

# Mike Mueller

Plato

2007 MVP

Class C

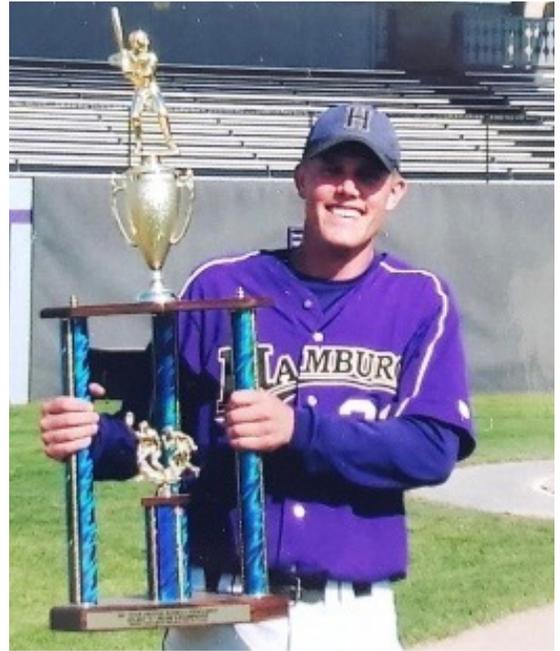
**In his own words:** We beat Sauk Rapids in the final. I threw the last two-thirds of that one (Plato 6, Sauk Rapids 3). The only run I gave up in the tournament was unearned. If anyone wants to ask about it, I remember. It's amazing what you remember about those magical runs. I would say that in a normal amateur game that I'm playing with Hamburg, it's amateur ball, people are going to make errors. I always say if you want to throw a complete game you better be ready. You might need to get 29 or 30 outs. But when I got drafted by Plato that year I felt like those games I only needed to get like 24 or even 23 outs. That defense—they were at worst average at every position. Up the middle, we had Big Ten batting champ Scott Welch playing second, Ben Smothers playing short and he was like just out of Winona State at the time, just a phenomenal shortstop.

Nick Johnson was our centerfielder. Our other draftee was Drew Gulden, Brad's kid and he was my catcher. We had a thing. I got drafted first and Drew was the next to be drafted. So I could throw to Drew every single pitch in that tournament that I threw. Nik Franck could have been MVP that year, too. When he pitched, he hit for himself and we'd DH for Drew.

That game against Holdingford. Hey, you'll take a shutout any way you get it, but I would say that that's probably the worst I've ever pitched in a shutout. And the stat line was pretty good, but I think in that game I maybe had to get 20 outs, because Ben just stole everything up the middle. I kept thinking, "Oh crap, that's a hit ... Oh crap, that's a hit." After a while like after the seventh inning they were just ready to quit. He was just phenomenal, up the middle, in the hole, it was just an amazing display of defense. When we won that game I thought—all right, Holdingford was the champ two years earlier, we just knocked off Blue Earth and I'm thinking—we've got a good chance at this.

Then we lost to Sauk 4-0 and it felt worse. They had like 14 or 15 hits in that game. I thought like are we going to be able to come back and beat them twice? At that time, we had a good relationship with Boomer (Brian) so I knew those guys very well. After we lost that game I went up to him and said—we got one chance to win this. We got to save Nik for tomorrow and I got to come back and pitch this game against St. Francis. And I've got to pitch the whole game. It was unusually hot that year and the hotter it was, the better for me. It was hot out and I think I can do it. It was a shot in the arm when we beat them 3-1.

They had Hille for the second game but by that time we had all the momentum. So Nik Franck threw the first game and then he started the second game. After the first inning he said he was really hurting. We brought Tony Wischnack back and he had just pitched the day before. He held them down for seven and a third and I came in for the last two outs.



- Mike Mueller, Plato, 2007
- Pitcher
- Won three games; Pitched 26 innings (0.00 ERA)
- Walked five/struck out 19; allowed 1 unearned run

“ I remember pulling into the park the next morning ... everyone was there, it was just a shot of adrenaline.”

“ My favorite moment of the tournament is: The final game was in Hamburg. My dad threw out the first pitch of the tournament and I threw the last pitch. I mean how cool is that!!”

