

# John Dolan

Jordan

1994 MVP

Class B

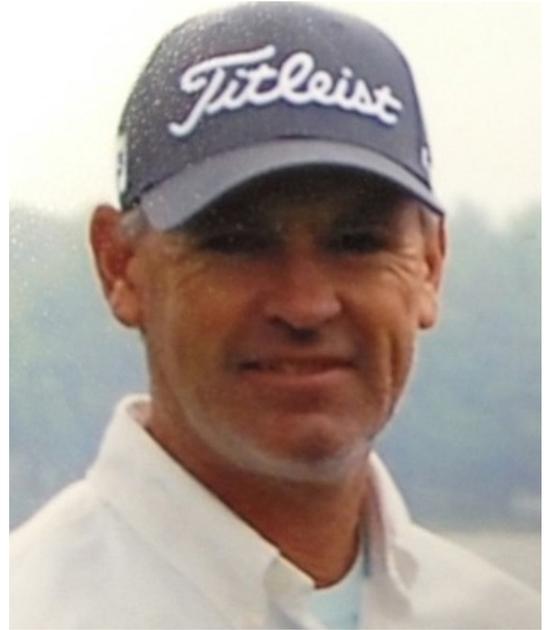


**In his own words:** I guess the first thing that comes to mind is that it was only the second year I played in Jordan and only the second year that I played with my younger brother, Tom, who had played in Jordan for about 8 years previous to '94.

The tourney we opened in Hutch against Duluth. I pitched that game and I believe we won 3-0. Next we played Granite Falls and beat them in Arlington (Tom Smith threw that game and threw very well and as I recall we won big in that game). Next we played Miesville in Hutch and won 6-4 in a game that Skakopee draftee Mike Tobin threw & also hit a home run. At that point we could start to feel things falling into place to some extent but had to get by an always-scrappy bunch from Maple Lake. Plus we knew by the forecast it was going to be a sloppy field in Arlington, and it was. You never know what's going to happen in those conditions and it always brings odd and or unexplainable plays into the mix (which can work to your favor or against). The slop fest produced another win (4-3) in a game we were down 2-0 for about the first 4 innings.

With the win we moved to the championship game against Cold Spring, who is always a relentless team with really good ballplayers who always come at you with 110%. I started the '94 title game with the Springers and my control in the early innings was off a bit which was not my game. I learned from my Dad who was a former college and town team pitcher as well as my high school coach in St Cloud, "do not walk people." He always told me "I'd rather you give up a hit because at least you had a chance of an out." So I always lived by that advice and despised walks, but allowed 3 through the first 3 innings on that day. However, I also knew from my past if I could just find my way through the first couple of innings (or once through the order), I just about always got stronger as I went deeper into games.

Lucky for me that's exactly what happened as the game turned into an 11 inning affair which I completed with no more walks and 5 hits spread out. Ron Beckman scored the winning run (2-1) in the 11th inning which I felt was poetic justice as he's always been a clutch player in the big spot, as proven by his 3 hits in that game. You feel privileged and lucky to be in this position with your teammates and you certainly don't take it lightly as you know you may never get back there again. I was extremely lucky to pitch in two state title games during my years, as I pitched as a draftee (Loretto) for Maple Plain in the '88 tourney in Arlington/Hamburg.



- John Dolan, Jordan, 1994
- Pitcher
- Won two games
- Pitched 18 innings
- Allowed just one earned run for a 0.5 ERA
- Gave up 10 hits while striking out seven batters

“I've found in most cases, town ball generally extends way beyond what's happening on the field.”

“But that's what we always seemed to do; someone was always ready to step up when we needed it.”

