

10 Greatest 7th Inning Wins in Eaton Baseball Postseason History



Eaton Fightin' Reds (23-2)
Dominguez

Background

7th Inning Summary

Final Score

Quotes

Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
2003 State Semifinals
At All-Star Park in Lakewood
May 16, 2003

vs.

Pitchers of Record



University Bulldogs (18-6)
Hughes

In a season (2003) dedicated to the late Coach Martin Hernandez, and in a single-elimination State Tournament in which the Reds had already come back from a 7-run deficit, the Reds allow two runs in the top of the 7th inning before Josh Noblitt snags a line drive that would have made it a 4-run deficit.

University takes a two-run lead into the bottom of the 7th inning, trying to defeat the Reds in a meaningful spring or summer game for the first time since 1986, and as the Reds would get down to their final out, and even their final strike, University fans would line up at the gates to swarm the field in celebration. The Reds though had other plans.

The Reds enter the bottom of the 7th inning trailing 6-4 with the season on the line, the winner of this game would advance to the State Championship Game the following day.

Garrett Walker led off the inning with a double, but the next two Reds' batters are then retired. Down to their final out, the Reds' Josh Noblitt doubles to cut the deficit to one run and to put himself in scoring position as the tying run. Fellow sophomore Travis Anderson then got to two strikes in the count before fouling off a pitch, and then singled on the next pitch to score Noblitt and tie the game, and Anderson moved up to 2nd base on the relay throw home. Tyler Garretson then singled on the very next pitch to score Anderson and send the Reds on to the State Championship Game.

Eaton 7, University 6

"This is what you dream for. This is why you play the game...One of the parents came up and said to me that Eaton has been coming back all these years...A lot of people don't like to see Eaton win. It's kind of like the Yankees." Tyler Garretson after hitting game-winning RBI with two outs in bottom of 7th inning.



2nd Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
1985 Regional Championship
 At Old Eaton Baseball Field
June 21, 1985



Eaton Fightin' Reds (19-1)
 Renfro

vs.

Lamar Savages (18-1)
 Brocail

Pitchers of Record

Background

Lamar's Doug Brocail enters the game undefeated throughout his entire career as arguably the top pitcher in the state at any level with multiple pro scouts at each of his games (*he would go on to pitch in the Major Leagues for 18 years*), and Lamar is the favorite to go on to win the State Championship riding an 18-game win streak.

The Reds are tied 1-1 going into the bottom of the 7th inning in this must-win game with Lamar's Brocail on pace to throw his 3rd no-hitter of his career, having already struck out 14 Eaton batters with a near 90mph fastball.

7th Inning Summary

The Reds used pinch hitter Dan Gilbert with one out in the bottom of the 7th inning, and he lined a 2-2 pitch back up the middle for the Reds' first hit of the day. Mike Herzberg then re-entered to run at 1st base, and with two outs advanced to 2nd base on a single from Brad Grauberger. With the winning run on 2nd base, Scott Renfro hit a two-out, 1-0 pitch into leftfield that was perfectly placed in between the shortstop, leftfielder and centerfielder, and while they paused to see which one would catch the ball, Herzberg scrambled home from 2nd base with the winning run.

Final Score

Eaton 2, Lamar 1





3rd Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
2012 State Tournament Elite Eight
 At Jackson Field in Greeley
May 19, 2012



Eaton Fightin' Reds (19-4)
 C. Dyer

vs.

Faith Christian Eagles (21-2)
 Graves

Pitchers of Record

Background

The Reds enter this 2012 State Tournament game as clear underdogs, after having lost to Faith Christian by the score of 18-5 in a non-league game less than two weeks earlier. That loss ended the Reds' record-tying streak of 50 straight wins at home (dating back to the beginning of the 2008 season) and sent the Reds into the State Tournament seeded as underdogs.

The Reds and Faith Christian both surprisingly lost the day before, to Brush and Holy Family respectively, setting up this must-win elimination game. The winner of this game would be the odds-on favorite to win the State Championship the following weekend.

If the Reds were to lose this game, it would end their season, become the first season in 15 years to fail to reach 20 wins, and end a streak of 19 consecutive Final Four appearances.

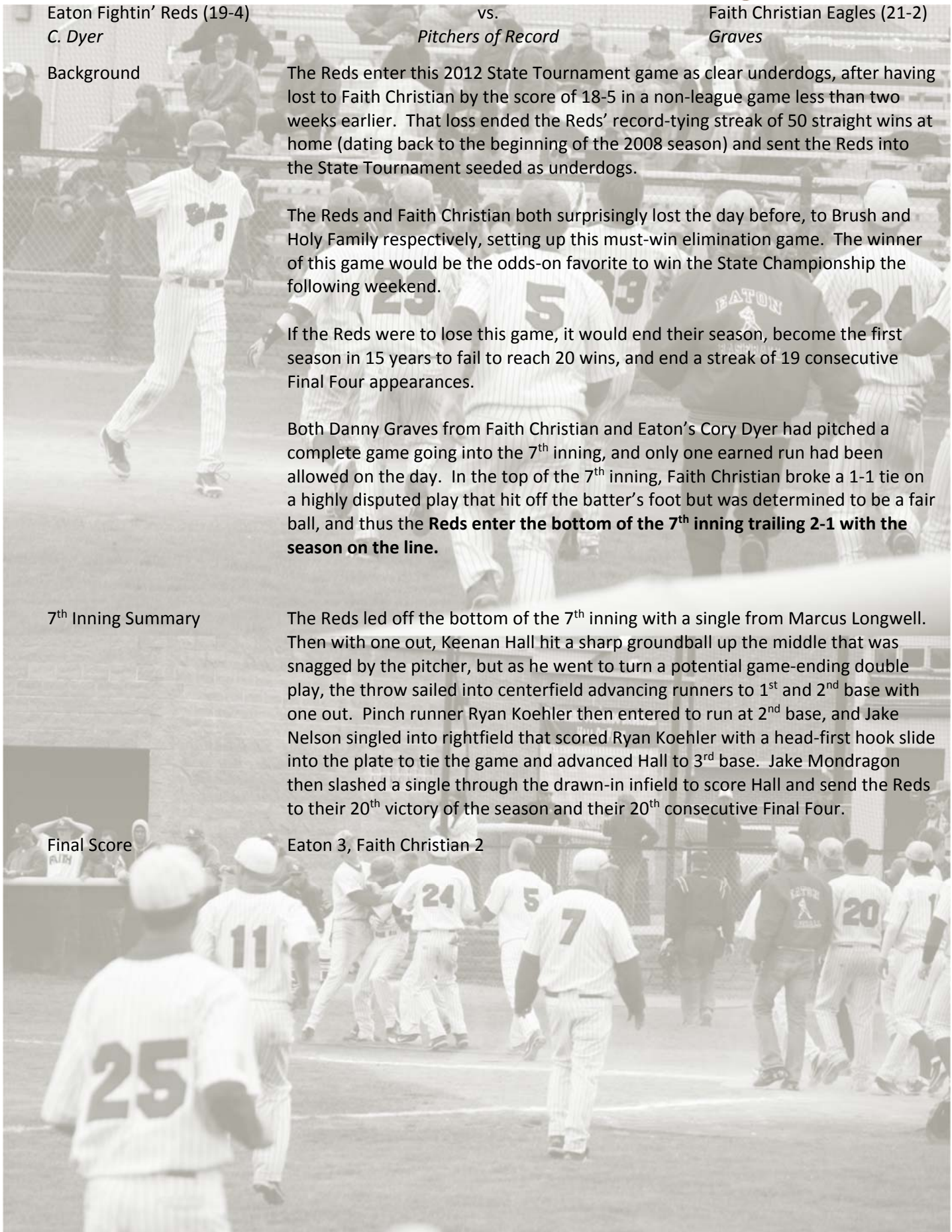
Both Danny Graves from Faith Christian and Eaton's Cory Dyer had pitched a complete game going into the 7th inning, and only one earned run had been allowed on the day. In the top of the 7th inning, Faith Christian broke a 1-1 tie on a highly disputed play that hit off the batter's foot but was determined to be a fair ball, and thus the **Reds enter the bottom of the 7th inning trailing 2-1 with the season on the line.**

7th Inning Summary

The Reds led off the bottom of the 7th inning with a single from Marcus Longwell. Then with one out, Keenan Hall hit a sharp groundball up the middle that was snagged by the pitcher, but as he went to turn a potential game-ending double play, the throw sailed into centerfield advancing runners to 1st and 2nd base with one out. Pinch runner Ryan Koehler then entered to run at 2nd base, and Jake Nelson singled into rightfield that scored Ryan Koehler with a head-first hook slide into the plate to tie the game and advanced Hall to 3rd base. Jake Mondragon then slashed a single through the drawn-in infield to score Hall and send the Reds to their 20th victory of the season and their 20th consecutive Final Four.

Final Score

Eaton 3, Faith Christian 2





4th Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
2015 Legion A High School State Championship
At Evergreen
July 27, 2015

Eaton Fightin' Reds (29-6)
Mossberg

vs.
Pitchers of Record

Rock Canyon Jaguars
Castleberry

Background

In the Legion A High School State Tournament, the Reds had won two days ago against Rock Canyon, but then lost to Rock Canyon 10-3 yesterday in the first Championship Game, making today a winner-take-all State Championship Game. Rock Canyon, the 5A State Champions the past spring, were allowed by Legion to bring their graduates to the tournament and even a 2014 graduate who the Reds would face on the mound today, while the Reds would start incoming freshmen at shortstop and third base with no Eaton graduates on the field.

The Reds are tied at 7-7 in the bottom of the 7th inning with the State Championship on the line.

7th Inning Summary

After J.T. Mossberg finished his 7th inning on the mound by stranding the would-be go-ahead run at 2nd base with a strikeout, the Reds led off the bottom half of the inning with a pinch hit from Preston Donlon. With one out, Mossberg reached on a fielder's choice for the 2nd out of the inning. Joe Mondragon then doubled to advance Mossberg to 3rd base. Sean Carson then hit a 1-0 pitch hard back up the middle out of the reach of a diving shortstop for the game-winning single, sending the Reds to their 21st spring/summer State Championship pileup. Remarkably, this was the Reds' first pileup while on offense, and was the 1,938th, and final, victory coached by Coach Danley for the Reds.

Final Score

Eaton 8, Rock Canyon 7



5th Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
2015 Legion A High School State Tournament
At Evergreen
July 25, 2015

Eaton Fightin' Reds (28-5)
Lind

vs.
Pitchers of Record

Rock Canyon Jaguars
Givin

Background

The Reds and Rock Canyon enter this game undefeated in the tournament, with the winner advancing to the State Championship Game, while the loser would have to go win 3 straight games to claim the Championship. The Reds have their ace Dalton Lind saved back for today's game, going up against the reigning 5A State Championships that were inexplicably allowed to bring their graduates to the Legion A High School State Tournament.

7th Inning Summary

The Reds are trailing 3-2 in the bottom of the 7th inning with a trip to the State Championship Game on the line.

Lind stranded two runners on base in the 7th inning with a batter's interference call and then a strikeout to end the top half of the inning. With one out, Breydan Stover doubled and JT Mossberg doubled to tie the game. Then with two outs, Sean Carson hit a 1-0 pitch back up the middle for the game-winning single to score Mossberg and send the Reds to the State Championship Game.

Final Score

Eaton 4, Rock Canyon 3



Eaton Fightin' Reds (30-3)
Garza

Background

7th Inning Summary

Final Score

6th Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
1988 Legion B District Tournament
At Commerce City
July 30, 1988

vs.
Pitchers of Record



Loveland Indians
McCloughan

The Reds enter a must-win elimination game in the 1988 District Tournament against Loveland, with the winner advancing to the State Tournament, and the loser having its season coming to an end. The Reds enter this District Tournament having only qualified for the State Tournament once in the past 25 years.

The Reds trail 6-1 going into the top of the 7th inning with the season on the line.

The Reds had to mount one of their best 7th inning rallies of the decade, which was capped off with Ray Garza delivering a two-out single to give the Reds the lead. Garza then took the mound in the bottom of the 7th inning and retired the final two batters to earn the win and send the Reds on to their 2nd Legion State Tournament of the era.

Eaton 7, Loveland 6



7th Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
1992 Legion B District Tournament
At Butch Butler Field in Greeley
July 25, 1992



Eaton Fightin' Reds (24-10)
Rice

vs.

Pitchers of Record

Windsor Wizards (20-11)
Kammerzell

Background

In the 1992 Legion B District Tournament, the Reds face Windsor with the winner moving on and the loser's season ending.

7th Inning Summary

The Reds trail 8-5 going into the top of the 7th inning with the season on the line.

With one out, Bud Noffsinger singled, and then with two outs and still trailing by 3 runs, Brandon Houtchens singled, and then Matt Rice and Riley Haythorn both singled to bring the Reds within one run. Paul Isakson then took a hit by pitch to load the bases, and then Joaquin Morado drew a walk to tie the game. Riley Haythorn then scored on a wild pitch to give the Reds a 9-8 lead going into the bottom of the 7th inning.

Windsor then loaded up the bases with just one out, before hitting a soft groundball toward second baseman Kirk Danley that was too slow to turn a double play, and with the runner barreling down toward him, Danley made contact with the runner before the ball got to him to draw the runner's interference call. While Windsor runners advanced to score what they thought were the tying and winning runs, the delayed dead ball was called and all runners were sent back to their bases with Eaton still leading 9-8 with two outs. Reds' pitcher Matt Rice then induced a game-ending flyout to advance the Reds on in the Legion B District Tournament.

Final Score

Eaton 9, Windsor 8



8th Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
 2004 Regional Semifinals
 At Jackson Field in Greeley
 May 15, 2004



Eaton Fightin' Reds (18-3)
 Dominguez

vs.

Machebeuf Buffaloes
 Schaer

Pitchers of Record

Background

The Reds enter the 2004 State Tournament seeking to win their 4th straight State Championship. The Reds would first have to get by Machebeuf, with the winner advancing to face Valley in the Regional Championship.

The Reds get behind 2-0 early in this game, before rallying to tie it in the 5th inning.

The Reds enter the top of the 7th inning tied in this must-win game.

7th Inning Summary

Machebeuf led off the top of the 7th inning with a double, but then after a sacrifice bunt, they attempt a suicide squeeze which Dusty Dominguez (Eaton's most accomplished pitcher of all-time with a literal handful of State Titles to his credit) handles perfectly to throw at the batter to back him off the plate and then catcher Jared Carlson immediately dropped down to block the plate and apply the tag for the 2nd out. After a walk, an intentional walk, and then a hit-by-pitch loaded the bases again, Dominguez induced a ground out to third baseman Brett Myatt to end the scoring threat.

In the bottom of the 7th inning, Shane Dyer drew a leadoff walk and is replaced by pinch runner Brady Trujillo. On the very next pitch, Jordan Hungenberg doubled and Trujillo raced around from first base with the game-winning run.

Final Score

Eaton 3, Machebeuf 2



9th Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
2011 NCBL Semifinals
At Eaton Baseball Field
July 19, 2011



Eaton Fightin' Reds (35-9)
B. Koehler

vs.
Pitchers of Record

Cheyenne Hawks
Block

Background

The defending NCBL champion Reds face Cheyenne in the 2011 NCBL Semifinals, with the winner advancing to face Thompson Valley for the NCBL Championship.

The Reds had already heroically defeated Fossil Ridge for the 2010 NCBL Championship against many of the top Class 4A and 5A teams in Colorado, but the Reds trailed in this year's semifinal to Cheyenne 3-1 in the 6th inning before going-to-be-8th grader Matt Burkart hit a two-out RBI single.

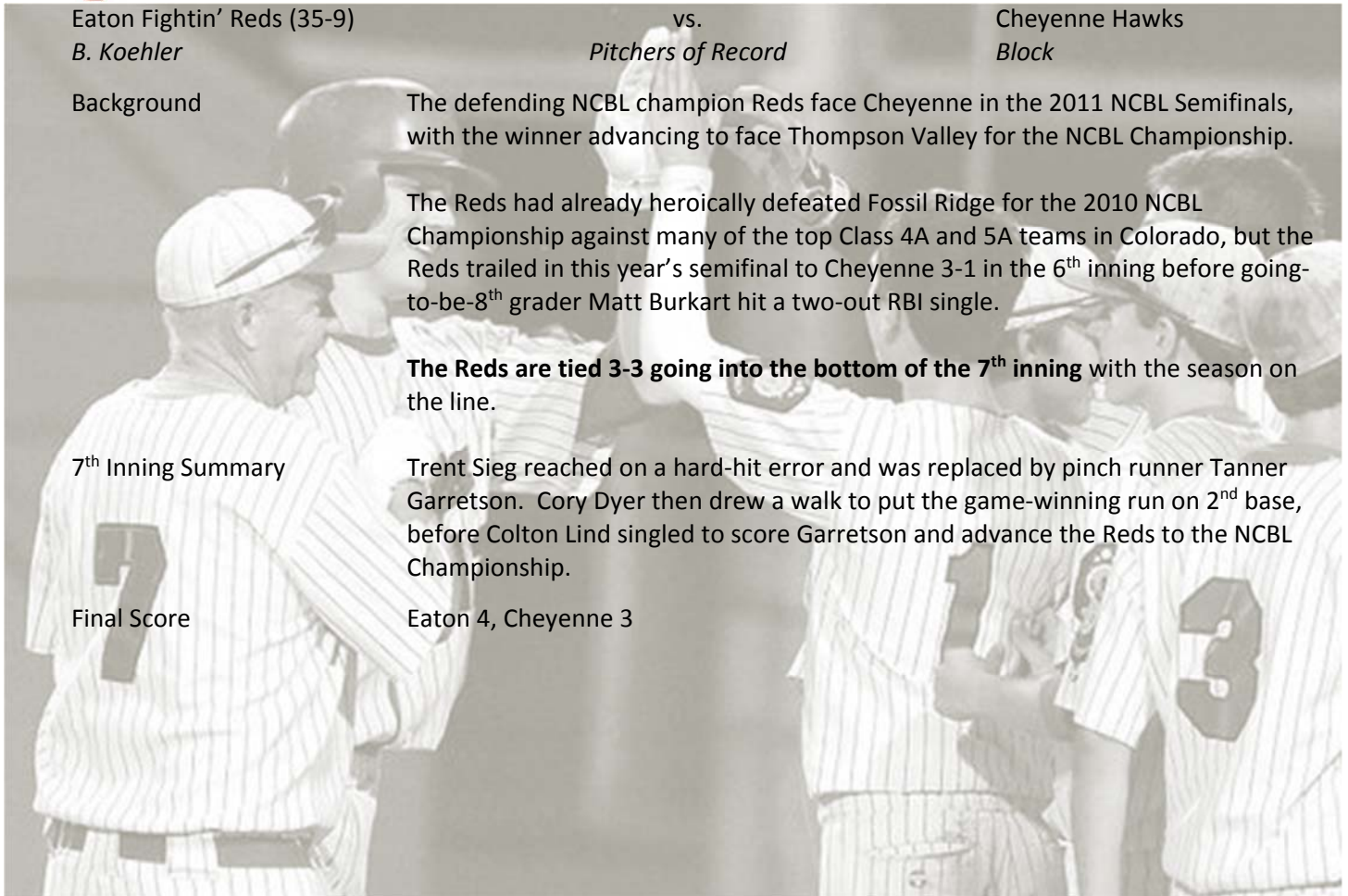
The Reds are tied 3-3 going into the bottom of the 7th inning with the season on the line.

7th Inning Summary

Trent Sieg reached on a hard-hit error and was replaced by pinch runner Tanner Garretson. Cory Dyer then drew a walk to put the game-winning run on 2nd base, before Colton Lind singled to score Garretson and advance the Reds to the NCBL Championship.

Final Score

Eaton 4, Cheyenne 3





Eaton Fightin' Reds (34-3)
Foos

10th Greatest 7th Inning Win in History
2010 NCBL District Championship Game
At Eaton Baseball Field
July 18, 2010



Erie Tigers

vs.

Pitchers of Record

Background

Eaton and Erie both were 2-0 in pool play in the 2010 NCBL Districts, and thus the winner of this game would advance to the NCBL Final Four against the 3 other District winners.

The Reds had already earned a 7th inning walk-off win earlier in the day over Windsor, and now would need late-inning heroics again.

The Reds trailed 3-1 going into the bottom of the 6th inning, before tying the game. The Reds though then allowed an unearned run in the top of the 7th inning.

The Reds enter the bottom of the 7th inning trailing 4-3 with the season on the line.

7th Inning Summary

With one out, Tyler Batt doubled and pinch runner Marcus Longwell replaced him to run. Tyler Sieg then singled to score Longwell and tie the game. Pinch runner Tanner Garretson then ran for Sieg, and advanced to third base after Cory Dyer reached on an error. Bryce Dyer was then intentionally walked to load the bases with one out. With the infield and outfield drawn in, Trent Sieg hit the first pitch thrown into deep leftfield for the game-winning hit to advance the Reds to the NCBL Final Four.

Final Score

Eaton 5, Erie 4