

THE HOME WIN STREAK

The Reds won a remarkable 50 straight games playing on Eaton's home field. No, not this past decade, nor even the decade before that; in fact, the Reds' home field advantage was at its greatest in the 1980's, as the Reds went more than half a decade without ever losing a game on the Old Field, an all-dirt infield with some of the most foreboding ground rules in the nation, but more importantly, host to some of the toughest competitors in Reds' history that simply willed their way to victory...50 consecutive times.

This streak spans over half a decade, from 1981-1986, incorporating 4 full seasons and the majority of 2 seasons on each end of the streak. There are 40 Reds that played a major role in this streak, including: 1981 graduates—Mark Anderson, Steve Stencel, Joe Intermill, and Tony Salinas; 1982 graduates—Bill Kurtz, Bill Lawhead, Dudley Brown, Artie Grauberger, Robert Galindo, Tim Buckendorf, and Fred Kester; 1983 graduates—Mike Anderson, Mike McKay, and David Lawhead; 1984 graduates—Mike Rosales, Paul Cordova, and Doug Leafgren; 1985 graduates—Scott Renfro, Brad Grauberger, Pat McKay, and Dan Gilbert; 1986 graduates—Ron Crowder, Terry Specht, Paul Friesen, Shane Brown, Mike Broyles, and Kevin Hobbs; 1987 graduates—Bobby Ervin, Mike Herzberg, Eric Garretson, Mike Templeman, Steve Graff, Adam Kaiser, Lance Mosness, and Ralph Sanchez; 1988 graduates—Randy Cordova, Jim Reeman, Joey Haythorn, Marc Gustafson, and Dino Nolin; and 1989 graduates—Gary Ervin and Ray Garza. The Reds were coached throughout the streak by Coach Danley and Coach Ervin. This list excludes the many dozens of Reds' players that came before these men, who coached and mentored these players as youths in the Eaton Baseball Program, grooming them for their day under the bright lights as varsity ballplayers for the Eaton Fightin' Reds.

1981 Season

After losing the first game of a doubleheader, the Reds started The Home Win Streak by coming back to defeat University 11-1. Bill Lawhead threw a perfect game through 3 innings and allowed just one runner in the 4th inning. Mike Anderson's 2-run double put the Reds ahead 4-0 in the bottom of the 4th inning, before the Reds scored another 5 runs in the 5th inning, led by RBI doubles from Anderson and Mike McKay. Lawhead ended the complete-game 4-hitter in the 6th inning as the Reds went on to win via the mercy-rule as Mike Rosales and Joe Intermill hit two-out singles to score Bill Kurtz and Dudley Brown.

Against Valley, the Reds scored five 1st inning runs behind singles by Intermill, Steve Stencel, Mark Anderson, McKay, Lawhead and Brown. Stencel threw a perfect game into the 5th inning, en route to throwing a complete-game 2-hitter as the Reds won 5-1.

In one of the toughest games of The Home Win Streak, the Reds took an early 6-2 lead, and then a 10-6 lead into the 5th inning. After Fort Lupton cut the deficit to 10-7, Mike Anderson led off with a home run to again put the Reds ahead by 4 runs. Then in the 6th inning though, Fort Lupton tied the game at 11-11. Stencel took the mound in the 7th inning and centerfielder Mike Anderson threw out the potential go-ahead run at the plate to end the inning. Kurtz then reached base, advanced to 2nd base on a wild pitch, and then scored on a single from McKay to win the game in the bottom of the 7th inning.

The Reds' first 3 batters, Intermill, Mike Anderson, and Stencel, all singled and scored after hits by Mark Anderson and Kurtz as the Reds took a 3-0 lead against Burlington. A home run by Kurtz and 2 RBI double from Brown in the 5th inning increased the Reds' lead to 6-0. Stencel on the other hand was nearly perfect on the mound. After allowing two runners in the 1st inning on a walk and an error, Stencel then was perfect the next 3 innings. In the 5th inning, two walks were overcome by 3 more strikeouts as Stencel carried a no-hitter into the 6th inning. From there Stencel struck out the next 6 batters in order, never missing the strike zone more than once to any batter, in completing the Reds' first postseason no-hitter.

1982 Season

In the first game of the 1982 season, against Platte Valley, the Reds rallied for 3 runs in the 5th inning and 4 runs in the 6th inning behind extra-base hits from Mike McKay, Doug Leafgren and Bill Lawhead to take an 11-4 lead. After pulling Lawhead from the mound to try to save an inning for the next game of the doubleheader, Platte Valley cut the score to 11-8 before Lawhead returned to the mound and ended the game.

In the 2nd game of the Platte Valley doubleheader, the Reds took an 8-4 lead through the first 3 innings as freshman Scott Renfroe made his debut on the mound. The Reds then added two more runs in the 4th inning off doubles from David Lawhead and Artie Grauberger to take a 10-5 lead. Renfroe then retired the side in a scoreless top of the 5th inning, before Bill Kurtz, McKay, David Lawhead, Renfroe, Grauberger, Paul Cordova and Mike Anderson all walked, before a wild pitch ended the game 15-5 via the mercy-rule.

The Reds trailed Roosevelt 7-4 through four innings, before Bill Lawhead went on to be perfect the next 3 innings to stop Roosevelt from even reaching base again. In the meantime, the Reds rallied in the bottom of the 6th inning as Cordova reached based, Anderson singled, Bill Lawhead walked, Kurtz doubled to tie the game, and then David Lawhead hit a two-out single to give the Reds the 8-7 lead that Bill Lawhead would hold onto for the win.

After falling behind 5-2 through 2 ½ innings in the 2nd game of the doubleheader against Roosevelt, Kurtz led off the 3rd inning with a triple, then McKay singled, David Lawhead singled, Grauberger and Renfroe reached base, Cordova walked, and Anderson doubled as the Reds took a 7-5 lead. Anderson hit another 2-run double in the 4th inning as the Reds put the game out of reach with an 11-5 lead. Renfroe then retired the side in the top of the 5th inning, before the Reds ended the game via mercy-rule as Bill Lawhead singled, Kurtz doubled, and consecutive singles were hit by McKay, David Lawhead and Grauberger to end the game 15-5.

The Reds scored 2 runs against Highland in the 2nd inning as Kurtz and McKay scored on a wild pitch and a single from Renfroe. In the 3rd inning, Bill Lawhead walked, Kurtz reached based, and McKay tripled and scored on a passed ball as the Reds took a 5-0 lead. Bill Lawhead threw a complete-game 3-hitter, with Reds' shortstop Anderson turning 3 inning-ending double plays en route to the 5-1 win.

In the 2nd game of the doubleheader against Highland, the Reds' first 6 batters reached base and scored in the 1st inning, and the Reds' defense turned double plays in the 4th, 5th and 6th innings as Renfroe threw a complete-game 4-hit shutout in the 8-0 win, which was the Reds' 10th straight victory at home.

After allowing one run in the first inning against Denver Christian, Bill Lawhead then faced only one batter over the minimum during the next 4 innings, earning a total of 8 strikeouts in the complete-game win. The Reds tied the game 1-1 in the 1st inning with Anderson scoring, before Renfroe knocked in two 3rd inning runs, and then the Reds exploded for 7 runs in the 4th inning led by a triple from Dudley Brown, and home runs from Bill Lawhead and Grauberger as the Reds rolled to an 11-1 win.

1983 Season

Engaged in a great pitcher's duel, the Reds entered the 7th inning in a scoreless tie against Platte Valley. While playing at home, the Reds were actually the visitors on the scoreboard, and David Lawhead and Mike Anderson walked, then Scott Renfroe bunted both runners over, before Paul Cordova hit a two-out single to give the Reds a 2-0 lead. Mike Rosales had thrown 5 scoreless innings before giving way to Renfroe to end the 6th inning. Then after allowing a leadoff single in the 7th inning, Renfroe picked off the runner before retiring the next two batters in order to preserve the 2-0 win.

In the second game of the doubleheader, The Reds scored 6 runs in the first inning and then another run in the 4th inning, but Platte Valley kept the game close, at 6-4 through 5 innings. Brad Grauberger then singled, Rosales singled,

Lawhead walked, Anderson reached base, and then with two outs, Mike McKay singled and came around to score as the Reds took a 12-4 lead. Anderson then ended the game on the mound, striking out 5 batters in 2 innings of relief, including the final 4 batters of the game in the 12-6 win.

The Reds fell behind Windsor 3-0 in the 4th inning before Renfroe ended the inning in relief with two strikeouts. The Reds though quickly stormed back, as Mike McKay, Cordova, and Doug Leafgren walked, before Pat McKay singled and then Rosales, Lawhead and Anderson all reached base as the Reds took a 4-3 lead. In the 5th inning, Mike McKay singled, Cordova doubled, Pat McKay doubled, and Grauberger and Rosales walked before Lawhead singled and Anderson hit a sacrifice fly to make the score 8-3. Pat McKay added an insurance run in the 6th inning with a sacrifice fly to score Mike McKay, and then after a couple of errors tightened the game, Renfroe induced a game-ending groundout in the 9-7 win.

The 2nd game of the Windsor doubleheader was no less competitive, as the Reds were behind 2-0 in the 5th inning before Pat McKay doubled, Leafgren singled, and Rosales singled to cut the deficit to 2-1. The Reds then allowed a Windsor run in the 7th inning to put the Reds behind 3-1. With one out in the bottom of the 7th inning though, Pat McKay singled, followed by singles from Leafgren and Ron Crowder, before Rosales tied the game with a sacrifice fly. Lawhead then hit the game-winning single with two outs as the Reds won their 15th consecutive game at Eaton.

After leaving the bases loaded in the 1st inning without scoring a run, the Reds battled to load up the bases again, and then scored 9 runs to put the game away early against Machebeuf. Cordova and Renfroe combined for a 5-hitter as the Reds won 12-2 with Renfroe hitting a walk-off triple to score Anderson for the mercy-rule victory.

In a rare close game against Estes Park, the Reds faced a top opposing pitcher and trailed 1-0 going into the 5th inning. Then Pat McKay singled and scored after an error was made in the outfield following a single by Leafgren. Rosales then shut down Estes Park in order in the top of the 6th inning, before Anderson walked, stole 2nd base, then stole 3rd base, and finally scored on a passed ball to give the Reds a 2-1 lead. Rosales then induced two groundouts and a strikeout to retire the side in order in the 7th inning to secure the 2-1 win.

In the second game of the Estes Park doubleheader, the Reds scored in each inning, including 10 runs in consecutive at-bats in the 4th inning, as the Reds rolled to an 18-1 win over Estes Park, with Cordova and Renfroe splitting a 4-hit complete-game.

The Reds raced to a 4-run lead in the first two innings over University, after Anderson singled and stole 2nd base and Renfroe then singled in the 1st inning, and then in the 2nd inning, Crowder singled, Cordova and Rosales walked, Anderson walked, and after a double-play, Renfroe tripled to put the Reds ahead 4-0. After University cut the lead to 4-3, Renfroe took the mound in relief and ended the top of the 3rd inning. Pat McKay then hit a solo home run to give the Reds a 5-3 lead, and then Anderson singled, stole 2nd base, and scored on a single by Mike McKay. Renfroe didn't allow a ball out of the infield in the final two innings as the Reds held on for a 7-5 win.

The Reds trailed University 2-1 going into the 4th inning of the 2nd game of the doubleheader, before Anderson hit a two-out triple to score Cordova and Rosales. University tied the game in the top of the 5th inning before Anderson took the mound and struck out a batter and then Lawhead ended the inning by throwing out a runner trying to advance from first base to third base on a single to leftfield. The Reds then hit through the order, with Mike McKay drawing a walk, followed by singles from Pat McKay, Leafgren, Crowder, Cordova, a fielder's choice by Rosales, and then singles from Lawhead, Anderson, and hits from Mike McKay and Pat McKay as the Reds put the game away with an 11-4 lead. Anderson then retired the side in order, and Renfroe hit a game-ending RBI triple as the Reds won 14-4 via the mercy rule for their 20th consecutive victory at home.

The Reds then faced Fort Lupton, and took an early 2-0 lead on hits from Anderson and Renfroe to score Rosales and Lawhead. In the 2nd inning, Grauberger singled and scored on a sacrifice fly from Anderson as the Reds went ahead 3-0.

Grauberger then tripled home Leafgren in the 3rd inning, and the Reds added 3 more runs in the 4th inning led by back-to-back doubles from Mike McKay and Pat McKay to put the game away with a 7-0 lead. The Reds gave their entire pitching staff a workout, with Rosales, Renfroe, Cordova and Anderson combining for the 2-hitter as the Reds won 7-1.

In one of the great pitcher's duels of the decade, the Reds took on Florence in the Regional Championship, played at Eaton. Renfroe allowed one runner to reach base in each of the first 4 innings, but got his way out of each scoring threat. In the bottom of the 4th inning, the Reds scored on consecutive singles from Mike McKay, Pat McKay and Leafgren. Renfroe then retired the side in order in the 5th inning and then Anderson took the mound in the 6th inning to retire the final out of the inning via strikeout, following the Reds getting the potential tying run in a rundown between third base and home for the 2nd out of the inning. With the potential tying run in scoring position in the 7th inning, Anderson induced a groundout to first baseman Mike McKay, and then struck out the next batter to end the game and send the Reds to the Final Four.

1984 Season

The Reds started the 1984 season against Rocky Mountain, and Pat McKay singled in Scott Renfroe to give the Reds an early lead. After falling behind 2-1, the Reds scored 3 straight runs as Dan Gilbert singled, Doug Leafgren tripled, Paul Cordova doubled, and then freshman Mike Herzberg singled to give the Reds a 4-2 lead after 4 innings. Scott Renfroe took the mound in relief after strong outings from Mike Rosales and Cordova, and after allowing an unearned run to cut the score to 4-3, retired the next two batters to end the inning. Renfroe then retired the side in order in the 6th inning and stranded the potential tying run on 3rd base in the 7th inning, after striking out the opponent's #3 and #4 hitters.

Against Denver Christian, the Reds took an early lead as Leafgren tripled in Rosales in the 1st inning, and then Cordova and Terry Specht scored in the 2nd inning to put the Reds ahead 3-0. The Reds scored two more runs in the 3rd inning, while Cordova took a no-hitter into the 4th inning. After allowing a two-out hit, Cordova then struck out the next 5 batters in order, en route to 13 strikeouts on the day, as the Reds then scored 6 runs in the 6th inning to end the game via mercy-rule 11-1.

The Reds took a 2-0 lead over Platte Valley in the 2nd inning, led by a double from Specht and single from Herzberg, and then added a 3rd run in the 3rd inning following a single by Renfroe and double by Ron Crowder. Rosales faced only two batters over the minimum through the first 5 innings, but then after two Platte Valley runs cut the Reds' lead to 3-2, Renfroe entered the game and picked off the potential go-ahead run to end the inning. Renfroe then struck out the side in the 7th inning to secure the 3-2 win, which was the Reds' 25th straight home victory.

In the second game of the Platte Valley doubleheader, the Reds took a 9-1 lead into the top of the 7th inning, led offensively by 4 hits from Renfroe, including a home run. Renfroe also retired 11 straight batters from the 3rd through 6th innings. The game ended due to darkness though in the 7th inning, erasing a couple of runs Platte Valley had scored as the result reverted back to the end of the 6th inning, and the 9-1 score for the Reds' win.

The Reds quickly fell behind University 3-0 in the top of the 1st inning, but then stormed back with a home run from Renfroe and bases-loaded walk to Crowder that scored McKay to cut the deficit to 3-2. Cordova pitched his way out of a bases-loaded jam in the 2nd inning, before the Reds took the lead with freshman Bobby Ervin singling, Renfroe drawing a walk, and then both scoring on a two-out double from McKay to take a 4-3 lead. Cordova held University scoreless again in the 3rd inning, before the Reds put the game out of reach as the Reds took a 5-3 lead with the bases loaded, and then with two outs, sent 10 straight batters to the plate that all reached safely as the Reds' lead increased to 16-3. Cordova then finished the complete-game win on the mound as the Reds ended the game via mercy-rule 19-5.

The Reds stormed to a 7-0 lead after 3 innings in the 2nd game against University, led by home runs from McKay and Crowder. After allowing 2 runs in the top of the 5th inning, the Reds came back with one of their own, and then matched

University's two runs in the 6th inning with two more Reds' runs after an RBI double from Leafgren made the score 10-4. Renfroe then worked out of trouble in the 7th inning, as the lead was cut to 10-7 before he struck out the game's final batter.

The Reds took a commanding 5-0 lead in top of the 3rd inning against Windsor, as the Reds were visitors despite the doubleheader being played at Eaton, with runs scored by Rosales, Cordova, Leafgren, Renfroe and McKay. The Reds entered the 6th inning leading 6-1, and then sent 13 batters to the plate, scoring 9 runs, to put the game out of reach, ending the game via the mercy-rule 15-4 after Renfroe recorded a strikeout to end the game.

The Reds scored 3 times in the 1st inning against Windsor in the 2nd game of the doubleheader led by triples from Renfroe and Crowder. The Reds added two more runs in the 3rd inning and took a 6-0 lead in the 4th inning, before the Reds took a 16-0 lead in the 5th inning, with the Reds having 7 straight batters reach base safely with two outs. Rosales then finished the complete-game 2-hit shutout on the mound. This win marked the Reds' 30th straight home victory.

Brad Grauberger hit a two-out double in the 1st inning to put the Reds ahead 2-0 over Brush. Leading 2-1 in the 3rd inning, the Reds then rallied for 9 runs as McKay singled, Grauberger walked, Crowder walked, Rosales, Specht, Ervin and Cordova hit successive singles, then Leafgren reached base, McKay reached base and Crowder singled as the Reds went ahead 11-1. Using their pinch hitters in the 4th inning, the Reds expanded the lead to 17-1, before Renfroe retired 3 of 4 batters to end the game via the mercy-rule in the top of the 5th inning.

The Reds then completed a perfect regular season, with a 16-0 record overall, by defeating Brush 16-2 in the 2nd game of the doubleheader, as the Reds scored 5 runs in the 1st inning, 2 more runs in the 2nd inning, 5 more runs in the 3rd inning, and then used their pinch hitters to increase the lead to 16-2 after 4 innings. Rosales then retired 3 straight batters in the top of the 5th inning to end the game via the mercy-rule.

The Reds then hosted Mapleton in the Regional Tournament. Cordova led off the 1st inning with a walk and scored after Leafgren walked and Renfroe singled for the game's first run. Rosales then retired 6 straight batters in the 2nd and 3rd innings, before the Reds increased the lead to 5-0 as Leafgren walked, Renfroe singled, McKay singled, and Crowder hit a 2-run home run. After Mapleton cut the Reds' lead to 5-2 in the 4th inning, Renfroe entered in relief and recorded two consecutive outs to end the inning. Renfroe then retired 3 straight batters in the 5th inning after a leadoff run scored to cut the Reds' lead to 5-3. Renfroe was perfect in the 6th inning, setting Mapleton down 1-2-3. Then with a 5-4 lead in the 7th inning and the potential tying run on 3rd base and the potential go-ahead run on 2nd base, Renfroe struck out Mapleton's cleanup hitter to end the game and send the Reds on to the Regional Championship.

1985 Season

The Reds' home opener pitted the Reds against Roosevelt, and the Reds started the 1st inning drawing 4 walks and a hit-by-pitch before Bobby Ervin hit a 2-out, 2 RBI single to give the Reds a 4-0 lead. Brad Grauberger then struck out 3 batters in the 2nd inning, but allowed 2 runs, before Ron Crowder singled in another two-out run as the Reds took a 5-2 lead after 2 innings. After Grauberger retired the side in order in the 3rd inning, the Reds put the game out of reach with 4 more runs led by a double from Paul Friesen. With a 9-5 score coming into the bottom of the 5th inning, the Reds then ended the game via the mercy-rule, as Eric Garretson singled, Terry Specht tripled, Scott Renfroe singled, Crowder hit a home run, freshman Randy Cordova walked, and Friesen hit a game-ending home run in the 15-5 win.

After falling behind 4-0 in the 2nd game of the Roosevelt doubleheader, the Reds stormed back in the bottom of the 2nd inning, as Pat McKay hit a two-out single, then Ervin singled, Mike Herzberg reached base, Grauberger walked, Specht reached base, and then Scott Renfroe and Crowder drew bases-loaded walks to tie the game 4-4. McKay hit a go-ahead 2-run home run in the 3rd inning, and the Reds added to the lead with another 8 runs in the 4th inning as Renfroe tripled and homered in the inning. After Roosevelt cut the Reds' lead to 14-7, the Reds led off the 5th inning with a home run

from Friesen, and then Shane Brown hit a one-out pinch hit home run. With two outs, Herzberg singled before Mike Templeman hit a pinch-hit game-ending home run as the Reds won 18-7 via the mercy-rule, for the Reds' 35th straight home victory.

The Reds raced to a 4-0 lead in the 2nd inning over Highland led by a 2-run home run from Grauberger. The Reds then scored another 6 runs in the 3rd inning, led by a home run from Friesen as the Reds took a 10-0 lead. Grauberger then struck out his 7th batter through 3 innings, before Cordova took the mound and retired 6 straight hitters in the 12-1 win.

Specht led off the bottom of the 1st inning with a home run as the Reds took a 1-0 lead over Highland in the 2nd game of the doubleheader. After the game was tied in the top of the 2nd inning, McKay and Ervin walked before Herzberg and Specht singled to give the Reds a 3-1 lead. Renfroe shut down Highland in the 3rd inning, and then the Reds added another 4 runs, led by a home run from Crowder. In the 4th inning, it was Renfroe that homered to make the score 9-0. The Reds ended the game in the 6th inning via the mercy-rule with 4 more runs to make the final score 15-5.

Trailing 2-0 to Yuma in the 2nd inning, Crowder singled and came around to score on a wild pitch. After Renfroe retired the side in order in the 3rd inning, Friesen hit a 3-run home run to put the Reds ahead 5-2. With the score narrowing to 5-3 in the top of the 4th inning, Specht scored in the bottom of the 4th inning and Grauberger added another insurance run in the 5th inning. Renfroe earned his 14th strikeout in the top of the 6th inning, before the Reds rallied for 6 runs to end the game via the mercy-rule, with Specht hitting a one-out single to score Ervin to end the game.

As dominant as Renfroe was with 14 strikeouts in the 1st game of the doubleheader, freshman Randy Cordova would be even better in the 2nd game against Yuma. After Cordova retired the side in order in the 1st inning, the Reds scored 5 runs in the bottom half of the inning. Cordova then struck out two more batters before allowing a walk on a full-count pitch, before then retiring the next batter. Cordova retired the side in order in the 3rd inning, before the Reds added another 5 runs to take a 10-0 lead. After an error, catcher Crowder threw out a runner trying to steal 3rd base, before Cordova induced two groundouts to end the inning. With a no-hitter on the line, Cordova struck out the side in order in the 5th inning to end the game via mercy rule and record the first Reds' no-hitter in a spring game since Stencel threw a no-hitter 4 years earlier during The Home Win Streak.

The Reds took a 3-0 lead over Valley in the 1st inning as Specht walked, McKay doubled, Renfroe singled and scored on a fielder's choice by Friesen. After Valley had already scored two runs and had the bases loaded with one out, the Reds got out of the 2nd inning with a line drive caught by second baseman Cordova who then threw to shortstop Herzberg to end the inning. Then the Reds' first 5 hitters all reached base and scored as the Reds took an 8-3 lead. The Reds matched the one run scored by Valley in the 4th inning as Ervin doubled and later scored on a sacrifice fly from Specht. Renfroe then took the mound in relief and struck out 3 batters in the 5th inning, and worked out of the top of the 6th inning with the Reds maintaining a 10-6 lead. The Reds then added two more insurance runs in the 6th inning, before Renfroe struck out 3 consecutive batters to end the game and earn the Reds their 40th consecutive home win.

The Reds scored in the 1st inning and then scored another 9 runs in the 2nd inning to take an early 10-0 lead over Windsor. Renfroe threw a complete-game 2-hitter, facing only two batters over the minimum as the Reds won via the mercy-rule.

In the 2nd game of the doubleheader against Windsor, the Reds got behind 2-0 in the 1st inning, before Renfroe hit a solo home run and then Crowder, Friesen, and Cordova scored following a 2-out hit by Ervin. The Reds then added 4 runs in the 3rd inning off hits from Cordova, Herzberg and Garretson. Cordova allowed just 2 runs the rest of the way as the Reds won 11-4.

In the District Tournament against Roosevelt, the Reds scored 5 runs in the 1st inning, and then added another 9 runs in the 2nd inning to put the game out of reach very early. Ervin earned the complete-game win, while home runs were hit by Renfroe and Crowder to lead the Reds offensively.

Facing Mapleton in the State Tournament for the 2nd straight year, the Reds scored twice in the 1st inning on a two-out single by Friesen to score Renfroe and Crowder. Mapleton then scored 3 runs in the 3rd inning before Renfroe struck out a batter with the bases loaded to end the inning. Renfroe then got out of another bases-loaded jam in the 4th inning, before setting down Mapleton in order in the top of the 5th inning. Trailing 3-2 in the bottom of the 5th inning, Dan Gilbert led off with a single and pinch runner Grauberger scored along with Specht, after Specht drew a walk, on a two-out hit by Renfroe as the Reds took a 4-3 lead. Renfroe then stranded a runner on first base in the 6th inning, and then retired the side in order in the 7th inning to preserve the 4-3 win and send the Reds on to the Regional Championship the following weekend.

In likely the most memorable game of The Home Win Streak, the Reds faced a future Major Leaguer on the mound from Lamar. The Reds loaded the bases in the bottom of the 1st inning, but didn't end up plating a runner. Renfroe then retired 3 of 4 batters again in the 2nd inning, and set down Lamar in order in the 3rd inning. The Reds then took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the 3rd inning as Grauberger walked, moved to 3rd base after Garretson reached base and Friesen took a hit-by-pitch. Grauberger then scored on a wild pitch to score the game's first run. After allowing the tying run in the 4th inning, Renfroe fielded a comebacker himself to record the final out and strand two runners on base. Renfroe then stranded a runner at 3rd base in the 5th inning, before retiring the side in order in the 6th inning. After a leadoff double in the 7th inning, Renfroe then retired the next 3 batters in order to send the game to the bottom of the 7th inning tied at 1-1. With one out, pinch hitter Dan Gilbert singled to break up a no-hitter being thrown by the Lamar pitcher, with Herzberg then re-entering to run. With two outs, Grauberger singled to move Herzberg into scoring position. Renfroe then stepped up to the plate and singled to score Herzberg, sending the Reds on to the Final Four after their 45th straight win at home.



1986 Season

Trailing 2-0 in the 3rd inning against Rocky Mountain in the 1986 season opener, Steve Graff hit a two-out single and then Randy Cordova singled to cut the deficit to 2-1. Cordova then stranded a runner on 3rd base to end the top of the 4th inning, before the Reds tied it as Lance Mosness singled and scored on a ball hit by Eric Garretson with two outs to make the score 2-2. Ron Crowder then took the mound and retired the side in order in the 5th inning, before Graff singled and scored on a wild pitch to give the Reds the 3-2 lead. Crowder then retired the side in order in the 6th and 7th innings, striking out the final 5 batters of the game.

Garretson tripled and scored in the 1st inning against Platte Valley, and then Crowder walked, Bobby Ervin doubled, Mike Herzberg reached base, and then with two outs, Garretson singled, Terry Specht took a hit-by-pitch, and Graff walked as the Reds took a 4-0 lead. Crowder then retired the side in order in the 3rd inning, before the Reds added another 3 runs led by a triple from Ervin. The Reds increased the lead to 11-0 in the 4th inning off doubles from Garretson and Specht, and then Crowder retired the side in order with 3 more strikeouts, to end the 5-inning game via mercy-rule with 10 strikeouts and allowing just one hit.

In the 2nd game of the Platte Valley doubleheader, the Reds scored 5 runs in the 1st inning, led by a double from Ervin. Cordova then retired the side in order in the 2nd inning and helped turn a double play to end the top of the 3rd inning. The Reds added two more runs in the 3rd inning before the Reds' substitutes added 5 more runs in the 4th inning to take a 12-0 lead, before Cordova retired the side in order in the 5th inning for the mercy-rule win.

The Reds took a 1-0 lead over University in the 2nd inning as Crowder doubled home Specht. Then with the Reds trailing 2-1 in the 5th inning, Garretson drew a full-count walk, then Graff singled, Cordova and Specht walked, and Crowder hit a two-out single to give the Reds a 4-2 lead. University then tied the game in the 6th inning, before the Reds turned a double play to end the inning. Cordova retired the side in order in the 7th inning, and stranded a runner on 2nd base in the 8th inning after 2nd baseman Garretson fielded a ball that hit off Cordova to end the inning. In the bottom of the 8th inning, Shane Brown doubled, Adam Kaiser took a hit-by-pitch, and then with one out, Ervin hit a game-winning single.

Historical marks don't come easy, and this game would prove it; with the Reds fighting to win their 50th straight home game, in the 2nd game of the University doubleheader, the Reds faced one of their more remarkable games, including the first game during this stretch that started on one day and ended on another. The Reds fell behind 2-0 in the 1st inning, but then tied it back up on a two-out RBI single by Specht. The Reds then took a 5-2 lead in the 3rd inning on a home run by Specht. Amidst snow flurries and near-freezing temperatures, the Reds then allowed 10 runs in the top of the 4th inning, for clearly the Reds' worst inning during The Home Win Streak. The Reds though fought back with 9 runs of their own in the bottom of the 4th inning, as most of the Reds drew walks before Ervin doubled and Cordova hit a home run as the Reds took a 14-12 lead. After 5 walks to start the top of the 5th inning, the umpires finally postponed the game amidst nothing less than an outright snowstorm. When the game resumed two days later, Ervin recorded a strikeout and then Cordova entered in relief and got the next two batters out. The Reds entered the bottom of the 5th inning trailing 15-14, but then the Reds drew 4 walks before Jim Reeman hit a sacrifice fly, Garretson and Ervin hit two-out singles, and Graff doubled as the Reds took a 20-15 lead. The Reds matched the one run scored by University in the 6th inning, and Cordova then pitched a scoreless 7th inning to finally end the game at 21-16 and earn the Reds their 50th straight victory at home.

The Home Win Streak

The Home Win Streak was marked at times by the Reds clearly being the dominant team, and often winning via the mercy-rule. That kind of consistency of showing up every day to put away lesser opponents though is still challenging for even great teams. Even more remarkably though, against the top competition in the state, the Reds faced 11 games decided by one run—and the Reds won all 11 such battles, including composing an improbable 4-0 State Tournament record in 1-run games played at Eaton. The Reds won nearly every game on the road during this stretch too, but the Reds simply did not allow teams to come in to Eaton and have any reason to expect to walk out with a victory over the Reds. The Reds took it personally that another team was showing up at their field and trying to take a win away from them, and the Reds simply willed their way to victory...50 consecutive times.

While the Home Win Streak ended 25 years ago, it helped perpetuate many other Reds' streaks that still continue even now, into the 2011 season, including the all-time state record for the most consecutive State Tournament appearances (28 straight), and a number of currently active head-to-head win streaks against Eaton's opponents. Even more amazingly, from the time that the Reds started The Home Win Streak, the Reds have maintained the highest winning percentage in the nation at nearly 87% over 3 decades, including home and away games, and all postseason games.

Eaton has fielded many great teams since this era, but hasn't yet again won 50 straight home games.

Congratulations to the dozens of Reds that battled to earn The Home Win Streak, which represents one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of one of the nation's most remarkable programs.

Reds' 50 Consecutive Home Game Win Streak, 1981-1986

	Non-League		League	Postseason		
#1	1981	April 6	University	Eaton	W	11-1
#2	1981	April 14	Valley	Eaton	W	5-1
#3	1981	April 21	Fort Lupton	Eaton	W	12-11
#4	1981	May 9	Burlington	Eaton	W	6-0
#5	1982	March 13	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	11-8
#6	1982	March 13	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	15-5
#7	1982	April 10	Roosevelt	Eaton	W	8-7
#8	1982	April 10	Roosevelt	Eaton	W	15-5
#9	1982	April 17	Highland	Eaton	W	5-1
#10	1982	April 17	Highland	Eaton	W	8-0
#11	1982	April 21	Denver Christian	Eaton	W	11-1
#12	1983	March 21	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	2-0
#13	1983	March 21	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	12-6
#14	1983	March 28	Windsor	Eaton	W	9-7
#15	1983	March 28	Windsor	Eaton	W	4-3
#16	1983	March 30	Machebeuf	Eaton	W	12-2
#17	1983	April 2	Estes Park	Eaton	W	2-1
#18	1983	April 2	Estes Park	Eaton	W	18-1
#19	1983	April 9	University	Eaton	W	7-5
#20	1983	April 9	University	Eaton	W	14-4
#21	1983	April 19	Fort Lupton	Eaton	W	7-1
#22	1983	May 14	Florence	Eaton	W	1-0
#23	1984	March 13	Rocky Mountain	Eaton	W	4-3
#24	1984	March 20	Denver Christian	Eaton	W	11-1
#25	1984	March 26	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	3-2
#26	1984	March 26	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	9-1
#27	1984	April 14	University	Eaton	W	19-5
#28	1984	April 14	University	Eaton	W	10-7
#29	1984	April 23	Windsor	Eaton	W	15-4
#30	1984	April 23	Windsor	Eaton	W	16-0
#31	1984	April 28	Brush	Eaton	W	17-1
#32	1984	April 28	Brush	Eaton	W	16-2
#33	1984	May 12	Mapleton	Eaton	W	5-4
#34	1985	April 1	Roosevelt	Eaton	W	15-5
#35	1985	April 1	Roosevelt	Eaton	W	18-7
#36	1985	April 13	Highland	Eaton	W	12-1
#37	1985	April 13	Highland	Eaton	W	15-5
#38	1985	April 20	Yuma	Eaton	W	13-3
#39	1985	April 20	Yuma	Eaton	W	10-0
#40	1985	April 23	Valley	Eaton	W	12-6
#41	1985	May 4	Windsor	Eaton	W	10-0
#42	1985	May 4	Windsor	Eaton	W	11-4
#43	1985	May 17	Roosevelt	Eaton	W	17-6
#44	1985	May 25	Mapleton	Eaton	W	4-3
#45	1985	June 1	Lamar	Eaton	W	2-1
#46	1986	March 26	Rocky Mountain	Eaton	W	3-2
#47	1986	April 5	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	11-0
#48	1986	April 5	Platte Valley	Eaton	W	12-0
#49	1986	April 26	University	Eaton	W	5-4
#50	1986	April 26	University	Eaton	W	21-16



University



Valley



Fort Lupton



Burlington



Platte Valley



Platte Valley



Roosevelt



Roosevelt



Highland



Highland



Denver Christian



Platte Valley



Platte Valley



Windsor



Windsor



Machebeuf



Estes Park



Estes Park



University



University



Fort Lupton



Florence



Rocky Mountain



Denver Christian



Platte Valley



Platte Valley



University



University



Windsor



Windsor



Brush



Brush



Mapleton



Roosevelt



Roosevelt



Highland



Highland



Yuma



Yuma



Valley



Windsor



Windsor



Roosevelt



Mapleton



Lamar



Rocky Mountain



Platte Valley



Platte Valley



University



University

THE HOME WIN STREAK
1981-1986
50 CONSECUTIVE WINS AT EATON