

Dave Lindstrom

St. Louis Park

2008 MVP

Class A

In his own words: It was a lot of fun. The biggest thing about that tournament was Gabe Eikum. He was dominant, but we had three pitchers that were just lights out. For us, on offense, it was just give him one early, let him settle in and see what happens. So if we got ahead, it was really hard for anyone to come back on us. We had three starting pitchers that were all border-line unhittable. You look at Gabe's statistics in that tournament and it's just ridiculous. It's like looking at video game numbers from that perspective. He had like 20 strikeouts, he was just dominant. Nobody could hit him.

Then you got Shane Wright and Matt Edstrom. They were our three starters and all we needed to do as an offense was—if we scored early, the game was over. They weren't going to give it up. So I was able to hit a little bit and it took the pressure off of us as an offense, knowing we weren't going to have to go and score 10, 12, or 15 runs to win a game. All we needed to do was get two or three. Two of the five games were shutouts. It was a lot of fun knowing that we had those guys on the mound and we could just relax and have some fun playing the game.

Nothing that was a walk-off, but I had a couple of first-inning homers that put us up. I hit one both games against Green Mill. It got us into a position of comfort. For us it was really about, we had guys that could hit. St. Louis Park was loaded with hitters. You had Chris Johnson on that team, you had Pat Fix—we had town ball guys that had been around for a long time that just knew how to hit. Matt Paulson was on that team. I think Ryan Benson was our leadoff hitter and centerfielder. I want to say he had over 50 walks that year. The guys around me and guys in front of me—That year I hit third and had Ryan Benson and Chris Duda hitting in front of me. Pretty easy to drive in runs with those two guys on base every time. There were a lot of times in the first inning when I was coming up with two guys on. We put a lot of pressure on opposing pitchers and their defense. I was going to get stuff to hit because Chris Johnson hit behind me and nobody wanted to face him.

It was a great group of guys. A complete team. Everybody knew and accepted what their roles were. There was no bickering. Lot of us are still friends and see each other from time to time. My daughter is a senior in high school this year and the one thing she comes up with is—dad you have to invite all the Park guys to my graduation party because I basically grew up around them.



• Dave Lindstrom, St. LouisPark, 2008

• Shortstop

• Went 9 for 20 at the plate for a .450 batting average

• Knocked out four home runs

• Drove in 11 RBI



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