

Terry Steinbach

New Ulm Kaiserhoff

1980 MVP



In his own words: I don't remember a lot of that. We were young and conceptually I know that our group of athletes, the guys we played ball with our whole life, pretty much was on that team with a sprinkling in of some veteran people. We just had a good time.

I do remember hitting some home runs there, but not really which games they were. Editor: "You hit one off of me [Bill Nelson from Dundas] in Brownnton, to left field, the deepest part of that park." I do remember that. But when we talk about the state tournament, I just remember how fun it was, I mean just fun.

You're fresh out of high school, you're I don't know if screwing around is the right word, but you're playing a game! I'm done with school, I graduated, I'm going to the U, I don't want to call it the summer of love, but definitely the summer of fun!

It was just a lot of fun that way, the actual game. And our group, I would guess that every player would say this but the camaraderie. Just the fun time you had hanging out with everybody. I do remember that with the talent we had on our team, players flipped around. My brother, Tom, pitched, Jeff Keckeisen was on that team and he pitched and Palmer pitched.

Then we had Larry Jensen, we had our drafted guys and Joe Driscoll. To be frank, I don't remember any pressure like, "Hey we're in the state tournament, Hey we're in the quarter-finals, the semi-finals, the finals." It was more like, "Hey boys, let's have a game; let's have some fun." We got beers afterwards. You know this is town team ball at its best. Those are really the distinct memories.

It didn't matter who, where, or what, I can remember it might have been '80 or '79, but there was a year that I played over 100 games one summer. I started for varsity, my birthday fell right to play VFW, I was good enough to play Legion and we were on the town team. In a three-to-four month period, I got 100 games under my belt. The positives outweighed the negatives. I mean the positives again of that group we hung out with, the camaraderie that we had. Yes, we spent a lot of time on the field, but we probably spent just as much time together off the field.

Terry Steinbach played for the Oakland Athletics and the Minnesota Twins. He had a 14-year career in major league baseball. With Oakland, he won three consecutive American League Championships and a World Series Championship in 1989. His lifetime batting average was .271 with 162 home runs and 745 RBI. He was named an All-Star three times while being named the All-Star MVP in 1988.

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Scheduled to attend MVP Banquet
Thursday, August 18, 2022

- Terry Steinbach, New Ulm, 1980
- First baseman
- Handled 32 chances without an error
- Batted .500 for the tournament, going 9 for 18
- Drove in 10 runs



Years later, my dad told me that he and mom were getting chastised a bit. You know, 'how much ball your kid is playing. That's not right. You got to let the kid be a kid.' Stuff like that. But to me that was what being a kid was! We enjoyed it that much."

