

Danley said Isakson made up his mind to work out hard in the off-season.

"He's gotten real lean, hard and strong," Danley said. "He deserves the credit. He's got great work ethic. He's become a real superior competitor, too."

Danley said Isakson's movement on his fastball, which can be attrib-



A kid like this will go up and defeat college hitters because he's got big-time movement on the ball. He has the chance to be very successful at the next level.

— Jim Danley

on Josh Isakson



uted to his sidearm delivery, is difficult for high school players to hit.

"High school kids don't see fastballs that have anything but a wiggle on them at the most," Danley said. "Some of them wiggle a little bit, but 95 percent of them are just as straight as the white line on U.S. 85. He gets

that great side spin on the ball. He presents a problem that high school kids don't see or solve very often. One of the clues to how good he is, is the fact that our hitters don't want to hit against him in batting practice."

With the success Isakson's experienced this season and with a frame that could easily carry another 30 pounds, he could have a future with a college baseball program. Isakson carries a 3.89 grade-point average and has been accepted in the architecture program at the University of Colorado, but a few small colleges have expressed interest in his pitching.

"This kid is a hidden nugget. He needs to add a slider or a knuckle curve," Danley said. "A kid like this will go up and defeat college hitters because he's got big-time movement on the ball. He has the chance to be very successful at the next level."

Isakson isn't through being successful at the prep level yet. With two games left in his Eaton career, the kid who waited his turn wants to go out on top.

FITTING FINALE

Baseball avoids getting lost in the usual championship shuffle in late spring. Yes! But now this — Class 3A could very well turn out to be the best of the bunch.

This is new ground, you know. Colorado's 1998-99 scholastic-sports year will be capped Saturday with three diamond doings at All-City Field, baseball title games in Classes 5A, 4A and 3A. It's a year in which schoolboy baseball smartly and, thankfully, avoided being contested opposite lacrosse, soccer, track and field, and others.

Cool.

We can catch baseball fever — and nothing else. It also presents an opportunity to suggest the following: The most interesting, if not the best, play beginning with Friday's semifinals likely is in 3A.

Indeed, of the eight other teams in higher classes, 5A's Cherry Creek is on the Drive for Five (big-school state titles in succession, a Colorado first) and a sally Nixot is back to defend in 4A; however, 3A's total four, all of which also made the semifinals last season, has three unbeaten ballclubs, one

that has won the most consecutive games in state history and an aggregate won-lost mark in 1999 of 78-3.

Fact is, a combination of bad weather down the stretch, overall weak pitching that made the usual slugfests even more ridiculous and a talent base that was fairly balanced has transformed the last schoolboy season of the 1990s, particularly its upper echelon, into one that easily could have transcended the game's classification system instituted 49 years ago.



Neil H. Devlin

High Schools

It says here defending 3A champion Eaton and 1998 runner-up Lamar could have competed in any league — and done well. And, when considering the recent regular season, districts and regionals in 5A and 4A, it's certainly not a stretch to think Faith Christian and Olathe could have held their own, too.

Here's why:

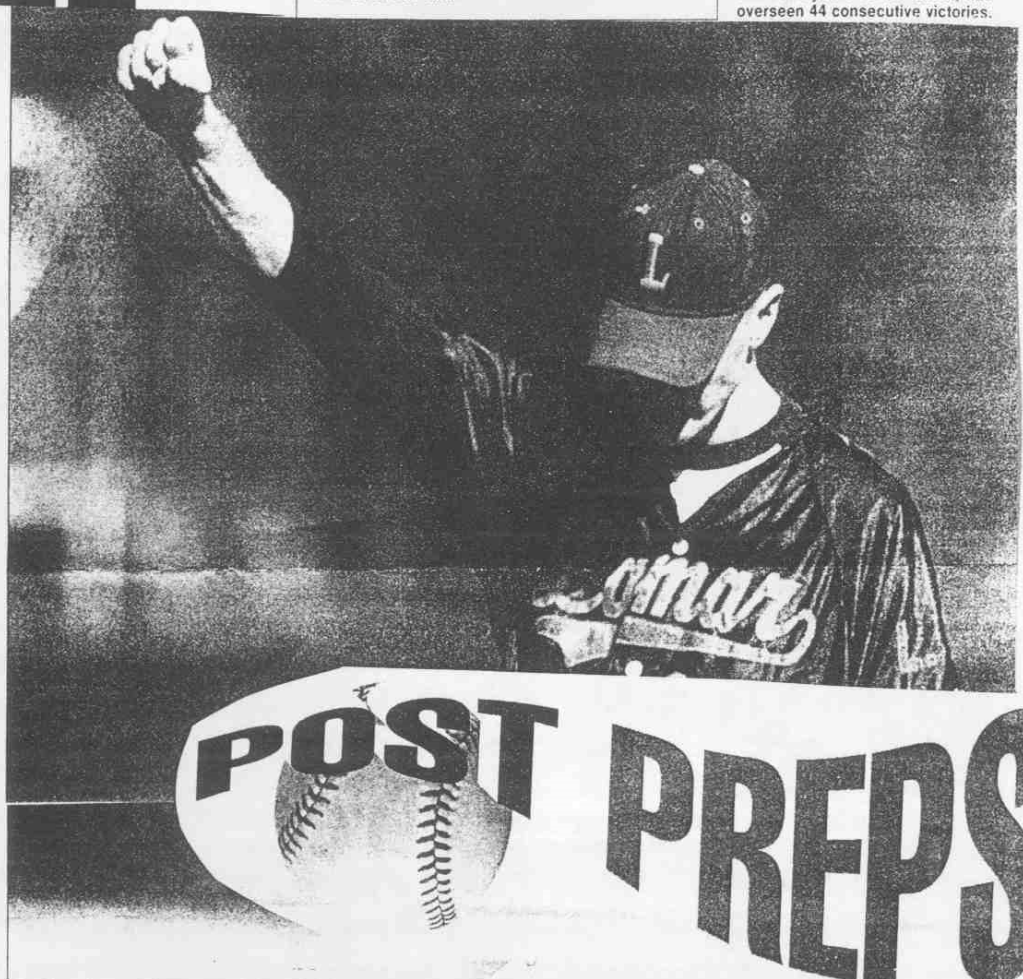
■ Eaton, the defending champion, enters on a 44-game roll, tops in Colorado annals. The Reds' record just since the 1997 semifinals (17-6 to Kent Denver), and their most recent victory, a 4-3 decision of Paonia, came against Nate Miller, who finished his career 45-3.

Warning! These are seasoned Reds.

"I think the kids are hardened," Eaton coach Jim Danley said. "All of this with the streak, being undefeated. . . I think we're ready."

This is one of the most prolific offensive teams today. Run production has been little problem. For the season, 240 Reds have crossed the plate. In fact, Eaton has failed to tally in double figures just six times in two seasons.

Senior third baseman Mike Carrasco, a Post All-City pick a year ago, is a serious player-of-the-year candidate with a .508 average, nine home runs



Mike Thompson and Lamar are back for another shot at the Class 3A title. Play begins Friday at Regis University.

and 32 runs batted in. He's also the closer on the pitching staff.

Eaton (20-0) also boasts Jason Smith (.411), Jeff Meyers (.487, 35 RBI) and Zach Hughes (.459, 35 RBI). What's more, Eaton has a team batting average of .448.

Josh Isakson has gone 9-0 on the mound, and Paul Loftis (4-0), Todd Stancliff (3-0) and Tanner Tateyama (2-0) provide depth.

Defensively, Eaton could be as sound as any squad, notably in handling routine plays and avoiding mistakes.

Said Danley, "I think the kids pretty much are ready to go out and play a baseball game."

■ Olathe (19-3), meanwhile, the Reds' opening foe and a 4-1 loser in 1998 to Lamar in the semis, returns minus six starters but from a tough Western Slope loop.

The Pirates lost twice to Paonia and once to 4A Rifle. Coach Joe Archuleta has reworked a new group into contenders.

Archuleta, with seven years on the job at Olathe, insists "hard work and keeping pressure on people" have been vital into another shot at a title.

Landon Wareham (.453, two homers, 18 RBI), Tyler Lott (.421, 33 RBI), Greg Bollinger (.403, 29 RBI) and Jess Kuemmerlin (.421, 26 RBI) have done most of the damage at the plate.

BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

CLASS 5A
SEMIFINALS, Friday at All-City Field
 Highlands Ranch (17-1-1) vs. Cherry Creek (16-5), noon
 Fairview (11-6) vs. Arvada (17-1), 2:30 p.m.
CHAMPIONSHIP, Saturday at All-City Field
 Winners at 2:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A
SEMIFINALS, Friday at All-Star Park, Lakewood
 ThunderRidge (14-5) vs. Dakota Ridge (16-4), noon
 Alameda (15-7) vs. Niwot (20-1), 2:30 p.m.
CHAMPIONSHIP, Saturday at All-City Field
 Winners at noon

CLASS 3A
SEMIFINALS, Friday at Regis University
 Olathe (19-3) vs. Eaton (20-0), noon
 Faith Christian (22-0) vs. Lamar (17-0), 2:30 p.m.
CHAMPIONSHIP, Saturday at All-City Field
 Winners at 9:30 a.m.



Jim Danley, the Eaton coach, has overseen 44 consecutive victories.

Denver," Savages coach Dave Fassiotto said, "that has been their mind-set. They know what kind of ball you have to play."

■ Faith Christian would occur. The Eagles, who have had a big sports year on the mid-range level, have tasted some success behind dominating play. And they like it.

"It's amazing all four of us got back here," Eagles coach Ralph Nance said. "I like playing Lamar and Eaton. They bring great crowds. . . I'm looking forward to it."

A 22-0 run has been peppered with foes in the upper classes. Hence, Nance, in his seventh year at the helm, "knew we could play with some people . . . if we got behind, we just bounced back."

Statistically, there almost has been no out in the Eagles' lineup. The lowest batting average for a starter is .360. At the top, No. 3 hitter Scott Nance (.460, 35 RBI), the coach's son, has been on a season-long tear. The top two in the order, Jared Gonzales (.508) and Chris Polik (.492) have combined to score 58 runs. Cleanup hitter Andy McIntyre (.520, 21 RBI) has four homers, as does Gonzales.

Gonzales (2.27 ERA) and Paul Faust (1.74) have eaten most of the innings on the mound.

Said Nance, "It's been a good run for us this year."

And not only for the Eagles, but for all of 3A

On the mound, Lott, Wareham and Tyler Martinez have combined for a 3.11 ERA.

"For us against Eaton," Archuleta said, "we can't make any mistakes and we must get some pitching. Offensively, we're going to have to move the ball around, get some hits. We can't leave people out there."

■ In case you might have forgotten, there was Lamar before Eaton. That is, Eaton's run may be glorious, but the Savages, who fell 3-1 in the 3A finale last season, won five titles from 1989-94. They know a little about winning in the Southeast, too.

Definitely the dominant one-two punch in 3A (if not in all of Colorado), left-hander Brad Stiles (7-0, 1.55 ERA) and Mike Thompson (6-0, 0.36) will be difficult to handle. Stiles struck out 15 Reds in a championship defeat in 1998. Chad Schibbehat (4-0, 1.24 ERA) is there if needed.

At the dish, Lamar (17-0) has piled up 206 runs. Bowie Frost has been a monster with a .534 average, five homers, 14 doubles and 36 RBI. Mike Kulp (.549), Stiles (.538), Damien Herr (.500) and Mike Thompson (.381) provide additional pop.

No, it's not a secret these guys are back. They knew they could come back for another try.

And it's here.

"Ever since we walked off the field last year in



**T.M.
Fasano**

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 20, 1999

Obi-Wan Kenobi? Give me Eaton, Lamar

STAR WARS, SCHMAR Wars. Who cares about some phantom menace when the best ticket this weekend could be a Lamar-Eaton state championship baseball game.

If Eaton beats Olathe, and Lamar gets by Faith Christian in the semifinal round of the Class 3A Baseball State Tournament on Friday at Regis University, you must drive down to All-City Stadium in Denver to watch

the Reds play the Savages in the state title game at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

You must.

A ticket for a Lamar-Eaton state final, not some movie, would be worth camping out for days. Who cares about some gazillion dollar prequel that will still be showing in theaters in December. A Lamar-Eaton state final would be a sequel to last year's state title classic that saw the Reds nip the Savages 3-1.

There's enough history between these two teams to make a movie.

In 1985 with current Detroit Tigers pitcher Doug Brocaill on the mound for Lamar, the Reds beat Brocaill and won by one run in the regional finals.

Four years later, in 1989, the Savages squeaked past Eaton 3-2 in the state semifinals.

The two powerhouses didn't meet again until 1997 when Eaton beat

Lamar sophomore pitcher Mike Thompson 5-4 in the regional semifinals.

And last year, despite Lamar's Brad Stiles striking out 15 Reds and hitting a home run, the Reds managed to win 3-1.

The Reds have the upper hand in the series three games to one, but

every game has been an edge-of-your seat, surround-sound, action-packed thriller.

If the two teams make it to the championship game again, it could be the best game yet.

Let's see, Lamar would love to snap Eaton's state-record winning streak, which would be at 45 games.

Lamar's Thompson and Stiles, who are following in the footsteps of former stars Brocaill and Scott Elarton (ace reliever for the Houston Astros), have this thing called payback on their minds.

Eaton coach Jim Danley considers Lamar the favorite to win the tournament because of Stiles and Thompson, both of whom are expected to hear their names called in the Major League Baseball amateur draft in June.

"I will say that if you go into a two-game set with two draftable pitchers, I don't know how you'd be considered anything but the favorite," Danley said. "I don't have any draftable pitchers. Olathe has no draftable pitchers. Faith Christian doesn't have any. Give me two draftable pitchers and I'll take the favorite."

The Reds have the incentive of not only winning their fourth state titles in six years, but back-to-back undefeated seasons along with extending the winning streak are things they don't want to give up.

Lamar coach Dave Fassiotto, who is friendlier than a vacuum cleaner salesman at your door, has been involved in all four Lamar-Eaton games either as an assistant or a head coach.

"I think it will be a hell of a game. People who didn't go to the game last year missed a hell of a baseball game," Fassiotto said. "If we both get there, we both know how to play the game."

Fassiotto, an assistant for 15 years and the head coach the past five years for the Savages, knows all about the tradition the two teams carry to every game. While Eaton has dominated the state tournament the past six years, the Savages did the same by winning five state titles in six years from 1989-94.

"We'd just like to get back in it and have another shot at it. We're hungry," Fassiotto said.

During the two-year winning streak, it seems as though all the Reds have to do is show up and the opposing team shakes in fear. That's not the case when Lamar faces the Reds.

"I think some teams are intimidated by them. We played with them last year and the year before," Fassiotto said. "I don't think we're intimidated by them and I don't think we're in awe of them."

Fassiotto said Eaton deserves its due, though.

"They're a pretty great ball club. I bet some teams when they see that red machine lining up over there and they're looking at (Jason) Smith, (Mike) Carrasco, (Jeff) Meyers, (Zack) Hughes, (Todd) Stancliff and (Paul) Lofuis, they're going, 'Damn, look at those guys over there.' I bet people are in awe of them," Fassiotto said. "If I was a 14-year-old kid or a 15-year-old kid and I'm looking across there and I know they've won 44 (straight) games, I'm going, 'How are we ever going to beat these guys?'"

The Lamar teams from 1993-94 won 38 straight games, so Fassiotto knows how difficult it is to run the table like Eaton has.

"That's a tremendous feat to go win 44 ball games in a row," said Fassiotto, whose Savages are 35-2 the past two years. "I respect them because I know that's tough duty. It's hard to get guys up for every ball game."

So, the stage is set. All we need are the two main attractions to come through in the semifinals so we can see a four-star feature on Saturday.

"If we get there I think it'll be fun," Fassiotto said. "If Lamar and Eaton happen to be in it, true baseball people ought to be at the 9:30 game. I don't think they'll be disappointed."

And for those people who couldn't get tickets to that new "Star Wars" movie, you'll get more for your seven bucks by watching two of the best baseball programs the state's ever offered.

And in the name of Obi-Wan Kenobi, may the force of a Lamar-Eaton state final be with you.

T.M. Fasano is a sportswriter for the Greeley Tribune. He can be reached at 352-0211. Ext. 287.

Same dance, different partners in Class 3A semifinals

Eaton, Lamar favored, but Faith, Olathe ready

By Michael BeDan
Special to the News

Bring 'em all back. Do it again. Eaton (20-0), ranked No. 1, defending state champs.

Lamar (18-0), ranked No. 2, lost to Eaton in the finals last year.

Faith Christian (22-0), ranked No. 3, lost to Eaton in the semifinals last year.

Olathe (18-3), ranked No. 7, lost to Lamar in the semifinals last year.

The Class 3A baseball semifinals.

"I think probably the best four teams are here," Lamar coach Dave Fassiotto said.

The same four teams. Same Regis University diamond. Different matchups. Eaton gets Olathe at noon Friday; Lamar gets Faith at 2:30.

"I guess if you had to pick, you'd rather play the No. 2 team," Faith Christian coach Ralph Nance said.

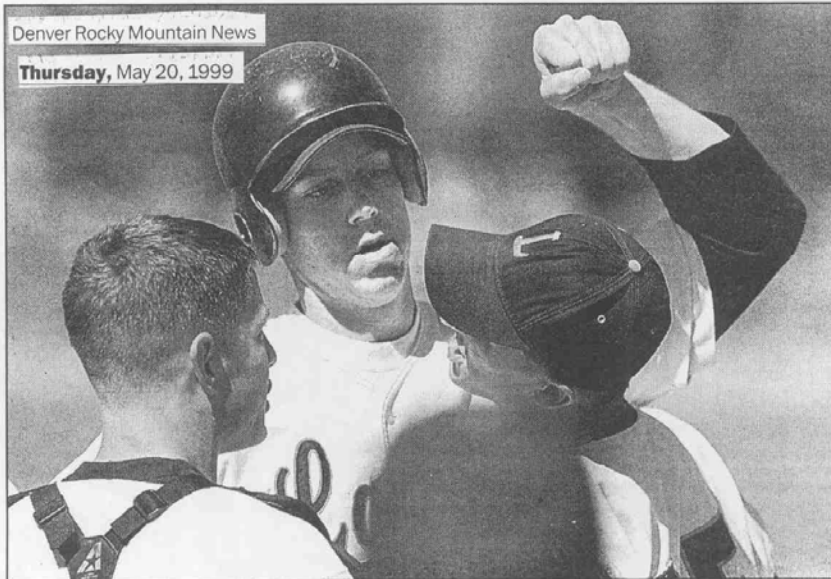
But the No. 2 team has two No. 1 pitchers. The lefty, Brad Stiles, struck out 15 in the championship game last year. The righty, Mike Thompson, pitched seven innings in Lamar's 4-1 victory over Olathe in the semis.

"A lot of guys say, 'I wish I had your problem,'" Fassiotto said.

The problem — and it's not Lamar's problem — is guessing which pitcher the Savages will throw at you.

"I might as well let teams get ready for both guys," Fassiotto said.

"There is not much you can do to prepare for them except set the (pitching) machine high," Faith



Brad Stiles of Lamar is a factor with his bat or with his left arm as a pitcher. He is one the Savages' two aces as they get set for a semifinal date with Faith Christian on Friday at Regis University.

Christian first baseman Scott Nance said.

And getting ready for Eaton? Yeah, right. The Reds don't lose. Not since 1997. Not in a state record 44 consecutive games.

"The streak helps us," Eaton third baseman Mike Carrasco said. "It may intimidate teams. If we get ahead, they think it's over. But teams always give us their best."

Olathe shortstop Landon Wareham said it's all a state of mind. "We believe we can win,"

Wareham said. "We are not intimidated by them. We have all played a lot of baseball. We've been playing since we were kids."

So have the Reds. "We've been playing together since T-ball age," Carrasco said. "Some of us used to live on the same block, and we played at the end of the block in a sandlot."

Carrasco is Eaton's closer, and he lost and won the same game Saturday. After giving up a home run in the top of the fifth inning that gave Paonia a 3-2 lead, Car-

rasco belted a two-run homer in the bottom of the inning against All-Colorado pitcher Nate Miller for the final margin and a trip to Friday's semifinals.

"When I gave up the homer, I thought I let the team down," Carrasco said. "But I wasn't too nervous that we were going to lose. We are not used to losing."

"I thrive on the clutch situations, and I trained myself at the park when I was a kid. You know, bottom of the ninth, two outs."

Sound familiar?

CLASS 3A

No. 1 Eaton (20-0)

The defending state champion Reds have won a state record 44 consecutive games . . . Eaton, in the semifinals for the seventh straight year, is playing for its fourth title in six years (1994, 1995, 1998) . . . The Reds have played in five of the past six championship games, missing only in 1997 . . . Seven starters returned from last year . . . Eaton has scored in double figures in all but three games . . . The Reds have outscored four postseason opponents 45-3 . . . SS Jeff Meyers and 3B Mike Carrasco are four-year starters . . . Carrasco was an All-Colorado selection a year ago . . . Eaton has been ranked No. 1 from start to finish in each of the past two seasons.

No. 2 Lamar (18-0)

Lamar, the 1998 state runner-up, has won three state titles in the 1990s (1991, 1993, 1994), all at 4A . . . In last season's championship LHP Brad Stiles struck out 15 and hit a solo home run . . . It was his only loss of the season against five wins . . . Lamar managed only two hits against Eaton in the finals . . . Lamar has yielded just five runs in four playoff games . . . The Savages are 36-2 over the past two seasons . . . Lamar has been ranked No. 2 from start to finish in each of the past two seasons.

No. 3 Faith Christian (22-0)

The Eagles made their first semifinal appearance a year ago . . . Faith Christian is after its first baseball crown . . . Seven starters returned from last season . . . P Paul Faust is a transfer from 2A Maranatha Christian . . . The Eagles began the year ranked No. 9.

No. 7 Olathe (18-3)

Olathe is in its third semifinals of the 1990s (1992, 1998), fourth overall . . . Olathe's only title game appearance came in 1994, a 3-1 loss to Eaton . . . The Pirates were unranked to start the season, but knocked off highly regarded Paonia in the districts to gain a top seed in the regionals, which probably kept them away from No. 1 Eaton. The Reds beat Paonia in the regional final last week.

— Gerry Valerio

**CLASS 5A
HIGHLANDS RANCH (17-1)**

City: Highlands Ranch
Mascot: Falcons
League: Centennial
Coach: Mike Charron

STARTING LINEUP					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Jesse Crain	Sr.	SS	.521	8	20
Matt Bikus	Jr.	1B	.373	2	13
Grant Mayer	Sr.	CF	.515	12	32
Tony Piazza	Sr.	C	.413	3	21
Logan Gerken	Jr.	LF	.554	6	37
Tom Crouch	Sr.	2B	.507	5	14
Ben Sauter	Jr.	3B	.328	1	13
Karl Grotluschen	Sr.	RF	.381	2	8

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	W-L	ERA	SO	
Tom Abell	Sr.	1-1	4.29	27	
Matt McChesney	Sr.	5-1	4.40	29	
Jesse Crain	Sr.	5-2	4.29	63	

Reserves: Britt Canton, Jr., P.; Jeremy Doyle, Jr., C; Matt Goettsche, Jr., Inf.; Jake Kessler, Jr., P; Geoff Knutson, Jr., C; Joe Korn, Sr., OF; Nick Petrosky, Jr., OF; Clay Shonkwiler, Sr., 1B.

City: Arvada
Mascot: Reds
League: Jefferson County
Coach: Mark Magdaleno

STARTING LINEUP					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Jesse Woskowicz	Jr.	2B	.375	0	9
Ryan Younger	So.	SS	.444	0	4
Don Heer	Jr.	C	.488	5	27
Joe Little	Jr.	1B	.610	6	24
Jake Berry	Sr.	CF	.358	2	15
Ryan Miller	Sr.	LF	.386	3	12
Nick Bushere	Jr.	DH	.400	0	3
Sean Ortiz	Jr.	3B	.200	0	3
Pat Springston	Sr.	RF	.400	3	19

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	W-L	ERA	SO	
Matt Gilbreath	Jr.	2-0	1.15	7	
Jake Little	Jr.	5-1	2.60	29	
Jon Kurtz	Sr.	6-0	3.51	32	
Tyler Shepple	Sr.	4-0	1.85	43	

Reserves: Aaron Arnold, Sr., SS; Bill Bidwell, Sr., 3B; Brian Crabati, So., 3B; Norm Pitz, Sr., C; Angelo Telitz, Jr., OF; Zach Krenke, So., OF.

ARVADA (17-1)

City: Greenwood Village
Mascot: Bruins
League: Centennial
Coach: Marc Johnson

STARTING LINEUP					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Alan Strain	Sr.	SS	.425	4	24
Jordan Cantalamessa	Sr.	2B	.333	2	21
Clark Rudden	So.	3D	.471	3	21
Tom Miller	Jr.	C	.397	6	29
Doug Helmstaedter	Sr.	RF	.444	2	21
Jason Siler	Sr.	1B	.491	1	21
D. Williams	Jr.	LF	.509	1	15
David Blinco	Sr.	DH	.462	0	3
Pat Reiman	Sr.	CF	.302	1	10

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	W-L	ERA	SO	
Brian King	Sr.	6-1	1.85	49	
Rik Bowman	Sr.	5-2	5.63	29	

Reserves: David Aardsma, Jr., P.; David Baile, Jr., C; Ben Earnest, Sr., P; Mike Gravit, Sr., P; Josh Heinrich, Jr., OF; Mike King, Sr., P; Tommy Lee, Sr., 1B; David Skarka, Sr., Inf.

FAIRVIEW (15-6)

City: Boulder

City: Highlands Ranch
Mascot: Grizzlies
League: Prairie
Coach: Joe White/Dave Mumper

STARTING LINEUP					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Colin Parsons	Jr.	SS	.516	2	21
Jared Edelen	Jr.	P	.462	4	17
Brandon Gate	Jr.	CF	.316	2	8
Phil Volker	Jr.	RF	.484	7	27
Mike Watson	Jr.	1B	.405	2	12
Kevin Mackey	Fr.	LF	.314	1	13
Brian Apell	Jr.	3B	.269	1	9
Jeff Overman	Jr.	C	.245	1	11
Rand LeMarinel	So.	2B	.213	0	5

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	W-L	ERA	SO	
Jared Edelen	Jr.	6-0	2.33	78	

THUNDERRIDGE (14-5)

City: Lakewood
Mascot: Pirates
League: Jefferson County
Coach: Derek Van Tassel

STARTING LINEUP					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
James Milford	Jr.	RF	.265	0	2
Nathan Miller	Sr.	2B	.254	1	8
David Wessels	Jr.	SS	.532	4	29
Matt Sisneros	Sr.	P	.544	2	18
Jason Jones	Sr.	C	.318	3	17

ALAMEDA (15-7)

City: Niwot
Mascot: Cougars
League: Tri-Valley
Coach: Bob Bote

STARTING LINEUP					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
David Ross	Sr.	LF	.323	3	17
Luke Kingsley	Sr.	RF	.435	0	14
Danny Bote	Jr.	SS	.452	3	22
Matt Barker	Jr.	P	.529	8	38
Curt Clegg	Sr.	1B	.433	4	22
Brad Dayhuff	Jr.	3B	.439	2	17
Nick Lewis	Sr.	C	.362	6	20
Scott Larson	Sr.	CF	.389	5	13
Mike Moat	Jr.	2B	.237	1	9

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	W-L	ERA	SO	
Matt Barker	Jr.	8-0	1.60	59	

**CLASS 3A
EATON (20-0)**

City: Eaton
Mascot: Reds
League: Northern Plains
Coach: Jim Danley

LEADERS					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Jason Smith	Sr.	OF	.411	2	16
Jeff Meyers	Sr.	SS	.487	5	35
Miek Carrasco	Sr.	3B	.508	9	32
Zack Hughes	Jr.	C	.459	7	35
Paul Loftis	Sr.	OF	.379	2	20
Scott Souther	So.	2B	.367	2	13
Todd Stanciliff	So.	DH	.475	2	15
Casey Wiederspan	Jr.	OF	.457	2	23
Josh Yarber	Jr.	1B	.473	1	20

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	W-L	ERA	SO	
Josh Isakson	Sr.	9-0	0.70	40	
Todd Stanciliff	So.	3-0	2.0	25	
Mike Carrasco	Sr.	2-0	1.1	22	

City: Olathe
Mascot: Pirates
League: Western Slope
Coach: Joe Archuleta

LEADERS					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Landon Wareham	Sr.	Inf.	.453	2	18
Kyler Lott	Sr.	OF	.421	2	33
Greg Bollinger	Sr.	Inf.	.403	1	29
Jess Kuenmerlin	Sr.	C	.421	4	26
Jason Smith	Sr.	Inf.	.331	3	19
Jose Alvarez	Sr.	Inf.	.360	0	13

LAMAR (17-0)

City: Lamar
Mascot: Savages
League: Pikes Peak
Coach: Dave Frossotto

LEADERS					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Mike Kulp	Sr.	C	.549	34	25
Brad Stiles	Sr.	P	.538	3	16
Bowie Frost	Sr.	SS	.534	5	36
Mike Thompson	Sr.	OF	.381	0	16
A.J. Aguilera	So.	2B	.306	1	6

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	W-L	ERA	SO	
Brad Stiles	Sr.	7-0	1.55	86	
Mike Thompson	Sr.	6-0	0.36	74	
Ghad Schibbtehut	Sr.	4-0	1.24	27	

FAITH CHRISTIAN (22-0)

City: Arvada
Mascot: Eagles
League: Metropolitan
Coach: Ralph Nance

LEADERS					
Name	Yr.	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Jared Gonzales	Sr.	OF	.508	4	26
Chris Polik	Jr.	SS	.492	2	17
Scott Nance	Sr.	1B	.460	3	35
Andy McIntyre	Sr.	DH	.520	4	21
Austin Moreland	Jr.	C	.417	0	13
Zeb Masters	Sr.	3B	.377	0	17
Travis Bartell	Sr.	OF	.438	1	10
Chuck Hancock	Jr.	2B	.381	0	10
Luke Eha	Sr.	OF	.360	0	5

PITCHING					
Name	Yr.	ERA	SO		
Paul Faust	Jr.	1.74	73		
Jared Gonzales	Sr.	2.27	61		
Scott Nance	Jr.	0.74	17		

Ready for a Red assault

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 20, 1999



Eaton would be the favorite if they were playing Cherry Creek, Arvada, Arvada West and all of them. I'd still favor them.

— **Ralph Nance**
Coach, Faith Christian



Final Four teams know Eaton's the favorite to win it

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

Don't tell the players and coaches on the four teams in the Colorado Class 3A Baseball Final Four that change is good.

They won't listen to you.

The same four teams — defending state champion and top-ranked Eaton (20-0), No. 2 Lamar Savages (17-0), No. 3 Faith Christian Eagles (22-0) and No. 4 Olathe Pirates (19-3) — that appeared in last year's state semifinals will be at it again on Friday. Eaton meets

Olathe at noon, while Lamar and Faith Christian square off at 2:30 p.m. in the 3A semifinals at Regis University in Denver. The semifinal winners will play for the state title at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at All-City Stadium in Denver.

Ask the coaches from Lamar, Faith Christian and Olathe who the team to beat in this tournament is and all three will clearly tell you Eaton.

"Eaton would be the favorite if they were playing Cherry Creek, Arvada, Arvada West and all of them. I'd still favor them," Faith Christian coach Ralph Nance said.

Olathe coach Joe Archuleta said everybody is telling him that it'll be Lamar and Eaton in the state championship game.

"Eaton has the big history. They're the big team in Colorado and all that stuff," Archuleta said.

The Reds, who have powered their way to 277 runs and are averaging a shade under 14 runs per game, have scored in double figures in 17 of their 20 victories. Eaton has been ranked No. 1 for the past two seasons.

Lamar coach Dave Fassiotto said anyone expecting to win over Eaton is going to have to take their game to the next level.

"If anybody is going to beat Eaton, you'd better step up a notch and play," said Fassiotto, who is fortunate to have two of the finest pitchers in the state in southpaw Brad Stiles (7-0, 1.55 ERA, 40/3 IP, 86 SO) and right-hander Mike Thompson (6-0, 0.36 ERA, 39 IP, 74 SO). "You've got to mix your pitches up real well and you can't let them get guys on. If you're not picking Eaton, you don't know anything about the game."

Eaton's lineup includes such heavy hitters as third baseman Mike Carrasco (9 HR, 32 RBI, .508 BA), shortstop Jeff Meyers (5 HR, 35 RBI, .487 BA) and catcher Zack Hughes (7 HR, 35 RBI, .459 BA).

"They just pound the cover off the ball. Those kids are great hitters," Nance said. "They really put the pressure on the other team, and they play good defense."

The only change three of the teams, excluding Eaton, want to see is their school name on the state title trophy.

The four teams will make things interesting. The combined record of the four is 78-3 (.963 winning percentage).

"All the weak teams are gone and some of the strong teams are gone," Reds coach Jim Danley said. "It comes down to four good teams that are going to play. It's a pretty unpredictable thing."

The Reds made state history in a 17-0 regional semifinal victory over Holy Family on Saturday. The win set a new state record for consecutive wins with 43. A 4-3 win over Paonia in the regional final raised the streak to 44 straight victories. The Reds would like nothing better than to go into next season with back-to-back state titles and a 46-game winning streak.

The other three teams have revenge

on their minds, with the Savages and Pirates losing to the Reds in previous state title games.

Lamar lost to the Reds in the state finals 3-1 last year despite a 15-strikeout performance from overpowering left-hander Brad Stiles.

The Pirates, who lost to Lamar in a two-run game in last year's state semifinals, and Archuleta came out on the short end of a 3-1 loss to Eaton in the 1994 state championship game.

And then there's Faith Christian, a school that's relatively new to baseball. The baseball program's been around for just seven years, but the Eagles have accumulated enough talent over the past two years to make it to the Final Four.

The revenge factor on their minds is to get back at Eaton, which beat the Eagles 14-5 in last year's state semifinals. But the Eagles have to beat Lamar and Eaton must defeat Olathe before an Eaton-Faith Christian championship game ever becomes a reality.

FOR THE TITLE

■ **WHAT:** Class 3A State Baseball Tournament

■ **WHERE:** Regis University (Friday semifinals), Interstate 25 south to Interstate 76, west to Federal, south on Federal to Regis Blvd., turn right into Regis University; All-City Stadium (Saturday finals), Interstate 25 south to University Blvd. (North), go five or six blocks and field is across Denver South High School.

■ **WHEN:** Semifinals, Friday (Regis University); Finals, Saturday (All-City Stadium)

■ **ADMISSION:** General admission (semifinals and finals), \$7; K-12 and senior citizens, \$5

■ **SCHEDULE:** Semifinals (Friday — Olathe, 19-3, vs. Eaton, 20-0, noon; Faith Christian, 22-0, vs. Lamar, 17-0, 2:30 p.m.); Championship (Saturday — 9:30 a.m.).



Eaton catcher Zack Hughes rounds third base and gets a high-five from coach Jim Danley in Saturday's win over Paonia. Eaton hopes to see more offensive attacks in Friday's Class 3A state semifinals.

RICHARD M.
HACKETT
Greeley Tribune

A LOOK AT THE CLASS 3A STATE TOURNAMENT FINALS

Eaton Reds

■ **COACH:** Jim Danley (28th season)

■ **RECORD:** 20-0

■ **HOW THEY GOT TO FINAL**

FOUR: Defeated Platte Valley 16-0 in district semifinal; defeated Brush 10-0 in district championship; defeated Holy Family 17-0 in regional semifinals; defeated Paonia 4-3 in regional championship.

■ **POSTSEASON HISTORY:**

The Reds have made nine Class 3A Final Four appearances in the past 11 years and have made the state playoffs every year since 1983. They have advanced to the Final Four the past seven years and will try and make it to the state title game for the sixth time in seven years. In the 1990s, the Reds placed second in 1991 and '93, won back-to-back titles in 1994-95, placed second again in 1996, lost in the state semifinals in 1997 and won the state title last season.

■ **TENTATIVE BATTING ORDER:**

- 1) Jason Smith, CF, sr. (2 HR, 16 RBI, .411 BA)
- 2) Jeff Meyers, SS, sr. (5 HR, 35 RBI, .487 BA)
- 3) Mike Carrasco, 3B-P, sr. (9 HR, 32 RBI, .508 BA)
- 4) Zack Hughes, C, jr. (7 HR, 35 RBI, .459 BA)
- 5) Todd Stanclift, DH, so. (2 HR, 15 RBI, .475 BA)
- 6) Paul Loftis, LF-P, sr. (2 HR, 20 RBI, .379 BA)
- 7) Josh Yarber, 1B, sr. (1 HR, 20 RBI, .473 BA)
- 8) Casey Wiederspan, RF, jr. (2 HR, 23 RBI, .457)
- 9) Scott Souther, 2B, so. (2 HR, 13 RBI, .367 BA)

■ **TOP PITCHERS:** Josh Isak-



Carrasco

son, RHP, sr. (9-0, 0.70 ERA, 40 IP, 40 SO, 18 BB); Paul Loftis, RHP, sr. (4-0, 1.73 ERA, 28 1/3 IP, 38 SO, 13 BB); Todd Stanclift, RHP, so. (3-0, 1.37 ERA, 20 1/3 IP, 25 SO, 7 BB); Mike Carrasco, RHP, sr. (2-0, 1.24 ERA, 11 1/3 IP, 22 SO, 6 BB); Tanner Tateyama, RHP, so. (2-0, 0.50 ERA, 14 IP, 7 SO, 7 BB).

■ **OUTLOOK:** The pick here last year was for the Reds to 10-run semifinal opponent Faith Christian. They won 14-5. The prediction then went on to say that the Reds would meet Lamar in a dream championship game with the Reds winning the state title. They did. Why should it be any different this year? Look for the Reds to win easily over Olathe, say 11-2, and then face pitching-packed Lamar in the state championship game on Saturday. In another Lamar-Eaton classic, the Reds will get by the Savages to win their second straight state title, achieve back-to-back unbeaten seasons and capture their fourth title in six years. And yes, the 46-game winning streak continues into the year 2000.

Olathe Pirates

■ **COACH:** Joe Archuleta (seventh season)

■ **RECORD:** 19-3

■ **HOW THEY GOT TO FINAL**

FOUR: Defeated Rangely 12-2 in district semifinals; defeated Paonia 8-6 in district championship; defeated Monte Vista 14-4 in regional semifinals; defeated La Junta 16-12 in regional championship.

■ **PLAYOFF HISTORY:** The Pirates lost a tight two-run game to Lamar's Mike Thompson in last year's state semifinals. They've qualified for the state playoffs for 14 straight years. The Pirates' last Final Four appearance before last year's was in 1994 when they came from nine runs down to beat Roosevelt 11-10 in the semifinals before losing 3-1 to Eaton in the state championship game.

■ **TENTATIVE BATTING ORDER:**

- 1) Landon Wareham, SS, sr. (2 HR, 18 RBI, .453 BA)
- 2) Jose Alvarez, 2B, sr. (0 HR, 14 RBI, .390 BA)
- 3) Jess Kummerlin, C, sr. (4 HR, 28 RBI, .443 BA)
- 4) Kyle Lott, P-LF, sr. (2 HR, 33 RBI, .440 BA)
- 5) Greg Bolinger, RF, sr. (1 HR, 24 RBI, .405 BA)
- 6) Steve Basagoitia, 3B, jr. (0 HR, 15 RBI, .320 BA)
- 7) Jason Smith, 1B, sr. (3 HR, 18 RBI, .330 BA)
- 8) Tyler Martinez, LF, sr. (0 HR, 10 RBI, .240 BA)
- 9) Adrian Alvarez, CF, jr. (0 HR, 8 RBI, .315 BA)

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 20, 1999

■ **TOP PITCHERS:** Kyle Lott, LHP, sr. (9-2, 2.87 ERA); Landon Wareham, RHP, sr. (9-1, 2.78 ERA); Tyler Martinez, RHP, sr. (1-0, 5.23 ERA).

■ **OUTLOOK:** The Pirates beat Paonia in the district finals and lost a pair of one-run games to the Eagles during the season, so this team can't be taken lightly. But the Pirates also don't have a pitcher with the talents of Paonia's Nate Miller. Because of that, the Pirates' pitching staff will not be able to shut down Eaton's powerful offense in the state semifinals.

Reds run streak to 45 after 6-4 win over Olathe

By Kyle Ringo 5-21-99
Special to the News

The streak has reached 45, but everyone in Eaton is counting to 46.

Eaton captured its 45th consecutive baseball victory Friday — extending its state record — beating Olathe 6-4 in a Class 3A state semifinal at Regis University, but it didn't come easily or without tense moments.

Eaton will face Lamar today at 9:30 a.m. at All City Field in a rematch of last season's championship game. The Reds (21-0), who haven't lost since Kent Denver beat them in the semifinals in 1997, left the field thankful for a relief pitcher who thrives with the pressure of a season on his shoulders and a shortstop who hits home runs.

Eaton's Mike Carrasco came to the mound in the bottom of the seventh inning with two runners on and the tying run at the plate. He allowed one run to score when Olathe second baseman Jose Alvarez drove in his brother Adrian Alvarez, who had doubled to start the inning. A sacrifice bunt by catcher Jess Kuemmerlin moved Jose Alvarez and shortstop Landon Wareham to second and third base, respectively. Then Carrasco struck out two batters to end the game and earn his fourth save.

"I've been in situations where it's do-or-die before," Carrasco said. "I know I love to be in that situation. That's how it should be. A state semifinal should be close."

The top half of the seventh inning ended on a controversial call at first base.

Eaton's Josh Yarber was called out when it appeared he had beaten out a throw by Greg Bollinger, who stopped Yarber's sharp grounder on the fringe of the grass in left field. Eaton catcher Zack Hughes was left in scoring position on third base.

Carrasco's effort in the bottom half of the inning nullified what might have been a game-changing call.

With Eaton leading 2-1 in the top of the third inning, the Reds' Jeff Meyers connected with a fastball from Olathe starter Kyler Lott and launched it over the left-center field wall to drive in three runs.

Lott had hit second baseman Scott Souther with a pitch to start the inning. He walked center fielder Jason Smith after getting ahead in the count 0-2, and Lott was ahead in the count 0-2 to Meyers before the home run.

"I was a little behind on (Lott's) high fastball," Meyers said. "I got a little angry. I was just trying to make contact and I got a little lucky, I guess."

Olathe (19-4) lost the semifinal for the second consecutive year.

"It's frustrating," Olathe coach Joe Archuleta said. "... We had our opportunities. We just didn't get a hit when we needed one, but that's baseball."

The Alvarez brothers combined for six hits in seven at-bats, scoring three runs and driving in two.

Eaton	203	100	0	6	8	1
Olathe	101	010	1	4	10	1

E (ab-r-h-rbi) — Smith cf 3-2-2-0, Meyers ss 3-2-1-3, Carrasco 3b/p 4-0-1-1, Hughes c 3-0-1-2, Stancliff p/ph 3-0-2-0, Hungenberg pr 11 0-0-0-0, Brant 1f 0-0-0-0, Lottis lf p 3-0-0-0, Yarber 1b 3-0-0-0, Wiederspan rf 3-1-1-0, Souther 2b 2-1-0-0. **Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so)** — Stancliff (W) (41 3-7-3-2-0-6), Lottis (12 3-2-1-1-0-3), Carrasco (S) (1-0-0-0-0-2).

O — Wareham ss p 4-1-2-0, J. Alvarez 2b 4-1-4-2, Kuemmerlin c 3-0-1-0, Lott/p/rf 4-0-0-0, Bollinger rf/ss 4-0-1-1, Basagotia 3b 2-0-0-0, Smith 1b 3-0-0-0, Martinez dh 3-0-0-0, A. Alvarez cf 3-2-2-0, Veo 1f 0-0-0-0. **Pitching** — Lott (L) (3-5-6-5-4-2), Wareham (4-3-0-0-0-3).

E — Souther, Basagotia, 2B — Stancliff, Wiederspan, Wareham, J. Alvarez, A. Alvarez, HR — Meyers (two on in third), SB — E, Smith 2, Hughes, CS — Hughes, Stancliff, SF — Kuemmerlin, WP — Lott.

Stanclift emerges as star

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 22, 1999

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

DENVER — If you're an Eaton Reds fan, the last thing you'd want to see is Todd Stanclift in another school's uniform.

The 6-foot-3, 235 pound sophomore who excels in baseball, football and basketball for the Reds, could be a Greeley West Spartan or Greeley Central Wildcat.

Stanclift, who picked up his fourth win of the year in a six-strikeout 6-4 victory over the Olathe Pirates in the semifinals of the Class 3A state baseball tournament at Regis University on Friday, lives in Greeley. He went to elementary school in Greeley.

The only reason the big slugger is wearing the Eaton pinstripes is because his father, Tim, is employed in the Eaton school district as a custodian at Eaton Middle School. Danley even coached Stanclift's Dad in the seventh grade at Eaton in basketball.

Call Stanclift in an Eaton uniform the luck of the Reds, who won for a state-record 45th straight time and will try to defend their state title against the Lamar Savages at 9:30 a.m. today at All-City Stadium in a state final rematch from a year ago.

Stanclift, 16, isn't your ordinary sophomore. He's bigger than most sophomores. He throws harder (83 mph) than most sophomores. He hits better than most juniors and seniors (.484 batting average).

Last year as a freshman, the Reds' designated hitter hit a school-record 11 home runs and knocked in 37 runs

while finishing the year with a .446 batting average. He made the Greeley Tribune's All-Weld team as a designated hitter. Last fall, he started at defensive tackle and tight end for the Reds' football team, which made it to the state semifinals, and was named All-Weld as a place kicker.

Prior to his start in the semifinals against the Pirates, Stanclift pitched three innings last year and started just one game this season, a two-hit shutout against Brush in the district championship game.

This kid has experienced more in his two years at Eaton than 10 athletes experience in four.

"My Dad told me the other day, 'You're going to have everything done

by the end of your sophomore year.' But I'm sure there is a lot more left after my sophomore year," said Stanclift, who has a 1.74 earned-run average and has fanned 31 hitters in 24 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings this year.

There's no question that Stanclift, who went 2-for-3 in the No. 5 hole and pitched into the fifth inning against the Pirates, has that special ingredient that not many athletes possess.

"He has kind of a combination of confidence and just a little bit of a swagger," Reds coach Jim Danley said. "He believes in himself stopping short of cockiness, but he is someone who feels like he belongs in those critical situations."

All-state shortstop Jeff Meyers said Stanclift is amazing.

"He may not have slept last night, but I told him there was no pressure because we're going to score runs," Meyers said. "He just went out and threw great and he spotted his fastball."

With the velocity on his fastball and enough time to develop the knuckle curveball, the next two years look so bright for Stanclift.

"I think he's got a great future. Before he's done he'll be something special," Danley said. "He's still got room to get bigger, leaner and meaner. He has a chance to be as good (a pitcher) as anybody who has ever come out of Eaton."

Danley has so much confidence in Stanclift, who wasn't told he was going to start against Olathe until the eve of the semifinal game. Not many coaches would call on a sophomore to start in the state semifinals, especial-

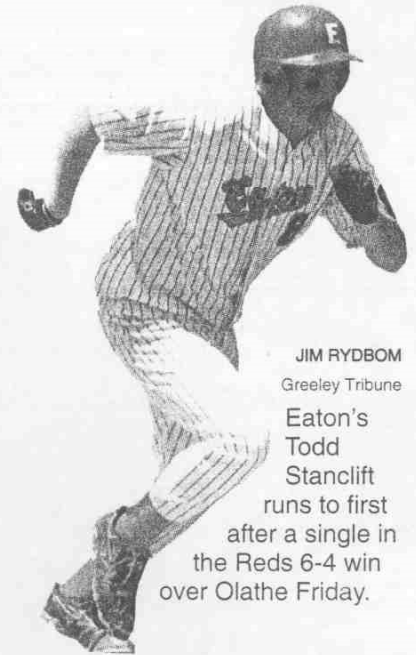
ly when he had seniors Paul Loftis and Josh Isakson ready to go.

"You have to risk sometimes to get to Saturday with a full tank of fuel," Danley said. "Todd's the kid worth betting on. You have to admire the way he walks out there and says, 'Hey, I can do this.' You would think a sophomore would feel that pressure."

Pressure? If Stanclift feels it, the kid with the constant smile on his face doesn't show it. As a matter of fact, Stanclift's having the time of his young life.

"It's a blast," said Stanclift, who started playing baseball at the age of 4. "I put a lot of work into it, but it's something that just keeps me coming back for more."

What a scary thought for Eaton's opponents.



JIM RYDBOM
Greeley Tribune

Eaton's
Todd
Stanclift
runs to first
after a single in
the Reds 6-4 win
over Olathe Friday.



JIM RYDBOM / Greeley Tribune

Eaton's pitcher Todd Stanclift leans into the pitch in the second inning against Olathe Friday.

Reds head to finals

Win sets up showdown with Lamar

by Duane M. Robson

The Eaton Reds baseball team earned the right to play for the State Title by holding off Olathe 6-4 in last Friday's afternoon thriller at Regis University in Denver. It will be the fifth time in the last six years that the Reds will play for the championship.

Coincidentally, it was the Olathe Pirates that Eaton defeated 3-1 in 1994 to earn their first State Title. Eaton has since gone on to win two more championships and will attempt to make it back to back titles when they face off against rival Lamar. The Reds beat the Savages in last year's final 3-1 and have not lost in 45 games, a current state record.

"You can't get any better than this," said Todd Stanclift, the games winning pitcher. The sophomore is a two year starter and admitted that today's semi-final contest was "the biggest in my life." Stanclift scattered seven hits over four innings while giving up three runs, two of them earned. He struck out six and didn't walk a man.

"My off-speed stuff wasn't working at the start," said Stanclift, "so I was throwing a lot of fastballs." "I give a lot of credit to Zach (Hughes, Eaton's catcher). He was setting up on the corners and getting the calls for me," he finished.

The Reds started quickly in the top of the first. Jason Smith singled and was followed by a Jeff Meyers walk. A double steal moved both runners up a base, when Zach

Hughes singled them home. Olathe put together a pair of singles and a fielder's choice to push across one of their own in the first.

It looked as if Eaton would get out of the inning unscathed, if not for a controversial call on a potential double play ball. With one out and runners at the corner, Pirate Kyler Lott ripped a ball up the middle at second base. Scott Souther had it played perfectly, scooped the ball to Meyers at the bag, who then fired to first. The ball struck the baserunner, but no interference was called and the run was allowed to score.

"I don't like to say anything about the umpires, but I think it might have been the wrong call," said Meyers, a four-year starter at short-stop. "He stuck his hands up and it hit him in the arm, but the ump said he was too far away to slide," explained Meyers.

Meyers, who will be making his third trip to the finals, got a chance to get that run back in the third inning. With two runners aboard via a walk and hit batsman, Meyers drilled a 2-2 pitch deep over the left centerfield wall for a three run shot. The blast turned out to be the game winner as Eaton held on for a 6-4 victory.

"I was a little behind on his (pitcher Kyler Lott) high fastball, and was getting angry with myself," said Meyers. "I didn't want to strike out with men in scoring position," he continued. "I just tried to make contact and got lucky, I guess."

Olathe got a run back in their half of the inning, but the Reds countered that when Mike Carrasco singled home Casey Wiederspan, who had doubled earlier, to put Eaton ahead 6-2. The Pirates then managed to sneak home a run in the fifth off reliever Paul Loftis to close the gap to 6-3. When Loftis gave up another in the seventh, Coach Jim Danley called on Mike Carrasco for the save.

Carrasco's first pitch was tagged for a single and the Pirates had runners at first and second with nobody out. The next batter then sacrificed the runners to second and third and Olathe had the tying run in scoring position with just one out. Carrasco quickly put out the fire and the Pirates hope of a comeback by fanning the next two batters to end the game.

After 45 straight wins, the Reds must now concentrate on their most important game of the year, the showdown with Lamar.

Jeff Meyers seemed to sum up the day's performance. "Our defense was good, our pitching was great, and it was just an all-around solid performance," he praised. "It was a nice win, but we can't celebrate yet. We've got one more to think about!"

Rematch

Eaton Reds face Savage opponent in 3A Championship

BY T.M. FASANO

Greeley Tribune

DENVER — Panic struck Eaton Reds shortstop Jeff Meyers like a runaway freight train.

As the senior all-stater was getting ready to warm up before Eaton's 6-4 victory over the Olathe Pirates in the Class 3A state semifinals at Regis University on Friday, he couldn't find his worn out, sweat-stained, lucky baseball cap. Eaton's victory, minus Meyers' old cap, put the defending state champion Reds (21-0) into the state final game against Lamar (18-0), 2-1 winners over Faith Christian (22-1) in the other semifinal game. The state finals, which begin at 9:30 a.m. today at All-City Stadium in Denver, will be a rematch from last year when the Reds nipped the Savages 3-1 to win their third state title in five years.

Meyers' missing cap in question wasn't any ordinary cap. Meyers has been wearing the same cap since the summer of his eighth-grade year. The nearly five-year-old cap, which looks as though it was worn during the deadball era before Babe Ruth played, probably weighs about two pounds with all the dirt and sweat on it.

When Meyers realized he had left his red and white pinstriped cap at home, he had to resort to Plan B. Teammate Jason Smith had a brand new cap in his equipment bag and gave it to Meyers.

"It's been in my bag all year. I haven't taken it out of my bag except for games," Meyers said. "Then I come here and I find no hat. About an hour before the game I'm searching through the bag and I'm yelling at everybody."

Meyers quickly gave the new cap to assistant coach Randy Sparkman, whose job was to make it look as worn and dirty as the one Meyers left at home.

"I spent about five minutes rubbing dirt on it and stomping on it and wrinkling it up so it looked like his other hat," Sparkman said. "I put three years into that hat in about five minutes."

That could be the most important five minutes of work that Sparkman put in all season because Meyers came up in the third inning and smacked a three-run home run over the 395-foot sign in left center field for a 5-1 lead over the Pirates (19-4). Meyers' seventh homer of the season turned out to be the game-winning hit as the Reds increased their state-record winning streak to 45 games.

● Lamar's pitcher has seen Eaton before / **B5**

Smith said he could tell that Meyers was somewhat in a confused state before the game.

"He lost his lucky hat that he had all four years," said Smith, who added that he'd let Meyers keep the cap if the Reds win the state title.

Sophomore pitcher Todd Stancliff put in four strong innings and struck out six Pirates. Paul Loftis and Mike Carrasco (RBI single) provided relief help and Zack Hughes also pounded out a 2-run single, but it was Meyers' big blast on a 2-2 fastball off left-hander Kyler Lott that proved to be the difference.

Meyers, who leads the Reds with 38 RBI and hit 21 home runs in Legion A baseball last summer, said he figured Lott wouldn't throw a 2-2 curveball to him.

"I said, 'Don't try to kill it.' I have a problem sometimes trying to hit the ball too hard," said Meyers, who knocked out his first home run since April 26. "I just stuck out the bat, got all of it and luckily it went over."

Carrasco, who hit a game-winning homer against Paonia last week that got the Reds to the Final Four, said Meyers swings a powerful bat.

"That won the game right there. Meyers put us over the top," said Carrasco, who fanned the last two Pirates with the tying run on second base in the seventh inning. "He has a lot of power for a No. 2 hitter and he's going to be successful no matter what he does next year."

Reds coach Jim Danley said Meyers and Carrasco are the two players he wants up in the pressure situations.

"They believe in themselves. They are up there saying, 'I can beat this guy and this is my moment in the sun.' They want to be in that everything on their shoulders position."

Meyers, who will decide on either Division I-A Nebraska or Division III powerhouse California Lutheran for his baseball future in the coming week,

is just concentrating on one more game as an Eaton Red. He said he wasn't sure which cap he'd wear in his final game with the Reds, though.

Whatever cap Meyers wears, he's heading to another state title game.

Eaton's sixth appearance in the 3A state championship game in seven years.

"This is Mike (Carrasco) and my fourth time to the semifinals. This will be our third time

to the state championship game," Meyers said. "We've had so much pressure on us the whole year. We've been here so much we expect to win and we know what it feels like."

With or without his lucky baseball cap.

3A STATE SEMIFINALS

Eaton 6, Olathe 4

EHS	203	100	0	—	5	8	1
OHS	101	010	1	—	4	10	1

EHS - Todd Stancliff (W 4-0, 7H, 2ER, 0BB, 6SO), Paul Loftis (5th, 2H, 1ER, 0BB, 3SO), Mike Carrasco (7th, 1H, 0ER, 0BB, 2SO) and Zack Hughes. 2B - Stancliff. HR - Jeff Meyers (2 on in 3rd). RBI - Meyers 3, Hughes 2, Carrasco.

OHS - Kyler Lott (L 9-3, 5H, 6ER, 4BB, 2SO), Landon Wareham (4th, 3H, 0ER, 0BB, 3SO) and Jess Kuemmerlin. 2B - Wareham, Jose Alvarez, Adrian Alvarez. RBI - Jose Alvarez 2, Greg Bollinger.

Lamar 2, Faith Christian 1

FCHS	001	000	0	—	1	5	0
LHS	200	000	x	—	2	4	0

FCHS - Paul Faust (L 8-1, 4H, 2ER, 2BB, 3SO) and Austin Moreland. RBI - Scott Nance.

LHS - Brad Stiles (W 8-0, 6H, 1ER, 3BB, 12SO) and Mike Kulp. 2B - Mike Thompson. 3B - Bowie Frost. RBI - Frost. Stiles.



Carrasco

That was then, this is now

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 22, 1999

Lamar pitcher remembers Eaton from 2 years ago

BY T.M. FASANO
Greeley Tribune

DENVER — Lamar's hard-throwing Mike Thompson remembers it well. After transferring from tiny Class 2A Walsh following his freshman year, Thompson was called on to start against the powerful Eaton Reds in the Class 3A regional semifinal baseball game two years ago in Englewood.

Thompson held his own, but left the game with the score tied 4-4 only to see the Reds score a run for a 5-4 win and a place in the regional championship game.

"I was so nervous. I hit like five guys with my curveball," Thompson recalled. "I was 16, and I'm 18 now. It's time to forget the past and go out there and have fun."

Savages coach Dave Fassiotto said Thompson was in awe when he faced Eaton in 1997.

"I don't think he realized what it was like to be in 3A baseball," Fassiotto said.

Two years later, the 6-foot-4, 185-pound fireballer gets his chance at revenge when he starts against the defending state champion Eaton Reds (21-0) in the Class 3A state championship game at 9:30 a.m. today at All-City Stadium in Denver.

The Reds advanced to their sixth state final in the last seven years after a 6-4 win over Olathe in Friday's semifinals at Regis University. Lamar (18-0), behind the 12-strikeout performance of left-hander Brad Stiles, beat Faith Christian 2-1 in the other semifinal game.

Thompson, who is 21-0 in high school, is being recruited by Arizona State, Wichita State and has a good chance to get drafted in June in the first five to 10 rounds. The right-hander has been clocked anywhere from 88 mph to 92 mph. He comes in with a 6-0 record, 0.36 earned-run average and 74 strikeouts in 39 1/3 innings.

"It's two different ball clubs than last year," said Thompson, following the Savages' semifinal win. "I don't want another 15 strikeouts like last year, even though they did beat us. We're going to come out on top this year. I'm not sure if they faced 89 mph this year."

Last year Stiles fanned 15 Eaton hitters despite the loss.



JIM RYDBOM / Greeley Tribune

Eaton's Mike Carrasco, far right, gets lifted by his teammates after striking out the final Olathe batter to end Eaton's win Friday.

Thompson said he throws a fastball, curveball and a changeup.

"If the curveball doesn't work, I'm going to resort to that changeup," Thompson said. "I'm still going to throw that changeup as much as the curveball or more."

As far as being the pitcher with the chance to break Eaton's 45-game winning streak, Thompson said: "If I'm the one who breaks it, that would be an awesome thing and I would be undefeated my whole high school career. I have to hand it to Eaton. They are damn good. They're probably one of the best teams I've seen play."

Fassiotto said Eaton's been gearing up for Stiles or Thompson all season.

"They'll be ready to play. Don't let coach (Jim) Danley kid you," Fassiotto said. "He's been getting ready for Thompson and Stiles. He just didn't know which one he was going to get. Jim's a smart guy. I ain't fooling him."

Thompson is just another star Lamar pitcher for a program that's

featured former Savages Doug Brocaill (Detroit Tigers), Scott Elarton (Houston Astros) and Tyson Hartshorn (Toronto Blue Jays minor league organization).

■ **IKE'S TURN** ... Eaton senior starter Josh Isakson brings a 9-0, 0.70 ERA into the game against the Savages.

It will be Isakson's first state championship appearance and his first in a Final Four.

"I'm going to tell him to go out and be focused and concentrate. Think of one thing and that's throwing strikes," Reds coach Jim Danley said. "He doesn't have to hit. All he has to do is throw that ball over the plate. The nice thing about it is that it's very much a team thing because we've got a good defense. If they hit the ball good things happen out there. Our defense usually plays very well."

■ **ON DECK** ... Danley said that Paul Loftis and Mike Carrasco will be his second and third pitchers against the Savages.

■ **REMATCH** ... In Eaton's 3-1 win over Lamar in last year's state final, the Savages managed just two hits, one being a solo homer from Stiles.

"We knew that Eaton was going to be (back)," Stiles said. "Anything can happen once you get to the state tournament. We're going to go out and try to score some runs for Mike. Sweet revenge is great. Let's hope it happens."

■ **WHAT'S THE CALL?** ... Danley argued a call long and hard in the first inning. With one out and Olathe's Jess Kuemmerlin on first and Jose Alvarez on second, cleanup hitter Kyler Lott hit a shot to Reds second baseman Scott Souther toward the second base bag. Souther flipped the ball to shortstop Jeff Meyers for the second out and Meyers threw to first base to try and complete the easy double play.

The only problem was that Meyers' throw nailed Kuemmerlin in the helmet and Lott was ruled safe at first. Danley argued that Kuemmerlin made no attempt to get out of the way of Meyers' throw and should have been ruled out.

Alvarez scored one batter later on a hit by Greg Bollinger.

"I've never seen the rule applied any differently. It's always interference," Danley said. "The runner must go down at any point to get out of the way of the throw. The umpire was ruling it non-interference because the runner was a long ways away from second base. I said, 'It makes no difference. He has to get out of the way of that throw. We have to have the right to throw that ball.'"

■ **ON RADIO** ... The Eaton-Lamar game can be heard on Greeley radio station KKFN (1310 AM) beginning at 9:25 a.m.

■ **PIRATES STOPPER** ... Olathe shortstop Landon Wareham, who went 2-for-4 and pitched four scoreless innings in relief of Lott, played for Eaton during the fall league.

"He drove all the way over to Eaton to play fall ball. That guy is a player," Danley said.

Wareham said the Reds know how to win.

"That's what they're good at. You've got to play your best. If you give them one thing they're going to use you," Wareham said.

■ **LOCAL CONNECTION** ... Olathe's Bollinger is the brother of Fort Lupton baseball coach Dan Bollinger.

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 22, 1999



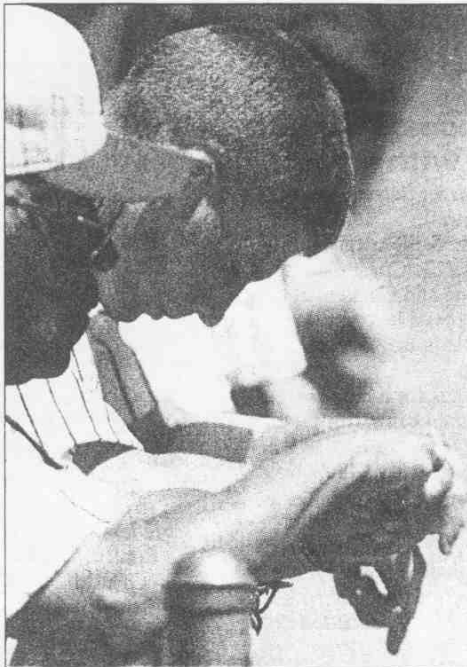
JIM RYDBOM / Greeley Tribune

Eaton's Jeff Meyers fires the ball to first baseman Josh Yarber as he turns a double play in Eaton's 6-4 state semifinal win over Olathe at Regis University Friday.

Eaton Reds lose with grace

Greeley Daily Tribune
May 23, 1999

Eaton High School player Jason Smith, right, bows his head in disappointment near the end of the Class 3A state baseball championship game at All-City Stadium in Denver on Saturday. Eaton lost to Lamar 10-2, ending the Reds' 45-game winning streak.



JIM RYDBOM
Greeley Tribune

T.M.
FASANO

Greeley
Tribune



There was Reds starter Josh Isakson explaining how the Savages roughed him up for six earned runs in two-plus innings. Isakson wasn't dodging anybody. He was just disappointed that his first loss as an Eaton pitcher happened to be in his last game as an Eaton player.

There was third baseman Mike Carasco, who on the same field a year ago hit the game-winning single and saved the game in relief against Lamar in the state title game, saying Lamar was the better team.

Eaton player after Eaton player said all the right things. No excuses from them or Reds coach Jim Danley. Some of them stopped and talked to the players from Lamar as they went to the team bus.

The last Eaton loss before Saturday was two years and one week ago in the state semifinals against Kent Denver. Since that loss, the Reds have been on one wild ride that nobody could have predicted.

Saturday was a reality check for the Reds. They came out of it looking stronger and earning more respect than they ever did during the winning streak.

"All you can do is just be forthright, gracious and magnanimous and say that they just beat the pants off us this time," Reds catcher Zack Hughes said. "You've got to be able to win good and you've got to be able to lose good, too."

For 45 consecutive games, the Reds were good winners. But it took a seven-inning game — 1 hour, 55 minutes to be exact — to show that the Reds also know how to lose with grace.

No excuses. No whining. All character.

High school kids do surprise you when you least expect it.

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DENVER — HIGH school kids surprise you sometimes.

In a good way. Just when you think you've got them figured out, they leave you shaking your head.

Take the baseball players from Eaton, for example. The Reds broke the state record with 43 consecutive victories last weekend and looked as though they would never lose again.

Throw out Disneyland. Enter the land of reality.

The winning streak ended at 45 games after a 10-2 spanking by the Lamar Savages in the Class 3A state championship game Saturday at All-City Stadium.

You find out a lot about the character of kids and coaches who haven't lost a game in more than two years, and then lose in the state championship game.

Some teams have a bunch of characters you dread approaching after a loss. It was interesting to see how these Reds would respond after the streak finally ended.

No characters in this group. Instead, the Reds displayed plenty of character.

The character and class that carried the Reds through 45 straight wins forgot to leave this group of teenagers.

While the Savages, behind the dominating pitching of Mike Thompson, celebrated on the third base side, the Reds had about a minute to think about what just hit them before they had to answer questions from reporters.

The way the Reds handled the loss probably surprised more people in Denver than the way they fell to Thompson's sizzling fastballs and baffling curveballs.

The same players who crushed opponents over the past two seasons were crushed inside, but the words coming from their mouths were as genuine as the pinstripes they wear.

The Reds, who scored in double figures 37 times during the 45-game winning streak, had to talk about what it felt like to be dominated.

Instead of looking at the infield dirt and pulling the bill of their baseball caps down over their eyes, the Reds looked every reporter in the eyes and answered each question without flinching.

There was Jeff Meyers, who had hit a game-winning three-run home run not even 24 hours before in the semifinals, acting no differently after the Lamar loss than he did during the 45 previous victories. The only thing that concerned Meyers, a four-year starter at shortstop, was the realization that he would take off the Reds' uniform one final time.

The Streak

While The Streak ended a couple decades ago, it will never be forgotten, and it helped perpetuate many other Reds' streaks that continued through the 2015 season, including all-time state records for the most consecutive State Tournament appearances (33 straight) and Regional Championships and Final Four Appearances (23 straight).

Congratulations to the dozens of Reds that battled to earn The Streak, which represents one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of one of the nation's most remarkable programs.

Reds' 45 Consecutive Game Win Streak, 1998-1999

	Non-League	League	Postseason	
#1	March 13	Thompson Valley	Eaton	W 12-2
#2	March 14	Greeley West	Eaton	W 10-2
#3	March 14	Valley	Butch Butler - Greeley	W 13-0
#4	March 17	Denver Christian	Denver Christian	W 8-4
#5	March 26	Sheridan	Eaton	W 21-2
#6	March 28	Wray	Wray	W 20-6
#7	March 28	Wray	Wray	W 23-4
#8	April 01	Holy Family	Eaton	W 14-4
#9	April 04	Platte Valley	Eaton	W 13-0
#10	April 04	Platte Valley	Eaton	W 6-1
#11	April 09	Fort Morgan	Fort Morgan	W 17-9
#12	April 11	Brush	Brush	W 13-1
#13	April 11	Brush	Brush	W 7-0
#14	April 18	Yuma	Eaton	W 10-0
#15	April 18	Yuma	Eaton	W 10-2
#16	April 25	Highland	Eaton	W 10-0
#17	April 25	Highland	Eaton	W 12-2
#18	April 28	Yuma	Eaton	W 11-4
#19	May 01	Valley	Fort Morgan	W 17-6
#20	May 01	Platte Valley	Fort Morgan	W 22-3
#21	May 09	Machebeuf	Butch Butler - Greeley	W 10-0
#22	May 09	Eagle Valley	Butch Butler - Greeley	W 14-1
#23	May 15	Faith Christian	Regis Field - Denver	W 14-5
#24	May 16	Lamar	All City Stadium - Denver	W 3-1
#25	March 11	Sheridan	Denver	W 21-1
#26	March 19	Thompson Valley	Eaton	W 14-9
#27	March 20	Windsor	Eaton	W 15-5
#28	March 20	Greeley West	Butch Butler - Greeley	W 11-3
#29	March 23	Holy Family	Holy Family	W 14-4
#30	March 25	D'Evelyn	Eaton	W 9-3
#31	April 06	Platte Valley	Kersey	W 11-0
#32	April 07	Platte Valley	Kersey	W 12-1
#33	April 12	Brush	Eaton	W 12-0
#34	April 12	Brush	Eaton	W 3-2
#35	April 17	Yuma	Yuma	W 17-0
#36	April 17	Yuma	Yuma	W 14-2
#37	April 26	Highland	Eaton	W 28-0
#38	April 26	Highland	Eaton	W 16-0
#39	May 04	Wray	Eaton	W 21-1
#40	May 04	Wray	Eaton	W 12-2
#41	May 08	Platte Valley	Fort Morgan	W 16-0
#42	May 08	Brush	Fort Morgan	W 10-0
#43	May 15	Holy Family	Butch Butler - Greeley	W 17-0
#44	May 15	Paonia	Butch Butler - Greeley	W 4-3
#45	May 21	Olathe	Regis Field - Denver	W 6-4



Thompson Valley



Greeley West



Valley



Denver Christian



Sheridan



Wray



Wray



Holy Family



Platte Valley



Platte Valley



Fort Morgan



Brush



Brush



Yuma



Yuma



Highland



Highland



Yuma



Valley



Platte Valley



Machebeuf



Eagle Valley



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