

Agate Baseball Reflects on Memorable Season

By John Sandstrom

One of the great parts of the high school sports experience is the lasting memories that a player gains, along with lessons they have learned. The Two Harbors Agate baseball team shared some of their favorite memories of the season and in some cases, a lesson or two learned.

Co-head Coaches Tom Bott and Tim Bott:

- The experience of having a father-son coaching team was special for us.
- We were impressed how well the older players interacted with the younger players. (This was the first year junior high players were included.)
- It was great to see how much we improved and were able to compete.
- Ninety-eight stolen bases during the regular season was amazing.
- We were pleased at the interest in our program and the high level of participation at all levels.

Caleb Waldron: "One thing baseball has taught me is that you have your ups and downs. One week you might hit like crazy and the next week a person can't buy a hit. The lesson is that when you are in the downs, you have to fight back. Keep working. When you are not hitting, come to bat with a clear mind, ready to give it your best effort. Life is going to knock me off the

plate and I have to get in there and try a different approach and maybe hit the ball the opposite way. Keep trying and if it doesn't work, try something else."

Zac Bentler: "Baseball has taught me a lot about overcoming adversity. Whenever we lost a game, we were ready to move on to the next game. It has also taught me to deal with pressure. Coach Bott always told me to play at 80% which means to play hard, but play under control. In baseball, you need to keep your head about you. Whenever I was involved in a play in a close game, I would remember this and not overthink it and ruin the play. Probably a good strategy for much of life."

Brjen Jones: "I really enjoyed seeing our team's young players grow during the season. They learned to handle the pressure and stepped up on our team as leaders."

Anders Hastings (eighth grade next school year): "One of my favorite memories are the times Brjen taught me to play first base. He and Caleb are coaching my U13 team this summer and they are teaching us a lot. They are good leaders and I learned from them how important it is to encourage teammates and pick them up when they are down."

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