

Tim Knapper

Granite Falls

1993/2002 MVP

Class C



In his own words: The year 1993 was my first with the Kilowatts, who had made some deep runs in the state tournament the previous few years. It was a single elimination, so you had to win five games in a row. I remember Mike Dammann making a great sliding catch in right field late in game one vs. Richmond to keep us alive. We were inches from being eliminated that night in front of a hostile Stearns County crowd. Jeff Asche hit a sac fly down the right field line in extra innings to score the winning run.

We got three solid pitching performances and timely hitting in the next three games, which put us in the championship game against Dassel Cokato. That game was tight the entire time. We took a 3-2 lead in the top of the eighth on a two-run homer. We booted a ball in the bottom half of the inning that allowed them to score two unearned runs and take a 4-3 lead. They retired the first two batters in the 9th before our #8 hitter, Trent Sukalski worked a walk. Jon Rambow, our veteran second baseman who had uncharacteristically committed the error the inning before, stepped into the box with the DC crowd chanting E4. Everybody on our team knew he wouldn't make the last out. He promptly slapped a single to right. Our leadoff hitter, Brian Gruber, sent the first pitch into right field to tie the game. I walked to load the bases and Jason Fisher hit a ball over the left-center field fence for a grand slam and a four-run lead. We ultimately won 8-5. One of my greatest memories of the tournament was recognizing Butch Richter and Bud Blindt, two guys who poured themselves into Kilowatt baseball and who took care of the field and all things baseball related in Granite Falls. Thinking of that still makes the hair on my neck stand up.

2002 was the first year of wood bats and we had spent most of our time after the 1993 championship in class B. We had a handful of guys still playing from the 1993 team but also a group of younger players who filled out the line up. We had a ninth inning comeback in game two to beat Princeton which got us into the double elimination format of the tournament. Trevor Schulte spun a gem to beat St. Patrick. Our ace and workhorse Curt Kvam beat Elrosa and we used draftee Neil Jensen to win the next game. He, Nate Dammann and Mike Richter all had clutch home runs in that stretch of games to keep us in the win column. We had to beat Watkins to get to the championship game. Some late game heroics by Mike Richter and crafty pitching by Mike Beier got us to Labor Day afternoon where we had to beat Montgomery-Lonsdale twice. I think we gave up four runs in both games, but our offense was putting up runs consistently as well. I pitched the last six innings of the first game and the first eight and a third of the second, before Mike Beier had to come in and get the last two outs. Everybody gets their chances to contribute and clutch up. Everybody in this group usually did.

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- Tim Knapper, Granite Falls, 1993
- Outfielder handling 17 chances without an error
- Went 10 for 19 at the plate
- Batted .426 with eight RBI
- Tim Knapper, Granite Falls, 2002
- Thirdbasemen/Pitcher
- Batted .368, going 14 for 38, with three doubles
- Drove in eight runs
- Pitched 20.2 innings, winning two games
- Only walked five batters while striking out 14



One of my greatest memories of the tournament was the team walking the trophy to the grandstand and recognizing Butch Richter and Bud Blindt, two guys who poured themselves into Kilowatt baseball..."

