

Tomahawk baseball team takes 3rd at Senior Salute

Jeremy Behnke

ST. PAUL - This past spring, high school athletes in every sport were unable to compete because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was hard especially for the seniors who didn't get to compete in one last season without warning.

However, the St. Paul Saints teamed up with high schools all over the state to let senior baseball players compete in the Senior Salute games at CHS Field and Northwestern Field in St. Paul. Sixteen area players from the Tomahawk Conference competed and took third place overall on Sunday at CHS Field, going a combined 5-1 at the tournament that lasted over two weeks.

Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop's Devon Schwarzrock (P, OF, 1B), New Ulm Cathedral's Will Schabert (2B, 3B), Tony Geiger (OF, 3B, P), and Chris Knowles (SS, P), Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Mason Cox (OF, C, 1B), Teddy Giefer (1B, P, OF), and Jace Marotz (P, OF), Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart's Kaden Zanoth (OF), Sleepy Eye's Matt Sellner (1B, P, OF), Sleepy Eye St. Mary's Nick Labat (IF, OF, P, C), and Springfield's Brody Sturm (1B, OF), Nolan Hovland (2B, OF), Ivan Hovland (OF, 3B), Henry Scheitel (P, 2B), Mason Rummel (C, P, IF), and Decker Scheffler (OF, 1B, 3B) all teamed up and represented the conference.

The team was coached by St. Mary's coach Bruce Woitas, Sleepy Eye coach Aaron Nesvold, Cathedral coach Alan Woitas, and MVL assistant coach John Giefer.

The Tomahawk team opened the tournament on July 21 with a 4-3 victory over Team Minnesota (Team Tomahawk rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the bottom of the seventh inning) and a 7-0 win over the Gopher Conference team. On July 27, they beat the Southeast Conference team 10-4 to qualify for the final round of 8, which started on July 31.

There, the Tomahawk team defeated Eagan/White Bear Lake 10-2 to advance to the semifinals.

There, New Prague, which took second in Class AAAA and was made up of only player from the high school team, defeated the Tomahawk Conference 7-0. New Prague went on to win the Senior Salute on Sunday.