

John Straka

Chanhasen 2019/2020/2021 MVP Class B

In his own words: In 2019, the first two games were absolute nail biters (Chanhasen 1, Champlin Park 0; Chanhasen 2, Northfield 0). It was one of those where both teams had a hot pitcher, single elim and luckily we were able to put up the one and two run spots and not get blanked ourselves. Both of those games were hard-fought wins, good team wins. Our defense always played outstanding.

The rest of the team just absolutely took off the rest of the weekend and carried us. We had outstanding pitching performances from a number of guys. Logan Spitzack had a shutout (Chanhasen 2, Chaska 0). He came back and threw again on Monday and a couple of bullpen arms Nablo and Shoals had big wins for us. Dominic Reed threw like 11 innings against Moorhead (Chanhasen 2, Moorhead 1, 14 innings). Shawn Reisgraph came in and threw Friday night and started again on Monday (Chanhasen 8, 9, Dundas 1,2). It was a well pitched tournament by everyone on our pitching staff. It was pretty special to come back and win five of six games on the final weekend.

2020 started off with an odd game. We started the game Friday night and ended up finishing it on Sunday (Chanhasen 7, St. Michael 5). With the Covid year, the format was changed so the first weekend we played two games so we got some of our younger arms in. Tommy Thompson had a couple of tremendous outings—I think he threw against Miesville (Chanhasen 2, Miesville 1) and then also faced Moorhead in the championship (Chanhasen 4, Moorhead 3), so he had a great tournament. We had a lot of good offensive production and the defense was tremendous.

2021 was cool because growing up in Chaska, playing high school ball there and to get to have my first start at the Athletic field was fun. That first game was a fun one. We put up a bunch of runs early and it wasn't too stressful (Chanhasen 8, Moorhead Mudcats 1). That second game against Rochester was a battle (Chanhasen 2, Rochester 1). A very fun game.

Champlin was a team that we always had a good battle with. It was similar to 2019 in that it could have gone either way. The score doesn't show how close that game actually was (Chanhasen 7, Champlin Park 4). Getting to play Miesville, that is just a rivalry game. There is a lot of bantering and jawing back and forth, but at the same time we've got a lot of respect for them. Some very talented ball players and a good group of guys.

Each of the state championships was unique in its own way. Different group of guys but at the same time guys that just love being able to still play baseball as adults which is something everybody is grateful for. That we have the ability to do that in Minnesota is pretty special.



- John Straka, Chanhasen, 2019, Pitcher
- Pitched 23.2 innings, allowing six runs on 15 hits
- Posted a 1.90 ERA while striking out 14
- John Straka, Chanhasen, 2020, Pitcher
- Pitched 22 innings, striking out 27 batters
- Won three games with a 2.05 ERA
- John Straka, Chanhasen, 2021, Pitcher
- Posted three wins
- Pitched 25 innings, striking out 26 batters
- Allowed only three runs for a 1.08 ERA



The State Board and Shakopee stepped up which was pretty cool and very special because they took it upon themselves to say we're not letting the season go by without hae a Minnesota State Baseball Tournament."

