

Highlights of Eaton Baseball in 2009

January / February

2008 graduates Kyle Ottoson and Bo McLavey start their junior college seasons with victories in late January / early February at South Mountain and Trinidad State, respectively. Both would go on to pitch at the top of their team's rotation, leading both teams to be ranked within the Top 25 junior colleges in the nation, and both teams reaching 40 wins on the season. Ottoson led his entire league with 10 wins, and McLavey led Trinidad State to their first league title this decade.



The Reds' coaching staff entered 2009 going into their [combined 100th year of coaching varsity baseball at Eaton](#) between the 4 varsity coaches, thus averaging a 25-year tenure per coach. Coach Danley started coaching at Eaton in the summer of 1969, and watched America land on the moon on a black-and-white TV in between games at Valley—but didn't let even the moon landing interfere with his commitment to one day make the Reds a top baseball program. That summer, the Reds won one game, just one. Coach Danley by 1998 had led a team that didn't lose even a single game. That would be a goal for 2009 as well, though the only real goal is to win State each year, but doing it in undefeated fashion was a dream of many of the Reds' ballplayers who had already won a spring and summer state title, and wanted to go out in style during their senior year.



Reds' 2006 graduate Shane Dyer reports to ALCS Champion Tampa Bay Rays' Spring Training. He goes on to compile an ERA under 1.00 in numerous appearances and is moved up to the Class A full season Bowling Green Hot Rods, where he would go on to pitch all summer long, finishing strongly enough to have an opportunity to move up the ranks in 2010.

Reds start spring season with practices beginning February 17th. The Reds go into the 2009 season expecting to have to defeat two 90+ mph pitchers in a single season for the first time in Eaton history, and practice to get ready to beat Faith Christian's and Brush's ace pitchers, along with a host of numerous other top contenders, including Holy Family.

March

Following two big wins over Kent Denver (19-4) and [Roosevelt \(10-0\)](#)—the win over Roosevelt gives the Reds 250 wins prior to suffering their 25th loss since the start of the 1998 season—the Reds face Faith Christian and their ace pitcher,

who would go on to be drafted in the early rounds of the MLB draft in June. Trailing 3-2 in the 7th inning, the Reds' #2 hitter, Seth Jackson, fouls off numerous two-strike pitches, and then reaches base on an infield single to bring the Reds' top slugger, Tyler Wallace, to the plate. Wallace also gets a strike on him, but then steps out of the box, takes a moment, and then steps back in to hit the next pitch well over 400 feet into the parking lot at Faith Christian to give the Reds a 4-3 lead. Wallace then retires the side on the mound to end the game and give the Red' an important non-league win over #2 ranked Faith Christian. Wallace's home run in that situation against a future MLB draft choice, with the stands filled with over a dozen professional scouts, marks arguably the greatest regular season moment in Reds history.



The Reds don't allow for any letdown after the big win at Faith Christian, and return home to beat Bennett 9-0, in the Reds' [1,500th spring/summer baseball win](#) since the start of the 1972 season. [List of 1,500 wins](#)

Due to rainouts, the Reds only play 4 games in March, winning all 4 of these non-league contests, prior to starting the league season in April.

April

The Reds start the league season with a 13-3 win over highly-touted Valley. The Reds then 10-run [Yuma](#) and Strasburg, and have Erie 10-run as well before turning over the game to the Reds' younger pitchers; the Reds still win easily by 8 runs. This game would later prove to be the only league game in which Eaton doesn't 10-run their opponent.

The Reds defeat Platte Valley 27-0, after scoring 12 runs prior to having their first out recorded in the 1st inning. The Reds have substitutes in the game by the 3rd inning, except for stars Tyler Wallace and Bennett Pickar, due solely to the fact that Major League scouts attended this, and nearly every, game to watch those two players. This win gives the Reds 650 wins since the start of the 1972 season, putting them more than 500 games over a .500 record during that time.

Tyler Wallace is named student/athlete of the week by the [Denver Post](#).

The Reds sweep [Brush](#) in a league/non-league doubleheader, winning the league game 17-3. Brush does not throw their ace pitcher at the Reds, opting to save him instead for a likely postseason game against Eaton. This concession would start to become the norm with many of the Reds' opponents. The Reds then 10-run Weld Central and [University](#), prior to a big game against Holy Family at the Colorado Rockies' Coors Field. The Reds take an early lead and Logan Hall retires 16 straight batters to hold onto a 5-2 win in just the Reds' 2nd close game of the season. The Reds didn't know it at the time, but there wouldn't be another close game...



The Reds' future ballplayers take the field to play in multiple tournaments throughout April, May, June and into July, with the Reds having a team at the [10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 year-old levels](#). Each of these teams would go on to qualify for their respective State Tournaments, with the 12 year-olds being ranked by USSSA in the top 10 teams in the entire nation within their division for much of the summer. The 11 year-olds would even field a fall ball team, competing against much older teams to gain experience for next season.

The Reds defeat Lyons 27-1, then Estes Park 10-0, and then [Highland 30-0](#) for the largest margin of victory in Eaton history. The Reds then defeat Valley 10-0 in a non-league game to end April with a 14-0 record for the month, and 18-0 record on the season.

The Reds win their 30th League Championship, and 29th League Title since 1979. The Reds also have an undefeated league record for the 9th time since 1998, and 14th time overall. The Reds have lost just 3 league games since the end of the 1997 season.

The Reds avoid any seeding controversy in 2009 by going undefeated to easily secure the #1 ranking for the State, after having beaten #2-seeded Holy Family earlier in the year to hand them their only loss thus far.

The State Tournament bracket is released. Denver Christian is seeded #32 and thus faces Eaton in the first round in May's Regional Tournament. Trinidad and Machebeuf are the other two teams travelling to Eaton for the single-elimination, four-team tournament.

The Reds are ranked by CBS Sports' MaxPreps as the [#1 team in all of Colorado](#) (amongst all classifications) and the [#16 team in the entire nation](#).

The Reds' junior varsity team finishes 11-3 on the year with wins over Roosevelt, Faith Christian, Northridge, and nearly every league opponent.

First year coach, and '06 Reds' graduate, Whitman Jones, goes undefeated with the C team, as the Reds go 17-0, 10-running nearly every league opponent, as well as 10-running multiple Class 5A and Class 4A opponents.

The Reds are featured in the inaugural internet radio broadcast for Colorado Coaches Aid. Despite being pressed to refer to this team as the best in Eaton's history, Coach Danley declines comment on that subject until after seeing how the Reds played in the upcoming postseason. The Reds seem to take this as a challenge...

May

With the season on the line in a single-elimination format, the Reds jump on top of Denver Christian early and keep piling on the runs to win 16-0 via the mercy rule. The Reds then face Machebeuf, and jump on top of them right away too, to coast to a 12-0 win to win Regionals for the 17th consecutive season, and 23rd time overall. Prior to 2007, only 16 teams qualified for State, and thus the Regional Champions advanced to the State Semifinals. Since 2007 though, 32 teams make it to State, and the top 8 teams advance to a double-elimination two-weekend tournament to determine the state's best. With the two mercy-rule wins, the Reds advance along with #2-seeded Holy Family, #4 seeded Manitou Springs, #7-seeded Lamar, #8-seeded Gunnison, #11-seeded Valley, #12-seeded Faith Christian, and #14-seeded Kent Denver. Numerous upsets (at least on paper) had already occurred in Regionals to knock out the #3, #5, and #6 teams—the Reds had to prevent an upset from occurring. [Elite 8 preview](#)



The Reds face Gunnison in the first round, and defeat Gunnison's #3 pitcher easily by a score of 18-0. This win sets the Eaton record for most consecutive shutouts, as the Reds earn their 6th straight shutout, outscoring their opponents 96-0 during that stretch, which includes 3 postseason games.

Gunnison decided earlier in the week to save back their top pitching for the following day, to try to come back through the loser's bracket. Faith Christian does the same in the next round for the Reds, as following an injury to Faith Christian's ace pitcher in April, they opt to throw a freshman for only his second appearance of the season as the Reds win easily by a score of 13-3. The Reds were visitors when Wallace's home run defeated Faith Christian earlier in the year, thus preventing that from being a truly walk-off home run; though with Wallace taking the mound and retiring the side in commanding form, it was mighty close to representing a walk-off, game-winner. This time against Faith Christian, the Reds were the home team, and when Wallace entered the batter's box with a chance to hit a home run to end the game via the mercy rule, Wallace wasted no time in hitting a walk-off home run, launching the first pitch he saw into the street behind Jackson Field's leftfield fence. This represents the Reds' 8th consecutive win via the 10-run mercy-rule, and 12th win via the mercy rule in the past 14 games.



One day after 10-running Gunnison and Faith Christian, the Reds match up against Holy Family. After a slow start has the Reds trailing 2-0, the Reds tie the game in the 3rd inning, then take a commanding 4-2 lead in the 5th inning, and add 5 more insurance runs in the 6th inning. All the while, Wallace had taken the mound in the 4th inning and strikes out 8 batters the rest of the way, allowing no walks, and just two hits, one of them an infield single, in securing the 9-2 win. This win guarantees the Reds a spot in the State Championship “If” Game. The Reds however want to earn two opportunities to win State on Championship Saturday, and to maintain an undefeated record. To do that, the Reds would need to beat Manitou Springs the next Friday.

Going into the final weekend, the Reds’ coaching staff is focused solely on winning the Title, not on staying undefeated necessarily. The players want both. The Reds choose to throw their #3 and #4 pitchers at Manitou Springs on Friday, hoping to hold onto a relatively close win without needing to use their top two pitchers, Logan Hall and Tyler Wallace, so that they would both be rested for Championship Saturday. The winner of the Holy Family-Faith Christian game would then have to beat both of the Reds’ top stars on Saturday in order to take the title away from Eaton. By being undefeated in the tournament, the Reds would only have to win one of two games Saturday, so long as they could first defeat Manitou Springs. The Reds take a commanding 10-2 lead in the 3rd inning, and hold on to win 11-6, pretty well going according to script and not requiring the use of Hall or Wallace, who would both be fully rested for Championship Saturday against Holy Family.



In the State Championship Game, Hall takes the ball and retires the side in order in the first inning, striking out Holy Family’s top hitter on a splitter that he hadn’t thrown in game action all season to add one more weapon to his arsenal (unknown to his opponents) on the final weekend. The Reds then strike for one 1st inning run, then Hall shuts down Holy Family again, and then the Reds score two more runs in the 2nd inning to take a commanding 3-0 lead. This lead quickly becomes 10-0, as the Reds explode for 7 runs in the 3rd inning. The Reds add another 3 runs in the bottom of the 4th inning, to score a total of 13 runs on 13 hits, while Hall allows just two hits in one of the most lopsided state title games in Colorado baseball history, sending the Reds to yet another State Title pileup.



The undefeated season in 2009 marked the 2nd time in Eaton history that the Reds were undefeated. The 1998 team also went undefeated, en route to setting the state record with 45 consecutive wins. The 1995 team lost only one game, a non-league contest, en route to winning State. [1998 vs. 2009 Reds' Teams](#)

The Reds would later learn that they were [1 of only 6 undefeated State Champion teams](#) in the nation in 2009.

The Reds would also later learn that they were [1 of only 3 teams in the nation](#) to win the State Championship with a 10+ run margin in a shutout victory, and the Reds won the State Title by the most runs amongst these teams.

With the win in the State Championship Game, Logan Hall completes his high school career at Eaton without ever losing a game as a starting pitcher—in [42 spring, summer, and fall games, he was undefeated.](#)



[The win is the Reds' 25th of the season](#), 18 of which the Reds had won via the 10-run mercy rule, including the State Championship Game, with 3 more wins by at least 7 runs. The 18 wins via the 10-run rule sets a new Eaton record.

The Reds would go on to learn later, following the completion of other states' finals—that despite falling from #16 to #40 in the CBS Sports' MaxPreps national poll, due to the lesser strength of schedule for the Reds when compared to large schools across the country facing other top-ranked teams—the Reds were ranked the #1 team in the entire nation amongst schools with an enrollment of less than 800, an enrollment mark that would place any team well into the Class 4A level if they played in Colorado. The 39 teams ranked ahead of Eaton are from much larger schools, nearly all of which would be large Class 5A schools in Colorado (comparable to Cherry Creek) based on their enrollment that much more closely matches the population of Eaton, Colorado than it does the enrollment of Eaton High School. Thus Eaton is not just the #1 Class 3A team in Colorado, the Reds are ranked the [#1 Class 3A team in the USA in 2009](#).

The Reds maintain a tie for the [most state titles in the nation](#) since 1994, with private-school Bishop Hendricken in Rhode Island also winning 9 state titles during this stretch; 4 other public schools and 3 other private schools have 8 state titles during that stretch as well.

The Reds maintain the [highest winning percentage in the nation](#) over the previous 25 years, increasing the Reds' winning percentage over that time to 86.6%. Kee High School in Lansing, Iowa is in 2nd place at 84.0%, after having overtaken Lisbon High School in New Hampshire during the 2008 season.

The Reds' State Title is their 10th spring/summer State Championship in the decade of the 2000's, completing a [dominant decade for the Reds](#), far exceeding their [competitors](#).

This State Championship win was the 8th for Eaton High School in baseball, basketball, and football in the 2000's, giving the Reds a two-title lead on every other program in the state with only the 2009 football season remaining to be played, thus [guaranteeing the Reds the most State Championships in the 3 major sports](#) in the entire state at all classifications throughout the decade. Eaton was also one of only 4 programs to win the State Championship in each of the 3 sports.

The Reds graduate 7 seniors, 5 of whom (Tyler Wallace, Bennett Pickar, Logan Hall, Sterling Monfort, and Bryce Ruff) had started for each of the past 3 seasons for the Reds, and had won the 2008 Class 3A State Title, the 2008 American Legion B State Title, and now the 2009 Class 3A State Title. These Reds experienced only two defeats in the final 82 games played in the pinstripes, including a perfect record of 18-0 in spring and summer State Tournament games in 2008 and 2009.

Reds' graduates are highlighted by The Greeley Tribune and in an internet radio broadcast on Colorado Coaches Aid for their winning attitude and what it will mean for the [upcoming Legion A season](#) for the Greeley-area all-star team filled with recent graduates. The Reds are the only players on the team that own State Championship Rings, having won 3 straight State Titles in the spring and summer seasons.

The Reds' new-look team (following the graduation of five 3-year starters) starts the 2009 summer season only 48 hours after winning the State Championship, by defeating Fort Morgan 8-4. The Reds then go on to win the Woodland Park Memorial Day Tournament, defeating an all-star team from a number of Class 4A and 5A teams in Colorado Springs. The Reds won all 12 games played in May, including 3 league victories.

June

The Reds start the summer with a record of 16-0 to win their 48th straight game (and 80th win in their previous 81 games played) dating back to the 2008 summer season and continuing throughout the perfect 25-0 spring 2009 season.

Pickar and Wallace are named to the 12-man All-Colorado team by The Denver Post. This all-star team is comprised of the top players in all classifications, and the Reds are the only Class 3A team to land a single player on the team. Both players are also invited to play in the Top 50 All-Star game at Coors Field, which consists of the top 50 high school seniors in all of Colorado. Coach Danley is also named the All-Colorado Coach of the Year, and is selected to coach in the Top 50 Game, which unfortunately is never played due to a rainout.



TYLER WALLACE
Eaton INF

Year	Team	Avg.	HR	RBI
2009	Eaton	.560	8	58

Class Senior | Position INF | Height 6-2 | Weight 170



BENNETT PICKAR
Eaton C

Year	Team	Avg.	HR	RBI
2009	Eaton	.603	4	33

Class Senior | Position C | Height 6-2 | Weight 190



JIM DANLEY
Eaton Coach

Year	Team	Avg.	HR	RBI
2009	Eaton	.603	4	33

Class Senior | Position C | Height 6-2 | Weight 190

The Reds have multiple players drafted in the 2009 Major League Baseball Draft, including the Reds' #3 and #4 hitters in spring 2009, Tyler Wallace and Bennett Pickar. Both choose to play Division I college baseball instead of signing professional contracts; Reds' 2008 graduate Kyle Ottoson was also drafted for the 2nd straight year, this time by the Yankees, but chooses to remain in college and likely move up considerably in the 2010 MLB Draft.



The Reds defeat Brighton to extend their winning streak in spring/summer games to 48 straight games dating back to the previous summer, earning wins in 96 of the past 98 games played during that 12-month stretch.

The Reds are honored to have a new 3-in-1 field drag donated to their program by Nate Gesick of B.B.G. Landscape; this top-notch drag allows the Reds' field crew to appropriately maintain one of the top high school fields in Colorado throughout the summer and for many years to come.

Due to considerable rain in early June, the Reds re-schedule many games, even playing as many as 3 league games in a day. The Reds play 17 games in 11 days, going 15-2 in that stretch, using nearly a dozen different pitchers.

The Reds extend out numerous [record consecutive game win streaks](#), including consecutive wins: in spring/summer games (48), at home in summer games (34), at home in spring/summer games (44), in league in summer games (27), in league in spring/summer games (38), in postseason in summer games (8), in postseason in spring/summer games (15), and in the State Tournament in spring/summer games (18).

July

The Reds are asked to represent Colorado American Legion Baseball in Greeley's Independence Day Parade, which the Reds are honored to do with top starters driving in the parade. The Reds have competed in American Legion Baseball each year for more than 40 years, and have won 4 American Legion State Championships this decade, including posting a 43-2 record in 2008 en route to winning the State Championship.

Competing for the first time in the Northern Colorado Baseball League (NCBL) against other top Class 4A and Class 5A teams, the Reds wrap up the league season in 1st place in the National League with a record of 20-1 after defeating Roosevelt 13-1. The game was rare, as it was the first game in Eaton history to count as a league game in two separate leagues, as the win also guaranteed the Reds a spot in the American Legion District Tournament as well.

Wallace is named by CBS Sports' MaxPreps as a Small Schools [First-Team All-American](#), becoming one of only two players in all of Colorado to be selected to an All-American team (the other player was from Class 5A Rocky Mountain). Coach Danley is also named the Small Schools National Coach of the Year.

The Reds' dirty, [gamer hats are featured on 9News](#). The Reds have worn the same uniforms since the early 1970s, and have worn the same hats since 1994 when the Reds changed to a new hat and won their first State Title. The white hats with red pinstripes are not cleaned at Eaton, and after playing nearly 100 games per year in spring, summer, and fall games, the wear on the multi-year starters' hats is quite visible. The story is picked up nationally, airing in numerous cities throughout the Southeast U.S.

The Reds win their 45th game of the summer, the most wins in Eaton history, and their 900th summer game since Coach Danley took over the program in 1972, with a 12-3 win over Boulder Fairview in the Legion B State Tournament. Earlier in the month, the Reds had won their 400th American Legion league game with a 12-7 win over Fort Collins, and their 400th non-league game with a win 10-0 win over Poudre. The Reds have nearly 100 American Legion postseason wins as well.

August

2009 graduates Hall, Pickar and Wallace lead Greeley GoJo's to the [Legion A State Title](#), with Hall and Wallace pitching the final 12 innings of the tournament to secure the Title and earn tournament honors; Pickar catches the entire tournament, throwing out multiple would-be base stealers and picking off a number of runners, and also helps lead the Reds' former players to knock in over half of the team's RBIs on their march back to the title for the first time since the Reds' 1999 graduates led GoJo's to their previous title.

After completing an undefeated high school career in spring, summer, and fall games for the Reds, Hall also goes undefeated for the all-star GoJo's team of graduates with a record of 13-0 including a win and save in the State Tournament and a win in the Regional Tournament. Hall heads to college after completing a high school career with a remarkable [record of 55-0 as a starting pitcher](#).

The Legion A State Championship gave these Reds' graduated players 6 straight seasons (starting with Fall 2007) in which they won the final game of the season as Champions.

Thankfully, Reds' 1991 graduate [Jeff Sutter is diagnosed as cancer-free](#) following months of chemotherapy after being diagnosed with life-threatening lymphoma in early 2009. Sutter was one of the top shortstops to ever play at Eaton, and one of only two players to ever play all 4 years at shortstop; he has always been one of the top men to have ever played at Eaton, and the entire Eaton Baseball Family was greatly supportive of his battle and relieved to see Jeff defeat cancer.

Reds' senior, and team captain, Adam Geisick, is selected to WYCO Braves Scout Team, an all-star team filled with no other Class 3A players, and no other Weld County players, and has a roster filled with nearly all Class 5A players from schools like 3-time defending State Champion Rocky Mountain, Wyoming's perennial State Champion Cheyenne, and other top schools from Pueblo to Grand Junction. Geisick goes on to play nearly every inning all fall, defeating teams like Cherry Creek and even top junior college teams with key extra-base hits in the late innings. Once that season ends in late October, Geisick re-joins the Reds for what would be a memorable season-ending best-of-3 Championship Series.

The Reds kick off the 2009 Fall Season with an intrasquad scrimmage. The Reds' teams for Sunday games consists of 1 senior, 2 juniors, 5 sophomores, 9 freshmen, and 4 eighth graders. The Reds are not just the only Class 3A team in the area to field a fall team, the Reds are also the only team in their Class 5A fall league to field two teams. Class 4A Roosevelt is the only team in the area to field two teams, and the Reds' Team 2 would go on to beat Roosevelt's 2nd team 14-2 in a non-league game in September.

The Reds receive their 2009 State Championship rings, encrusted with one diamond for each victory in 2009—25 in all—and crossed by two red ruby-filled tomahawks, representing the Reds' back-to-back spring State Championships. The Reds' graduates, and many Reds' underclassmen, now have a total of 3 State Championship Rings.



Nine former Reds head to college, with one more former Red playing in the minor leagues, with scholarships totaling over \$100,000 per year to top junior college programs and Division I and II schools.

September

The Reds defeat Class 5A opponents Aurora Central and George Washington to rise to the top of the standings in the Class 5A league. The Reds' Team 2 also defeats Class 5A Denver East's varsity team; in fact, the Reds' Team 2 plays nearly all Class 4A and 5A varsity teams throughout the fall season, facing only one junior varsity team, and winning that game easily with 10 runs scored in the first inning. In other games against Class 5A varsity teams, the Reds' 8th and 9th graders would go on to stay within a couple of runs of their much older opponents in nearly every single game.

The Reds also compete well in a top Northern Colorado fall tournament, with perennial State contenders Rocky Mountain, Fort Collins, Loveland, Poudre, Niwot, Thompson Valley, and Roosevelt. The Reds had more 8th graders on the field than juniors and seniors combined in this Thursday through Saturday tournament, and yet still defeated Niwot and lost very close games to Fort Collins and Thompson Valley.

October

Reds' 1998 graduate Matt Hagen, playing for the [Somerset Patriots](#) in the Atlantic League, earns his 2nd consecutive All-Star award, and helps guide the Patriots to back-to-back championships in the 8-team league. Hagen hits 2 doubles and scores the go-ahead run in the championship game. While this league is not affiliated with Major League Baseball, Hagen has spent years in the past in MLB's minor league system.

The Reds defeat Class 5A Grandview 21-1 to advance to the Fall Ball Championship against a combined team from Greeley West, Northridge and University. The Reds were limited by rule to only 5 runs per inning in each of the first 3 innings to take a commanding 15-1 lead en route to clinching a spot in the November 1st championship series.

The league schedule for 2010 is released; the full schedule is to be released once finalized.

The Reds' [2009 Reds of the Month](#) are remembered:

[Sgt. Riley Haythorn](#) was named March 2009 Red of the Month. Riley was a key part of the Reds' 1994 State Championship, the first in Eaton history, both as a pitcher, outfielder, and clutch hitter, always thriving under pressure. Riley has since served America in the Army's Special Forces as an elite soldier. Immediately following 9/11, Riley went to the Middle East to prepare for the War on Terror and was immediately put into action in Afghanistan once America retaliated. After fully destroying Saddam's Iraqi military, Riley was then one of the men chosen to train the new Iraqi military and now works in psychological operations (PSYOP) against America's enemies around the globe.

[State Senator Scott Renfroe](#) was named April 2009 Red of the Month. Scott was one of the top two left-handed pitchers to ever play at Eaton, and gave the Reds their top win of the 1980's, with a 2-1 win over Lamar in 1985. Scott not only outpitched Lamar's ace and future Major League pitcher, he also delivered the two-out 7th inning walk-off RBI single off him to win the Regional Championship, among many other clutch performances for the Reds back when they were underdogs, but won anyway. Scott has since become a very successful businessman and was easily elected to serve in the Colorado Senate, defeating an opponent that once attempted to ban Eaton's Fightin' Red mascot.

[Coach Martin Hernandez](#) was named May 2009 Red of the Month. Coach Hernandez served as a volunteer coach for the Reds for well over a decade, and was an adamant supporter of every kid that ever put on the pinstripes, serving not only as coach, but mentor. After battling with diabetes for years, Coach H. passed away in the middle of the 2003 season, and had only one request for his funeral: "bury me wearing me Eaton uniform." This request was honored, and the '03 Reds' team attended his funeral and promised to devote a State Championship season to him that year, which they did, overcoming seemingly impossible obstacles with late-game heroics to live up to their promise to win it for Coach H.

November / December

The Fightin' Reds honor National American Indian Heritage Month, remembering the [brave spirit of these great warriors](#) that represent the Reds' sports teams and are depicted on the Reds' dugout and oversee the Reds' trophy cases.

Reds win 4th straight Fall Ball Championship by defeating a combined Greeley West/Northridge/University team in a best of 3 series. Despite losing the first game of the series 13-2, the Reds come roaring back to win 8-1 in Game 2. The Reds then go 2 extra innings to win Game 3 of the series with a two-out rally that ties and then wins the Fall Championship. The Reds had to come back from a 3-run deficit to send the game into extra innings, and then score in each of the extra innings to tie the game, before winning it right before sunset would have ended the game. The Reds had only two seniors and only two juniors in the series, defeating a much older all-star team with primarily Reds' sophomores and with significant contributions from freshmen and 8th graders.

Reds' captain Adam Geisick verbally commits to top scholarship at top-notch junior college that is one of the most consistent winners in the region. Details to be provided upon signing on January 15, 2010.

Kyle Ottoson signs a top scholarship at Arizona State University, after turning down offers from other top programs including USC, Oklahoma State and Auburn. ASU is one of the top 5 or 10 baseball programs in the nation in nearly every conceivable way of ranking programs over the past few decades, and made it to the College World Series for the 21st time in 2009.

2006 graduate and 2009 assistant coach Whitman Jones completes army basic training and also graduates from airborne school, earning the expert marksmanship badge by hitting 40 of 40 targets during basic training.

Jared Carlson is named team captain at Covenant College, despite having only been at the 4-year school for under 12 months, players voted him team captain based on his leadership and remarkable 2009 season.

Coach Danley is notified that he will be inducted into the inaugural class of Hall of Fame members for the Colorado Dugout Club—the new baseball coaches association in Colorado. The Reds’ historic success will thus be one of the very first things noted by the Colorado Dugout Club as they review the history of baseball in Colorado. The 2nd annual meeting for the coaches association will occur in mid-January 2010.

The Reds look forward to 2010 with the [Reds’ season preview](#), as well as the [season preview for recent Reds’ graduates](#) playing at the next levels. The 2010 Reds will be looking to match the heroics of the [Reds’ 2003 sophomore-laden State Championship team](#). The Reds will carry with them [multiple win streaks](#) into the season, with [numerous upcoming Reds’ milestones](#) within reach. The Reds enter in a new decade leaving [one proud decade](#) behind, in which the Reds were clearly the [team of the decade](#) and capped off the decade with numerous [honors in 2009](#), but now start anew looking to improve upon their successes and leave an even better mark on the 2010’s. Reds’ Geisick and Jackson are the most experienced returning starters, and two of only 23 Reds’ [4-year starters in history](#).

The Reds welcome their 62,000th visit to www.EatonBaseball.com of the year, a new Eaton record, and almost certainly one of the highest figures for any high school baseball team’s website in the nation, coming from more than 9,300 separate individuals from all 50 states and 37 countries on 5 continents. The Reds’ website receives over 5,000 visits from California alone, along with more than 1,500 visits from New York and over 1,000 from Texas, with over 300 visits from Canada, and dozens of visits per country throughout many of the major European countries. Over 600 visits come from untraceable locations, almost certainly all of which are from men serving in the U.S. military overseas. The Reds are especially honored to be visited by these American troops serving in defense of our great nation.



Most photos shown above from www.greeleytribune.com, some photos provided by Reds’ graduate Fred Kester as well.