

# Fulton Weckman

Shakopee

1959 MVP



**In his own words:** That Championship game was very exciting (Shakopee 3, Springfield 2). I remember leaving the game. I was tired was all I remember. They put in a reliever, I think it was Jerry Meyer or somebody like that. I sat on the bench and I was just spent. Howie Heller got on first base somehow and I can't even remember how he got on first, if it was a throwing error or something. He stole second, he stole third and then he stole home. Just like that it was over.

The guys went just crazy. That was pretty darn exciting.

My catcher was a draftee from New Prague by the name of Tom Preston. I knew Tom Preston and I owe just about everything to Tom. Between Tom and Butch Kreuser they discussed what I was supposed to be doing so I had to do what Tom Preston told me. So then the pitches I was to be throwing and the location was pretty much the ballgame. I tried my best to do what he told me. He was very clear what he wanted me to do. I had to do my very best to do what he was telling me to do.

I remember we beat St. Boni 7-0 and that one was pretty easy for whatever reason. We just had quite a mix of players, some guys that were very seasoned, a guy by the name of John Freund and he was just an unbelievable ballplayer. I used to have to pitch to him during the regular season. I just hated pitching to him. Because he was just an awesome player, all around. He could do everything. I thought he was the toughest out I ever had to face. He would hit the ball on the line. He could really get into it. He was a left hand hitter and it made no difference right handed pitcher or left.

We always had to play with Shakopee in the region and it was tough. We were lucky to stay in the game with them, they were that good. I was 18 and after the tournament, I had not signed up for college, I was just looking for a college and I got admitted to some small schools. I don't know why, but the University of Minnesota baseball coach, Dick Siebert, was up there at the time. I remember standing in the street right in downtown St. Cloud and he offered me a scholarship right there and I was so tickled, I was in shock. He offered me a scholarship, it was a partial scholarship, but it was still a scholarship. I thought it was great. I was just—like I said, I almost fainted on the spot!

Orville Freeman gave me the MVP award. He was a veteran and he still had an injury to his jaw that he had gotten in one of the wars. It was quite an honor.

## *In Memorium*

Born: June 28, 1941

Died: April 9, 2022



- Fulton Weckman, Shakopee, 1959
- Pitcher
- Won three games, lost one
- Pitched 26 innings
- Allowed only four earned runs on 14 hits
- Struck out 34
- Had a tournament ERA of 1.38



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