

## *The American Indian—a Warrior to Honor and Emulate*

Decades ago, the Fightin' Reds mascot was selected to represent Eaton High School as a tribute to the legendary fighting spirit and bravery of the American Indian. The Reds prominently display the Indian as their sports mascot throughout the halls of Eaton High School, overseeing the trophy cases of titles earned, and atop the baseball dugout from which many of those championships have been fought and won.

The American Indian battled with supreme valor against overwhelming manpower and firepower throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Indian warrior attacked, and then with his back to the wall, attacked again, unwilling to yield to retreat or surrender. Then during World War II, the Indian played a pivotal role in Allied victory as Code Talkers, utilizing for the benefit of millions the only form of communication that could not be deciphered by the Axis powers. For this reason, the capture and interrogation (i.e. torture) of these men was deemed a top priority by our enemies, and placed the Indian once more against vast odds. The heroism exhibited yet again by the American Indian helped end the war decisively in the Pacific and in Europe, saved thousands of fellow soldiers' lives, and earned the Indian dozens of Congressional Medals of Honor. The courage displayed by the Indian has been an inspiration for all of those who have engaged in combat since, whether on the battlefield or the athletic playing field.

**The Eaton Reds baseball team is proud to emulate the fortitude of the American Indian.**

Granted, the Reds have amassed a number of memorable victories and championships at all levels, at times by significant margins. However, the Reds' greatest triumphs over the years have occurred against overwhelming odds: beating numerous future Major League pitchers, defeating schools with an enrollment 10 times their own, compiling a state-record 60 consecutive wins, overcoming 6<sup>th</sup> inning 7-run deficits in the State Tournament, and besting odds of 1 in 8.5 billion to win 33 consecutive battles in the face of elimination.

**The Eaton Reds are humbly optimistic that the warrior spirit of the American Indian will continue to lead them to great victories in the future, as it has throughout the past.**

*Note: As a few individuals disagree with the manner in which Eaton High School—and many others throughout the nation—continue to honor the legendary bravery of the American Indian (we are however supported by many Native Americans—including the great-great-grandson of the last Comanche leader to hold out: [www.badeagle.com/html/war\\_cry.html](http://www.badeagle.com/html/war_cry.html)), it should be noted that [www.EatonBaseball.com](http://www.EatonBaseball.com) is not affiliated with Eaton High School, the Town of Eaton, or the Eaton Baseball Association, and thus the opinions expressed above do not necessarily represent the position held by any of those—or any other—entities. [www.EatonBaseball.com](http://www.EatonBaseball.com) has been created—and is updated and maintained—at the sole time and expense of former Reds' players, for the benefit of current, former, and future Eaton Fightin' Reds baseball players, their friends and families, and fans of Eaton Baseball.*