

## 25 STRAIGHT ELIMINATION GAME WINS AT HOME IN STATE TOURNAMENT

Date	Opponent	Location	Result	Reds	Opp.
5/9/1981	Burlington	Eaton	W	6	0
5/14/1983	Florence	Eaton	W	1	0
5/12/1984	Mapleton	Eaton	W	5	4
5/25/1985	Mapleton	Eaton	W	4	3
6/1/1985	Lamar	Eaton	W	2	1
5/23/1987	Sheridan	Eaton	W	2	0
5/11/2003	Pagosa Springs	Eaton	W	12	11
5/6/2007	Salida	Eaton	W	16	0
5/6/2007	University	Eaton	W	8	0
5/3/2008	Clear Creek	Eaton	W	16	2
5/3/2008	Hotchkiss	Eaton	W	19	2
5/2/2009	Denver Christian	Eaton	W	16	0
5/2/2009	Machebeuf	Eaton	W	12	0
5/15/2010	Sheridan	Eaton	W	18	0
5/15/2010	Bennett	Eaton	W	10	0
5/14/2011	Platte Canyon	Eaton	W	13	0
5/14/2011	Strasburg	Eaton	W	2	0
5/12/2012	Academy	Eaton	W	6	0
5/12/2012	Middle Park	Eaton	W	15	5
5/11/2013	Bruce Randolph	Eaton	W	15	0
5/11/2013	Machebeuf	Eaton	W	14	3
5/10/2014	Denver Science & Tech	Eaton	W	10	0
5/10/2014	St. Mary's	Eaton	W	11	0
5/11/2015	Arrupe Jesuit	Eaton	W	10	0
5/11/2015	Lutheran	Eaton	W	5	1

*a sample of articles of close games from each decade is on the following pages*

# Reds' bloop tosses Lamar for a loop

By DENNIS TAYLOR  
Tribune Staff Writer

□ Two more stories Page B4

EATON — The last breeze that blew across the Eaton High School baseball field Saturday was a sigh of relief from the Eaton dugout. The breeze before that blew Lamar out of the Colorado Class AA state baseball playoffs.

For the visiting Savages, the painful conclusion to an otherwise exquisitely played game arrived in the form of a misplayed pop fly off the bat of Eaton pitcher Scott Renfro. The wind-blown bloop fell between two confused fielders for a single and drove in Mike Herzberg for the deciding run in a heart-pounding 2-1 struggle.

The victory — Eaton's 45th in a row on its home field — forges the Reds (20-1) into the state semifinals which, along with the championship game, will be played Saturday at Butch Butler Field. Lamar ends its season with an 18-2 record.

Lamar right-hander Doug Brocail (8-1), who struck out 15 Reds, saw his bid for a third career no-hitter evaporate in the seventh inning on pinch-hitter Dan Gilbert's sizzler up the middle. With two outs, Eaton's Brad Grauberger delivered the team's second hit — a line drive over shortstop — that sent pinch-runner

Herzberg to second base. Renfro then sliced his soft fly into the wind toward left fielder Matt Camacho, who pursued the ball only half-heartedly when he saw teammate Dave Sandoval backpedaling from his shortstop position. Sandoval inexplicably gave up on the ball an instant later, and the disaster became a reality.

"(Sandoval) saw it come off the bat and he knew where it was headed, but he didn't stay with the ball," said coach Jess Downey of Lamar, whose 18-game winning streak ended.

Eaton's Grauberger said: "Just before we went onto the field in the bottom of the sixth, Mr. Danley told us, 'All we have to do is hold them here — you guys keep me in a one-run game, and I'll think of a way to win it.' We believed in him and he found a way — he made the big coaching move by pinch-hitting Danny, and that was the turning point."

Eaton's first run, which came without benefit of a hit and provided a 1-0 lead in the third inning, also resulted from a Lamar outfield blunder on a Renfro fly ball. After Grauberger had walked, Renfro lifted a high fly toward right fielder Craig Simmons, who stepped off the grass



Tribune photos by John Scanlon

Eaton's Scott Renfro watches his game-winning bloop single, left, then the celebration began, below.

In the seventh, Lamar's Dean Reed led off with a blast over first base, but Eaton right fielder Terry Specht held Reed to a double. After an infield out moved Reed to third, Renfro fanned David Martsloff and retired leadoff man Mike Navarette on a fly ball that was gloved nervously by Specht.

"We were very concerned when that kid hit the double," Danley said. "We had their seven, eight and nine hitters coming up, which is exactly what we wanted, but when that happened, we knew we were going to have to face their leadoff man again. It was a tough situation to be in."

"We have not faced a tougher pitcher than (Brocail)," he added. "His fastball was rising, which is something you very rarely see from a high school kid. His pitches came to the plate and then exploded, and our kids weren't making very good contact."

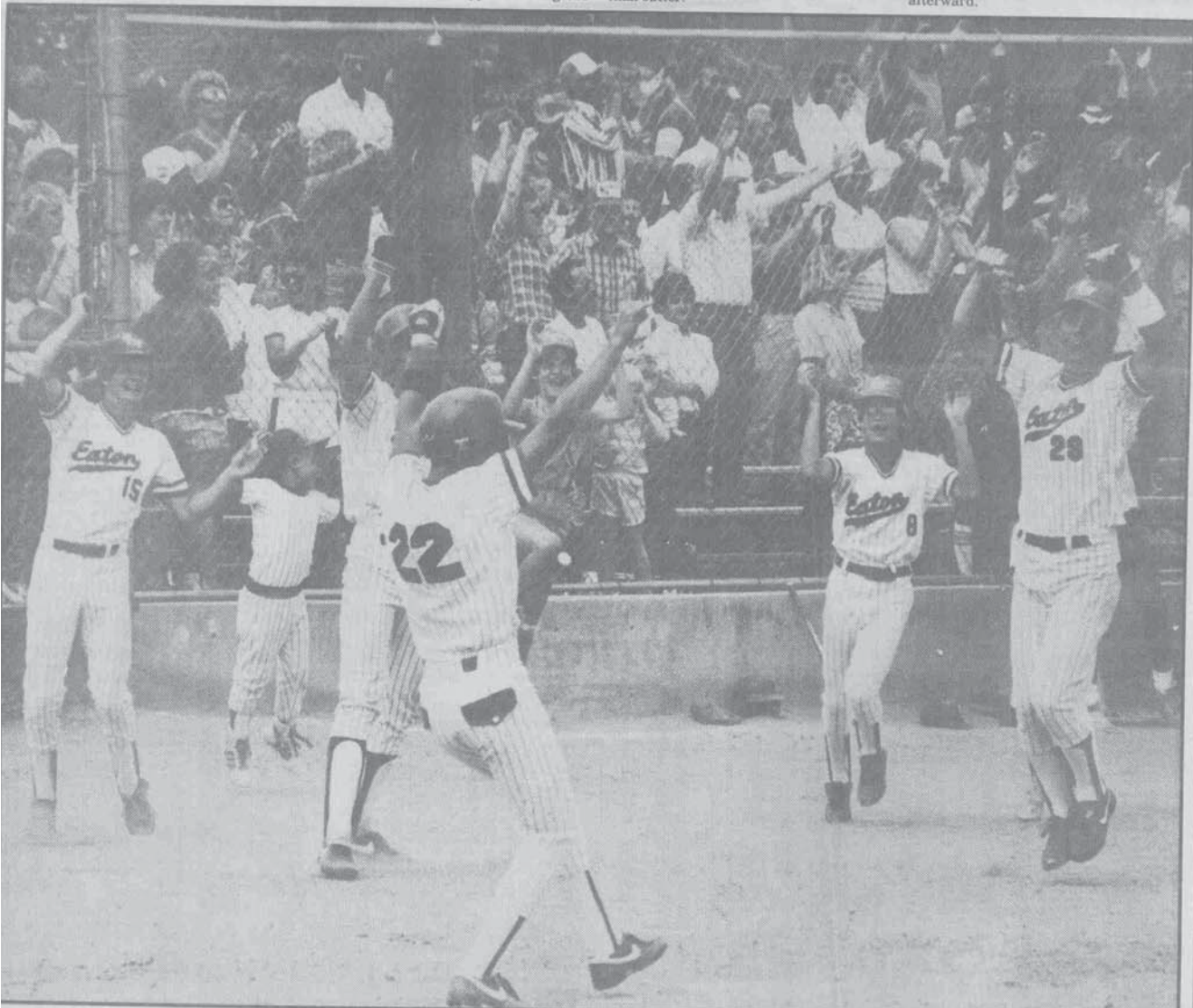
Grumbled Downey, "He's pitched better than this. He didn't have the curveball today that he's had in the past. I've seen him throw two no-hitters. Today, he strikes out 15 and doesn't give up a hit until the last inning, and it wasn't enough."

Palisade will play Trinidad in the 9 a.m. semifinal game Saturday at Butch Butler, and Eaton will meet Rifle immediately afterward.

an onto the running track and lost his balance as the ball hit his glove. The two-base error left runners on second and third, and Grauberger scored on a passed ball.

Lamar got two of its five hits in the top of the fourth, tying the game on a single by Brad Williams, who advanced on an infield out and scored on a base-hit by Mike Ramirez.

Renfro (12-0), the Reds' left-hander, found himself in deep trouble in the fifth, when Lamar got a runner to third base with one out. But Renfro made a sparkling fielding play, then fanned the final batter.



## EATON 2, LAMAR 1

# Nobody robbed Reds' Renfroe on this pop fly

By BARBARA ZUMWALT  
Tribune Staff Writer

EATON — For six innings Eaton pitcher Scott Renfroe played second fiddle to Lamar's Doug Brocail.

Brocail had a no-hitter going into the seventh inning in his team's Class AA state quarterfinal game Saturday. And for an entire season Renfroe had watched helplessly as fielders somehow managed to glove a lot of his line drives, robbing him of sure hits.

But by Saturday, Renfroe had endured enough.

With two outs in the bottom of the seventh and the potential winning run on second base, Renfroe began looking for his pitch.

"I just wanted him to throw me a low strike I could hit," Renfroe said. "Instead I went for a high outside (fastball) and popped it up."

But that pop up was enough to make Renfroe forget the pent up frustration of a season. It fell in for a single and drove home the winning run.

"They all even out in the long run," Renfroe said. "A win's a win and a hit's a hit."

And a Texas-leaguer looks as impressive as a line drive in the scorebook.

Eaton coach Jim Danley said Renfroe was the man he wanted at the plate in that situation.

"Scott has a quick bat and that's why I think Scott is a good college prospect," Danley said. "I've not seen anybody throw it by him."

Not even Brocail, whose fastball has been clocked at 85 mph.

And Danley knew his senior star had come through for him even before the Texas-leaguer hit the ground.

"That ball was hit pretty high, and I thought somebody was going to have a chance to make the play," he said. "... (But) when the ball was 50 feet in the air I started jumping because I saw everybody looking at everybody else."

Danley stopped jumping long enough to wave Mike Herzberg home with the winning run, and Renfroe camped at first, ready to accept the accolades of his teammates and fans.

But his heroics started before the bottom of the seventh when he pitched out of the most serious threat to face him since Lamar had scored its run in the fourth.

Dean Reed led off with a double and went to third on Matt Camacho's ground out. Renfroe expected No. 9 hitter David Martsoff to try a suicide squeeze bunt to bring home the go-ahead run.

"We pitch out high and away," Danley said. "We want the batter to go for it, and we want him to pop it



Tribune photo by John Scanlan

Lamar center fielder Dave Martsloff dives back into first base ahead of the tag by Eaton's Pat McKay.

up. They didn't take the bait, and then we decided to come in on the No. 9 hitter — or we could be facing a first-third situation."

Although he was behind in the count, 3-0, Renfroe said he felt confident.

"I felt my control was real good today, so I didn't worry much," Renfroe said. "I haven't had much power lately, so maybe you could call me more of a control pitcher."

Renfroe's control was never finer. Three straight fastballs were too much for Martsoff to handle, and Renfroe got leadoff batter Mike

Navarette to fly to right for the last out.

"Scott just reached back," Danley said. "Scott got better as the situation required. I've felt this club has been like that all year."

By virtue of his game-winning hit, Renfroe has improved his school record for most victories in a season at 12-0.

Brocail's hopes for a third no-hitter wasn't lost until the seventh, also spoiling his perfect season (he finished 8-1).

And eventually, he had to play second fiddle to Renfroe.

## Eaton's pinch hitter becomes designated hero

By DENNIS TAYLOR  
Tribune Staff Writer

EATON — The story of the prince and the pauper was staged on the baseball field at Eaton High School, and Dan Gilbert played both roles.

Nudged from the starting lineup when injured regular Brad Grauberger regained his health, Gilbert found himself wallowing among the ranks of the unemployed when the Reds took the field Saturday against Lamar in the quarterfinals of the Class AA state baseball playoffs. The senior, who had braved a bothersome slump in earlier days to become one of Eaton's hottest hitters, sat and waited for coach Jim Danley to call his name.

The call came one out into the bottom of the seventh inning. With the score tied, 1-1, Danley sent Gilbert to the plate as a pinch-hitter

for shortstop Mike Herzberg. Simply stated, his job was to get a hit off of Lamar's undefeated right-hander, Doug Brocail, who already had struck out 14 Eaton hitters and was pitching a no-hit game.

"I thought if we got something going, coach Danley would have me up there," said Gilbert. "After Bobby (Ervin) struck out, coach pointed at me, gave me a good look and said, 'You're on.'"

Gilbert battled Brocail and his 85-mph fastball to a 2-2 count, then drove a low line drive past the pitcher's right ankle for Eaton's first hit of the game. His job done, Gilbert returned to his seat in the dugout in favor of the fleetier Herzberg, who re-entered the game as a pinch runner and eventually scored the winning run.

"I wanted Danny on the bench so I

could use him in a pressure situation — I wanted to be able to pick my spot," Danley explained. "He's one of those kids who has ice water in his veins."

"My knees were shaking," Gilbert confided. "I told myself that my job was to go up to the plate and make contact — put the bat on the ball. If it goes through, great. If it doesn't, well, I've done my best. As hard as this pitcher threw the ball, and as good as he was, I was hoping for a low pitch. I'd have struck out, too, if I'd swung at anything above the numbers. He gave me one at the knees and I drove it into center field."

Gilbert, a four-year varsity player, finally found himself in the starting lineup midway through the season when Grauberger tore a tendon in his thumb sliding into second base. The all-league center

fielder continued to play defense, despite a full cast on his throwing arm, but couldn't swing the bat. That job was given to designated hitter Gilbert.

Early on, success came grudgingly. Gilbert stung the ball, but seldom found a hole, and was struggling with a .092 batting average. Then, things took a turn for the best, and going into Saturday's game, Gilbert had belted six hits in nine previous at-bats, including the single that started the game-winning rally a week ago in the state preliminary game with Mapleton.

"To be honest, yeah, it bummed me out when I found out I wasn't going to get to start today," he said. "But I looked at it as a move that was made to help the team, and I just told myself to be ready when the time came. I guess I was ready."



**Ross Maak**

May 12, 2003

## **Eaton stays alive in playoffs**

It's a good thing Eaton baseball coach Jim Danley has a couple sophomores he can call in at the bottom of his lineup. He needed them Sunday against Pagosa Springs.

Josh Noblitt and Travis Anderson combined to go 6-for-7 with four doubles, 4 RBI and six runs scored during the Reds' 12-11 victory over Pagosa Springs. Eaton used the come-from-behind victory to advance to today's Class 3A Regional Tournament Finals at Northglenn High School.

Eaton will face the winner of today's D'Evelyn-Colorado Springs Christian game in a 3 p.m. final and a berth in the final four.

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But it almost didn't happen. The Reds fell behind 7-0 heading for the bottom of the second, including five errors on the Reds.

Eaton's offense finally got off the ground with three in the fifth and sixth innings and four in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into extra innings.

Anderson then nailed the game-winning hit with two outs in the bottom of the eighth for the win.

"Those two guys have been great," senior Chris Swain said. "Travis started the season at catcher but struggled. Josh has been a starter since he was a freshman. Travis has been waiting for his chance and took full advantage, getting the game-winner."

Both Anderson and Noblitt scored in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings. Then each had two-out hits in the eighth.

"Noblitt and Anderson were great down there," Danley said. "Because they hit so well, they were on base when the heart of our lineup stepped in."

Noblitt started the game on the mound, giving up seven runs in two innings. However, only three of those runs were earned.

In the late innings, the Reds had pulled in staff ace Dusty Dominguez to shut down the Pirates. Knowing that helped take the pressure off the sophomores at the plate.

"The pressure was on and I was pretty nervous," Anderson said. "But I knew the worst that could happen is that I'd be out and we'd go out in the field again. Dusty was throwing well, so that took a lot of pressure off me."

- NOTES: Eaton never led in the game until the eighth-inning, game-winning run. Pagosa Springs led 7-0, 8-1 and 11-4 before the Reds scored eight unanswered runs. . The 8-0 Eaton run started with a one-out, solo home run by Eric Kelly. Noblitt followed with a hit-batsman and Anderson with a walk. Both eventually scored. . Eaton had two outs with a runner on first in the bottom of the eighth. Noblitt hit a single to move him to second before Anderson's game-winner.

PSHS 520 103 00 - 11 11 1

EHS 010 033 41 - 12 16 6

PSHS - Jaret Frank (14H, 9ER, 4BB, 4SO) Josh Stone (L, 8th, 2H, 1ER, 1BB, 0SO) and Ben Marshall. 2B - Stone. RBI - Marshall, Lauren Lopez 2, Jeremy Caler, Zeb Gill, Levi Gill 2.

EHS - Josh Noblitt (5H, 3ER, 2BB, 4SO), Jordan Hungenberg (3rd, 4H, 3ER, 5BB, 2SO), Dusty Dominguez (W, 6th, 2H, 0ER, 0BB, 4SO) and Chris Swain. 2B - Dominguez, Noblitt 2, Travis Anderson 2. HR - Eric Kelly (0 on in 6th). RBI - Tyler Garretson 2, Dominguez 3, Branden Trujillo, Swain, Kelly, Noblitt, Anderson 3.



**Samuel G. Mustari**  
[smustari@greeleytribune.com](mailto:smustari@greeleytribune.com)

May 15, 2011

## Reds win a nail-biter

EATON " Darel Dodge was likely to call check Saturday afternoon, but Jim Danley was one move ahead of him thanks to a group of pawns " Weston Hager, Dante Foos, Seth Jackson, Tyler Batt, Trent Sieg and Tyler Sieg " in the Class 3A District 5 Baseball Championship game.

For five innings, Danley, Eaton's wily coach of nearly four decades, and Dodge, Strasburg's veteran coach, engaged in a mind game, resembling a chess match, each waiting for the other to make a wrong move.

Dodge and the Indians blinked first, and Eaton's patience and perseverance paid huge dividends as it scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth in a 2-0 victory, advancing to the Great Eight round next weekend in Greeley.

Eaton advances with a 20-1 record while Strasburg ended its season at 12-9.

"That was championship baseball, is what that was," said Danley, whose Reds (20-1) are vying for their 10th state championship and will take on Florence (15-6) to open the double-elimination round of the tournament. "Both pitchers threw extremely well."

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Eaton's Tyler Sieg, a right-handed sidearmer, hooked up in an old-fashioned pitcher's duel with Strasburg's Aaron Schlagel, who didn't allow an Eaton runner past first base through five innings.

Sieg gave up just two hits while Schlagel eventually was tagged for five, two in the sixth inning.

"I told our players, though, going into the bottom of the sixth, we had six more outs and they had just three, so the advantage was ours," Danley said. "I told them that if we put the ball in play, something good was bound to happen."

Foos, hitting in the two-hole, made Danley look like a genius when he stroked a single " only the Reds' fourth hit of the game " to right field, advancing leadoff hitter Hager to third. Hager had reached on a dropped third strike.

Jackson then picked up the first and only RBI of the day with a fielder's choice to score Hager.

Batt, who also reached via a fielder's choice and moved to third on a single by Trent Sieg, scored Eaton's insurance run on a Strasburg fielding error.

"When I got to third base, I reminded myself of how important it was to be careful and to score," Hager said. "There were a lot of zeros on the board, so one run looked like it was going to be the difference."

Tyler Sieg had matched Schlagel inning-for-inning through the first five, retiring 14-of-16 Strasburg batters in one stretch while piling up seven strikeouts and walking just one.

"About the third inning, it looked like it was going to be a one-run game and I told myself, 'Don't let them score,'" Sieg said. "I relied on my fastball more than any other pitch today."

Sieg only allowed the Indians to reach third one time " in the sixth when leadoff hitter Brian Lay drew a full-count walk, advanced to second on a grounder and stole third.

Lay was left stranded as Sieg got Patrick Swain to end the inning on a popup to second base.

That's when Danley convinced the Reds that they had the advantage and it was time to take advantage of every opportunity.

"I felt really determined when I came to bat (in the sixth) that we had to get that run with Hager on third," Jackson said. "I'll admit, I was a little nervous late in the game. In four years, I've never been involved in this low-scoring of a game at home."

Sieg, who needed just 84 pitches to record the shutout, was spot on in the top of the seventh, throwing just eight pitches and receiving a web-gem-worthy diving catch from Hager to record the second out.

"It was nice to finally have the two-run lead, but that was a game where neither team could afford a mistake. Nobody wanted to think that our season would have ended had we lost."

SHS 000 000 0 " 0 2 1

EHS 000 002 x " 2 5 1



SHS " Aaron Schlagel (L, 6-3, 5H, 1ER, 1BB, 5SO) and Patrick Swain.

EHS " Tyler Sieg (W, 10-1, 2H, 0ER, 1BB, 7SO) and Tyler Batt. RBI " Seth Jackson

Eaton 13, Platte Canyon 0: Eaton wasted no time trying to win its 19th straight district/regional tournament. The second-seeded Reds put up nine runs in the first inning Saturday en route to a 13-0 victory against No. 31 Platte Canyon in the first round.

Seth Jackson made sure Platte Canyon had no hope of clawing its way back into the game, holding the Huskies to two hits.