

Lee Hodges

Blue Earth

2006 MVP

Class C

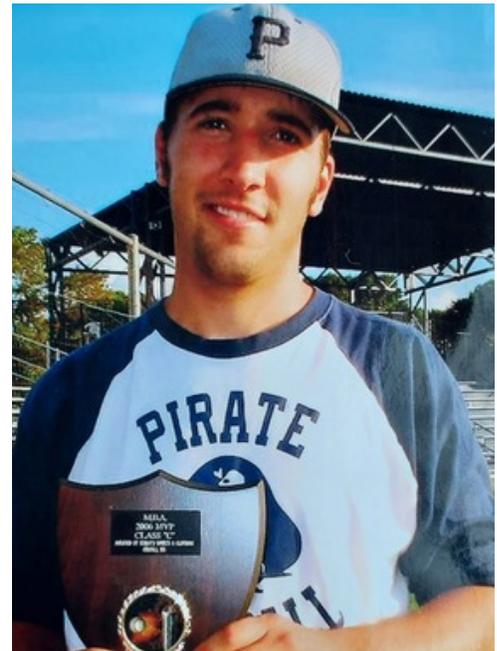
In his own words: That first game was the toughest game for us. We were down 6-1 in the fourth inning. We kind of chipped back. We got two in the bottom of the fourth, two in the bottom of the fifth, so it was 6-5. We scored two in the bottom of the ninth to win 7-6. Aaron Wendt started that game and threw three-plus innings. They kind of hit him around a little bit. I came in and finished the game. Threw five and two-thirds and got the win. I hit a double in the ninth to score two and go ahead. I always told Dean Boyer that I should be hitting.

Second game was St. Joseph. Like all those games, it was scratching and clawing the whole game. We scored two, St. Joseph scored two in the first. It was 2-2 the whole game. Then we scored one run in the top of the ninth to go ahead 3-2. That was kind of a fluky deal. TJ Stallman walked to open the inning and stole second and one of our non-players pinch hit and got hit so we had runners on first and second and I hit another game-winning rbi single to right field. Dom Schultz pitched the whole game. He had only pitched a few innings in relief the whole season and ended up throwing a complete game there. Defensively is kind of how we made our way through the state tournament. Not making many errors.

The third game was another tough game for us. I pitched that game. That was Howard Lake. We beat them 3-0. I pitched a complete game there. My brother-in-law, Tyler, had a home run. He hit that over the scoreboard in Miesville. That was a bomb. We had 15 hits and only scored three runs.

Then we played Sobieski. They threw Jason King. We beat them 5-3. The next game Chris Pack pitched for Rochester. I pitched that game, all nine innings. We had a pitchers' duel there 3-2. TJ Stallman hit a home run. Schmidke was 2-for-4. He had a good tournament.

In the final we beat Union Hill 4-1. I remember the championship game. It absolutely down-poured there for at least an hour and a half. We were sitting in the dugout waiting for this game to start on Labor Day Monday. There's a huge puddle right in front of our dugout. I remember looking at Todd, our coach, and saying we're not playing this game today. Just like that the clouds dissipated and the grounds keeper comes over and says, "Get your guys ready, we're going to be playing in about 45 minutes." We said, "What? There is no fricking way we are playing." There's standing water everywhere. By God we were playing. That grounds crew was amazing. They came out with blow torches and everything. And we started that game, scored two runs in the top of the second. Aaron Wendt threw eight and two-thirds. Jake Frey was 2-4 with an rbi. Another defensive battle there. Pitching and defense won it for us. It was just like it was meant to be. We didn't go crazy, it was almost like going on with our work. We got the job done and that was it!



- Lee Hodges, Blue Earth, 2006
- Pitcher
- Won three games, pitching 25 innings
- Allowed only four runs for a 1.44 ERA
- Walked only three while striking out 24



The third game was another tough game for us. TJ Schmidke got married over in Beaver Creek by the South Dakota border. So we went to his wedding Saturday night and, you know, a bunch of 21-year-old guys, you can't really not partake in festivities."

