

# Tom Arnold

Cold Spring

1981 MVP

Class B

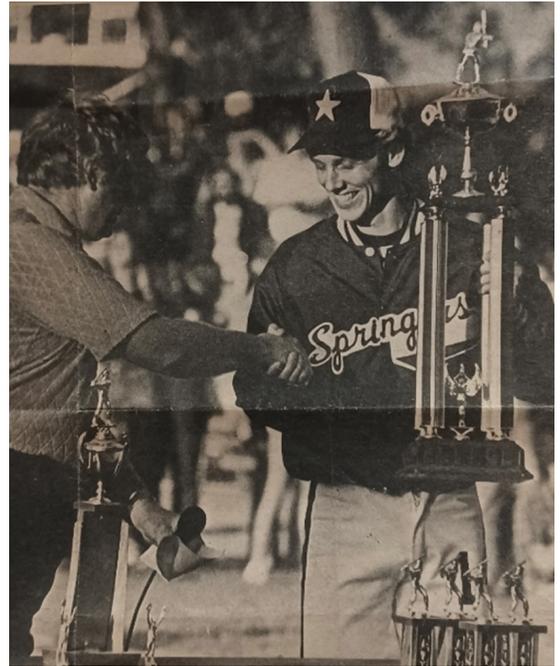
**In his own words:** For most of us from Cold Spring, 1981 was the first time in a championship game. We had won league and regional titles but it was our first chance to win it all. In the year prior, we had a good tourney but we ran into the Steinbachs and crew from New Ulm and lost in the semifinals. The following year we were back at it again. We took advantage of a favorable draw, as a few favorites were upset in the early rounds. We played East Grand Forks the first weekend (C.S. 6, E.G.F. 0). The second weekend it was Verndale (C.S. 7, Verndale 4) on Saturday, Barrett (C.S. 6, Barrett 2) on Sunday morning and Carver Sunday night (C.S. 8, Carver 5). This was single elimination, one game the first weekend and four games on the Labor weekend to finish, so it really was a weekend of survival and trying to advance to the next game.

Everybody on the pitching staff was called on over the Labor Day weekend. I threw Saturday, Rick Bell threw a gem on Sunday afternoon against Barrett, and Jim Thelen and Mel Huls combined to take down Carver on Sunday night. Each game featured different hitting and defensive stars. We all were coached in high school by Springer manager Bill Huls so the team played solid defense, tried never to give the opponent extra outs, and took advantage of our opportunities offensively. Offensively, it seemed there were different stars each game. Boogs Rausch hit a big home run versus Verndale, Bruce Theisen went deep against Barrett, and Pete Cheeley and draftee Jeff Neutzling were the hitting stars in the semifinals against Carver.

The championship game on Labor Day in Jordan was a 12-inning classic that all of us from Cold Spring will never forget. Dundas jumped out in front with 3 runs in the top of the 1st but thanks to an inning ending double play we were able to hold them off. We scratched a run off the always tough Bill Nelson from Dundas, they scored another run and we trailed 4-1 into the 7th inning. Draftee Jeff Neutzling doubled home two runs to tie it for us, and Jim Arnold singled to take a 5-4 lead which we held into the ninth. Down to their last out in the bottom of the ninth, Dundas answered with a single by shortstop Dan Hansen to tie the score. Both teams went scoreless in the 10th and 11th innings, but we finally broke the tie with a run on Bruce Theisen's suicide squeeze bunt and 2 additional runs on a double by Steve Hansen to make the score 8-5. Dundas threatened in the bottom of the 12th, but a hard hit ground ball went Hansen to Rausch to Cheeley for a game ending double play.

The euphoria, exhaustion, and excitement are emotions all of us will remember for a lifetime. The support from family, friends and the Cold Spring "Heavies" was phenomenal. The 2-hour bus ride back to Cold Spring and the celebration in the Side Bar that followed was memorable to say the least.

2022 MVPs • [mnbaseball.org](http://mnbaseball.org)



- Tom Arnold, Cold Spring, 1981
- Won three games
- Pitched 30 innings
- Allowed only 7 earned runs
- Achieved a 2.10 ERA for the tournament
- Struck out 24 batters



Once we advanced to the championship game by winning on Sunday evening, we knew we'd be facing one of the tournament favorites..."

