

# Jay Johnson

Miesville

1989 MVP

Class B

**In his own words:** 1989 was a special year for Miesville baseball. Not only did we win our second state championship (first was in 1978 in Faribault managed by big brother, Juice!), but we were also featured in the StarTribune Sunday Magazine which came out during the tournament. Oh, and we got new uniforms! We were a fairly young team with most guys in their mid-twenties and we didn't have a lot of state tournament experience. Our youth was tested in five out of the six games but our hitting and resiliency were what carried us to the title.

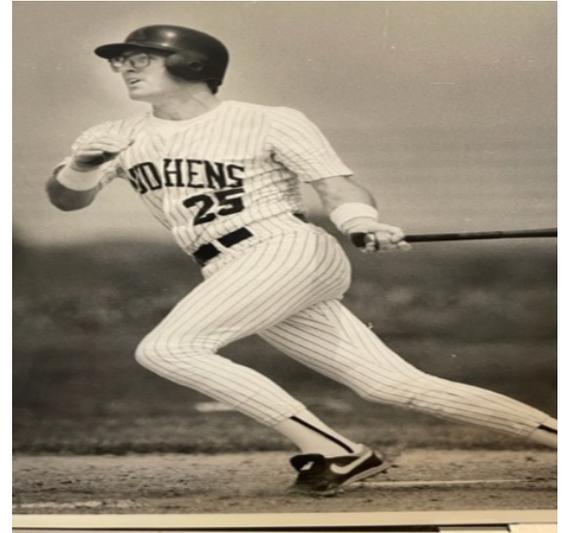
Game one was a classic pitchers' duel — we faced Barry Wohler who was drafted by St. Cloud. He had played AAA with the Dodgers in the minors. But we had Tom Arnold on the mound who had helped Cold Spring win the State in 1981 and 1985. We won 4-3 in 10 innings after being down 3-2 in the eighth.

Game two saw us play the first of three games in the tournament versus Hamel. We survived a late rally and won 10-6. In game three we played fellow Cannon Valley League team Prior Lake. We got down 7-0 but kept our cool and scored eight runs in the fifth inning, including a 3-run home run and grand slam and went on to win 11-8.

Game four was a slugfest with Jordan that got us into the championship game on Labor Day. Championship day was a long one. We came through the winner's bracket so Hamel needed to beat us twice. First game was at 11:00 a.m. and ended up going 11 innings, with Miesville losing 10-9. Back then, they played the Class C game at the same location after the Class B game so we had to wait for that game to finish. Thus our second game didn't get started until around 7:00 p.m. that night.

It had been a long weekend and we relied heavily on our drafted players for this game. Dean Kalmus from Winona started, gave us six innings and was replaced by Brian Peterson of Red Wing who got the win. Jay Bohmbach of Red Wing was behind the plate as he was most of the tournament. We got down 4-0 in the fifth and were facing Hamel ace Mike Pavelka who had won three games while striking out 51 batters. We scored three in the sixth and then took advantage of some fielding errors to score three in the seventh. Hamel scored one in the eighth and then loaded the bases with two outs and Peterson got Bill Cutshall to ground out to end the game.

As with any championship team, there are many MVPs. One key play in any of the games could be considered most valuable — if you don't make the play, the tide of the game can turn completely around. After playing 25 years with Miesville and with its rich history of baseball, it's hard to say any one team or year is the best, but 1989 certainly is right up there with the most fun I have had in baseball.



- Jay Johnson, Miesville, 1989
- Infielder
- Fielded 35 chances without an error
- Went 12 for 28 at the plate for a .429 batting average
- Hit three home runs including a grand slam

“On our day off, the team went to see ‘Field of Dreams’ at a theater. When the young Moonlight Graham asked ‘is this heaven?’ we yelled out, ‘No, it’s Miesville!!’ (We used the fact the movie came out that year and the StarTribune article and new uniforms as signs that it was our year!!)”

