

Erik Winegarden

Victoria

2012 MVP

Class B

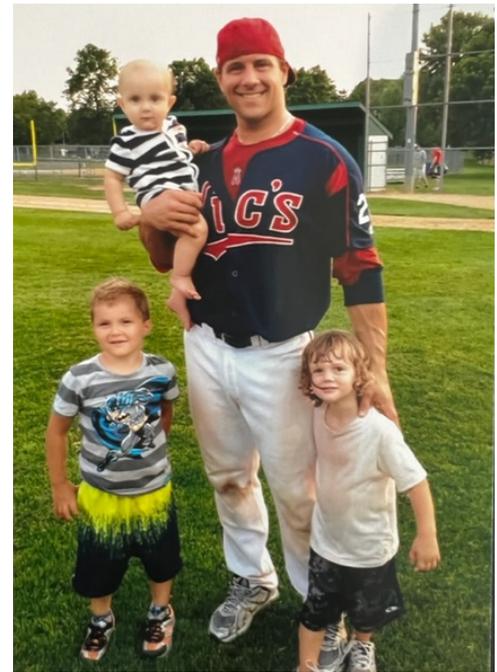
In his own words: The first game against Cold Spring was a really tough game. The wind was howling in from right field. They pitched this big lefty, but he was good and they relieved with Femrite. I remember Sam Rothstein hit one and it was going to tie the game up and it just got chewed up by the wind. We were all out by the dugout going “Yaaay!” And we ended up going “ahhhh.” Cold Spring was supposed to win the whole thing and we played them at their house and lost 4-3.

We had a bunch of older guys on the team and we were playing good baseball going into the tournament. So after that game we were like you know what, that was a great game of baseball and let’s make our way back to the show. The next games we just went on a tear. I can’t even tell you how many runs we scored total but it was a lot. It was a great run.

I remember, this is no joke, after we beat Cold Spring in the first game of championship day, we were back in the locker room, there was probably six or seven of us, just taping ourselves back together. I had two pulled hamstrings, the smell of icy hot was almost unbearable back there. We were ace bandaging everyone up and taping everybody up and we were limping. We were the walking wounded. But we had a really good combination that year of older guys, like my class of 1998 area. Then we had a couple of young guys that really just helped pull everybody along.

That first game of the double header, they pitched that same lefty again. He went into the eighth inning and my brother hit before me and he hit a fly ball out to right field and Femrite just dropped it. That would have ended the inning, so there were two outs and I came up and hit the home run to put us up and beat them 5-3. Those two games were so amazing because the fans were awesome, it was so hot and what a great tournament. It was a lot of fun. Once we beat them in that game, you could see that that was a big blow to them. Because that was their two best pitchers. Then Femrite came out in game two and went like two or three innings. I remember the shadows between the plate and the pitcher’s mound and he was just nasty. Then I think he got leg cramps and he couldn’t go anymore and they had to bring in a bunch of other guys and that was it (Victoria 4, Cold Spring 1).

Everybody on the team played so unbelievable. They were all lined up after the game and they are doing the MVP and they are going—this guy did this and this and the stats and all that stuff. I would have told you a 100% that it would have been either of two other guys on our team. Those stats are good and I had no clue it was going to be me.



- Erik Winegarden, Victoria, 2012
- Catcher
- Hit 10 for 24 for a .417 batting average
- Scored 10 runs
- Smashed two home runs and three doubles
- Had 10 RBI

“With all these different championships that I won, that was probably the hardest road that I’ve taken to get to the hardware. It was grueling.”

