

Tony Kley

Plato

2015 MVP

Class C

In his own words: I know it was kind of a tough year coming up to our regional tournament with Winsted. We had some other things going on and I wasn't able to pitch and Winstad ended up losing to Hamburg in one of the state qualifying games. Shortly after that the rest of the region tournament played out and Plato ended up winning it. They asked if I wanted to be drafted with them. You get to play with a bunch of these guys surrounding your hometown and I know a bunch of them and it's always nice to feel wanted—to get drafted, but there is also nothing like going to a state tournament with your own ball club.

I was looking forward to the opportunity. You know one of the things with their head coach, Adam Dammann, he put a lot of trust in me right away and I trusted him too to know what he was going to do. They handed the game ball over to me and I think we as a team, you know joining Plato, we had a goal in mind and we just went out there and won games. So I think that was our mindset from early on that we just wanted to go out, have fun, and put together a run that none of us would ever forget.

It was like I said, Adam put a lot of trust in me and from my side, I didn't want to let them down. I felt like I had a lot of pressure on my shoulders going out there to perform and compete. You know I had even a higher standard than what I was being held to at Winsted. You're a draftee—they're going to rely on you a lot, you don't want to end somebody else's season. I went out there and Adam kind of let me do my thing. I threw 30 some innings. Late in the tournament, too, I think we really lucked out in the Nisswa game. I believe Adam Prehn had started that game and we got shut down about halfway through because of weather and rain. Somehow I was able to go home, rest up, get some ice on my arm and we went back on Labor Day and Adam believed that I had enough rest—I told him that I felt good—I know I was up late icing my arm and trying to take care of myself. We went back the next day and finished off Nisswa (Plato 3, Nisswa 2) and I threw the end of that game and then somehow I was able to go and pitch in the championship game against Green Isle.

Chris Odegaard was the starting pitcher and he had some control problems, they were putting the ball in play. It was the first inning but I think I threw a complete game—all nine innings, but I wasn't the starting pitcher. And I don't know how many people have ever done that. In the first inning, I relieved Chris and gave up a few runs in the first or second inning. I know Mac Zachow hit a home run off me in the second inning, but we started rolling after that and I just trusted those guys with their bats (Plato 14, Green Isle 6).



- Tony Kley, Plato, 2015
- Pitcher
- Won four games
- Pitched 30 innings
- Struck out 36
- Allowed only three runs for a 0.90 ERA

“I still talk to those guys day in and day out. I believe that's what made it a lot of fun. I believed they trusted me and I was able to trust them also. Every team out there has one goal in mind and 2015 just happened to be the year that Plato made that goal.”

