

“Playing Eaton Baseball was, and always will be, a privilege” Major Jimmy Reeman, ‘88 Reds’ Graduate and The Top Graduate from F16 Fighter Pilot School and Leader of First-Strike Missions in The War on Terror

Some privileges come with such great significance and weight as to make the pressure to perform unbearable for most. Reds who have stepped onto the mound at Eaton, with the weight of the entire season on their shoulders, know this pressure well, and over the past 37 years they have thrived on it. It is not fair that one good pitch in the State Championship Game makes the season a success, where one bad pitch in the Championship Game, or any State Tournament game prior, would make the whole season a disappointment; but that’s how it is at Eaton, and the men who take the mound as one of the Reds’ top two pitchers have the weight of a history of excellence engrained into the jerseys that they wear, which come with the expectation of continued greatness resting squarely on their arms.

The Reds have had some pitchers drafted, and a couple pitchers have even played in the minor leagues, but typically Reds’ pitchers have had to outduel a Major League prospect from another team in the state each year, as the State Tournament has historically pitted Eaton against everyone else in a single-elimination, must-win battle against the top pitchers throughout the entire state. The Reds have won these battles, as Reds’ pitchers with less velocity and talent have stepped up to outpitch opponents en route to huge State Tournament wins and Championships. Run support comes at a premium in the postseason, and it is here that legends are borne. The Reds’ history is filled with lore and legend of players who simply willed their way to victory and accomplished truly unbelievable feats. Many of these ghosts of the past were Reds’ top pitchers.

Reds’ #1 and #2 Pitchers

Greiman, R. Koehler, Nelson, C. Dyer, B. Koehler, Sieg, Foos, Hall, Wallace, Ottoson, McLavey, S. Dyer, Noblitt, Dominguez, Hungenberg, Griffith, C. Ayers, Kelly, Souther, J. Isakson, Loftis, Carrasco, Ochoa, Hager, Frank, Gesick, Shelton, Martin, Kindvall, P. Isakson, Comer, Sutter, K. Ayers, J. Garza, R. Garza, G. Ervin, Cordova, B. Ervin, Crowder, Renfroe, Rosales, Mi. Anderson, Lawhead, Stencil, Ma. Anderson

Lane Greiman wanted, and received, the ball whenever the game was on the line for the Reds. As a senior, Greiman simply closed out every close game for the Reds, including multiple State Tournament games and the 2015 State Championship Game. He had done the same thing in the summer of 2014 during the Legion A High School State Championship Game, simply shutting down the opponent’s offense when the game was on the line. Greiman was in a position to close out his final game as a senior after teammate Ryan Koehler pitched 6+ tremendous innings to shut down Brush. Koehler pitched in State Tournament games for the Reds dating back to when he was just a sophomore, typically as a starting pitcher, but also available at any time to enter in relief, as he did against Valley earlier in 2015 to pitch 6 innings of relief to earn the win. Koehler threw two no-hitters as a junior in 2014, including one at State. Jake Nelson pitched in more games during the Reds’ 2012 State Championship season than any other Red, as only a sophomore. He then went on to throw a no-hitter in the 2012 Legion B State Championship, the Reds’ final year in that division, before leading the Reds to a perfect 42-0 Legion A Varsity record in 2013, finishing his junior and senior years with only one loss in spring and summer games before moving on to a top scholarship at the Univ. of New Mexico.



Greiman earning save in ‘15 State Title



Koehler earning win in ‘15 State Title



Nelson pitching in State Tournament

Cory Dyer will be remembered for throwing a no-earned-run complete game to defeat Faith Christian 3-2 in 2012 to advance the Reds to a 20th consecutive Final Four, before then also winning the next game over Holy Family. Brandon Koehler defeated perennial contender Lamar not once, but twice, in the 2012 State Tournament, and then started the 2012 State Championship Game, finishing the postseason with a 1.84 ERA in 19 innings pitched.

Tyler Sieg started more games on the mound and pitched in more games than any Red during the nationally-historic 60-game win streak. The ace of the Reds as both a junior and senior, Sieg was the workhorse of the 2010 and 2011 seasons, pitching in nearly half of the Reds' games played as either a starter or reliever. He earned Most Valuable Pitcher honors in the 2010 Legion B State Tournament win, and was the Weld County Pitcher of the Year in 2011. Dante Foos was the Most Valuable Player of that 2010 Legion B State Tournament, winning the State Championship Game allowing 0 runs in 6+ innings of relief as he shut down Greeley West's offense, after also winning the NCBL Title the week before.



Dyer greeted by teammates at home plate after hitting HR



B. Koehler hoisting 2012 State Championship Trophy



Sieg pitching during Reds' record 60-game win streak



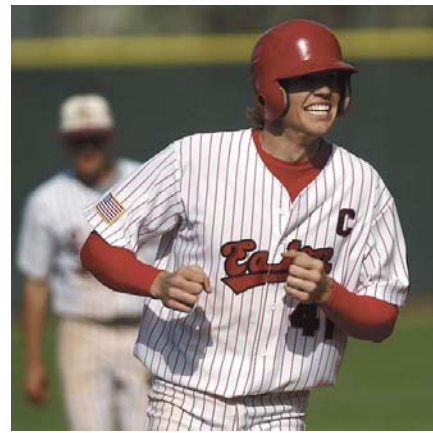
Foos winning 2010 NCBL Championship Game

Logan Hall was certainly a winner—actually, he never lost on the mound, not once. Hall was undefeated on the mound in all 42 spring, summer and fall games he ever started. Hall threw in the biggest games his senior year, clinching State Championship wins in both the summer and spring. In the 2009 State Tournament, Hall pitched 18 innings, allowing 0 earned runs against the state's top opponents. Before heading to college on a full-ride scholarship, he went undefeated throughout the summer to earn a Legion A State Championship as well, finishing with a 55-0 high school record.

Tyler Wallace will be remembered for his remarkable hitting, but his devastating knuckle curveball was simply unhittable. Wallace allowed no runs against the #2 team in the state, putting the Reds into the State Championship in 2009. Prior to heading to play Division I baseball on scholarship, Wallace held down a top all-star team in the Legion A State Tournament in the Championship "If" Game with a pitch that the state's top hitters could rarely even foul off.



Hall defeating Roosevelt to keep Eaton's, and his, win streak alive



Wallace hits walk-off game-ending home run in State Tournament

Kyle Ottoson struck out more batters than any pitcher in Eaton history. Ottoson K'd 15 in the 2008 State Championship Victory, including 3 straight batters on just 9 pitches with the bases loaded and the game on the line, which was the 6th time in the season that he struck out at least 14 batters, and each of those six 15-strikeout wins was against a top team that qualified for the State Tournament. He struck out 136 batters as a senior, literally striking out more than 2 batters per inning pitched. Ottoson was one of only a few Reds to ever be a top pitcher for 3 seasons, and his 385 career strikeouts obliterated the previous record, which dated all the way back to the early 1980s. To win the 2008 State Championship, Ottoson had to beat Lamar for the 2nd straight season, as in 2007, Ottoson struck out 10 Lamar batters in 8 innings in the State Tournament as well. Ottoson became the first Class 3A pitcher in history to be selected as the top pitcher in the entire state by the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post.

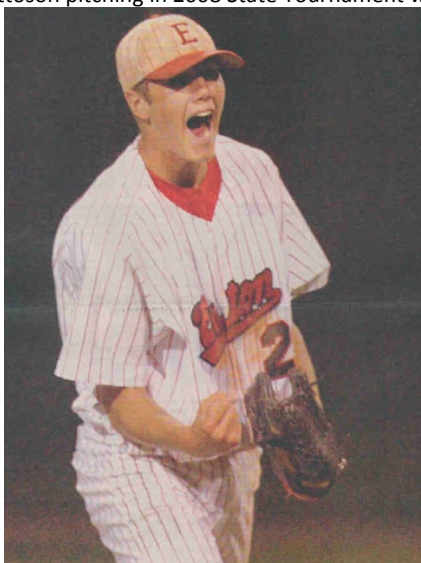
Bo McLavey rounded out the lefty-righty punch from the Reds' pitching staff in 2007 and 2008. McLavey threw a no-hitter through 5 innings, until the Reds then took a commanding lead, in the first game at State in 2007. Then in 2008, McLavey was dominant in a first-round shutout over Roosevelt and then again over Brush to send the Reds to the State Championship Game with an undefeated record, and thus two opportunities to win State. Had the Reds not won the first game with Ottoson, McLavey would have come back on no rest in the 2nd game; the Reds simply were going to win the 2008 State Championship, and did exactly that. After posting one of the all-time low opponent's batting-averages-against in 2007 at .161, McLavey got even better as a senior. Entering the postseason with an ERA just over 1.50, McLavey set the then-Reds' all-time record for the lowest postseason ERA in history at 0.35. Both Ottoson and McLavey threw a no-hitter, and both earned full-ride scholarships and are currently leading their teams on the mound in college.



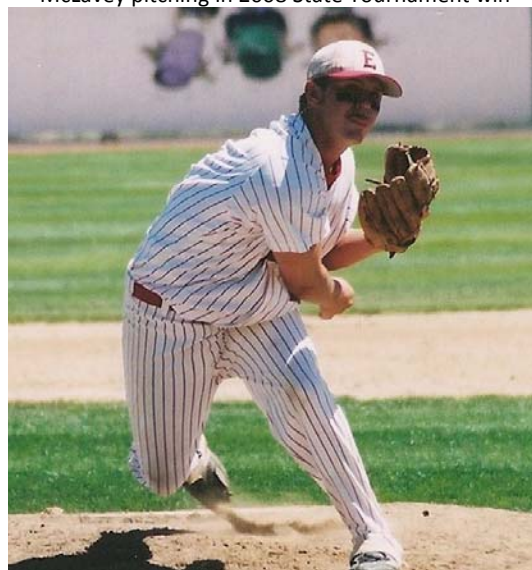
Ottoson pitching in 2008 State Tournament win



McLavey pitching in 2008 State Tournament win



Dyer defeats Roosevelt in 2005 American Legion State Tournament



Noblitt pitching in 2004 State Championship win

Before completing a top college career that led to his selection at the top of the 6th round in the 2008 Major League Draft, and that now has him pitching in the minor leagues, Shane Dyer threw arguably the top right-handed knuckle curveball in Reds' history. He also was a rare power pitcher for the Reds, topping out at 92 mph, which he did in one of the most dominant postseason games in history, as he defeated Brush 1-0 in a game in which he became possibly the only player in Colorado State Tournament history to strike out the opponent's #3 and #4 hitters on 2-strike bunt attempts, and Dyer K'd them on only 3 pitches apiece. Dyer threw a no-hitter both as a sophomore and junior. During his sophomore year in 2004, Dyer also held onto a throw at first base and despite being illegally run over, held onto the ball to give the Reds the first out of the 7th inning en route to the State Championship win.

Josh Noblitt was tough as nails, who like McLavey, threw sidearm and never did anything in his life without giving it 100% effort and dedication. Born with a club foot that had doctors determine he would be lucky to walk correctly and shouldn't even dream of participating in athletics, Noblitt didn't just dream of playing, he dreamt of winning, and that's what he excelled at doing. Noblitt led the Reds to a truly remarkable streak of 33 consecutive wins while staring in the face of elimination in spring and summer postseason games through his senior year in 2005. Noblitt led the team with a 1.17 ERA as a senior, and saved every single close victory for the Reds, taking over this role as the closer for which his teammate of previous seasons, Dusty Dominguez, was known. Noblitt carried six—yes, 6—State Championship Rings with him to his collegiate baseball team.

Dusty Dominguez was likely never taught how to handle losing, which worked out fine, since he simply never lost. In 5 spring and summer seasons with the Reds, Dominguez won all 5 State Championships, ending most of those title games on the mound. As the La Junta players and fans taunted the Reds following the argument that ensued after the collision with Dyer in the 2004 State Championship Game, Dominguez simply looked into the La Junta dugout and said "six pitches, just six" to denote how much longer this game, and their season, would last. Dominguez did exactly that and after striking out the final batter on 3 pitches as promised, enjoyed his 5th consecutive State Championship pileup. That kind of confidence, and ability to back it up, could only have come from the perfect record that Dominguez carried throughout his career in postseason games. Dominguez led the Reds as only a sophomore in the summer of 2002 to complete the Reds' first ever calendar year with two state titles won, which the Reds have now done four times. Dominguez was the game winning pitcher and Tournament MVP in both the spring and summer State Championships in 2003 as well, and was co-MVP in the 2002 summer State Championship. Dominguez is also the only Red in history to throw a perfect game, which he did in his final regular season game. He then went on to a successful junior college and 4-year university career; his junior college team's website still shows Dominguez prominently as the face of their team.



Dominguez closes the door on Pagosa Springs as the Reds' mount an 8-run comeback to win the 2003 Regional Semifinal played at Eaton



Hungenberg delivers a pitch in the 2002 American Legion State Championship, en route to the Reds' 2nd summer State Title

Dominguez's co-MVP in the summer of 2002 was Jordan Hungenberg, who was the game winning pitcher in the 2002 summer State Championship and then played a crucial role in the Spring 2003 State Championship and a supporting role in numerous State Championship wins thereafter. Hungenberg posted 18 career wins in spring games, and many more than that throughout the summer, which included the Reds' remarkable streak of 6 straight State Championships in spring and summer seasons throughout 2002, 2003, and 2004.

The Reds entered the 2002 State Championship Game as heavy underdogs. Fortunately for the Reds, they had senior Lee Griffith on the mound after sophomore Dominguez saved the semifinal game. Griffith threw a shutout as the Reds defeated a senior-laden Denver Christian team 12-0 in just 5 innings for the Reds' only mercy-rule-shortened State Championship. Griffith recorded 9 strikeouts in just 5 innings, and struck out the side in the 2nd inning with runners on base to end a scoring threat before the Reds put the game away. Griffith is the only Red in history to throw a shutout in the State Championship Game. As much as the Reds needed a great performance from Griffith in 2002, the previous year required an even greater performance for the Reds to take a State Championship away from a future pro pitcher.

Craig Ayers led the Reds on the mound in 2001 and threw arguably the most dominant Reds' game in postseason history. Matched up against an opposing pitcher that would be drafted in the first few rounds of the Major League Draft, Ayers faced a formidable task of keeping La Junta runs to a minimum to give the Reds a chance to win. He did exactly that, pitching a full 12 innings and striking out 15 batters, including striking out the side in the 9th inning and then striking out the final batter he faced in the 12th inning. Ayers sent the game into the 13th inning with the score tied up, and the Reds would go on to win it in the 15th inning. Ayers's performance lowered his season ERA to 0.83, with opponents hitting just .120 against him and slugging only .188. Ayers threw a rare postseason no-hitter in the District Tournament to defeat another pitcher for the 2nd time in the season who would also go on to be drafted. Never before had the Reds won 3 games in a season against pitchers who would play professionally, and Ayers was behind all 3 of the wins. Ayers also sent the Reds to the 2000 State Championship Game by throwing a shutout in the semifinals and never allowing more than one runner to reach base in an inning. Ayers posted the lowest ERA in Reds' history with a 0.68 ERA in 2000, and went on to have a successful 4-year collegiate career.



Griffith points out an infield popup during the 2002 State Championship victory



C. Ayers is congratulated after his 12th inning in the 2001 State Championship 15-inning win



Kelly pitches during the 2001 State Semifinal win, setting the Reds up for the 2001 State Championship the next day



Souther takes the mound in relief in the 2001 State Regionals

Ayers had the opportunity for his great performance in 2001 because of his teammate Aaron Kelly, who won the District Championship for the Reds and then sent the Reds to the State Championship Game by throwing a shutout in the semifinals. Kelly was so dominant in the semifinal game that no opponent even reached 2nd base throughout the entire game. Kelly posted a 1.66 ERA as a senior as opponents hit only .164 against him.

Had it not been for Scott Souther, Ayers' spectacular performance in the 2001 State Championship would have been wasted, as Souther took the mound to finish the final innings. Souther successfully threw out a runner trying to advance on a bunt, and then later threw out the would-be winning run on an attempted steal of home to end the 14th inning, before retiring the side in order in the 15th inning. Souther, along with Ayers, had led the Reds in 2000 to the State Championship Game, and would go on to play in the minor leagues after a college career in which he led his team into the NCAA Regionals.

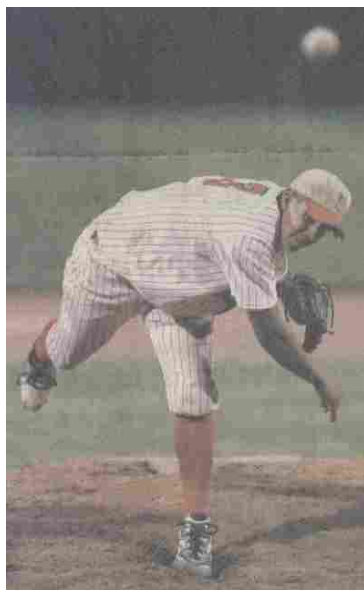
Josh Isakson led the Reds in 1999 to the state record 45-game winning streak and to the State Championship Game. Isakson won 9 games for the Reds and opponents batted just .184 against him. With the Reds tied with two other historic teams with 42 straight wins, Isakson left no doubt that the Reds would grab the record, by throwing a no-hitter in Regionals to defeat Holy Family for the Reds' record-setting 43rd straight win.

Paul Loftis posted one of the lowest ERA's in Reds' history at 0.82 in 1999. Loftis played a major role throughout the 45-game win streak, leading the Reds on the mound in the Regional Championship. Loftis never lost a game for the Reds, working both as a starter and as a reliever throwing the heralded knuckle curveball that nearly every Red has thrown since the mid-1980s.

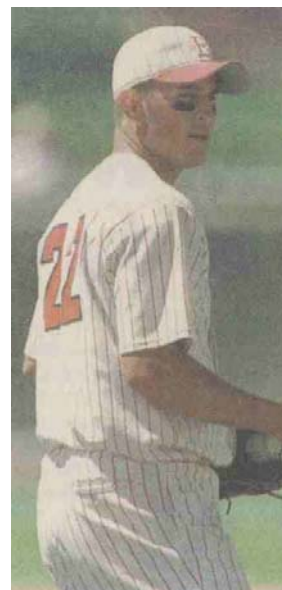
Mike Carrasco was the Reds' man to save games during the Reds' perfect season in 1998. With the State Championship and a possible 24-0 season record on the line, Carrasco took the mound to get the Reds out of a 5th inning jam and then retire 6 of the next 7 batters to secure the State Championship with a 3-1 win in the Reds' only close game played that season. Carrasco struck out 45% of all players who stepped to the plate against him in 1998 and 1999. In 1999, after allowing the first home run of his lifetime, which put the Reds down 3-2 in the 5th inning, Carrasco stepped to the plate with two outs in the next inning and sent a 2-run home run over the fence to give the Reds the lead back to win the Regional Championship. Carrasco didn't just save games however, he threw the complete game 4-2 victory in the 1997 summer State Championship, which was the first Legion title in Reds' history.



J. Isakson delivers a pitch during the 1999 State Tournament



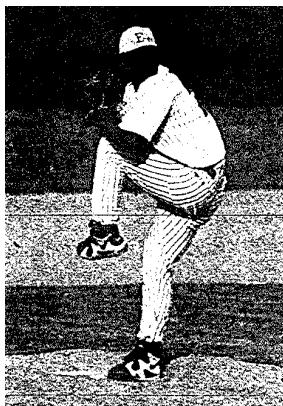
Loftis takes the mound in relief in the 1998 American Legion District Tournament



Carrasco gets the ball back from the infield during the 1998 State Championship win

The man who Carrasco took over for in the 1998 State Championship Game was Alex Ochoa, who led the Reds on the mound in 1997 and 1998. Ochoa had already thrown a shutout and near perfect game earlier in the 1998 Regionals before taking the mound to hold Lamar to one run in the Championship Game. Batters hit just .135 off Ochoa, who had a 1.02 ERA in 1998, en route to the Reds' sole perfect season. Ochoa had already thrown a no-hitter earlier in the season for the Reds in 1998 and won a 5-4 Regional game over Lamar in 1997 with a 10-strikeout performance to top a future professional pitcher.

Jeff Hager pitched alongside Ochoa throughout the 1997 season, leading the Reds to the Final Four with a win over Denver Christian for the Regional Championship. Hager threw a no-hitter through the first 3 innings until the Reds took a commanding lead that they would easily hold onto for the win.



Ochoa pitches in a league win during the summer of 1997



Hager wins an important league game at Brush in 1998

Adam Frank led the Reds to the 1996 State Championship Game after defeating La Junta in the State Semifinals. Frank had earlier earned the Reds a spot in the State Tournament by allowing just 2 runs against Brush, and then won the first game at Regionals allowing just 3 runs over Salida. Frank also won the first round game in Regionals in 1995 as the Reds marched to the State Championship.

Jon Gesick played a huge role in both 1995 and 1996. Gesick came in to save the State Semifinal game in 1996, one week after holding Kent Denver to one run in an 8-inning victory to win the Regional Championship. Gesick was the starting pitcher in the 1995 State Championship Game, inducing double play balls to end both of the first two innings without allowing a run before the Reds' ace could take over to finish up the victory.



Frank pitches during the 1996 State Tournament



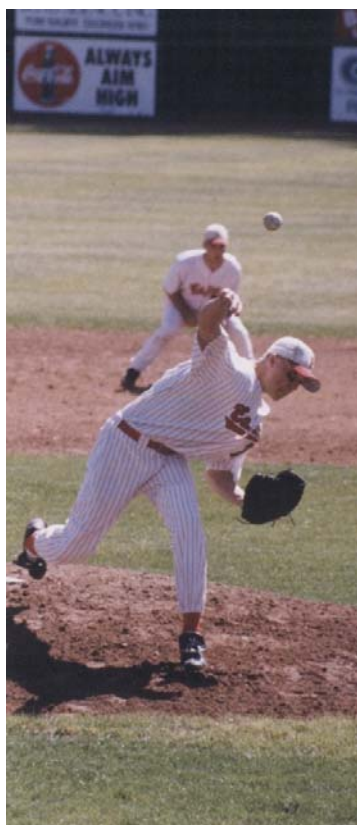
Gesick pitches during the 1995 State Championship win

Russ Shelton was the ace pitcher for the Reds in 1995, leading the Reds to the State Championship victory. Shelton won 12 games in 1995 (which is still tied for the all-time record), including wins in the final 3 games played. Shelton threw a shutout to defeat Denver Christian for the Regional Championship, and then the following week allowed just 4 hits to defeat Kent Denver. Shelton was pulled for Gesick in the 7th inning after the Reds took a commanding lead, to allow him

to save back innings for later in the day. After Gesick got through two innings in the Championship, Shelton came on to throw the next 5 innings to secure the 2-1 win, again allowing just four hits. Shelton allowed a total of just 3 earned runs throughout his 5 must-win playoff appearances, throwing over 24 innings to lead the Reds to the State Championship.

Todd Kindvall played the role of Gesick in the 1994 State Championship run, starting the State Championship Game before giving way to the Reds' ace. After taking the mound in Regionals, Kindvall turned a double play to end the scoring threat before shutting down his opponent with only one hit allowed the rest of the way. Kindvall then started the 1994 State Championship Game and held Olathe to 1 run on 2 hits through 3 innings.

Cory Martin then took the hill to win the 1994 State Championship, and was dominant through the final four innings, scattering just 3 hits and no runs as the Reds won 3-1 to secure Eaton's first State Championship. With the tying run on second base after a bunt moved the runners over, Martin struck out the next two batters on just 3 pitches apiece to end the State Championship Game. Such heroics were commonplace for Martin, who allowed just 3 hits the day before in the State Semifinals, and only one run or less throughout 3 State Tournament appearances in 1994. In 1993, Martin threw one of the top games in Eaton history, going all 11 innings in the State Semifinals to defeat Gunnison. Following a long rain-delay, Martin saved his best for last, striking out 8 of the final 9 batters who stepped to the plate against him, completing a record 19-strikeout day. Martin faced only four batters over the minimum throughout the final 7 innings. The final 11 batters of the game were retired in order by Martin to send the Reds to the 1993 State Championship Game. Martin had the most devastating knuckle curveball of the 1990's, which mirrored the likes of more recent stars like Dyer and Ottoson. Anytime the Reds needed to get out of a jam, the Reds called on Martin, and he always delivered, defining the role and expectation of all future ace pitchers for the Reds.



Shelton pitches during the 1995 State Championship win



Martin pitches during the 1994 State Semifinal win, before coming back the next day to win the State Title



Kindvall accepts the 1994 State Championship Trophy with teammates

As the Reds rattled off 19 straight wins during the 1993 season, they were led by Paul Isakson securing 7 of those wins on the mound. In Regionals, he threw a one-hit shutout through 3 innings until the Reds took a commanding lead to advance. Earlier in Districts, Isakson struck out 11 batters in the first four innings until the Reds had a commanding lead as well. In tight games, Isakson shined brightest, throwing a complete game 5-hitter to beat Yuma 3-2 to secure the League Championship for the Reds. The sidearmer owned the inside part of the plate, regularly backing up opponents.

After the Reds failed to earn the League Championship in 1991 for the first time in 13 years, Jake Comer led the Reds back to winning the League Championship and District Title in 1992. Comer took the mound in the District Semifinals with the Reds trailing in the 4th inning, but then struck out 3 batters to minimize the damage, and allowed just one more run through the 7th inning as the Reds took the game into extra innings and won as Comer struck out Yuma's #3 hitter to end the game. Later that same day, Comer took the mound to earn a save by shutting down Burlington to win Districts. In 1991, Comer defeated Manitou Springs, outpitching a top prospect to send Eaton to the State Championship Game.

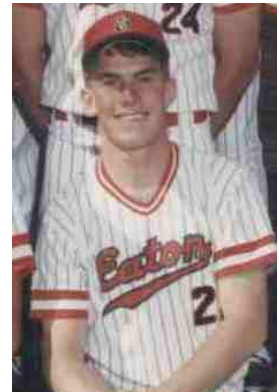
Jeff Sutter was not only one of the Reds' top shortstops of all-time, he also helped lead the Reds to the 1991 State Championship Game, which was the Reds' 2nd such appearance in the Title Game in history. In the 1991 State Semifinals, Sutter retired the side in order in the 7th inning to send the Reds to the Championship Game. The previous weekend in Regionals, Sutter shut down Roosevelt until after the Reds had taken a 17-0 lead. The week before that, Sutter saved the team's season by stopping Burlington to allow the Reds to make a comeback and take the game into extra innings, where the Reds won 8-7 to qualify for the State Tournament.



P. Isakson poses for 1993 team photo



Comer pitches at Denver Christian



Sutter poses for 1991 team photo

Ken Ayers, the older brother of 2001 State Champion Craig Ayers, threw a complete game, 2-hit shutout to secure for the Reds at least a tie for the 1990 League Championship. Much like his younger brother Craig, Ken Ayers didn't have overpowering velocity, but he was smart and crafty, and struck out 77 batters in 1990 to register one of the highest marks in Eaton history, while posting a 2.30 ERA and winning 8 games.

John Garza threw nearly every game in 1990 that wasn't pitched by Ayers. Following Ayers' 2-hitter to earn at least a tie atop the league standings, Garza threw a one-hitter to guarantee the Reds' sole possession of the League Title, which was the Reds' 12th straight League Championship. Throughout a regular season that included a 15-1 record, Garza and Ayers only allowed more than 2 earned runs in a game on just 2 occasions, never allowing over 4 earned runs in a game.



K. Ayers poses for 1990 team photo



J. Garza posing for 1989 American Legion team photo

Ray Garza was one of the Reds' top pitchers throughout the 1980's, leading the Reds in 1988 and 1989. Had it not been for a blown call by the umpiring crew that should have tied up the game in the 7th inning, Garza likely would have sent the Reds to the State Championship Game in 1989 after scattering 8 hits against Lamar and only allowing 3 runs in the State Semifinals. The previous weekend, Garza dominated Highlands Ranch to win Regionals by a 7-1 score, only hours

after saving the previous game by retiring 4 straight hitters to defeat Denver Christian 2-1. Garza also saved the District Semifinal and Championship Game in 1989. Garza struck out 96 batters in 1989 while posting an ERA of just 1.19. In 1988, Garza went 8-0 with a 2.35 ERA and qualified the Reds for the State Tournament with a complete-game win over University after a win in relief of one of the wildest games in Eaton's history, a 23-22 win in the first round of Districts.

Gary Ervin completed the 1-2 punch for the Reds on the mound in 1989. Ervin was nearly perfect in the Regional Semifinals, outpitching a top prospect from Denver Christian in the Reds' 2-1 win. Ervin also held Brush scoreless through 4 innings until the Reds had taken a commanding 8-0 lead in the District Championship, after having already won the first round game of Districts as well. Ervin won 8 games while posting a 2.83 ERA for the Reds in 1989. Remarkably, Gary Ervin never allowed more than 2 earned runs in a game.



R. Garza pitching in State Tournament

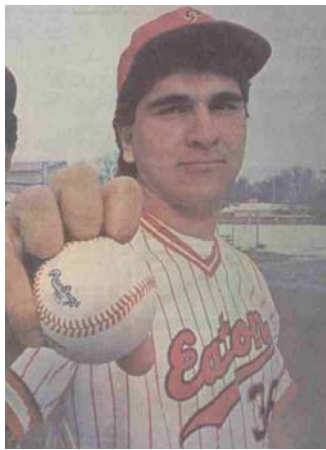


G. Ervin playing third base when he wasn't pitching for the Reds

Randy Cordova was one of only two Reds to be the #1 or #2 starter for the Reds throughout all four high school seasons. Cordova wasn't just a top pitcher, he was one of the Reds' all-time greatest hitters as well, batting #3 or #4 from his sophomore through senior years. On the mound, Cordova struck out 259 batters over his career, placing him tied for 3rd all-time. In 1988, Cordova completed his career by leading the Reds to the League Title and a State Tournament appearance in each of his high school years. In 1987, Cordova outpitched a top prospect from Sheridan to throw a complete-game, 5-hit shutout as the Reds won 2-0 to advance to the Regional Championship. Cordova had also thrown an 8-inning 1-0 shutout in the District Semifinals to qualify the Reds for the State Tournament. In the 1986 League Championship, Cordova pitched an 8-inning, complete game 5-4 win for the Reds over University. Cordova qualified the Reds for the State Tournament in 1985 with a shutout win over Platte Valley in the District Semifinals. Cordova is one of only 4 Reds' to ever throw 2 no-hitters, as he dominated Yuma as a freshman in 1985 and Roosevelt in 1986.

Bobby Ervin helped lead the Reds on the mound in 1987, winning the District Championship over Brush 7-4, scattering just 5 hits. Ervin also threw a shutout against Roosevelt to wrap up the League Championship the previous week. Bobby Ervin only allowed more than 2 earned runs on two occasions, which occurred in games where the Reds scored many more runs than Ervin allowed. Ervin also played a pivotal role in 1986, wrapping up a win in the first round of Districts, and then shutting out Windsor in the District Semifinals to qualify the Reds for the State Tournament.

Ron Crowder had one of the best arms of anyone to ever wear the Eaton pinstripes. As a catcher, he had a pop time that was better than some Major Leaguers at the time. He also threw a ball from home plate over the leftfield fence, without a bounce, without even warming up, before practice one day. On the mound in 1986, Crowder allowed just 3 hits to beat Roosevelt right after Cordova threw a no-hitter at them. Crowder then threw a one-hitter the next weekend to shut out Platte Valley and record 10 strikeouts in just 5 innings, as the Reds won via the mercy rule.



Cordova posing for preseason article highlighting the Reds' new pitch, the knuckle curve



B. Ervin poses for All-Weld photo



Crowder was a rare pitcher and catcher for the Reds

Scott Renfroe is the only Red, other than Randy Cordova, to be the #1 or #2 starter throughout each of his four high school years. Renfroe struck out 259 batters over his four years, registering 30 victories for the Reds. No victory is more memorable than the 2-1 win over Lamar in the 1985 Regional Championship, played at Eaton. In that game, Renfroe was pitted against a top Major League prospect who is still pitching in the Majors to this day. Renfroe scattered just 5 hits, and won the game with a two-out single of his own in the bottom of the 7th inning. Renfroe defeated Mapleton the week before, allowing no earned runs in the complete-game win, after allowing just 4 hits and no runs against University the previous week to win the District Championship. Renfroe earned a save in the 1984 Regional Semifinals, after saving Eaton's perfect regular season earlier in the year with a bases-loaded pickoff to end a scoring threat and hold onto a 3-2 win over Platte Valley. In 1983, Renfroe defeated Florence 1-0 in the Regional Championship, allowing just 3 hits on the day. Renfroe also won 4 league games as a freshman in 1982.

Mike Rosales earned the 5-4 win over Mapleton in the 1984 Regionals to send the Reds on to the Elite Eight. Rosales also completed the Reds' first undefeated regular season in history with a 3-hitter over Brush to finalize the 16-0 regular season. One week earlier against Windsor, he threw a two-hit shutout to effectively wrap up the League Championship for the Reds. Rosales allowed only 3 earned runs throughout the regular season and District Tournament in 1984.

Mike Anderson was an All-State shortstop and centerfielder, but was a gamer who took the mound whenever needed to lead the Reds to their first State Championship Game appearance in 1983. Clinging to a 12-9 lead with the potential tying run at the plate, Anderson induced a groundout and then a strikeout. Then with two outs, Anderson picked off the runner from first base to send the Reds to the State Championship Game. A week earlier, Anderson took the mound in relief to close out the 1-0 win over Florence in the Regional Championship. A week before that, Anderson relieved to close out the 6-5 win over Valley in the District Championship. Anytime Anderson was needed, he delivered.



Renfroe pitching in 2-1 win over Lamar in Regionals



Rosales poses for team photo



Mi. Anderson (left) celebrates 1983 State Semifinal win

Bill Lawhead was nearly perfect defeating University 1-0 in the 1982 District Championship Game, allowing just 3 hits. He also wrapped up the league title by defeating Roosevelt 8-7 and retiring the final 11 batters in order, 6 of them via strikeout, and then throwing a 3-hitter to beat Highland 5-1. Lawhead also won 7 games for the Reds in 1981.

Steve Stencel was one of the Reds' first dominant pitchers. In fact, his season record of 125 strikeouts and career record of 301 strikeouts stood for over 25 years until 2008. In the 1981 Regional Championship Game, Stencel outpitched a top Major League prospect to defeat Holy Family 3-1, allowing just 2 hits. A week earlier, Stencel threw a no-hitter to defeat Burlington 6-0 in the Regional Semifinals, striking out 15 batters and recording the final 10 outs via strikeout. Stencel advanced the Reds to the State Tournament by beating Berthoud 5-3 in the District Tournament a week earlier. Stencel posted one of the lowest season ERA's in Eaton history as a senior at 0.85, after posting a 1.79 ERA as a junior. In 1980, Stencel threw a 5-hitter at Platte Valley to send the Reds to the State Tournament. The week earlier, Stencel threw an inning of relief to close out a 3-0 win over Estes Park, before continuing on the mound for 11 innings in the next game of the doubleheader to defeat Estes Park 2-1 in extra innings, striking out 15 batters. Stencel scattered 6 hits to defeat Roosevelt 8-4 to send the Reds to the State Tournament for the 2nd time in history in 1979.

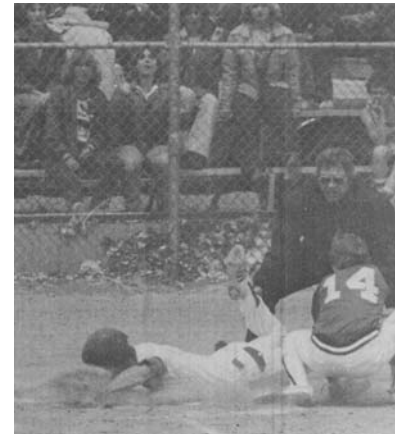
Mark Anderson posted a 2.02 ERA in 1980, winning nearly every game that Stencel didn't start himself. Anderson threw 6 innings of shutout ball, allowing just 4 batters over the minimum, to defeat Estes Park 3-0, guaranteeing the Reds at least a share of the League Championship in 1980. The Reds then won the next game to secure the 3rd League Championship in history for the Reds. The Reds won their 2nd League Championship of all-time in 1979 as Anderson led the Reds to a 14-4 win over Estes Park to secure the League Championship.



Lawhead posing for 1982 team photo



Stencel posing for individual photo



Ma. Anderson was one of the many Reds' pitchers that wouldn't take a courtesy runner

These young men wanted the ball when the game, and season, was on the line. The more pressure involved in a situation, the better they performed, often flat out dominating opponents even in postseason games, and even against opposing pitchers that would go on to be drafted, with many opponents later playing professional baseball. They simply did not accept anything short of absolute victory. They led their teams to remarkable championships and win streaks. They won 35 League Championships. They qualified for State 36 times. They won 29 Regional Championships. They played in 21 State Championship Games. They won 11 State Championships. They won over 730 spring games, and over 1,000 summer games as well. And they accomplished all of this within merely 37 years. They earned all sorts of all-league, all-state, and other awards, and most of them earned scholarships to play in college and a couple of them were even drafted by Major League organizations.

They set a standard over three decades ago that all future Reds would follow, of wanting the ball when times were tough and the enormity of the situation was too much for most others to handle. They thrived under such pressure, recording strikeouts and besting their opponents when the Reds needed it most. They became legends, with young Reds' ballplayers dreaming of playing like them when they had their shot, and then doing exactly that, creating a tradition of pitching excellence that's unrivaled in Colorado. And we're just proud and grateful to know them as Eaton Reds.



45 Reds' #1 and #2 Pitchers Spanning 37 Years of Eaton Baseball

Greiman '14-'15
R. Koehler '13-'15
Nelson '13-'14
C. Dyer '12
B. Koehler '12
Sieg '10-'11
Foos '10-'11
Hall '09
Wallace '09
Ottoson '06-'08
McLavay '07-'08
S. Dyer '04-'06
Noblitt '05
Dominguez '02-'04
Hungenberg '03
Griffith '02
C. Ayers '00-'01
Kelly '01
Souther '00
J. Isakson '99
Loftis '99
Carrasco '98

1979 – 2015

36 State Tournament Appearances

35 League Championships

29 Regional Championships

21 State Semifinal Wins

11 State Championships

738 Wins, Averaging 20 Wins per Season

Ochoa '97-'98
Hager '97
Frank '96
Gesick '95-'96
Shelton '95
Martin '93-'94
Kindvall '94
P. Isakson '92-'93
Comer '91-'92
Sutter '91
K. Ayers '90
J. Garza '90
R. Garza '88-'89
G. Ervin '89
Cordova '85-'88
B. Ervin '87
Crowder '86
Renfroe '82-'85
Rosales '84
Mi. Anderson '83
Lawhead '81-'82
Stencel '79-'81
Ma. Anderson '79-'80