

## 10 Greatest Loss-Avenging Wins in Eaton Baseball Postseason History



Eaton Fightin' Reds (43-6)  
Foos

### Background

Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History  
2010 Legion B State Championship  
At Monarch High School in Louisville  
August 2, 2010



Greeley West Spartans  
Buchanan

vs.  
*Pitchers of Record*

The Reds had defeated Greeley West in the winner's bracket championship in a two-day (Monarch didn't have lights) extra-inning game to advance to the State Championship Game undefeated. This meant the Reds just had to win 1 of the next 2 games, against Greeley West as well. Having this cushion, the Reds saved back sidearmers Dante Foos and Tyler Sieg for the final game of the series that would be played the following day if the Reds lost effectively Game 2 of this 3-game series.

The Reds then experienced their worst-inning in history, allowing 19 first-inning runs, using 4 pitchers in the first inning alone, and went on to lose 23-0 in the Reds' worst postseason loss in history and their worst loss overall since the 1970s.

Despite their vastly divergent postseason track records, Greeley West had proclaimed to the media on Day 1 of the tournament that they would be piling up on Sunday. Greeley West's huge win on Sunday though only meant these teams would face again with the winner of this 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the series being crowned the State Champion.

Greeley West feels more than comfortable of an assured win today after some profound comments in the newspaper after yesterday's win. The Reds though feel plenty confident going into this situation as well.

The Reds score 3 runs in the top of the first inning, but then give up 7 runs in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning before Dante Foos takes the mound to end the rally, with the Reds trailing 7-3 going into the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. Foos, with a 13-0 record on the summer, but pitching on almost no rest, matter-of-factly states to the team upon entering the dugout: "that's it, they're done scoring today."

### Game Summary

To win this game, two things clearly had to happen, first the Reds had to score some runs, and Foos had to live up to his proclamation.

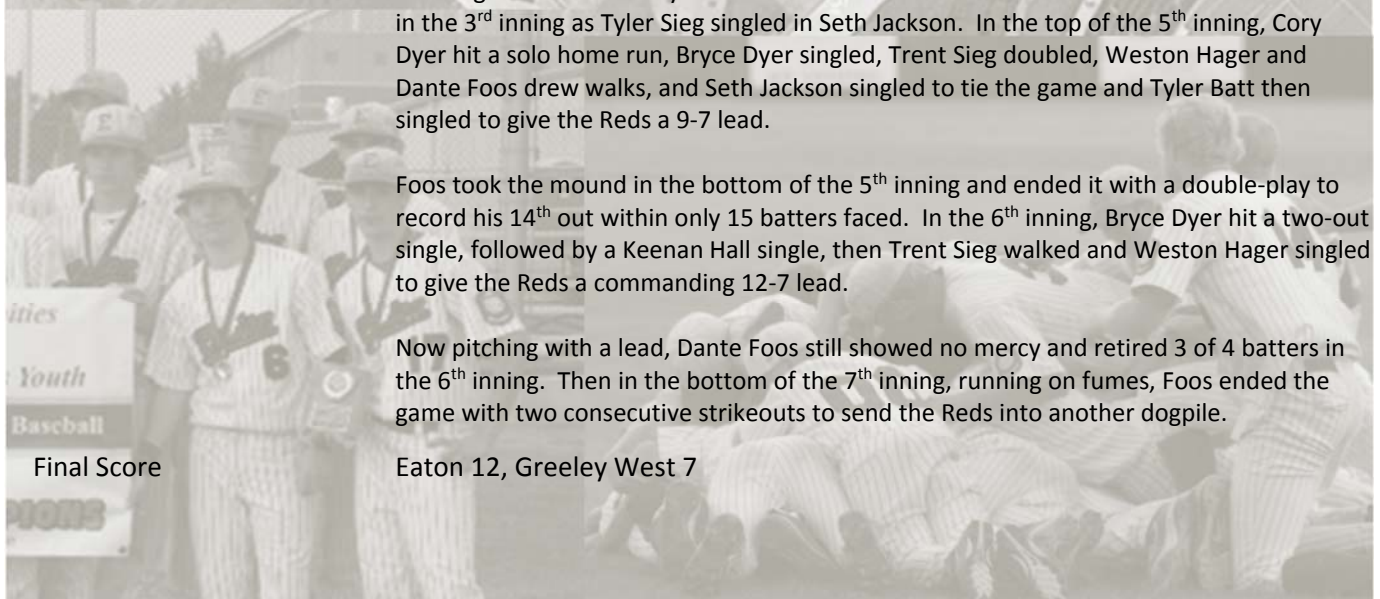
Foos did his job in setting down Greeley West batters in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> innings without allowing even a hit as only one batter even reached base. The Reds cut the deficit to 7-4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning as Tyler Sieg singled in Seth Jackson. In the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, Cory Dyer hit a solo home run, Bryce Dyer singled, Trent Sieg doubled, Weston Hager and Dante Foos drew walks, and Seth Jackson singled to tie the game and Tyler Batt then singled to give the Reds a 9-7 lead.

Foos took the mound in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and ended it with a double-play to record his 14<sup>th</sup> out within only 15 batters faced. In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, Bryce Dyer hit a two-out single, followed by a Keenan Hall single, then Trent Sieg walked and Weston Hager singled to give the Reds a commanding 12-7 lead.

Now pitching with a lead, Dante Foos still showed no mercy and retired 3 of 4 batters in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. Then in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, running on fumes, Foos ended the game with two consecutive strikeouts to send the Reds into another dogpile.

### Final Score

Eaton 12, Greeley West 7





2<sup>nd</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History  
**1997 Legion B State Championship**  
 At Fort Morgan Legion Field  
**August 4, 1997**



Eaton Fightin' Reds (34-11)  
*Carrasco*

vs.  
*Starting Pitchers*

Greeley Central Wildcats (34-11)  
*Dummett*

**Background**

Back in the mid 1990's, Eaton was still considered the small school and huge underdog back when Greeley Central was often one of the top Class 5A teams in the state. The Reds hadn't won a summer State Championship in 36 years.

The previous weekend in the District Tournament, Nolan Mininger held down Greeley Central in relief as the Reds came back to win, but no District Championship Game was played due to rain.

In the State Tournament, Greeley Central beat the Reds 11-8 to send Eaton to the loser's bracket and to send Greeley Central on to the State Championship with an undefeated tournament record, meaning they only had to win one of their next two games to win the State Championship.

The Reds came back to beat Arapahoe 6-5 in an elimination game, and then beat Greeley Central 17-9 to force a third and decisive head-to-head battle on this day. The winner of this game would be crowned the State Champion.

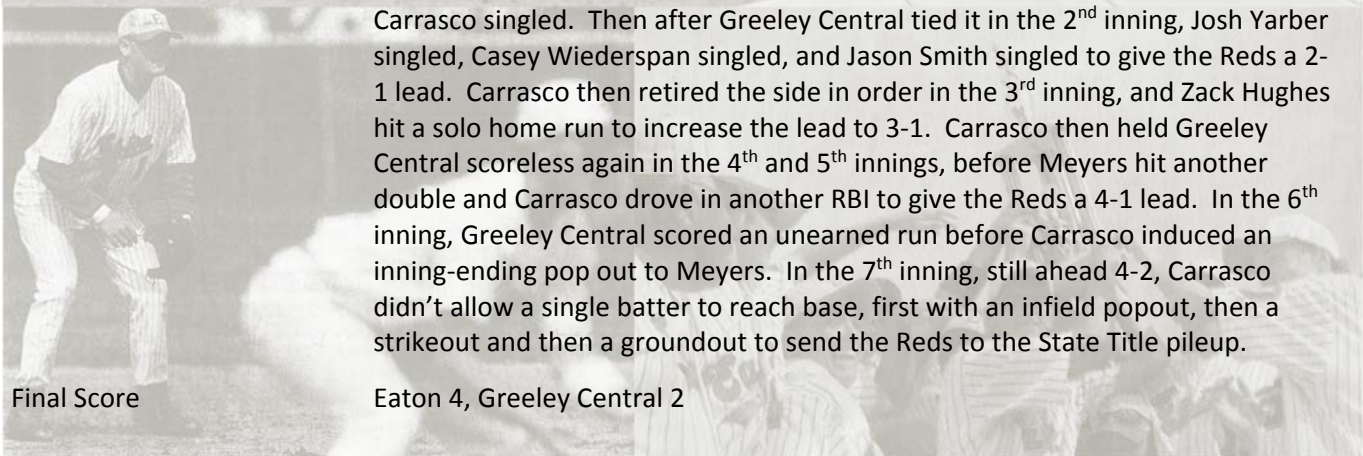
The 17-9 win the day before allows the Reds to pitch All-State third baseman, Mike Carrasco, in the final game, Greeley Central starts with Nate Dummett and will turn to George Talamantes in relief.

**Game Summary**

The Reds took a 1-0 lead in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning as Jeff Meyers doubled and Mike Carrasco singled. Then after Greeley Central tied it in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, Josh Yarber singled, Casey Wiederspan singled, and Jason Smith singled to give the Reds a 2-1 lead. Carrasco then retired the side in order in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, and Zack Hughes hit a solo home run to increase the lead to 3-1. Carrasco then held Greeley Central scoreless again in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> innings, before Meyers hit another double and Carrasco drove in another RBI to give the Reds a 4-1 lead. In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, Greeley Central scored an unearned run before Carrasco induced an inning-ending pop out to Meyers. In the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, still ahead 4-2, Carrasco didn't allow a single batter to reach base, first with an infield popout, then a strikeout and then a groundout to send the Reds to the State Title pileup.

**Final Score**

Eaton 4, Greeley Central 2





3<sup>rd</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History  
 2003 Legion B State Championship  
 At Niwot High School  
 August 3, 2003



Eaton Fightin' Reds (32-10)  
 Dominguez

vs.

Evergreen Cougars  
 Gerard

*Pitchers of Record*

Background

In the second round game of the 2003 Legion B State Tournament, the Reds were defeated badly by Evergreen by the score of 16-6.

After the Reds defeated Arapahoe, Northridge, and Greeley West, the Reds again faced Evergreen yesterday, with the Reds earning the win to force a decisive State Championship "If" Game today.

The Reds will start Perry Hood with ace closer Dusty Dominguez available. With a win, the Reds would earn their second straight 'perfect year', with both a spring and summer State Title as the Reds had won in 2002 as well.

Game Summary

Perry Hood shut down Evergreen through the first two innings as the Reds took a 3-0 lead, but then Hood gave way to Dusty Dominguez as Evergreen picked up 3 runs to tie it in the 3rd inning, and then picked up another 3 runs in the 4th inning to take a 6-3 lead over the Reds going into the bottom of the 4th inning.

The Reds then batted through the lineup and scored 6 runs led by a 2-run double by Josh Noblitt to take a 9-6 lead. Dominguez would hold onto this lead despite giving up 2 runs in the top of the 7th inning, as Dominguez shut down any chance at an Evergreen comeback picking up his 4th strikeout in relief and earning a groundout to end the game.

The Reds were led offensively by Josh Noblitt with 2 doubles and 3 RBI, 1 double from both Garrett Walker and Shane Dyer, and 2 RBIs from both Dusty Dominguez and Jordan Hungenberg.

Remarkably, one year later, the Reds would also come back to defeat Evergreen twice to win the 2004 State Championship and earn the Reds their 6<sup>th</sup> straight spring/summer State Title.

Final Score

Eaton 9, Evergreen 8



4<sup>th</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging 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

In one of the Reds' worst games in decades, Faith Christian had defeated the Reds 18-5 in a regular season game only 11 days earlier. That ended the Reds' record-tying home win streak of 50 straight home wins dating back to 2008.

In the Elite Eight yesterday, the Reds and Faith Christian both surprisingly lost, 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.

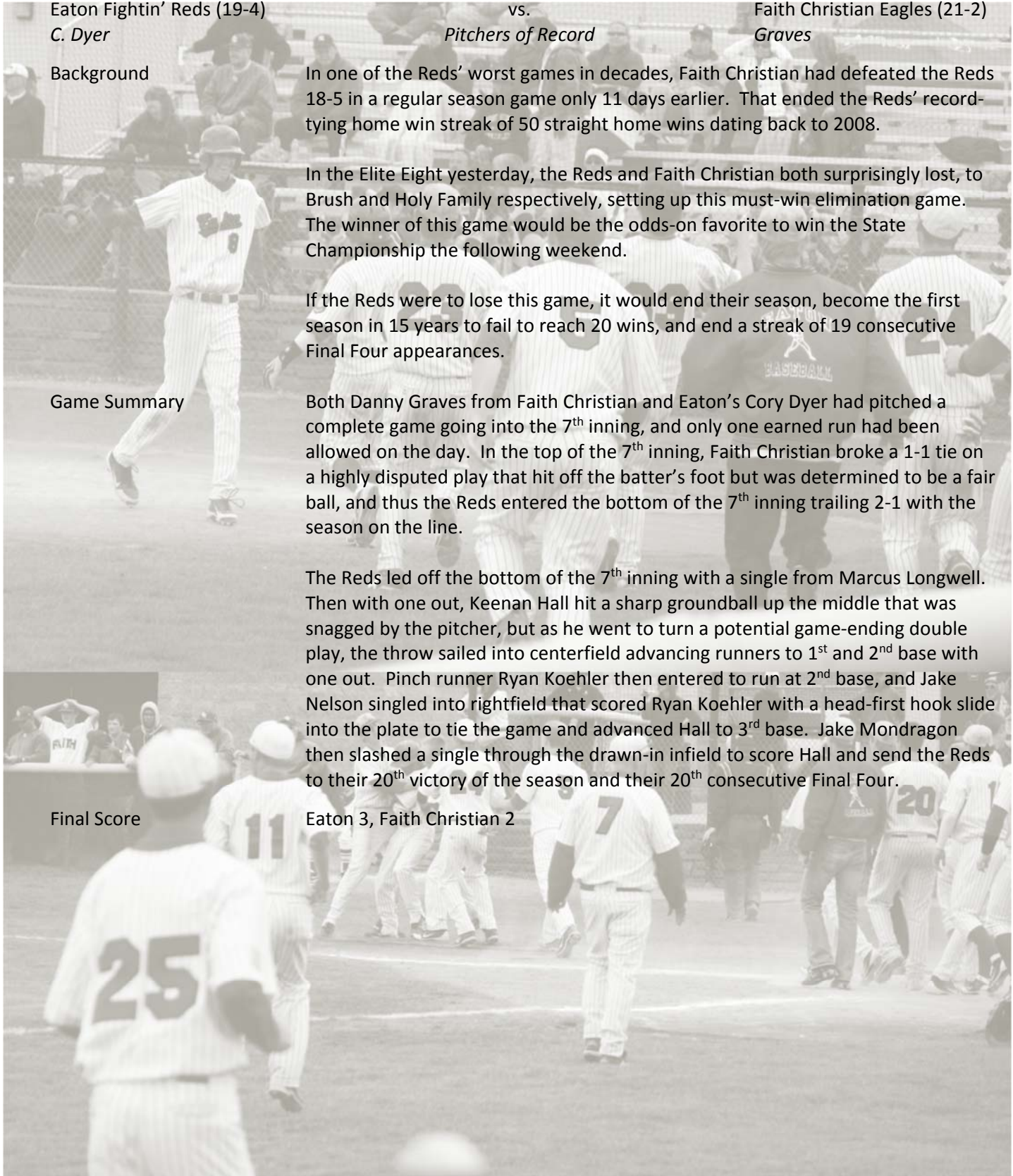
Game Summary

Both Danny Graves from Faith Christian and Eaton's Cory Dyer had pitched a complete game going into the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, and only one earned run had been allowed on the day. In the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 entered the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning trailing 2-1 with the season on the line.

The Reds led off the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base with one out. Pinch runner Ryan Koehler then entered to run at 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Jake Mondragon then slashed a single through the drawn-in infield to score Hall and send the Reds to their 20<sup>th</sup> victory of the season and their 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive Final Four.

Final Score

Eaton 3, Faith Christian 2





5<sup>th</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History  
**2008 State Tournament Elite Eight**  
 At Butch Butler Field in Greeley  
**May 10, 2008**



Eaton Fightin' Reds (19-3)  
 Wallace

vs.

Erie Tigers (17-5)  
 Fisher

*Pitchers of Record*

Background

The day following this game, the local newspaper article would state: "Red Vengeance – Eaton Picks a Good Time to Even Series with Erie".

Erie had defeated Eaton earlier in the season in a league game for the Reds' only league loss of the year (and only the Reds' 3<sup>rd</sup> league loss in a decade).

That one league loss though handed Erie the tiebreaker for the league championship, marking only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time since the 1970s that the Reds failed to win the league title.

The winner of this game would go on to have a guaranteed berth in the State Championship Game the following weekend, while the loser would have to win 3 straight games the following weekend to claim the State Title.

In his final year of retirement, before re-joining the Reds again in 2009, longtime assistant Coach Bob Ervin stated before the game to another Reds' coach: "let's get this wrapped up in 45 minutes as I've got to get to my grandson's ballgame."

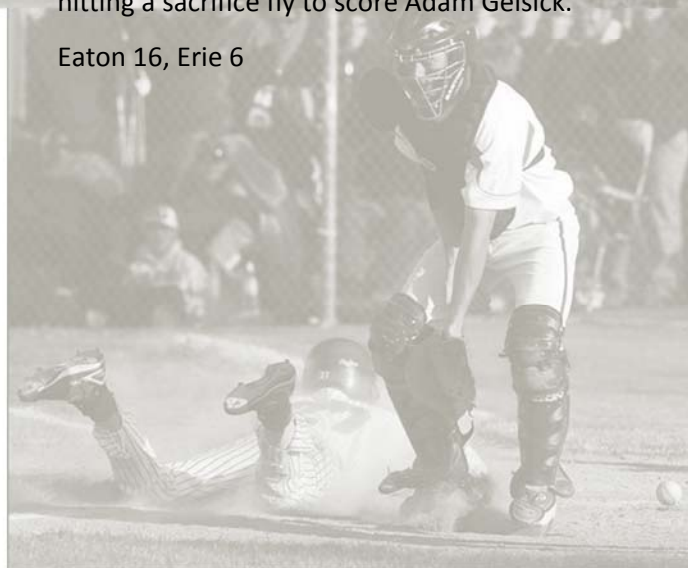
Game Summary

Remarkably, Coach Ervin's hunch was exactly right, as within 45 minutes the Reds had taken control of the game, as Tyler Wallace retired the side in order, before the Reds put up 7 first-inning runs as the Reds' first 7 batters all reached base and scored, led by leadoff hitter Geisick reaching base twice including an RBI, and Logan Hall singling, Tyler Wallace tripling, Bo McLavey reaching on an error, Kyle Ottoson drawing a walk, Seth Jackson reaching on an error, and Bennett Pickar singling.

From there, Wallace allowed one run in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning and two more in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, but the Reds scored another 4 runs in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, and then completed the 10-run mercy-rule win in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning with Bo McLavey hitting a sacrifice fly to score Adam Geisick.

Final Score

Eaton 16, Erie 6





## 6<sup>th</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History

2001 State Championship

At All-City Stadium in Denver

May 19, 2001



Eaton Fightin' Reds (22-2)

Ayers  
Souther

vs.

Starting Pitchers  
Pitchers of Record

La Junta Tigers (21-4)

Thompson  
Hill

### Background

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.

"The Game" was further heightened by the fact that La Junta had defeated Eaton in the 2000 State Championship Game a year earlier, and made some derogatory remarks in the media.

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

### Game Summary

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Stanclift 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.

### Final Score

Eaton 3, La Junta Tigers 2



# 7<sup>th</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History

## 1994 State Semifinals

At Regis University in Denver

May 20, 1994



Eaton Fightin' Reds (18-3)  
Martin

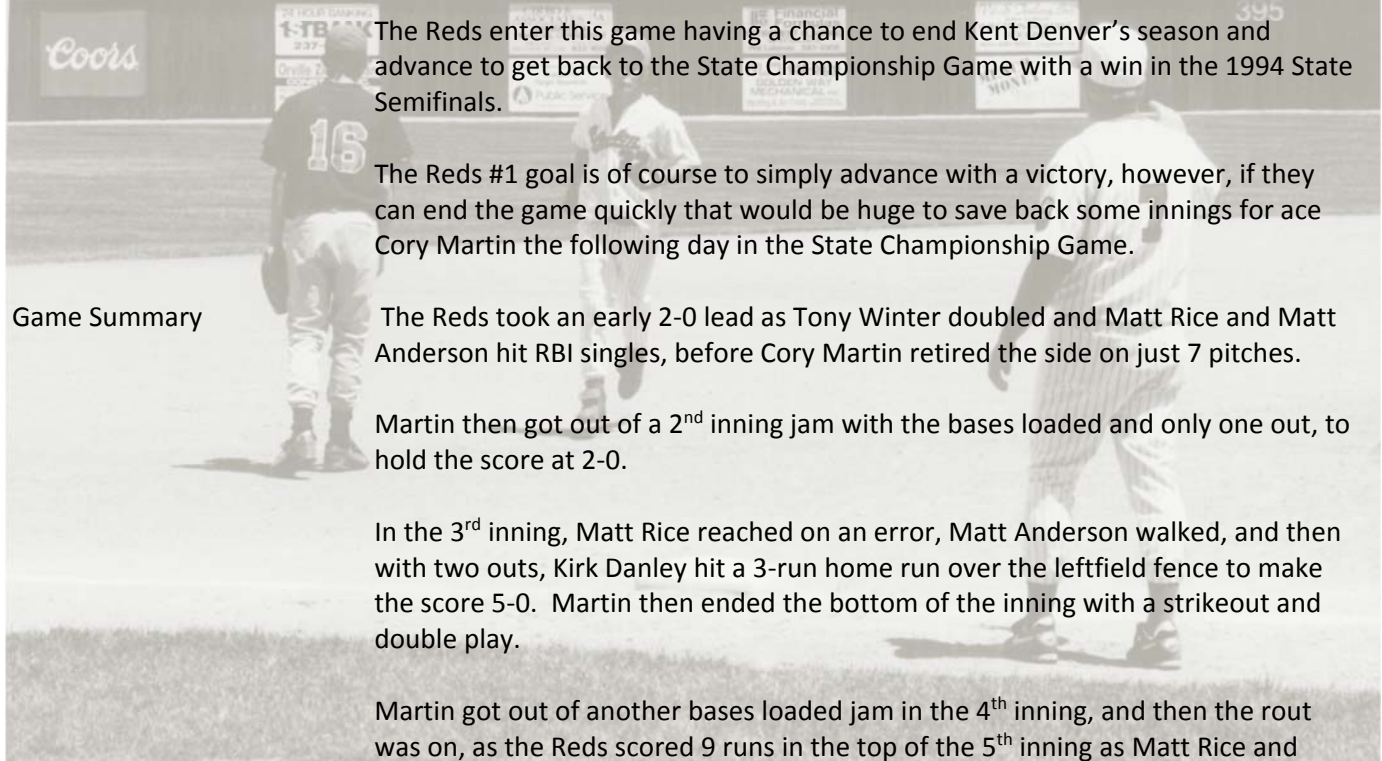
vs.

*Pitchers of Record*

Kent Denver Sun Devils (15-2)  
Good

### Background

Kent Denver defeated the Reds in the 1993 State Championship Game in a game that ended at 1am after several rain delays that had the Reds on the field for over 10 straight hours.



The Reds enter this game having a chance to end Kent Denver's season and advance to get back to the State Championship Game with a win in the 1994 State Semifinals.

The Reds #1 goal is of course to simply advance with a victory, however, if they can end the game quickly that would be huge to save back some innings for ace Cory Martin the following day in the State Championship Game.

### Game Summary

The Reds took an early 2-0 lead as Tony Winter doubled and Matt Rice and Matt Anderson hit RBI singles, before Cory Martin retired the side on just 7 pitches.

Martin then got out of a 2<sup>nd</sup> inning jam with the bases loaded and only one out, to hold the score at 2-0.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, Matt Rice reached on an error, Matt Anderson walked, and then with two outs, Kirk Danley hit a 3-run home run over the leftfield fence to make the score 5-0. Martin then ended the bottom of the inning with a strikeout and double play.

Martin got out of another bases loaded jam in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, and then the rout was on, as the Reds scored 9 runs in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning as Matt Rice and Matt Anderson singled, Riley Haythorn reached on an error, Kirk Danley and Aaron Prior walked, Jeff Kundert singled, Brig Noffsinger walked, Matt Rice doubled, Matt Anderson walked, and Cory Martin singled to give the Reds a commanding 14-0 lead. Martin then held Kent Denver to one run before a double play and strikeout ended the game and sent the Reds on to the State Title Game the following day.

### Final Score

Eaton 14, Kent Denver 1



8<sup>th</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History  
 1981 Regional Semifinals  
 At Old Eaton Baseball Field  
 May 9, 1981



Eaton Fightin' Reds (16-2)  
*Stencel*

vs.

Burlington Cougars  
*Weisshaar*

*Starting Pitchers*

Background

In both 1979 and 1980, Burlington defeated the Reds in an elimination game of the State Tournament.

Today, the Reds would face Burlington once again in the Regional Semifinals in a must-win game.

The previous year at Burlington, Reds' ace Steve Stencel was nearly perfect, allowing just 4 hits and 2 unearned runs in a 2-0 loss, but on this day, he would need to be even better.

Game Summary

In the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, Steve Stencel worked out of having two runners on base by striking out the final two batters of the inning to keep the game scoreless. Then in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, the Reds' first 3 batters, Joe Intermill, Mike Anderson, and Steve Stencel all singled and scored after Mark Anderson reached base and Bill Kurtz singled to give the Reds a 3-0 lead. The Reds would also score in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning off a solo home run by Kurtz, and then two more runs in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning after Kurtz singled, Bill Lawhead reached base, and Dudley Brown doubled.

None of that offense would matter though, as 15 minutes into the game, Stencel already supplied the only RBI on offense that the Reds would need given Stencel's dominant pitching performance. Stencel retired the side in order in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, then again in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, as well as in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. In the 5<sup>th</sup> inning he walked two batters, but then struck out the next batter on just 3 pitches to end the inning.

With a no-hitter on the line, and facing the #2 batter in the lineup to start the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, Stencel completed what is still to this day one of the Reds' top 5 late-inning performances in history, striking out the final 6 batters of the game, never allowing more than one ball to any batter. Stencel retired the final 10 outs of the game via strikeout, in a performance that was not only the best ever up to that point in postseason history, but still stands now as one of the ultimate gritty complete-game performances in Eaton history, and one of only 3 postseason no-hitters thrown by Eaton in a must-win spring postseason game.

Final Score

Eaton 6, Burlington 0





9<sup>th</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History  
2012 State Championship  
At Butch Butler Field in Greeley  
May 26, 2012



Eaton Fightin' Reds (22-4)  
Mossberg

vs.  
*Pitchers of Record*

Brush Beetdiggers (18-7)  
Mares

Background

The Reds entered the 2012 State Tournament winning 45 straight games over Brush, dating back over 20 years. Then the Reds lost 3-2 to Brush on the first weekend of the State Tournament. The local Brush newspaper titled the story: "Not a typo: Brush beats Eaton".

This forced the Reds to defeat Faith Christian, Holy Family, and Lamar in order to get another shot at Brush, which the Reds did, to now have the State Championship on the line, after Brush had lost to Lamar, setting up a one-game winner-take-all State Title Game.

Game Summary

The Reds turned a double play to get out of the top of the first inning, and Britten Abbott then singled in Weston Hager in the bottom of the inning for the game's first run. Brush tied the game 1-1 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning with a sacrifice fly, but the Reds then took the lead back with a sacrifice fly in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning from Jake Mondragon to give the Reds a 2-1 lead.

Mossberg held Brush scoreless in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> innings, before the Reds opened up the game on offense with Tyler Batt singling, Cory Dyer drawing a walk, Colton Lind taking a hit by pitch, and Keenan Hall hitting a 2-RBI single to give the Reds a 5-1 lead.

Bryce Dyer singled in Britten Abbott in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning to expand the lead to 6-1 going into the final frame.

After a wind-blown home run cut the Reds' lead to 6-4, Mossberg struck out the next two batters to end the game and earn the Reds their 10<sup>th</sup> spring State Championship pileup.

Final Score

Eaton 6, Brush 4



10<sup>th</sup> Greatest Loss-Avenging Win in History  
**2008 Legion B State Championship**  
 At Eaton Baseball Field  
**July 27, 2008**



Eaton Fightin' Reds (42-2)  
 Wallace

vs.  
*Pitchers of Record*

Holy Family Tigers (33-10)  
 Urban

Background

The Reds had played each spring at Coors Field for nearly a decade and never suffered a defeat, until Holy Family defeated the Reds there in the spring of 2008 for Holy Family's first win over Eaton in over 30 years.

That loss pushed the Reds into a tougher seeding for the 2008 spring State Tournament, but the Reds went on to win the spring State Title without every trailing in any of the 7 games played. Since Holy Family didn't make it out of Regionals, the Reds hadn't seen Holy Family for a rematch in the spring, but now in the summer of 2008 Eaton was hosting the Legion B State Tournament and Holy Family was the #1 seed from the Metro (and #2 seed overall behind Eaton).

The Reds defeated Holy Family 8-2 yesterday to put them into this State Championship Game with a 42-2 record, and now Eaton just had to win one of the next two games to win the State Championship.

Game Summary

The Reds fell behind 1-0 in the top of the 2nd inning but then Tyler Wallace retired two straight batters to work out of a jam with runners on 2nd and 3rd base as second baseman Tyler Smith threw out a runner at the plate for the 2nd out of the inning.

After being held scoreless for the first four innings, the Reds scored 5 runs in the 5th inning to take a commanding lead with all 5 runs scored with two outs as the Reds are led by a double from Hall and Wallace, as well as a triple by Wallace, and 2 RBI from Hall and Pickar. Ruff and Wallace each knocked in a run as well, with Wallace hitting a ball off the third base bag for a double to score a 6th inning insurance run for the Reds.

Then with the bases loaded and one out in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, Hall took the mound in relief and retired the next two batters, ending the game with a short flyout to centerfielder Adam Geisick as the Reds piled up for the first time on their own home field.

Final Score

Eaton 6, Holy Family 1

