

Blaine Rutledge

Minnetonka

2017/2020 MVP

Class A

In his own words: In 2017, we played a lot of games, it was a lot of fun. The first game of the state tournament was against the Barc Bullfrogs. We were down five runs going into the bottom of the ninth. We ended up scoring enough that we beat them by one (Minnetonka 14, Bullfrogs 13).

Then against the Angels they had a tough pitcher to go against. I think I hit a home run in that game to put us ahead a little bit (Minnetonka 4, Angels 1). Only allowing one run against the Angels was pretty good any time of the year. We played Stockmen's so many times it tends to run together (Minnetonka 8, Stockmen's 2).

I do remember the Rosetown game because they moved that game up because half their team was going to a bachelor party or something. We were thinking on our team like—what the hell? They threw a pretty nasty lefty and I'm pretty sure that was one of the worst games that I've had. I broke three wood bats in that game. It was a rather expensive couple hours. We beat them 5-3.

Then the St. Louis Park game. We'll never forget those games. We've played them a million times. There's not a lot of lost love between the two of us, I mean we get along fine, but in the prior years they were a bunch of dinks. But they are still a really good team. First game I think we were winning or were tied up at two—I think it was Matt Lindstrom, who could roll out of bed at 65 years old and probably go three for four with a home run. We were tied in the eighth and he stepped up and hit a pretty sizable home run and we lost (Minnetonka 3, St. Louis Park 4).

In the second game, Park scored eight runs in the first. In the fifth or sixth we put up a five spot. I think it was 8-7 going into the eighth inning. Park closer, Mike Lueck tried to challenge Mike Davis early on with fast balls and Mike fouled them off. Then he hung a curveball and Mike hit a double down the left field line scoring three, making the final 11-9.

In 2020, we went up against the Cobras. We wanted that one, because the year before they beat us in the finals. First game against the Knights we beat them 8-2. The next game we beat Baseball 365 7-3. Then we beat Highland Park 10-3.

In the finals against the Cobras, it was the top of the ninth we are up by two or three and the leadoff hitter hit a meaningless, harmless fly ball right at me in centerfield and I dropped it. So we are up by three I think, leadoff guy is on with their heart-of-the order coming up. Simple easy out and I just dropped the damn ball. They end up making it 9-6 before David Cushing got a ground ball double play to end it. Minnetonka wins again!



- Blaine Rutledge, Minnetonka, 2017
- Centerfielder
- Went 18 for 28 for a .464 batting average
- Scored ten runs and knocked in five RBI
- Had four doubles in the tournament
- Blaine Rutledge, Minnetonka, 2020
- Centerfielder
- Went 8 for 15 at the plate for a .533 average
- Smashed two home runs and two doubles
- Drove in seven runs and scored eight
- Had four walks and three stolen bases

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