

Donny Erdall

Minnetonka

2015 MVP

Class

In his own words: It sounds easy on paper because we won four straight. But it was probably the most difficult title that we won in my era with the Millers. It has nothing to do with me, it just worked out that I got two starts in the tournament that year. The previous year we were loaded and that's when we lost to the Capitals in that rain-delayed 72-hour, pushed out three days game—we played three innings one day, two the next etc. The Capitals were good and we saw each other in the final four for three straight years.

I got cut from pro-ball in 2009, so that was my first year. We won a couple of titles and lost in 2013 and 2014. We got to the finals the year before and we had no pitching. It was like the one year in Millers history that pitching wasn't a big part of us. So I ended up throwing 296 pitches in three days. Crazy and we lost to St. Paul Capitals on a walk off sac fly by Mark Groebner. The Capitals were great that year and Josh Kubitschek was the MVP.

I threw against the Capitals in 2014 and 2015. I told Kevin after 2014 if any one gets the ball other than me against the Capitals in the state title game (2015) that I'm never playing baseball again. Not like—hey, this is a threat and he goes, hey this is your ball anyway—I just without telling my teammates went hey we're going to win this one (Minnetonka 5, Capitals 2).

I came to Minnetonka from Bloomington from the Bulldogs. I only threw for them for a year and a half. So after college freshman year, two years in the Northwoods, a half year in the pros and it just randomly worked out to go to Minnetonka, because I was coaching the Excelsior Legion. Robbie Hager the head coach, (I was in shambles) and he was like come coach with me. It's probably the only reason that I'm still in baseball. When I'm coaching in Excelsior and playing at Red Haddox in Bloomington it didn't make any sense. So Kevin Hoy is like if you're going to be here, you might as well throw here. I thought, I've only beat the Millers one time in three starts, I might as well throw here. Ended up being one of the better decisions that both of us made.

Back to 2015, against the Angels they had a guy that hit one in the first inning about 480 feet, but foul. It hasn't landed yet. This is game one and my butt puckered up pretty hard. I looked at Kevin and Kevin is like if we're winning this thing it's your time. Ended up winning it 11-1. Then I said I'm going to be the best teammate for the next two games. Because I want that baseball against the Capitals. And I want to beat Kubitschek because he had beaten us the year before. I said that we are not going to lose if I'm on the mound. Everyone looks at the Millers as we're untouchable right? And the fact that we lost in 2014 with me on the mound, that was devastating. I had a chip on my shoulder that we are not going to lose with me on the mound. I wanted that one the most!



- Donny Erdall, Minnetonka, 2015
- Pitcher
- Threw 15 innings
- Won two games
- Posted a 1.80 ERA
- Struck out 11 while walking no one



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