

Bill Zeller

Minneapolis Angels

1994 MVP

Class A

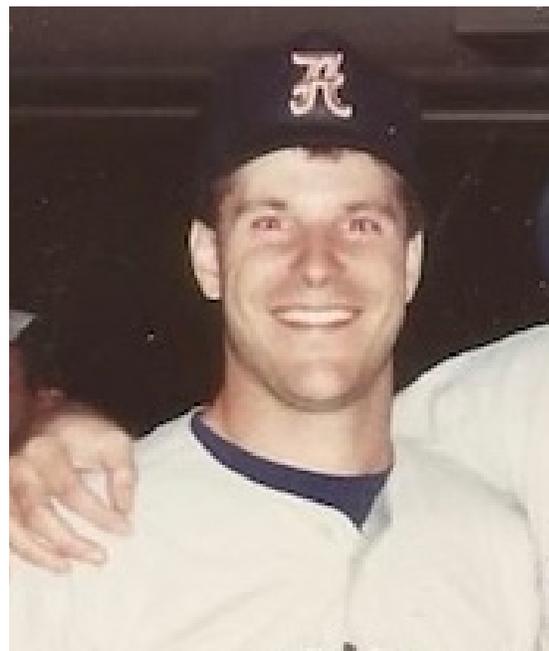
In his own words: People go through their whole lives never playing on championship teams or teams that really do a whole lot and the Minneapolis Angels were that type of team. Rob Schneider was the first baseman for me in Legion ball and college and after I got done playing some minor league baseball, moved to the Cities and he said, "Hey come play with us." It was one heck of a lot of fun with the Tommies, the Johnnies and two UND guys and a couple of pitchers from the Gophers playing for us. How can they compare to a guy like Joe Meyer who throws a million innings, he'll throw 13 innings in a day. They were mid-relievers for us and threw for us a little bit. But the core group of what we had was quite amazing.

We loved go to the small towns, playing in Dundas, Miesville, Jordan. It was so much fun doing it. We wanted to play. It was always town ball—you know Class B got a lot of press. We enjoyed getting out there and mixing it up with the boys. Playing in the Cities, you know, Parade was a great stadium, but some of these other ones, not so hot. You're playing at Bossen and a plane comes in to land and you just take off. We'd just take off and if they weren't looking, you could steal a base and the pitcher still has the ball.

The biggest memory for me was the Minnetonka pitcher got married the day before we played them. He drove back to pitch that second game. We were up because we had beaten them the Friday before 8-5. John McInerny, our second baseman, I think since he had played for the Angels, he had hit only two home runs. Well, he hit a three-run home run on Sunday to get us up. We had probably been behind then. Here's a guy that's playing second base for you with one eye—he lost one playing hockey when he was a kid, got a skate in the eye. For a guy like that who was a scrappy kid, good golfer, could do anything and everything, a switch hitter and fricking turn on that ball and make it happen. That was so amazing.

Of course when you got the three Meyer boys, Jim, Greg and Joe and I think Buck might even have been on that team also. My first year was 1991 and we got a bunch of players and we won in 1991, 1992 and we lost on a mishap in 1993 and won again in 1994. Those guys were so solid. Mike Turney playing center field and just running everything down. Greg Moore and Jimmy Meyer behind the plate calling good games and jeez, it was just so much fun. I would think the only other thing that I really remember was that I hit a ball so hard that I'm thinking, Oh man, I'll be standing on third. The centerfielder made one helluva a play on the ball and I was like damn!!

There are so many good memories but just the talent on that team was outstanding.



• Bill Zeller, Minneapolis Angels, 1994
• Pitcher/Outfielder/First Baseman



McInerny never hit home runs and he hit a three-run homer over the right-center field fence and to me I still tell everybody about every game I've ever played and having John McInerny turn on that ball."

