

Bruce Geislinger

Watkins

2001 MVP

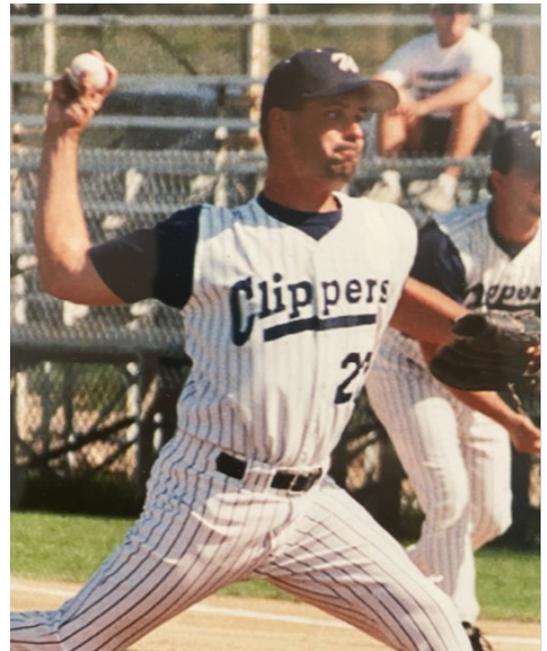
Class C

In his own words: Our team was relatively old. We were getting into our mid to upper thirties and we'd been knocking at the door for several years and we just never won the big one. Then in 2001 we won it.

The teams we played were stacked. Gaylord had pitching and whatnot. We ended up beating them (Watkins 6, Gaylord 4). You know the one game that we thought would be easy, Wolf Lake from Northern Minnesota, this was going to be pretty easy and that was probably our toughest game. We ended up winning only 3-1. It was only 1-1 in the eighth and we ended up winning that sucker. Then we beat Buckman twice, which had a loaded group of guys. They also had Scott Geiger and you never know about him.

The one game we show up and we forgot our bats. So we had to have our father go back to Watkins and get our bats. We batted with one bat for three innings. That was quite the interesting game there. We didn't ask anybody for any bats. We were just going to do it on our own, we didn't want that to get around too much. We were a veteran-laden team and for us to finally do it is the biggest memory I've got (Watkins 9,6, Buckman 4,5). I played with all those guys for 20-plus years already. We were all good friends and to win it like that was really special. We were mostly Watkins kids with a couple of guys outside, but it was mostly hometown kids. It was a lot of fun.

In the championship game, I wore a little pin on my hat in the front by our W. It was a diamond of an Angel. That was for my daughter, Peyton, that had passed away earlier that year. The Buckman guys told the umpire that they wanted me to take it off. I just said to the umpire—come on it's for my daughter that passed away. The umpire was real cool and he just went over to their dugout and talked to them. Oh, my God did they feel bad. They went "No, you keep that on and don't worry about it." I thought that was really cool. I still respect all those guys. That's amateur baseball at its best!



- Bruce Geislinger, Watkins, 2001
- Pitcher
- Won four games
- Pitched 33.1 innings, allowing 13 runs
- Gave up 36 hits
- Walked 11 while striking out 23
- Held a 3.27 ERA for the tournament



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