

Tom Schleper

Chaska

1987 MVP

Class C

In his own words: We were swinging the bats really well that year. I remember I was drafted the year before in 1986 for Chaska. That was back-to-back years so it made it a little easier because I had been with that group before. It seems like we played more the year before. I think I played with those guys in the region games, too. So I knew those guys from playing them in the season, too. I was only a 21-year-old college kid at the time. It was fun to be able to extend the season.

We really swung the bats, I ended up as the MVP, but there were any number of guys that could have gotten it easily. I think I just stuck out a little more because I had a different colored uniform on. I think the championship game ended by the 10-run rule (Chaska 22, Sartell 11). I was on deck and Dave Lane hit a walkoff grand slam to end the tournament. It was filled with a bunch of solid hitters on that Chaska team.

I remember I was swinging the bat pretty well. I had a three-run home run early in the championship game. We had fallen behind early in that game, like 3-0. We came back and were up 5-3. It was just going back and forth like that and we had so much offensive power, especially with the pitching wearing down. We just kept scoring runs until it ended 22-11.

It was played at Brownton. I remember they had a shorter centerfield fence. That's where my home run was hit. They had that black monster and it went over and made the thud and it was a real fun moment for sure.

I was in college, it was my junior year. I was doing R.A. training and they let me go back and forth on the weekends from Southwest State in Marshall. That was the first year that I didn't play football so I had a little more time to drive back and forth to play that last weekend. Just a young kid enjoying playing baseball at the time.

My family was always there. My parents were there, several of my siblings were there and it was always fun to play in front of them. Just the Chaska fans and community and players they were always so supportive. I do remember one of my teammates on the town team telling me "that's a huge deal. You'll remember that and it'll be part of you for the rest of your life." At the time I kind of shrugged it off, but thinking back now he was right.

Every time the state tournament comes around you kind of think about that year and that moment. When you're 21 years old, you think how that's just the way it is. But that was the one moment that did or will stick with me forever!



- Tom Schleper, Chaska, 1987
- Catcher
- Handled 41 chances without an error
- Went 10 for 23 at the plate for a .435 batting average

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