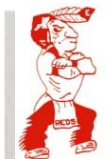


10 Greatest Extra Inning Wins in Eaton Baseball Postseason History



Eaton Fightin' Reds (22-2)

Ayers
Souther

Background

Extra Inning Summary

Final Score

Greatest Extra Inning Win in History

2001 State Championship

At All-City Stadium in Denver

May 19, 2001



La Junta Tigers (21-4)

Thompson
Hill

Starting Pitchers
Pitchers of Record

To have a game known at the nation's winningest baseball program simply as "The Game" would require epic feats of truly legendary status. This was that game – the 2001 State Title Game.

After battling through 7 innings in which each team scored only two runs – with Eaton scoring the tying run in the top of the 7th inning with two outs and two strikes on the batter – the Reds enter the 8th inning with starter Craig Ayers still on the mound, as too was La Junta starter and future 5th round Major League Baseball draft pick Sean Thompson.

Ayers had thrown a great game up to that point, now he was prepared to make it a legendary performance. Every pitch from here on out held the Reds' State Championship hopes with it, as La Junta had the power to hit a single bad pitch out of the yard to end the game as they were the home team. Ayers struck out the leadoff hitter in the 8th inning that then reached base as the ball bounced away, and then took 2nd base on a wild pitch, the Reds intentionally walked their opponent's top hitter to make it runners on 1st and 2nd base with no outs. Ayers then induced a groundout that 3rd baseman Aaron Kelly threw to 2nd baseman Branden Trujillo to record the first out of the inning. With runners on 1st and 3rd base with one out, Ayers then struck out the next batter on 3 pitches, before inducing a groundout to Scott Souther at shortstop to end the inning and send the game to the 9th inning.

Ayers struck out the side in order to end the 9th inning, before allowing a 1-out single in the 10th inning. Ayers then coolly induced a groundout to Trujillo and a popout to Souther to end the inning. In the 11th inning, after allowing a leadoff single, Ayers again recorded a groundout to Kelly, followed by two more strikeouts. In the 12th and final inning allowed by rule for Ayers to pitch, he induced two popouts, and then after allowing a single, he struck out La Junta's top hitter on a 3-2 knuckle curveball to record his 15th strikeout of the game and send the game into the 13th inning.

To say the Reds had chased La Junta's future pro pitcher from the game after 11 innings might be a tough sell, as he had after all struck out a record 24 Reds in those 11 innings. But as Coach Danley later said to the newspaper, "It was a marathon. It became less about talent and more about the ability to go up and grind. It was about toughness. It wasn't about talent after about the 9th or 10th inning." The Reds had worked the count and fouled off many pitches to make La Junta's ace throw 192 pitches. The Reds had committed zero errors and made every play with defense the media labeled as "sparkling", and would continue to do that through the end of this marathon.

In the 13th inning, Todd Stancliff took the mound and recorded two strikeouts and fielded a bunt to retire the side. After allowing a walk in the 14th inning, the Reds brought in Scott Souther to field the upcoming sacrifice bunt attempt. Souther did exactly that, and threw the runner out at 2nd base, before inducing a flyout. But then with two outs, a double to rightfield was quickly retrieved by Dylan Ramer to prevent the runner scoring from 1st base. The Reds then intentionally walked the cleanup hitter to load the bases. On a 2-1 pitch, the runner from 3rd base tried to steal home but Souther reacted quickly to speed his motion and get the ball delivered home quickly where Ginther applied the tag to end the inning. Ginther was interfered with by the batter on the play so the run wouldn't have counted even if he had made it, but the Reds lost a game 12 years earlier at this very field where an umpire raised his hands to make a similar call and then amazingly dropped his arms and ran off the field, and they weren't about to let anyone decide this game but themselves.

While the Reds had been working to put runners on base and extending the counts, they hadn't put together many scoring opportunities during the extra innings. But in the top of the 15th inning, Tyler Tateyama delivered a two-out single. Chris Swain then was hit by the next pitch to put Tateyama's pinch runner, Aaron Janssen, into scoring position. Then on a 2-1 pitch, Dylan Ramer hit a ball hard to third base that wasn't fielded and Janssen hustled around to score the go-ahead run. With the Reds' first lead of the entire 15-inning game, Souther then induced two flyouts to centerfielder Eric Hungenberg, and struck out the next batter on a 1-2 pitch to end the game and earn the Reds the 2001 State Championship Game.

Eaton 3, La Junta 2



2nd Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
2004 State Semifinals
At Runyon Field in Pueblo
May 21, 2004



Eaton Fightin' Reds (20-3)

Dominguez

Pitchers of Record

Faith Christian Eagles (19-4)

Marner

Background

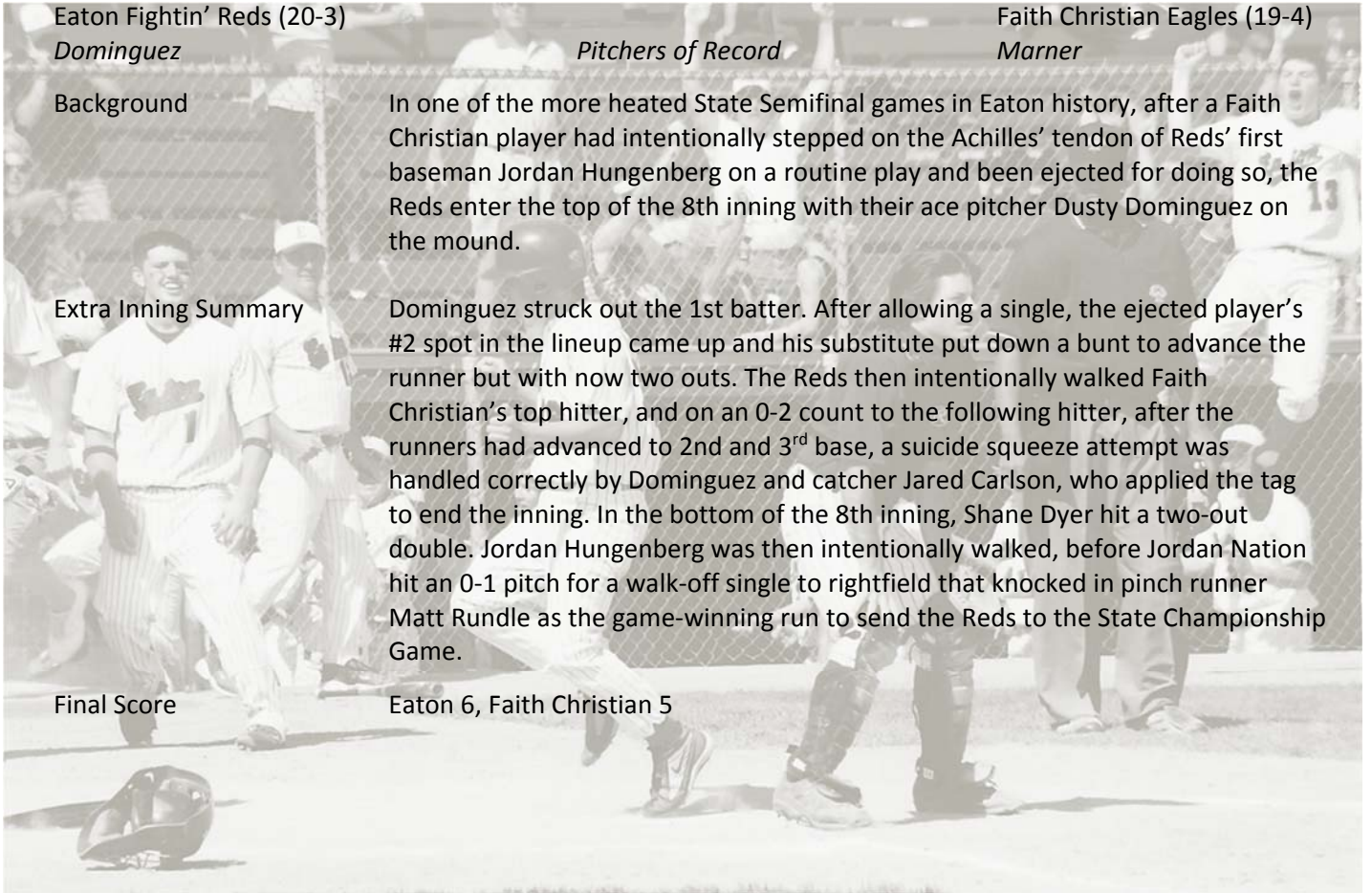
In one of the more heated State Semifinal games in Eaton history, after a Faith Christian player had intentionally stepped on the Achilles' tendon of Reds' first baseman Jordan Hungenberg on a routine play and been ejected for doing so, the Reds enter the top of the 8th inning with their ace pitcher Dusty Dominguez on the mound.

Extra Inning Summary

Dominguez struck out the 1st batter. After allowing a single, the ejected player's #2 spot in the lineup came up and his substitute put down a bunt to advance the runner but with now two outs. The Reds then intentionally walked Faith Christian's top hitter, and on an 0-2 count to the following hitter, after the runners had advanced to 2nd and 3rd base, a suicide squeeze attempt was handled correctly by Dominguez and catcher Jared Carlson, who applied the tag to end the inning. In the bottom of the 8th inning, Shane Dyer hit a two-out double. Jordan Hungenberg was then intentionally walked, before Jordan Nation hit an 0-1 pitch for a walk-off single to rightfield that knocked in pinch runner Matt Rundle as the game-winning run to send the Reds to the State Championship Game.

Final Score

Eaton 6, Faith Christian 5





3rd Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
1996 Regional Championship
 At Runyon Field in Pueblo
May 11, 1996



Eaton Fightin' Reds (16-5)
 Gesick

Pitchers of Record

Kent Denver Sun Devils
 Good

Background

The Reds face Kent Denver for the 4th year in a row in the State Tournament, having defeated Kent Denver in the past 2 State Semifinal games, but this time facing them in the Regional Championship to advance to the Final Four. The Reds started ace Jon Gesick and stayed with him through 7 innings and into this 8th inning, the Reds were facing Kent Denver ace Jake Good for the 3rd year in a row. The Reds had trailed 1-0 since the first inning until a 6th inning run tied the game and sent it into extra innings, Good would go on to strike out 15 Eaton batters on the day, but...

Extra Inning Summary

Cullen Kinoshita and Jeff Kundert led off the top of the 8th inning reaching on errors, before Chris Barber drove in the go-ahead RBI. Freshman Mike Carrasco then doubled to clear the bases and put the Reds ahead 5-1.

Gesick then fielded a pop-up himself, struck out a batter, and induced a groundout to Carrasco to end the game and send the Reds on to the State Semifinals the following weekend.

Final Score

Eaton 5, Kent Denver 1



Eaton Fightin' Reds (42-5)
Foos

4th Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
2010 Legion B State Semifinals
At Monarch High School in Louisville
July 31-August 1, 2010



Greeley West Spartans
Richie

Pitchers of Record

Background

Eaton and Greeley West are tied 5-5 through 7 innings with the winner of this game advancing to the State Championship Game with an undefeated mark, and the loser having to go defeat host Monarch and then beat the winner of this game twice.

The Reds enter extra innings with ace Dante Foos throwing his final inning allowed within a 3-day period in the 8th inning. Fortunately for the Reds, a Greeley West player had been thrown out of the game and his coach had argued for a long enough period of time that darkness was now quickly approaching, giving the Reds a chance to win the game in the 8th inning, or coming back the following day to win it in the 9th inning when Foos would be allowed more innings by rule.

Extra Inning Summary

The Reds and Greeley West both scored a run in the 8th inning, at which point darkness postponed the game, to be finished the following day.

The Reds, as the visiting team, were told by their coaches to come out very aggressive as they would never have to tie up this game in extra innings by virtue of being the visiting team, and thus need to just go all-out on offense to do anything to score a run.

The Reds did just that in the top of the 9th inning as they led off the 9th inning with Bryce Dyer hitting a two-strike infield single, then advancing to 2nd base on a wild pitch. Keenan Hall then advanced Dyer to third base with a groundout to the right side. Trent Sieg then singled to rightfield and Dyer came around to score to put the Reds ahead 6-5.

In the bottom of the 9th inning, Dante Foos struck out the first batter on a full count, and then induced an infield popout to second baseman Weston Hager and then a groundout to shortstop Seth Jackson to end the game and send the Reds to the Legion B State Championship Game to be played later the same day, with the Reds gaining the advantage of only having to win one of the next two games to win the State Championship.

Final Score

Eaton 6, Greeley West 5



5th Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
1993 State Semifinals
At All-City Stadium in Denver
May 21, 1993



Eaton Fightin' Reds (18-3)
Martin

Gunnison Cowboys
Alton

Pitchers of Record

Background

The Reds and Gunnison had already endured a mid-game 3-hour rain delay, and now head into extra innings with the game tied 6-6 after 7 innings. Both ace starting pitchers – Cory Martin for the Reds, and Colt Alton for Gunnison – had pitched all 7 innings and still had the ball going into extra innings.

Extra Inning Summary

In the 8th inning, Martin retired the side in order with yet another strikeout. In the 9th inning after a leadoff single, Martin struck out a batter before Schneider then picked off a runner from 1st base, followed by another strikeout to end the inning. In the 10th inning, Martin struck out the side in order.

In the top of the 11th inning, Riley Haythorn led off with a double and advanced to 3rd base on a wild pitch, before Brandon Houtchens singled to score Haythorn and give the Reds the lead.

In the bottom of the 11th inning, Martin induced a flyout, then struck out the next 2 batters to record his 19th strikeout of the game (and Reds' record 8th strikeout within extra innings alone) and send the Reds on to the State Championship Game in this State Semifinal Game that lasted a total of 7 hours.

Final Score

Eaton 7, Gunnison 6



6th Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
2010 Legion B District Tournament
At Nelson Farms in Johnstown
July 23, 2010



Eaton Fightin' Reds (38-3)
Foos

Roosevelt Roughriders(29-18)
Quintana

Pitchers of Record

Background

In one of the more charged environments the Reds have faced, in which a Roosevelt player would later be sent over to the Reds' dugout to apologize for his actions in the postgame handshake, a night game at Roosevelt's JV field was scheduled after rain delays had forced scheduling changes to the 2010 Legion B District Tournament. Throughout the game, chirping came from not only the home team's fan base as the Reds' ace pitcher was constantly referred to by opponents as a feminine hygienic product, and further chirping resounded with each Eaton coaching visit to the mound. Coach Danley had already been thrown out of the game, and the Reds had trailed 6-4 going into the 7th inning before a remarkable comeback extended the game into extra innings. Though playing at Roosevelt, the Reds had won the coin flip to be the home team.

Extra Inning Summary

Reds' ace Dante Foos washed away any hopes for the Roughriders by stranding the potential go-ahead run at 2nd base after inducing an infield popout to end the top half of the 8th inning.

Bryce Dyer then took a 2-strike hit-by-pitch, before Keenan Hall drew a full-count walk, and then Trent Sieg hit an infield single to load the bases with no outs. Hager then hit a hard groundball to shortstop and the throw home wasn't fielded cleanly by the catcher as Dyer scored the game-winning run. This 2nd victory for the Reds in the Legion B District Tournament guaranteed the Reds a spot in the State Tournament the following weekend.

Final Score

Eaton 7, Roosevelt 6



7th Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
 1991 District Semifinals
 At Butch Butler Field in Greeley
 May 18, 1991



Eaton Fightin' Reds (10-7)
 Sutter

Pitchers of Record

Burlington Cougars
 Weibel

Background

The winner of this game qualifies for the 1991 State Tournament, with the loser's season ending as Eaton battles Burlington in the District Semifinals. This was the first season the Reds' hadn't won the league title since the 1970's (*and only one of two such times going into the 2013 season*) and this game would push them to their limit as they trailed 3-1 and 6-3 before coming back to tie the game in the 6th inning to send it into extra innings.

Both pitchers now on the mound entered the game in relief in the middle innings and continued to pitch into extra innings.

Extra Inning Summary

The Reds' Jeff Sutter recorded two quick outs in the bottom of the 8th inning, before a batter reached on a hit-by-pitch, but Sutter then induced an infield flyout to end the inning.

In the top of the 9th inning, Steve Booth took a hit-by-pitch, but then was forced out at 2nd base on a groundout by Cory Martin, who beat the throw to 1st base on the double play attempt that would have ended the inning. Martin then stole 2nd base, before Brandon Houtchens hit a two-out double to score Martin and give the Reds the lead. Collin Moody then singled to give the Reds a key insurance run to put the Reds ahead by 2 runs.

Sutter then recorded an out and induced a sacrifice flyout that cut the Reds' lead to just one run with runners on 1st and 2nd base, but with two outs. Sutter then induced a groundout to Martin to end the game and send the Reds to the State Tournament.

Final Score

Eaton 8, Burlington 7



8th Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
1987 District Semifinals
At Butch Butler Field in Greeley
May 16, 1987



Eaton Fightin' Reds (14-3)
R. Cordova

Yuma Indians
Noble

Pitchers of Record

Background

Both Randy Cordova for the Reds and Rich Noble for Yuma had thrown a 7-inning shutout thus far in this must-win game in the 1987 District Semifinals, with the winner advancing to the State Tournament.

Randy Cordova already had 15 strikeouts through 7 innings.

Extra Inning Summary

Randy Cordova struck out the first batter of the 8th inning, and then after a walk, induced two groundouts to end the top half of the inning.

Then in the bottom of the 8th inning, Cordova singled, and then courtesy runner Craig Kindsfater stole 2nd base, and then scored on a single from Adam Kaiser on an 0-2 pitch for the game-winner.

Final Score

Eaton 1, Yuma 0



9th Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
1995 District Championship
At Butch Butler Field in Greeley
May 5, 1995



Eaton Fightin' Reds (17-1)
Shelton

Platte Valley Broncos (13-5)
Hillman

Pitchers of Record

Background

The Reds had taken a 7th inning lead in the 1995 District Championship led by RBI singles from Tony Winter and Aaron Prior, but Platte Valley tied up the game in the bottom of the 7th inning before the Reds brought in ace Russ Shelton (Shelton had pitched a complete game shutout over Valley earlier in the day) to send the game into extra innings. The winner of this game would get a much better draw the following weekend in the 16-team single-elimination State Tournament.

Extra Inning Summary

Russ Shelton drew a full-count walk, then Todd Benson reached on a throwing error before Brig Noffsinger singled and Kirk Danley hit a 1-2 pitch over the left-centerfield fence for a grand slam to give the Reds a 10-6 lead.

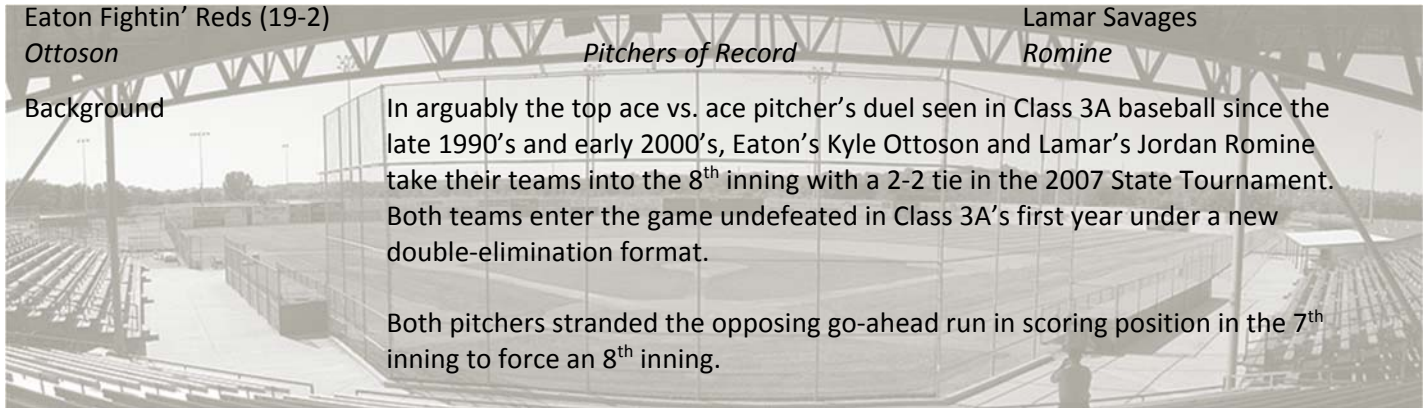
Shelton then retired the side in order in the bottom of the 8th inning with a strikeout and two infield popouts.

Final Score

Eaton 10, Platte Valley 6



10th Greatest Extra Inning Win in History
 2007 State Tournament Elite Eight
 At Runyon Field in Pueblo
 May 11, 2007



Eaton Fightin' Reds (19-2)
 Ottoson

Pitchers of Record

Lamar Savages
 Romine

Background

In arguably the top ace vs. ace pitcher's duel seen in Class 3A baseball since the late 1990's and early 2000's, Eaton's Kyle Ottoson and Lamar's Jordan Romine take their teams into the 8th inning with a 2-2 tie in the 2007 State Tournament. Both teams enter the game undefeated in Class 3A's first year under a new double-elimination format.

Both pitchers stranded the opposing go-ahead run in scoring position in the 7th inning to force an 8th inning.

Extra Inning Summary

After a leadoff single by Lamar in the top of the 8th inning, Kyle Ottoson fields the next ground ball and throws the runner out at 2nd base. He then struck out the next batter on an 0-2 pitch and catcher Bennett Picker threw to shortstop Bo McLavey for the strike 'em out / throw 'em out double play to end the top of the 8th inning.

Reds' leadoff hitter Adam Geisick then fouled off an 0-2 pitch before singling on the next pitch. Geisick then stole 2nd base, and moved to 3rd base on a groundout to the right side by Tyler Wallace. With two outs, Kyle Ottoson fouled-off a 3-2 pitch before drawing a walk. Lamar then intentionally walked Bo McLavey to load the bases, before Bennett Pickar grounded sharply to shortstop but the throw wasn't caught cleanly at second base as Geisick raced home with the winning run.

Final Score

Eaton 3, Lamar 2