

# Ed Piacentini

Fergus Falls 1950 MVP



*Editor's Note: Here is how our conversation started. Me: I'm doing a project documenting the living MVPs of the State Amateur Tournament. It looks to me like you're the longest ago MVP that I can find. That would be you as the MVP of the 1950 Tournament. I can't find anyone later than that. Ed: They're all Dead!!*

**In his own words:** After '50 I played in Marshall one year and came back to Fergus in '52. Then I went and played ball elsewhere. The governor's trophy that I have here in my library has the name of Luther Youngdahl. He presented that trophy to me. Right now on that club, we won it in '50, I was the youngest at the time. I was 19 and there the oldest was Harley Oyloe who is still alive in Fergus Falls and 101 years old. I just talked to him a week or so ago.

The team we beat (for the championship) was Austin. We were the underdogs to say the least. They had a ballplayer by the name of Bill Skowron. He went on and starred with the Yankees for a number of years. At the end of his career I went down to Cominsky Park with my son who was eight or nine years old at the time. Moose was there and I called him over and I said I don't know if you remember me, I'm Ed Piacentini from Fergus Falls. He says, "You didn't deserve that trophy, It should have been mine." The Southern Minny was very strong and Fergus had been there the year before, but did not have the strength of the league Austin played in. When we beat Austin it came as a shock to all of the teams in the Southern Minny.

I went kind of crazy (hitting 10-15). We had a shortstop who was from St. Cloud, his name was Hal Youngmans and was a heck of a defensive ballplayer. Anyway we had a reunion one time and he was talking about my hitting in the tourney. He said, "you were dropping them all over the place, behind the first baseman, behind the third baseman." They all counted, that's how I got to .600. Anyway there were some good ones in there too.

I played baseball for Northwestern University. Don Blasius was the leading hitter in the Big 10 that year and he got a contract first. Then I got lucky because the starting third baseman for Fergus had just broken his thumb so that's how I got to Fergus Falls.

Take two strikes and hit to right!



- Ed (Piacentini) Bernardi, Fergus Falls, 1950
- Played third base
- Handled 20 chances without an error
- Went 10 for 15 at the plate
- Batted .667 for the tournament



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