

Chris Odegaard

Plato

2018 MVP

Class C

In his own words: Going into state we had lost only one game. I pitched the Luxemburg game and they had a great pitcher. It was 0-0 going into the fifth or sixth and I was up in that inning with a guy on second. I remember two things about that game. One, I got gifted an extra strike—it was a 1-2 count and the guy threw a fastball—I was not looking for it. It was probably middle away and the umpire did not ring me up even though I was walking off the field. He got blocked or had a brain fart, I don't know, but two pitches later I hit the ball to the fence scored the one run we scored in the game. In the ninth I was still pitching and their guy hit a ball over our right fielder's head and they threw it to my brother who made the relay throw and our first out was an out at third base. If not for that—they had another single that inning—it would have been 1-1 and who knows what would have happened at that point. Our season could have been over in our first game at state.

In the second game against Faribault, I was pitching again the next weekend. Pitching against Matt Lane. Nobody was doing anything. We actually won that game on a walkoff where our guy was on second base with two outs. Our guy hit a swinging bunt when Lane picked the ball up and tried to throw the guy out at first. He spiked it and it hit off their first baseman's face and no one could get to the ball in time to stop our guy from coming all the way from second to score for a walkoff win.

After the second game the ball became a beach ball to me. Our next game was against Hutchinson. We won that one 6-1. Then we played Kimball and that was the game I had four doubles in the one game (Plato 12, Kimball 5). Against Kimball—they had a draftee starting—I started the game off by hitting the ball off the top of the centerfield wall. After that I had four other hits including three more doubles. In the Hutch game we had Patrick Tschida from Watertown and he was lights out. We played good defense behind him which helped. Then we went to Kimball and scored four or five in the first inning and went from there.

The last game against Sobieski, they had no losses coming into the game. Tyler Jendro pitched both their games the day before I think. He also went extra innings against Young America the day before. They started their number two guy on short rest and I don't think he ended up getting an out. We ended up winning that game 8-5. We scored all eight runs in the first inning and never scored again. There was a rain delay in the middle—I think we were up 8-1 or 8-2—then the delay came and they scored three more runs after. Jendro, their star, after pitching two the day before ended up pitching the entire game because their starter didn't get an out. I got a base hit for an rbi when he came in but didn't get a hit after that. Mac Zacho closed the game for us. He gave up one run in the last four innings and that was it. Then pandemonium ensued.



- Chris Odegaard, Plato, 2018
- Pitcher/ Secondbase
- Hit 14 for 21 for a .667 batting average
- Had eight doubles and four RBI
- Pitched 18 scoreless innings
- Struck out 16
- Won two games



So our first two games at state we won both 1-0 on fluky plays. After that we started hitting the ball a lot better.”

