

Midwest Classic Baseball Tournament - 2007

Team Wisconsin Highlights

Team Wisconsin Wins the 7th Annual Midwest Baseball Classic

Team Wisconsin finished with a 4-1 record as they were declared Champions of the star studded Midwest Classic Baseball Tournament held August 2-5, 2007 at Barrington High School in Illinois. The tournament featured the top talent from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, and Kentucky. Leading the way for Wisconsin's pitching staff were Trevor Foss (Janesville Craig) Zach Rickaway (La Crosse Aquinas) and Jake Hermsen (New London). They struck out a combined 19 batters in 16 innings of work.

On offense Team Wisconsin boasted a .302 batting average over the five games played. Leading the team in hitting was Chett Zeise (Green Bay Notre Dame) going 8 for 14 with a double, a triple, and two home runs. Kyle Stewart (Onalaska) displayed awesome power posting a .500 average while crushing three homers and two doubles. Other offensive leaders included Tony Mueller (La Crosse Logan) going 6 for 13, and Kevin Wild (Brown Deer) who hit .375 throughout the tournament.

Game #1: 8/3/07 Wisconsin 3 – Minnesota 2

Wisconsin sneaks past Minnesota in a pitchers duel

Team Wisconsin started the 2007 tournament on the right foot by defeating Minnesota 3-2, allowing only one base hit. Jake Hermsen (New London H.S.) led the way pitching three innings of no hit ball and striking out five. Zach Rickaway (La Crosse Aquinas H.S.) pitched the final four innings allowing only one hit and fanning three.

Wisconsin scored two runs early in the game on a base hit by Jared Andreoli (Union Grove H.S.) and a fielder's choice by Chett Zeise (Green Bay Notre Dame) The winning run came in the bottom of the seventh when the speedster Tony Mueller (La Crosse Logan) started the inning with a single, stole second base, and then scored on a wild throw from Minnesota's catcher as he was stealing third base.

Game #2: 8/3/07 Wisconsin 14 – Kentucky 10

Wisconsin defeats Kentucky in a slugfest

Team Wisconsin outlasted Kentucky in a game that featured 31 hits and 24 runs. When the dust settled Wisconsin notched it's second victory 14-10. Things started out bleak when Kentucky jumped out to a 10-1 lead. The Wisconsin bats then caught fire and turned the momentum by cranking out 14 hits over the final five innings. Chett Zeise (Green Bay Notre Dame) and Kyle Stewart (Onalaska) led the Wisconsin attack with two home runs each. Zeise went four for four and Stewart also added a double. Fred Gromalak (Kettle Moraine) also roped a double off the wall in center field. Sam Keller (Milwaukee Riverside) and Jared Andreoli (Union Grove) each added two hits for Wisconsin.

The winning pitcher for Wisconsin was Brad Hallberg (Barron) who came in relief in the fifth inning after Kentucky had already put 10 runs on the scoreboard. Hallberg did not allow a single hit and kept Kentucky at bay while the red hot bats for Wisconsin came alive.

Game #3: 8/4/07 Wisconsin 8 – Iowa 4

Wisconsin continues to roll against Iowa

Team Wisconsin notched it's third consecutive victory on the shoulders of Kyle Stewart (Onalaska) defeating a strong Iowa team 8-4. Stewart pitched a complete game striking out three and walking two.

Wisconsin jumped out to an early lead when Tony Mueller (La Crosse Logan) stole second and third and then scored on a sharply hit ball by Jake Long (Wisconsin Rapids). Mueller finished the game with four stolen bases. Two more runs scored on a towering home run by Kyle Stewart (Onalaska).

Brad Hallberg (Barron) singled to score two more runs in the fifth inning, and that proved to be the difference in the game.

Game #4: 8/4/07 Wisconsin 10 – Nebraska 5

Wisconsin Powers Past Nebraska 10-5

Team Wisconsin shelled out nine hits and rode the arm of Trevor Foss (Janesville Craig) in handing Nebraska a convincing defeat. Foss struck out seven in six innings of work. A sharp breaking ball kept the Nebraska hitters guessing and off balance. Tony Mueller (La Crosse Logan) provided an inning of relief and picked up the save.

Wisconsin's offensive attack was led by Kyle Stewart (Onalaska) and Fred Gromalak (Kettle Moraine) each accounting for two RBI's. Kevin Wild (Brown Deer) and Bryan Clark (Oshkosh North) each knocked in runs with key hits as well.

Game #5: 8/5/07 Illinois 8 – Wisconsin – 2

Illinois too strong for Wisconsin

Team Illinois was able to benefit from their 20 man roster in the final game of the tournament. Illinois was able to pitch three fresh pitchers and held Wisconsin to only two runs. These three pitchers had already committed to play college baseball at Illinois, Iowa, and Creighton. Wisconsin pitched four different pitchers, all of them pitching on very little rest and unable to go more than two innings each. When it was all over, Illinois had posted the victory 8-2. Leading the way for Wisconsin was Tony Mueller (La Crosse Logan) going 2 for 3. Chett Zeise (Green Bay Notre Dame) also smashed a double in the loss.

Team Wisconsin Roster 2007

Jared Andreoli- Union Grove- Outfield
Bryan Clark- Oshkosh North- Catcher
Trevor Foss- Janesville Craig- Pitcher
Fred Gromalak- Kettle Moraine- Catcher
Brad Hallberg- Barron- Infield
Jake Hermsen- New London- Pitcher
Samuel Keller Jr.- Milwaukee Riverside- DH
Jake Long- Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln- Infield
Tony Mueller- La Crosse Logan- Utility
Sam Munson- Fond du Lac- Infield
Zach Rickaway- La Crosse Aquinas- Pitcher
Sam Schissel- Racine Park- Pitcher
Kyle Stewart- Onalaska- Pitcher
Kevin Wild- Brown Deer- Outfield
Chett Zeise- Green Bay Notre Dame- Infield

Matt LaBuda- Kenosha Bradford - Coach
Tim Mielke- Shoreland Lutheran - Coach
Bill Grams- Showtime Sports – Coach

Professional Scouts in Attendance

Arizona Diamondbacks
Atlanta Braves
Boston Red Sox
Chicago Cubs
Cincinnati Reds
Cleveland Indians
Detroit Tigers
Minnesota Twins
New York Yankees
Philadelphia Phillies
Pittsburgh Pirates

Tampa Bay Devil Rays
Texas Rangers
Washington Nationals
Major League Scouting Bureau
Collegiate Scouts in Attendance
Augustana College
Bradley
Creighton
Eastern Illinois
Eastern Kentucky
Evansville
Heartland Community College
Illinois
Illinois State
Indiana State
Iowa
Kentucky
Louisville
Miami
Michigan
Michigan State
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Central College
Northern Illinois University
Northern Iowa
Northwestern
Ohio University
Parkland College
Purdue
Saint Joseph's College
Southern Illinois
Wabash College
Western Carolina
Western Kentucky
Wisconsin - Whitewater
Xavier University