

Joe Siple

Rochester

2006 MVP

Class B

In his own words: With the Royals we had such a deep talented team every year I was there. I think I played with them for a decade and made the state tournament every year. It felt like we were one of the favorites going in every year. It seemed like we would always get matched up with a pitcher that was really hot or a draftee that would have a great game and we'd lose early in the round and have to battle our way back through the losers bracket and we'd just run out of steam before we could get it done. That was the one year, in 2006, that we actually survived those first rounds with a couple of close games there such as Red Wing (Rochester 4, Red Wing 3) and Chaska (Rochester 3, Chaska 2). That was a big one that put us into the driver's seat.

I think that Chaska game was a huge one. You get to that part of the tournament and about half of the teams are out, most of the teams have a loss and you're down to just a couple teams that have a chance to be in the driver's seat. Which brings us to Mankato. The Mankato team was basically the Mankato State college team, with a few other guys. They were a good team. They were young, they could play, they were sharp and we'd lost to them a lot of times in those years. That first game that we beat them put us in the driver's seat (Rochester 3, Mankato 1), so they had to beat us twice coming back. That last day in Red Wing, beautiful day and all of our family and friends and all the people there. That first game that we lost (Rochester 2, Mankato 9) was maybe the more exciting game even though it became a little bit of a blowout.

The following game was very typical for our team that year where we just kind of grinded it out, pitched well, played good defense, had a few key hits and got it done that year (Rochester 6, Mankato 4). I was really happy we were able to win it at least once when I played. Like I said, we were there every year, thought we had a good chance every year and it only happened one time.

That was the tournament that was supposed to be in Rochester. That was pretty dramatic. We had souvenir baseballs made up and everything and we were all ready to go. It was really disappointing because we were looking forward to it, because we had never hosted a state tourney. Traveling around to all the beautiful ballparks and having a chance to host it at Mayo Field, which in my opinion is right up there with the best of them. To have that kind of taken away last minute was disappointing.

But Red Wing was a great alternative. Can't do any better than Red Wing and they do a great job with the tournament. It worked out well on the field for us that year, too.



- Joe Siple, Rochester, 2006
- Leftfielder
- Hit 10 for 26 at the plate for a .385 batting average
- Had two doubles and three RBI



It was the only time in my entire baseball-playing career that I had the opportunity to run over the catcher. I was on second base, someone hit a single and I could sense that it was lining up just right. The throw came in and sure enough the catcher was up the line a little bit, blocking the plate and right as the ball got there we kind of hit at the same time."

