

Rod Schafer

Hamel

1987 MVP

Class B

In his own words: The thing I remember most was all of the good players that I played with. Hamel had Ron Van Krevelen, Tom Steinbach, Kiki Vandehey and they had all played minor league ball and were back. Sonny Hillier was the coach at the time. We had Al Krebs and Tim Fleming, too. It was pretty neat because about 10 years later I played ball with all of these guys again. We were down in Florida playing 35 and older at the Roy Hobbs Tournament.

These guys become your friends and it's like a family. You play against them, you play hard on the field and after the games you socialize and have a few cocktails so they end up being friends. They are all my friends now.

I didn't even know that we played Beaudreau's twice in that tournament (Hamel 10, Beaudreau's 8, Hamel 5, Beaudreau's 3 for the championship). That's who I used to play for before I came out to Cold Spring. Hamel was a good team and they could do a lot of things. Then we had Kiki who had the best baseball mind around. I learned so much from him, just from playing with and against him.

Tom Steinbach probably should have been the MVP. He pitched, hit and played outfield and he was one of the best ballplayers around. I got lucky to get it. I play for the fun of it, enjoy the game and try to learn more stuff all the time while you're playing. I just remember that their roster was full of hitters, guys that played minor league ball and you're going "holy buckets, these guys are good." It was a good experience. But it's a different experience than playing with your own team. But these guys took me in and it was great.

I won the State Tournament six times. Been in the State Tournament over 20 times. We won when I was with Beaudreaus, Hamel and Cold Spring.



- Rod Schafer, Hamel, 1987
- Catcher
- Handled 39 chances without an error
- Went 10 for 22 at the plate for a .455 batting average

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