

2001 IHSAA Baseball State Finals

June 16, 2001

Class 2A, Victory Field, Indianapolis

Northfield rallies in seventh inning for first IHSAA title

Northfield rallied for four runs in the top of the seventh inning and won the Class 2A state championship, 4-2, over Speedway.

The Norsemen (28-5), making their initial appearance in the baseball state finals, won the first state title in the school's history in any sport.

Trailing 2-0 going into the seventh, Northfield's rally began when Jason Stanley launched a one-out double over the leftfielder that rolled to the wall, scoring Eric Highley and Shawn Smith to knot the game at 2-2. Highley was a pinch runner for Nich Good, who reached on a fielder's choice, and Smith walked. Chad McWhirt delivered the winning hit, a two-out single hit sharply up the middle to score Josh Merrick and Stanley.

The Sparkplugs (23-9) scored a run in the first inning and again in the sixth. B.J. Grove singled to rightfield scoring Jimmy Rust who led off the game with a single and stole second base. Speedway took a 2-0 lead in the sixth inning when Mark Gonzales singled scoring Eric Mattingly. Mattingly had reached on a fielding error and stole second base.

Stanley earned the victory (10-0) striking out six in six innings or work before Smith came on in the seventh for the save. Mattingly suffered the loss (9-4) after coming on in relief of Trevor Nelis, who had pitched the first 6 1/3 innings. Stanley was the first batter that Mattingly faced in the seventh.

Northfield reached the championship game with a 2-1 semifinal victory over Leo on Friday, while Speedway advanced with a 2-1, eight inning decision over Eastern (Pekin).

Northfield was coached by Tony Uggen and Speedway by Bruce Hutchings.

Andrew Rosner of Speedway named Mental Attitude recipient

Andrew Rosner, the starting catcher for Speedway's Class 2A state runners-up, was selected by the IHSAA Executive Committee as the 2001 recipient of the L.V. Phillips Award for Mental Attitude in Class 2A baseball.

Rosner was a two-year starter in baseball and was Speedway's cleanup hitter this season while batting .311. He also was a four-year participant in football.

Academically, Rosner ranked third in a class of 87 students and was a member of the National Honor Society. Regarded as quiet leader in athletics and within the student body, he served as vice president of the student council. He was involved in several extracurricular activities and as a community volunteer.

Rosner plans to attend DePauw University.

Farm Bureau Insurance, corporate partner of the IHSAA, presented a \$1,000 check to Speedway High School in the name of Rosner.