

Joe Driscoll

Arlington

1979 MVP

In the Words of Bill Nelson (editor): Joe Driscoll passed away before I could interview him for his remembrances of being the MVP of the 1979 State Tournament. It was an amazing tournament for Joe. He hit a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat Maple Lake in the first game of the tournament. After that Joe and the Arlington A's went on to beat Miesville 12-4, Dundas 7-1, Lastrup 8-2 and Granite Falls 7-3 in the championship game.

Joe was born three and a half months before me. Because of that he graduated a year before I did. We were around the same things our whole lives. He had a little more flair, obviously than I did (more talent too). As I played high school sports, I always heard about how good this team in Le Sueur was. I had no idea where Le Sueur even was. But as my brother-in-law tells me, "the two best Minnesota athletes to graduate in 1969 were Dave Winfield and Joe Driscoll." I was fortunate or maybe had the misfortune to play against both of them. Winfield dominated me, Joe just kept showing up and beating us more than we beat him and his team.

When I faced Joe, I told my infield to play up, because if he hit it hard, it was probably going to be a double. But if he didn't hit it hard it would be a dribbler down the line and he would beat it out every time. I wanted to make those dribblers outs. There was no one that hustled and ran out every batted ball more than Joe Driscoll. He also never gave up when he was running the bases. I once saw him score from first base on a dropped infield pop-up.

Everyone knows about Joe. That is to his great credit. He is one of the only players to be elected to the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. The Hall states that you don't get in the Hall for just being a great player. "They are generally chosen for dedication and love for the game and what they have done for amateur baseball in their communities during and after their personal playing careers were over."

Joe's career was never over. He was a player from day one till the day he passed. He did more to draw people to the game of baseball than any other person I can think of. He was a character, he partied, he talked loud—As his wife Nancy said in a Patrick Reusse column from July, 2001, "The first time I met him I thought, 'Who could stand to spend 15 minutes with this guy? But he grows on you.'"

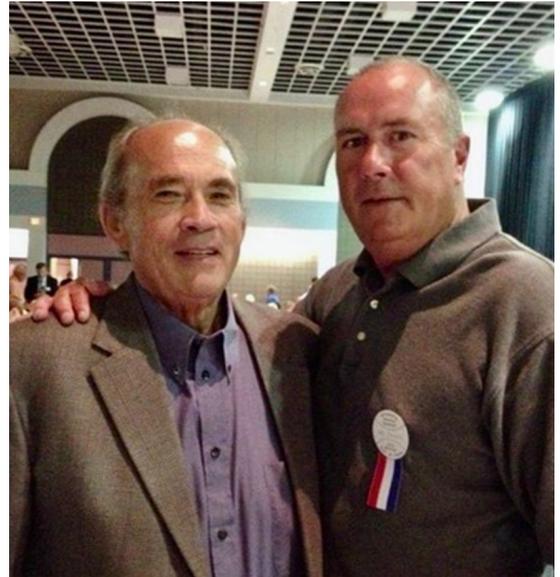
Joe grows on you. He has grown on all of us that love Minnesota Amateur Baseball. That is why we love both of them!

In Memorium

Born: July 8, 1951

Died: June 16, 2022

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Joe Driscoll (right) with noted Sports Columnist Patrick Reusse

- Joe Driscoll, Arlington, 1979
- Pitcher/Outfielder
- Pitched 16 innings, allowing four earned runs
- Held a 2.25 ERA for the tournament
- Allowed 11 hits while striking out 19
- Won two games
- Went 8 for 24 at the plate for a .333 batting average



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