



REDS' ONLY UNDEFEATED COACH IN HISTORY ENTERS ARMY RANGER TRAINING

*Whitman Jones as a player above in 2006, and below
(left) coaching the Reds at Coors Field in 2009*

A standout leadoff hitter and centerfielder for the Reds, Whitman Jones certainly knows how to “take one for the team.” He is the Reds’ all-time season leader in getting on-base via being hit by a pitch, and always knew what his job was on the field, and performed his job perfectly according to the lofty expectations of a Reds’ ballplayer. **Whitman is now setting his sights even higher, and is entering the military to train to become an Army Ranger in defense of our great country.**

Whitman always did what was best for the team, and while only a high school sophomore, Whitman reached out to start coaching Reds’ ballplayers that would one day follow in his shoes as a Reds’ varsity ballplayer. Whitman coached Eaton’s morning league baseball with 7-12 year-old ballplayers throughout the summer. The pay he received for this probably didn’t even cover the gas money needed to drive in each day from his house in the country, but Whitman saw it as an opportunity to make the Eaton Reds Baseball Program even better over time.

While still in high school, Whitman coached the Reds’ all-star Pee Wee team and traveled throughout northern Colorado, coaching these kids that have now grown to lead the Reds’ current team on the ballfield. Following a very successful high school career that included many team and individual honors, Whitman entered college, but never really left Eaton, as he helped coach various Reds’ teams any time he had the chance to do so. In 2007, the Reds expanded their Fall Baseball schedule to include two Eaton teams, and Whitman was immediately named head coach of the junior varsity team. He started off by outscoring Roosevelt 42 to 0 in a doubleheader. He defeated Class 5A Rampart (with opponents on that team that have gone on to be varsity starters in 2009 for the #1-seeded Class 5A team in the state) 10-2 and 5-1. His team then bombed Peak-to-Peak in a doubleheader, and then earned a hard-fought 3-2 league victory over Sterling’s varsity team. He swept a combined all-star team from Southeast Denver 2-0 and 5-4 as well, while racking up a perfect league record to become the top JV Colorado Fall Ball team in the state.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2008, Whitman helped coach the Reds' 12 year-old team, and helped them pull off huge upsets over large cities throughout the state, as the Reds' advanced to the State Championship Game. He also assisted during the tournament for the Legion C team, helping guide them to the State Championship Game as well. Then in the fall, Whitman again guided the Reds' JV team to great victories over Class 4A and Class 5A programs.

Whitman has always coached to get the most out of every player, regardless of his ability. He doesn't mind winning either. And has done little other than win with every team he's ever coached.

This spring, Whitman coached the C Team to an undefeated record, which is one of very few undefeated marks for any Reds' team in history. While the Reds won many of these games by large margins, Whitman and his squad had to earn a 13-10 victory to start the season over Holy Family. Then the Reds defeated Roosevelt by the slimmest of margins with a 2-1 win.

The Reds then swept through league opponent Weld Central, before facing yet another challenge against a Class 5A school, Poudre. The Reds would have to be a heavy underdog on paper in that matchup, but neither Whitman nor his players cared about the odds, and went out and defeated Poudre via the 10-run rule. The Reds then easily got through league opponents Yuma, Strasburg, Erie, Valley, Weld Central again, and University twice, setting up a battle with Class 4A Northridge. The Reds won that game 15-7, and then went on to sweep Class 4A Westminster in a doubleheader as well to remain perfect on the season.

The Reds' last battle was against Poudre once again, and the Reds had to travel to their field this time. It made no difference though, as Whitman and the Reds scored early and often to once again 10-run the 5A opponent and complete a very rare undefeated season at 17-0. Whitman will be "retiring" as the only Reds' coach to ever be undefeated, with a lifetime mark of 17-0 as a spring head coach, as well as a 23-0 mark for the Reds' varsity team in which he was an assistant, putting Whitman at 40-0 as a spring coach.

Whitman is now moving on to defend our Nation and will begin training this weekend in the Army Infantry in Fort Benning, Georgia. After 15 weeks of training in infantry and advanced infantry, Whitman will then enter Airborne School, also at Fort Benning. From there, Whitman plans to train to become one of the Army's most elite, as a Ranger, which will have him travel to various locations to train to fight and survive in urban, mountain, and swamp terrain.

Whitman will be greatly missed from Eaton Baseball, though it is hard to envision Whitman not finding some way in the future to continue to help coach the Eaton Fightin' Reds, following great successes in the military and on the battlefield.

From one of the Reds that has been fortunate to coach alongside you, and see what a positive impact you make on these young ballplayers:

Thanks Whitman for your Service to Eaton Baseball--and Now to the United States Armed Forces--Great Victories Will Await You There as Well