

HISTORY OF THE EATON REDS BASEBALL PROGRAM

Generation	Decade One	Decade Two	Decade Three	Decade Four	Decade Five
Years	1972-1981	1982-1991	1992-2001	2002-2011	2012-2015
Standard Raised To:	League Champions	Regional Champions	State Champions (5 Titles)	State Champions (10 Titles)	State Champions* (6 Titles in 4 Years)

**though not a repeatable standard, the Reds were the National Champions in 2015 as awarded by CBS Sports' MaxPreps for schools with an enrollment under 1,000, and ranked #17 nationally amongst all schools; this was the 2nd time the Reds finished ranked nationally in the Top 50 amongst all schools (also in 2009).*

While the unprecedented success of the Reds over the past two decades might have some believe otherwise, the Eaton Reds Baseball Program, as we now know it, was not always a perennial State Championship contender. The 21 State Championship victories (11 Spring and 10 Summer Titles) within the past 22 years have placed more than 375 State Championship Rings upon the hands of the recent and current Reds' players, but the Eaton tradition and dedication to winning goes back much further. Although a single State Championship can be won in a given year by one of a handful of teams with the right mix of talented upperclassmen, a streak of good fortune and clutch performances, a string of annual appearances—and victories—on Championship Saturday is not accomplished by one group of players, but instead by a series of teams that continually raise the bar, and mentor and prepare the next generation to accomplish even greater feats.

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.

-President Theodore Roosevelt, 1858-1919

Decade One

The senior class on the Reds' team that Jim Danley began coaching in 1972 had never won more than a handful of games in a season, with no District Tournament, let alone State Tournament, appearances during their high school careers. That pattern would not continue for long though, as the Eaton Reds Baseball Program took the giant first step in moving from an average club to League Champions within 5 years. By the end of Decade One (D1), the Reds would be playing in the State Semifinals and beginning to establish themselves as annual State Tournament contenders.

The Reds completed their first season under Coach Danley in 1972 with a vastly-improved 13-5 record, winning their final 6 games and sweeping games against five local foes, as well as posting a 10-run victory over Denver Christian. The Reds improved dramatically to finish in 2nd place in league that year, failing to qualify for postseason play via a double-header loss to Valley. Over the course of the next three years, the Reds won 26 of 38 games, experiencing their first no-hitter in 1973, winning an 11-inning thriller after successfully protesting the initial loss in 1974, and winning big games over rivals Highland, Windsor, Roosevelt, Erie, Fort Lupton, Denver Christian and University.

By 1976, the varsity players had gotten a taste of victory, and set their sights higher to winning the elusive League Title. After a spectacular league season, the Reds were tied for first place in the league. The Reds then won a 6-0 shutout against Highland in the divisional tie-breaker in Greeley to take home the League Championship. Two days later, the Reds used a double-steal to score the 3rd run in a game that they would go on to win 7-3 over Weld Central to advance to the State Tournament for the first time in Decade One. The following weekend, the Reds won at home over Lutheran to advance to the State Semifinals before falling to Highland to end the spectacular run.

After graduating a number of key starters from the 1976 team, the Reds endured a tough season in 1977 in which the Reds went 7-9, but managed to beat Platte Valley 24-2 and win the final game of the season 10-4 over University. The 1978 Reds finished with a 10-7 record and despite a 23-7 win over University and a late-season 2-1 win over Highland, lost to Valley in the District Tournament to end the season.

The 1979 Reds overcame a major obstacle by defeating Valley for the first time in the 1970s. In the home opener, the Reds beat the defending state champions 9-8, following a 2-run comeback in the 7th inning to force extra innings, before scoring on a bases-loaded walk in the 8th inning to end the game. After dropping the next two games, the Reds went on a 10-game win streak that propelled the team to the WELCO League Championship, which they secured in late April with a double-header sweep at Estes Park. The '79 team then defeated Roosevelt 8-4 in the District Semifinals to send the team back to the State Tournament.

The Reds repeated as WELCO League Champions in 1980, winning 5 straight games in one stretch by a score of 49-1, culminating in an 11-inning, 2-1 victory at Estes Park. Throughout the 1980 season, the Reds threw 6 shutouts including one no-hitter. The season ended though with a loss to Burlington at State for the 2nd year in a row.

The 1981 Reds started off the season with 16 wins in the first 17 games, allowing an average of less than 2 runs per game during the first 15 games of that stretch. The '81 team won the League Championship again with an 11-1 league record, as well as a 5-1 non-

league victory at home over Valley. The Reds also won their 100th game of D1 with a late comeback to defeat Windsor. Then with a 5-3 win over Berthoud, the Reds headed into the State Tournament with a 16-2 record. The Reds won the Regional Semifinal game at home over Burlington with a 15-strikeout pitching performance leading to a 6-0 win against the team that had knocked the Reds out of the playoffs the previous two years. The Reds then won the Regional Championship with a classic 3-1 victory over a Holy Family pitcher that would go on to play professionally. The Reds' amazing run toward a potential State Championship ended with a 9-3 loss against highly-ranked Rifle in the State Semifinals. Despite the huge letdown of having to settle for playing in the 3rd place game, the Reds still played well to defeat Monte Vista 13-6 and end the spectacular season with a State 3rd place trophy.

Looking back from 1981, it must have seemed like a generation ago that the Reds were just a run-of-the mill team, as they had been just a decade before. But maybe in some ways it was a generation ago, as the top players from the early 1970's teams had coached those who went on to take 3rd place in the State Tournament when they were 7-12 year olds in the Reds' Summer Baseball Program. The 1981 Reds had been groomed by the Varsity players that they had revered and wanted to grow up to be like when they were kids. The '81 Reds had been a part of the Program since its inception, and graduated as the first players to come all the way through the Program from the age of 7 to 18. As Decade One ended, the players of that era had already accomplished a number of feats, and had built the foundation for—as a hit song from that era went—a “future so bright, I gotta wear shades.” Unlike that rock group which faded into obscurity, the Reds would prove to be anything but one-hit wonders.



Decade Two

Decade One (D1) concluded with a 3rd place finish in the State Tournament, placing the Reds among the elite teams in the state. Many players from the end of D1 also played into the beginning of Decade Two, and having won three consecutive League Championships and a State 3rd place trophy, the Reds set their sights even higher. Over the course of Decade Two (D2), the Reds would raise the standard to annually winning the league title and advancing to the State Tournament. Four of the Reds' teams from this era would reach the Final Four, with two appearances in the State Championship Game.

Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.

- Sir Winston Churchill, 1874-1965

The Reds began the 1982 season with high expectations, and played accordingly well by sweeping the first seven games of the year. After splitting a league double-header with University, the Reds advanced to the District Tournament with a 13-3 overall record. Facing University again in the postseason, the Reds won a 1-0 thriller with a run scored in the 5th inning. The Reds then lost to Fort Lupton in the next round of Districts and failed to qualify for the State Tournament. The '82 Reds would be the last team to miss the State Tournament, as the Reds went on to qualify for State each season for the next three decades...and counting.

The 1983 team finished atop the league standings again, with an undefeated league record in the final year of the WELCO League's existence. After winning their first 14 games by a combined score of 141 to 37, the Reds defeated Valley 6-5 in the District Championship and headed to the State Tournament with a 15-1 record. The Reds then won the Regional Championship at home with a 1-0 victory over Florence, before heading to Pueblo the following weekend to meet Trinidad in the State Semifinals. Trailing 8-5 in the 5th inning, the Reds mounted a 6-run inning to come back to beat Trinidad and advance to the State Championship Game for the first time in Reds' history. The Reds lost to Valley 7-6 in a hard-fought State Championship Game.

After graduating key players from the previous season, including one that would later be drafted, the Reds began the 1984 season with three new starters and a new league—the Northern Plains League (NPL). The '84 team set a precedent that would be followed by 17 Reds' teams in the next 18 years—winning the NPL Title. The '84 Reds headed to the State Tournament with a 16-0 record, and beat Mapleton to win the Regional Semifinal game. The Reds were then outscored in the Regional Championship 13-11 by Trinidad.

The '85 team took another shot at the State Championship, by winning the NPL Title, the District Tournament, and heading to State with an 18-1 record. The Reds then won thrilling Regional Tournament games at home by defeating Mapleton 4-3, and Lamar 2-1 in the Regional Championship against a pitcher went on to play in the Major Leagues for over 20 years. In the State Semifinals, the Reds were defeated by highly-ranked Rifle 5-3, and had to settle for a 3rd place trophy after defeating Trinidad 10-4.

After winning the 200th game in the history of the Program, as well as winning the NPL Title and the District Championship again in 1987, the Reds played Sheridan in the first round of the State Tournament, with a chance to eliminate the team that had knocked them out of the '86 State Tournament. The Reds did just that, winning a 2-0 pitching duel at Eaton to advance to the Regional Championship against Rocky Ford. The Reds would lose at Rocky Ford 7-1 amidst appalling home-town umpiring that would lead to changes in the playoff format.

The '89 Reds again won the NPL Title and District Championship, and were set to improve upon a loss in the Regional Tournament in 1988. Playing at Butch Butler in Greeley, the Reds swept past Denver Christian and Highlands Ranch allowing just one run in each game as the Reds returned to the Final Four. Trailing 3-2 with the tying run on 3rd base with two outs, the game ended on the most controversial play in Reds' history. The Lamar pitcher attempted a fake pickoff play to 3rd base, setting in motion a series of events that included at least one balk, an illegal fake tag, and obstruction of the runner. Long before the pitcher applied the tag to end the game, the field umpire had raised his hands to call at least one of the illegal portions of the play, but then dropped his hands and ran off the field as the Lamar celebration began, leaving the Reds with the most bitter State Tournament loss in Eaton history.

After the Reds lost to Denver Christian in the 1990 Regional Tournament, the '91 Reds sought to return to the Final Four and take another shot at the State Championship. The '91 team started the season with a 10-0 victory as a prelude to an offensive showing throughout the season in which they scored 15 or more runs in a game on 8 occasions, including 5 straight in one stretch. The '91 Reds finished in 2nd place in league, but beat Burlington 8-7 with a thrilling 9th inning victory in the District Semifinals to advance to the State Tournament. The Reds then swept a Regional double-header at Jackson Field in Greeley, defeating Hotchkiss 5-2, and Roosevelt 17-3. Facing Manitou Springs in the State Semifinals, the Reds used a 6th inning rally to win 7-5. The Reds then faced a team with a deeper pitching staff in the State Championship Game, and lost to Brush for the fourth time in the '91 season. Over the next twenty years though, the Reds at least partially avenged this loss by rattling off 45 consecutive wins over Brush.

Decade Two (D2) ended with the Reds having established themselves as perennial State contenders, winning 9 League Championships, 4 District Tournament Championships, and 4 Regional Championships. The Reds were incredibly successful throughout D2, and while having narrowly missed winning the State Championship in '83, '85, '89, and '91, they planted the necessary skills and determination in the next generation of players—those who they coached as kids in the Eaton Reds Baseball Program—to win the coveted State Championship.

Decade Three

Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory.

★★★★★ General George S. Patton, 1885-1945

The players of Decade Three (D3), who as young kids had idolized the heroes of D2, were confronted with one challenge that had not yet been met by those before them—winning the State Championship. The Reds would accomplish this feat early in D3, and for good measure, would go on to win three (3) more State Championships throughout the decade, appearing in the State Championship Game in all but two years. A decade that would start with a marathon-like loss in the State Championship, would bear witness to four (4) Reds' State Championship victories, culminating in a 15-inning marathon State Title victory in 2001.

The 1993 Reds won the 300th game in the Program's history, repeated as League Champions and District Tournament Champions, and entered the State Tournament with a 16-game winning streak, looking to avoid the early exit from State that the '92 Reds experienced. That would not be difficult for the '93 team, as they swept through Regionals with a 21-2 victory over Burlington followed by a 9-3 win over Denver Christian. The Reds then faced Gunnison in the State Semifinals, and won an 11-inning thriller that lasted more than 7 hours due to rain delays and extra innings. Despite the delays and poor field conditions, the State Championship Game was determined to start at 10:30 p.m. rather than be delayed until the following morning. As the clock struck 1:00 a.m., the game ended by a score of 10-5 as the Reds were unable to overcome an early deficit.

In 1994, the Reds started the season with a sweep in the Greeley Invitational Tournament, in one game handing a rare loss to a pitcher that went on to pitch in the Major Leagues. The Reds then repeated as League Champions once again, and entered the State Tournament at Runyon Field in Pueblo matched against Hotchkiss and highly-ranked Rocky Ford. The Reds were easily victorious against both opponents, winning by scores of 9-1 and 14-1 respectively. The Reds then headed to Regis University the following weekend to compete against Kent Denver, and struck for an early lead and went on to win by a score of 14-1. The Reds were back at the State Championship Game, and were determined to win the one title that had eluded the Program. Coming back from an early 1-0 deficit, the Reds scored 3 straight runs and ended the game by striking out Olathe's final batter to win the State Championship Game. The win completed a dominant postseason run for the Reds, in which they outscored their State Tournament opponents 40-4.

The '95 Reds had lost the pitchers from the '94 State Championship team through graduation, but returned many of the position players for another shot at winning it all. The Reds started off the year with another sweep of the Greeley Invitational Tournament

and defeat of a future Major Leaguer, en route to a 16-1 record and League Title. The Reds won the District Championship with a grand slam in the 8th inning to defeat Platte Valley and advance as the top seed into the State Tournament. The '95 Reds then won the Regional Tournament in Englewood with a 23-2 victory over Meeker, and a 10-0 shutout over Denver Christian. The Reds then beat Kent Denver for the 2nd straight year at Regis University in the State Semifinals, by a score of 12-4, and in so doing, managed to save back enough innings for the Reds' ace pitcher in the State Championship Game a few hours later against Salida. Seeking back-to-back State Championships, the Reds took a 1st inning lead by drawing a bases-loaded walk. Then with the game tied 1-1 in the bottom of the 6th inning, the Reds' utilized a sacrifice bunt and a sacrifice fly to narrowly score the go-ahead run as the Reds' pitching and defense held on to secure the 2-1 victory and give the Reds their 2nd State Championship.

With the generous contributions of Reds' fans, the Eaton Baseball Field—which had borne witness to 174 Reds' victories in the spring, including State Tournament wins in '76, '81, '83, '84, '85, and '87, and hundreds more wins in summer games—gave way to the construction of a new top-of-the-line ballpark at the end of the 1995 season. No longer would the Reds play on an all-dirt infield, have a third foul pole in left-centerfield, a running track and football goal post in play in rightfield, or even a light pole once in play in centerfield. The surroundings are all that would change in the Program though, as the Reds that had played T-Ball on the old field, cheered as bat boys and fans for the Reds of D2, would complete the 2nd half of D3 on the new field with the same passion and dedication to success as had been displayed by the Reds before them.

While the new ballpark was under construction, the '96 Reds had to play their home games on the Junior Varsity field. The 2-time defending State Champions won the League Championship, and entered the State Tournament having allowed a total of just 8 runs in the final 9 games of the regular season. The Reds won the Regional Championship with a 6-run 6th inning comeback to defeat Salida 11-3, and then defeated Kent Denver's ace pitcher for the 3rd consecutive year, with a 5th inning comeback to force extra innings before scoring four runs in the 8th inning to win 5-1. The Reds then defeated La Junta 10-7 to advance to the 4th straight Championship Game, however this time a late rally fell short and the Reds lost 3-1.

The 1997 Reds won the League Championship with a 15-2 record, with regular season victories over teams including Pueblo County, Thompson Valley, Greeley West, and Denver Christian. After defeating Lamar's ace pitcher, who went on to play professionally, in a 5-4 thriller in the Regional Semifinals at Englewood, the Reds faced Denver Christian again. The Reds won the Regional Championship by a score of 10-7, but fell in the State Semifinals to Kent Denver, becoming only the 2nd team Reds' team in D3 to fail to make it to the State Championship Game; amazingly, the Reds have appeared in all but four State Championship Games since 1993. That summer the Reds won the Legion B State Championship with wins over Pueblo, Arapahoe (twice), and consecutive wins over Greeley Central in the State Championship and "If" Game. The Reds were noted in the newspaper as winning a David vs. Goliath battle against the large teams, and at this time, Eaton was seen as David in such a battle. That perception would change in years to come as to who the Goliath was coming into the tournament.

The '98 Reds won the 400th game in the history of the Eaton Reds Baseball Program with an early-season 23-4 win. The Reds continued their undefeated season through the end of the regular season to head into the District Tournament with a 17-0 record, having won by 10 runs or more in 11 of the games and playing in just one close game, an 8-4 victory over Denver Christian. The scoring continued as the Reds swept the District Tournament with 50 runs in 3 games, including a 17-6 victory over Valley in the District Championship. The Reds then improved to 22-0 with a 10-0 victory over Machebeuf and a 14-1 win against Eagle Valley in the Regional Championship at Butch Butler Field in Greeley. The '98 Reds then defeated Faith Christian 14-5 to return to the State Championship Game. Trailing 1-0 in the 5th inning of the State Championship Game, the Reds rallied with 3 runs to win the Reds' third State Championship and complete the first undefeated season in the history of the Program.

The 24-game win streak inherited by the '99 Reds would be extended to a state record 45-game win streak as the Reds won against Brush by a score of 3-2, but defeated all other regular season opponents by no less than 5 runs. The '99 Reds won the last 10 games of the regular season by a combined score of 146-8. The Reds then swept to another District Tournament Championship with 16-0 and 1-0 victories over Platte Valley and Brush respectively. Then after a 17-0 victory over Holy Family in the Regional Semifinals, the Reds had to prove they could win a low-scoring game as well. They did just that, with a 5th inning comeback to defeat Paonia 4-3, and advance to the Final Four. The Reds then won another close game with a 6-4 victory over Olathe before ending the state record 45-game win streak with a loss in the State Championship Game to Lamar.

Following another dominant regular season in 2000, the Reds won the League Championship and then the District Championship. The '00 Reds then won the Regional Tournament at Butch Butler Field holding Hotchkiss to one run and shutting out Faith Christian 2-0 in the Regional Championship. The Reds then 10-runned Buena Vista with a shutout victory to advance to the State Championship Game against La Junta. The Reds narrowly lost that game 7-6, but returned many of the key players for the '01 season with another shot at beating La Junta for the Title.

The '01 Reds went undefeated again in league play, threw a no-hitter against Platte Valley, and headed into the District Tournament with a 17-2 overall record. The Reds then won a pitcher's duel 2-0 against Platte Valley's ace pitcher who would go on to be drafted, and beat Brush 10-4 to win the District Championship. The '01 Reds then won the Regional Tournament at Butch Butler Field, with a 9-3 victory over Kent Denver and a 5-0 win against Manitou Springs. A 5-0 victory over Burlington in the State Semifinals set up a rematch with La Junta in the State Championship Game, pitting Eaton's ace against La Junta's ace, who went on to be drafted in the 5th round. Trailing 2-1 in the 7th inning, the Reds scored a two-out, two-strike run to send the game into extra innings. The Reds' ace then outlasted La Junta's ace, pitching all 12 innings allowed by rule. The game though would be extended to the 15th inning, in

which the Reds rallied to score with two outs, and then ended the 15-inning marathon by striking out a La Junta batter. The victory in the longest Championship Game in State history (15 innings, 4.5 hours) ended Decade Three with a 4th State Championship Trophy.

With State Championship Game appearances in 8 of 10 years during D3, and victories in four (4) of those Championship Games, the Eaton Reds Baseball Program had established itself at the top of the State. The Reds had additionally won a Legion B (Summer) State Championship in 1997, which increased to five (5) the number of State Championship trophies in the trophy case, which would have to be expanded substantially to make room for the accomplishments of the players of Decade Three. The standard had been raised to a realistic goal of winning the State Championship each spring. The players of Decade Four (D4), who inherited this nearly impossible to maintain standard, would not flinch. In fact, they would raise the bar even higher.



1994 State Champions

1995 State Champions

1997 Legion State
Champions

1998 State Champions

2001 State Champions

Decade Four

Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing ... It is and always has been an American zeal to be first in anything we do, and to win, and to win, and to win.

- Vince Lombardi, 1913-1970

After the remarkable success in D3, the Reds started the first season of Decade Four (D4) as rare underdogs in 2002, as senior-laden Denver Christian was the odds-on favorite to win it this year. After a 16-3 regular season that included the Reds' 500th win, the Reds won Districts over Wray and D'Evelyn. The Reds' scored a 1st-inning run with their leadoff batter against Middle Park for the only run of the game to advance to defeat University 11-6 for the Regional Championship after trailing early by a 5-2 score. The Reds then faced the Lutheran Lights in the Semifinals, and opened up a 4-3 game in the 6th inning with 3 runs to put the game away. As their batgirls left the field, with LIGHTS spelled out individually between their 6 shirts, the G and L walked out first, leaving behind the other 4 letters walking together in an unfortunate arrangement, though it spelled out the thoughts of what many Eaton fans felt as they knew they would have to face the senior-laden, heavily-favored Denver Christian squad in the State Finals the following day. The Reds though, had no fear, and after turning a run-saving double-play in the top of the 1st inning, caught fire and put up an 8-run 3rd inning and coasted to a 12-0 mercy-rule State Championship Game win. In the summer of 2002, the Reds advanced undefeated to the Legion B State Championship Game, and after a 10-9 defeat to Pueblo Centennial, the Reds came back the following day in the "If" Game and defeated Pueblo 7-1 to earn the Reds' first perfect year, with State Championships in both the spring and summer seasons.

The 2003 team had to cope with the loss of long-time assistant Coach Martin Hernandez, who despite battling to stay on the field with the Reds even after having a leg amputated, finally succumbed to illness midway through the season. After learning that Coach Hernandez's will started with the fact that he was to be buried wearing his Eaton pinstriped uniform, the Reds' dedicated the season to him and hung a replica jersey of his number in the dugout for each game. After an 18-1 regular season, the Reds defeated Frederick and Roosevelt in Districts, and then after a loss to Erie in the District semifinals, the Reds won a hard-fought 9-7 victory over Bennett to advance to State. The next week, the Reds trailed by scores of 8-1 and then 11-4, but the Reds scored 3 runs in the 6th and 4 more in the 7th to tie Pagosa Springs before ending the great comeback victory with a walk-off hit in the 8th inning. The Reds then shut-out Colorado Springs Christian before facing University in the State semifinals. The Reds trailed 6-4 and were down to their final strike in the 7th inning before mounting another great comeback to tie and then win the game in walk-off fashion. The following day, the Reds took an early 10-4 lead over La Junta and continued to outscore them to win the State Championship 17-10. That summer, the Reds lost to Evergreen in the 2nd game of the Legion B State Tournament, but then came back through the loser's bracket to force a rematch with Evergreen. The Reds then defeated Evergreen 8-4, and came back the next day to win the Legion B State Championship holding on for a 9-8 victory, completing the Reds' 2nd straight perfect season with spring and summer State Titles.

After having won 3 straight spring State Titles, the Reds were the favorite to win it again in 2004, but knew they'd be facing a future Major League Draft pick late in the season from La Junta. The Reds ended the regular season 16-2 with 3 no-hitters thrown in the final two weeks of the season, including the Reds' first-ever perfect game in the 2nd game of a doubleheader that had already borne witness to a no-hitter in the 1st game. The Reds then defeated Burlington and Weld Central to qualify for the State Tournament before losing the District Championship to Valley. After a remarkable post-game celebration by the opponents, the Reds' ace pitcher stated simply: "Coach, get me those (guys) again." Fortunately the seeding committee obliged and the Reds faced Valley again the following week in the Regional Championship after the Reds defeated Machebeuf 3-2 with a walk-off RBI single. Trailing Valley by a run in the 6th inning, the Reds exploded for 6 runs to advance to the Final Four. The Reds then defeated Faith Christian 6-5 with another walk-off RBI single, this time in extra innings. In the State Championship Game, the Reds took an early 4-0 lead and held onto an 8-5 lead over La Junta going into the 7th inning. For the 2nd straight game, the Reds' first baseman was targeted for injury by the opposing hitter running down the line, and this time they succeeded in injuring a Red, though he held onto the ball despite a dislocated elbow to record the out. The Reds' ace pitcher then mowed down the next two La Junta batters to end the game and earn

the Reds their 4th straight spring State Championship, with 3 of the 4 Title Game wins over La Junta. In the summer of 2004, the Reds lost the first game of the State Tournament to Boulder, but then came back with wins over Skyview, another win over La Junta, followed by victories over Fort Morgan and Boulder. The Reds faced Evergreen for the 2nd straight year in the State Championship, and the Reds again defeated Evergreen twice, 6-0 and 12-4, to win the Reds' 6th straight game in the State Tournament while facing elimination, and earning the Reds' 6th spring/summer State Title in 3 years and 7th spring/summer State Title within the past 4 years.

The Reds started the 2005 season with a perfect regular season record of 17-0, including comeback wins over Denver Christian after trailing by 9 runs in the first game and then by 2 runs in the 7th inning of the 2nd game of the doubleheader. The Reds then shut out Estes Park and Valley in the Districts, before losing 4-3 to Roosevelt for the first time since the 1970's. The Reds then defeated University 6-2 to advance to the State Tournament. The Reds defeated Pagosa Springs 16-2 and Holy Family 9-2 to win the Reds' 33rd straight spring/summer game while staring in the face of elimination, in what is clearly the most astounding of all Reds' win streaks. The Reds then lost in the State semifinals to Machebeuf 9-7 to end the Reds' remarkable elimination-game winning streak. That summer, after graduating the most successful senior class in Reds' history, the Reds defeated Moffat County and Roosevelt in the Legion B State Tournament before falling 1-0 and 11-9 to Silver Creek and Boulder respectively.

The 2006 Reds wrapped up another undefeated league championship and 17-1-1 regular season record, tying Faith Christian at Coors Field. The Reds mercy-ruled Bennett and Frederick in Districts and then defeated Brush 5-3 to qualify for the State Tournament before coming back to beat University 5-4 in walk-off fashion with a 7th inning rally. The Reds then mercy-ruled Ignacio in the Regional Semifinals, before throwing one of the most dominant pitching performances in Eaton history in a 1-0 win over Brush for the Reds' 4th win over Brush within less than a month. The Reds then faced Machebeuf again in the State semifinals, and the Reds won 6-1 to advance to the State Championship Game against senior-laden Roosevelt, which the Reds lost 6-0. In the summer Legion B season, the Reds lost the first game of the State Tournament, but then came back and won 5 straight games over University, Valley, Evergreen, Conifer and Woodland Park to advance to the State Championship Game, which the Reds lost in extra innings 6-4.

The 2007 season introduced a new double-elimination State Tournament format, one in which 32 teams (instead of 16 as previously was the case) advanced to the State Tournament, and teams had to win the first two single-elimination games to advance to the Elite Eight, and from that point on the tournament was double-elimination. The Reds won their 600th game in Program history with the first win of the season over Fossil Ridge, and won the final 12 games of the regular season to improve to 16-2 earning the Reds their 16th straight league championship. The Reds shut out Salida and University 16-0 and 8-0 to win Regionals, and then trailing by 2 runs in the 5th inning of the first game of the Elite Eight, the Reds rattled off 5 runs in the 5th inning and 11 more in the 6th inning to mercy-rule Bayfield 16-2. The Reds then won 3-2 with a walk-off RBI in the 8th inning in another classic Eaton-Lamar battle to guarantee the Reds would advance to the next week's Final Four. The Reds then lost back-to-back games by 5-4 scores to Faith Christian and Erie to end the season. That summer, the Reds started the Legion B State Tournament with a 5-1 win over Glenwood Springs-Eagle Valley, before dropping a 3-2 game to Monarch amidst the most appalling umpiring the Reds had seen in decades. The Reds then defeated Conifer and Glenwood Springs-Eagle Valley again. After being rained out for a day, the Reds were forced to play on an infield with standing water and lost to Monarch 5-1 in a game in which nearly all of the hits were infield bunts against the Reds.

The Reds entered the 2008 season having had a number of breaks go against them over the past 3 seasons, from being seeded improperly to having a would-be State Championship winning hit take a bad hop right into the pitcher's glove to facing a ridiculous summer umpire to playing on a field with standing water. The Reds had two of the toughest competitors Eaton has ever had on the mound in 2008, and these seniors were simply were going to win this State Championship in 2008 no matter what the baseball gods and others threw at them. The Reds ended the regular season 15-3, but the Reds' league loss to Erie gave someone other than Eaton the league championship for just the 2nd time since the 1970's. Remarkably the Reds entered the Elite Eight as the 5th seed after defeating Clear Creek and Hotchkiss handily to win the Regional Championship. The Reds shut out Roosevelt 3-0 in the first round of the Elite Eight, and then defeated Faith Christian 11-3, before mercy-ruling Erie 16-6 to advance to the Final Four undefeated. The Reds then defeated Brush 6-2 to advance to the State Championship Game against Lamar, and the Reds won that game 4-1 to add another State Championship banner to the outfield walls. The Reds went through the entire 7-game State Tournament without ever trailing by even a run at any point. That summer, the Reds put together a remarkable 43-2 overall record in Legion B, winning games by a total margin of 391 runs, while losing games by a total of just 3 runs. After scoring 73 runs to win the District Tournament, including posting 23 runs in a mercy-rule win over Greeley West, the Reds then advanced to the Legion B State Tournament and swept through Valley, Fort Morgan and Holy Family (twice) to pile-up on the Reds' home field for the first time in history with the Legion B State Championship victory, making 2008 the Reds' 4th perfect year with spring and summer State Championships.

Going into the 2009 season, the Reds had won 55 of their last 57 spring and summer games. The Reds continued to dominate with an undefeated regular season record with only one close game played, but it was memorable as the Reds were down to their last strike before a two-out single and home run gave the Reds the 4-3 win over Faith Christian. The Reds swept Denver Christian and Machebeuf to win Regionals and then easily defeated Gunnison, Faith Christian and Holy Family during the first weekend of the Elite Eight. The Reds then earned a hard-fought 11-6 win over Manitou Springs in the State semifinals, before mercy-ruling Holy Family 13-0 in the State Championship Game to earn the Reds their 2nd undefeated season in history, their 12th shutout of the season (including a streak of 6 straight that carried deep into the postseason), the Reds' 80th win in the past 82 games, and earned the MaxPreps #1 ranking for all schools nationally with an enrollment under 800. The Reds were one of only 6 teams nationally to win State with an undefeated season, and one of only 3 teams nationally to win the State Championship Game with a 10+ run margin shutout. That summer, after graduating five 3-year starters, the Reds started off the season with 16 straight wins, improving the Reds' record to 96-2 in the past 14 months. The Reds' joined the NCBL and won the league championship in that league, and also advanced to the Legion B State Tournament, earning a win over Boulder Fairview but dropping two 1-run games to end the season.

The 2010 Reds entered the season with a 37 game spring win streak, just 8 wins short of their own state record. The Reds defeated Valley for win #46 to set the new state record, and kept winning to extend it to 60 straight wins after Regional shutout wins over Sheridan and Bennett, and Elite Eight wins over Legend and Florence. Amidst steady wind gusts, the Reds faced Holy Family and one of the smallest strike zones either team has ever faced, leading the state's top two teams to allow 33 runs, with Holy Family winning the marathon 19-14. The next week, the Reds held on to defeat Kent Denver 6-5, before then going on to lose the State Championship Game to Holy Family the next day. In the summer of 2010, the Reds won another NCBL league championship and then swept their NCBL District over Fort Collins, Windsor, and Erie, before then winning the NCBL semifinal over Roosevelt, and then winning a classic championship battle 4-3 over Fossil Ridge for the Reds' first NCBL Championship. The Reds' focus then turned to the Legion B Districts and after beating Valley, the Reds then won a great 7th inning comeback over Roosevelt to win the Reds' 38th game in the last 40 games and to advance to the Legion B State Tournament. There the Reds defeated Boulder and Northridge, and then defeated Greeley West 6-5 in extra innings in a game that was spread out over two days due to darkness. After the Reds endured one of their worst defeats in history in the first championship game, the Reds came back in the "If" game and battled back from being down 7-3 to Greeley West in the 1st inning to score the next 9 straight runs to win the Legion B State Championship. The 2011 Reds won the 700th victory in Program history with a no-hitter thrown in that game, and advanced yet again to the State Tournament, this time with an 18-1 record. The Reds shut out Platte Canyon and Strasburg to win Regionals, and then defeated Florence and Lamar in the Elite Eight, before dropping back-to-back games to Faith Christian and Holy Family to end the season. That summer, the Reds won 27 of the final 30 games in the month of June, and then went on to defeat Broomfield, Loveland and Silver Creek in NCBL Districts, and then came back to defeat Cheyenne in the semifinals before defeating Thompson Valley for the Reds' 2nd straight NCBL Championship. The Reds then defeated University and Thompson Valley to advance to the Legion B State Tournament, and defeated Littleton and Fairview before losses to Greeley West and Thompson Valley to end the season.



2002 State Champions 2003 State Champions 2004 State Champions 2008 State Champions 2009 State Champions



2002 Legion State Champions 2003 Legion State Champions 2004 Legion State Champions 2008 Legion State Champions 2010 Legion State Champions

Decade Five

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1882-1945

The Reds started Decade Five (D5) in 2012 as rare underdogs entering the season to heavily-favored, senior-laden Faith Christian, much as the Reds had started D4 in the same position to another Denver Metro private school. The Reds advanced to their 30th straight State Tournament with a 16-3 record, though the Reds had a big loss to Faith Christian toward the end of the regular season. The Reds won their 20th straight Regional Title with wins over Academy and Middle Park, and then opened the Elite Eight win a big win over Lamar. The Reds' 45-game win streak over Brush ended with a 3-2 loss, but the Reds came back the next day to mount a 7th inning rally to defeat Faith Christian 3-2 to advance to the Reds' 20th consecutive Final Four. The Reds then swept through Holy Family, Lamar, and Brush to secure the Reds' 10th spring State Championship. The Reds then won the NCBL Districts over Silver Creek, Greeley Central, and Prairie View. The Reds fell to Holy Family in the NCBL semifinals only an hour before the Reds travelled from Mountain View's field to Valley's field to defeat Northridge to qualify for the Legion B State Tournament. The Reds then defeated Elizabeth and Northridge, before mercy-ruling Rampart and Thompson Valley to claim the Reds' 7th Legion B State Championship since 1997, and complete the Reds' 5th perfect year with State Championships in both the spring and summer seasons.

In 2013, the Reds carried an undefeated record into the postseason, and easily 10-runned their way to a Regional Championship over Bruce Randolph and then Machebeuf. The Reds then 10-runned Kent Denver in the Elite Eight, before falling behind La Junta 8-0 in the 4th inning, but the Reds rallied back to defeat La Junta 14-10 and then held on to beat Faith Christian and advance to the Final Four undefeated. The Reds then lost back-to-back games to Holy Family to end the season short of their goal. The Reds however then turned to summer baseball and rattled off their first undefeated season in history, going 42-0 to win the NCBL Tournament (rolling through Roosevelt, Niwot, Holy Family, Thompson Valley and Greeley Central) and the Legion A Varsity State Tournament, winning back-to-back games over Class 5A Mountain Range to claim the title and secure the undefeated season.

In 2014, the Reds again took an undefeated record into the postseason and easily swept through Regionals with two shutout mercy-rule wins, and then defeated Alamosa and Lamar to qualify for the Final Four before dropping their first game to Holy Family. The next weekend, the Reds defeated Faith Christian 10-2 to get back to Championship Saturday, but lost two wins short of their goal. That summer, the Reds played against graduate all-star teams in tournaments in Grand Junction, Omaha, Gillette, and Boulder, winning the Gillette Tournament and completing a perfect league record in Legion A before going on to defeat Roosevelt and Greeley West by large margins and then after dropping a game to Brighton, defeated them the next day to pile up again on their home field as repeat Legion A Varsity State Champions. The Reds' had their JV team play NCBL Varsity and compete late into that tournament.

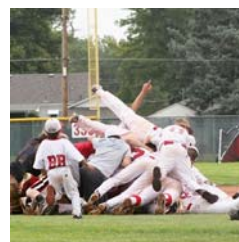
In 2015, the Reds again carried an undefeated record into the postseason after extending their winning streak in league games to 79 games going into next season. The Reds defeated Faith Christian again to end the season with the #1 seed and earn the Reds their 800th spring win since Coach Danley started in 1972, and swept Arrupe Jesuit and Lutheran at home to win Regionals. In the Elite Eight, the Reds swept through the first weekend with an easy win over Gunnison followed by 2-0 and 3-1 wins over Brush and University to advance to the Reds' 23rd straight Final Four and guarantee the Reds would be playing in the State Championship Game for the 19th time since 1994. The Reds then easily defeated Sterling to advance undefeated to the first of potentially two State Championship Game opportunities for the Reds. After dropping the first shot at winning it all to Brush 4-3, the Reds stormed back and won the State Championship Game 7-1 for their 11th spring State Championship. The Reds would be honored by CBS Sports' MaxPreps as the 2015 National Champions amongst small schools with enrollment under 1,000, and ranked #17 nationally amongst all classifications. That summer, the Reds defeated reigning Class 5A State Champion Rock Canyon, who was allowed to compete with their graduates, two times out of three to wrap up the Legion A Varsity State Championship for the Reds' 4th straight summer State Championship, their 10th Title in summer, and 21st State Championship in spring/summer.



2012 State Champions



2012 Legion State Champions



2013 Legion State Champions



2014 Legion State Champions



2015 State Champions



2015 Legion State Champions