

Ben Fleetham

Wesley Homes

2005 MVP

Class A

In his own words: What I remember is that I pitched both 1-0 games (Wesley 1, Minnetonka 0 and Wesley 1, Air Freight 0). I just came out of coaching with the St. Paul Saints. I was their pitching coach in 2003 and 2004. Basically, my buddies were like do you still want to play? I didn't know. I'll tell you that I'm a recovering alcoholic. That played a lot into it. I missed baseball and I missed playing. I think my last couple years of playing in the Northern League and all that, it was about the partying not actually trying to get back to playing ball.

I had elbow surgery in 2000, my last spring training with the Dodgers. It was just such a refreshing feeling to get back on the field and play with my high school buddies and some other people that I knew. I had retired from being the Saints pitching coach because I needed to get away from that lifestyle. Get my mind and life straight and see what I wanted to do. That summer was awesome. It really was. I got back out on the field and actually pitched. It was amazing. And just to realize how many good baseball players actually play in Minnesota. The camaraderie and how fun it was. That's what got away from me—the fun of the game. It came back to me. It was an amazing state tournament. I pitched 18 scoreless innings, got the MVP, but all that stuff didn't matter to me at that time. I couldn't care less about all that. Just being out there with the guys was the whole amazing deal.

The biggest thing I want people to know is that I always respect the game. No matter what level I played at A, AA, AAA, Big Leagues, amateur ball, whenever I got on the field I respected the field, the players, the game. I never took it for granted!



- Ben Fleetham, Wesley Homes, 2005
- Pitcher
- Won two games
- Pitched 18 innings
- Stuck out 32
- Allowed no runs



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