

# Joe Abellera

Minnetonka

2007 MVP

Class A

**In his own words:** What's funny is that Shelly had a double play ball to win game one of the championship and he threw it away and they scored the winning run (Commanding Edge 8, Minnetonka 7). The second championship game allowed me to take over the Miller's single season hits record at 89. So I always give Shell a hard time because he was the freebie that allowed our team to go 54 and 3 that season. Those are the two big things that I take away and it's personal that that record as a team for town ball, it's unheard of for almost any sport, let alone baseball. So that's kind of a feather in the cap for a team ballplayer.

We always joke about Shelly throwing that ball away so I could take over his single season hits record. I came off of pro ball and I went back to Concordia, St. Paul to play for Lunch and that season I couldn't play Spring baseball. It was my transfer year so I remember working so hard in the cages in the off season in Concordia. I worked so hard that I came out in that whole entire season in 2007 just on fire. I believe I hit .463 for the season.

I tied the season hits record with a base hit bunt against Stillwater. The guys always gave me a hard time because of my size that I could sneak by and run out those balls and get a lot of base hits. That was always fun too. I was young in my career as a town ball player in general. I was 21 years old and it was fun for me because we had a lot of veterans on that team that a guy like me could become a man both on the field and off the field.

I was fortunate and blessed to have Kevin Hoy take me on with the program and give me a little bit of a leash so that I could take over and be a captain. It was very humbling and I took a lot of pride in it as well. I held myself accountable and I held the team accountable as well. I think that was just a good combination with what we had on the field and every facet: pitching, hitting and defensive. We were almost untouchable that whole season. We have consistently done that and it is something that we are really proud of as an organization.



- Joe Abellera, Minnetonka 2007
- Played third base
- Went 12 for 25 for a .480 batting average
- Three doubles
- Seven RBI

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