

## 2023 Springfield Tigers—Class C—Tomahawk East League

NO	NAME	B/T	POS	COLLEGE					
1	Carter Erickson	R/R	IF/OF	Northern State	13	Ashtin Johnson	R/R	OF	
2	Tori Helget	R/R	IF/P	USF	15	Sam Rummel	R/R	C/P/IF	
3	Kadin Johnson	R/R	OF		16	Mason Rummel	R/R	C	USF
4	Ryan Sturm	R/R	1B	St. Cloud State	17	MaCoy Krick	R/R	OF	
5	Brandon Wilhelmi	R/R	IF/P/C	SMSU	18	Mason Leonard	R/R	OF/1B/P	USF
6	Sam Baier	R/R	IF/P	Augustana	19	Decker Scheffler	L/R	IF/OF	Ball State
7	Jordan Milbrath	R/R	P/OF	Augustana	20	Mitchell Leonard	R/R	1B/3B	
8	Jacob Poehler	R/R	OF	U of M: Crookston	21	Luke Boyle	R/R	IF/OF	
9	Justin Haugo	L/L	P/OF	St. Mary's	22	Andrew Hirsch	R/R	P/IF/OF	Valley City State
10	Kade Nachreiner	R/R	IF/P		23	Jason Nachreiner	B/R	P	
11	Marty Brandl	L/L	OF/DH		26	Danny Rogotzke	R/R	C	
12	Jakob Nachreiner	L/R	IF/P		27	Henry Scheitel	R/R	IF/P	
					44	Steve Helget	R/R	Manager	

Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Result	
Sun., May 7	Courtland	Courtland	2:00 pm	L, 7-4	Exhibition
Fri., May 12	Milroy Yankees	Milroy Yankees	7:30 pm	L, 8-7	Exhibition
Sun., May 14	Sleepy Eye	Sleepy Eye	1:00 pm	PPD	League
Sun., May 21	Lamberton	Leavenworth	1:00 pm	W, 19-4	League
Fri., May 26	Faribault	Springfield	7:30 pm		Exhibition 75th Ann. 1st Night Game
Sun., May 28	Leavenworth	Springfield	5:00 pm		League
Fri., June 2	Hadley	Springfield	7:30 pm		Exhibition
Sun., June 4	Courtland	Springfield	5:00 pm		League
Fri., June 9	Stark	Springfield	7:30 pm		League
Sun., June 11	Fairfax	Fairfax	5:00 pm		League
Fri., June 16	Essig	Springfield	7:30 pm		League
Sun., June 18	Gibbon	Gibbon	1:00 pm		League
Wed., June 21	Sleepy Eye	Springfield	7:30 pm		League
Sun., June 25	Lamberton	Springfield	5:00 pm		League
Wed., June 28	Fairfax	Springfield	7:30 pm		League
Fri., June 30	Hanska	Hanska	7:30 pm		League
Fri., July 7	New Ulm	New Ulm	7:30 pm		League
Sat., July 8	Milroy Yankees	Springfield	5:00 pm		Exhibition
Wed., July 12	Searles	Springfield	7:30 pm		League
Sat., July 15	TEL vs Corn Belt	Searles	5:00 pm		All-Star Game
Wed., July 19	Stark	Stark	7:30 pm		League
Fri., July 21	Leavenworth	Leavenworth	7:30 pm		League
Wed., July 26	TBD	TBD	TBD		Region 2C Begins
July 26- Aug.12	TBD	New Ulm & Spfd	TBD		Region 2C Tournament
Fri., Aug. 18	TBD	Dassel/Delano/ Litchfield	TBD		State Tournament Begins



# 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1ST NIGHT GAME AT RIVERSIDE PARK

First	Last	Position	Nickname
Eddie	Albertson	3B	"Home-Run"
Roland	Boettger	LF/RF	
Alvin	Gisvold	OF/MGR	"Gizzie"
Jack	Hellendrung	P	"Red"
Harold	Johnson	OF	
Ray	Kronzer	2B	
Art	Marben	SS/OF	"Rabbit"
Ken	Pankonin	RF	
Bud	Potter	OF	
Warren	Potter	2B	"Warnie"
William (Bill)	Stensvad	1B	"Jake"
Hy	Vandenberg	P/OF	"Vandy"
Bassie	Wagner	OF/3B	"Firehorse"
Milton	Woodall	C	"Woody"
Johnny	Black	batboy	
Earl	Daniels	P	drafted St. James
Kelly	Roth	C	drafted Sleepy Eye



## 1948 Springfield Tigers - Class AA Western-Minny League

Record: 34-13 Overall, 15-5 League, 8-2 Postseason

Date	Opponent	Location	Result	League/Exhibition
4/25/1948	Mankato Merchants	Springfield	L, 11-7	Exhibition
5/2/1948	Fairfax	Springfield	W, 4-3	League
5/16/1948	Redwood Falls	Springfield	W, 13-0	League
5/19/1948	Sleepy Eye	Sleepy Eye	W, forfeit (L, 7-5)	League
5/23/1948	New Ulm	Springfield	W, 3-2	League
5/26/1948	Faribault	Springfield	W, 8-2	Exhibition
5/31/1948	Mankato Merchants	Springfield	W, 15-8	Exhibition
5/31/1948	St. James	St. James	W, 1-0	League
6/3/1948	St. Thomas College	Springfield	W, 10-3	Exhibition
6/6/1948	Fairfax	Fairfax	L, 4-3	League
6/9/1948	St. Peter	Springfield	W, 5-1	Exhibition
6/10/1948	Albert Lea Packers	Springfield	W, 15-4	Exhibition
6/13/1948	Sleepy Eye	Springfield	W, 5-1	League
6/16/1948	Willmar	Springfield	W, 8-2	Exhibition
6/23/1948	St. James	Springfield	W, 5-1	League
6/24/1948	Willmar	Willmar	L, 6-1	Exhibition
6/30/1948	Marshall	Springfield	W, 8-6	Exhibition
7/1/1948	Mankato Merchants	Mankato	L, 2-0	Exhibition
7/2/1948	Redwood Falls	Redwood Falls	L, 3-1	League
7/4/1948	Sleepy Eye	Sleepy Eye	W, 4-1 (11 inn.)	League
7/5/1948	Fairfax	Springfield	W, 4-1	League
7/7/1948	Redwood Falls	Springfield	W, 4-1	League
7/8/1948	New Ulm	New Ulm	L, 6-1	League
7/11/1948	New Ulm	Springfield	W, 7-6	League
7/14/1948	St. James	St. James	W, 8-4	League
7/15/1948	Austin	Springfield	L, 16-8	Exhibition
7/16/1948	W-M All-Stars	Springfield	W, 5-2	Exhibition
7/18/1948	Fairfax	Fairfax	W, 9-4	League
7/19/1948	Max Lanier's All-Stars	Springfield	L, 3-1	Exhibition
7/21/1948	Sleepy Eye	Springfield	W, 10-4	League
7/25/1948	Redwood Falls	Redwood Falls	L, 4-2	League
7/28/1948	Bancroft, IA	Springfield	W, 12-0	Exhibition
7/29/1948	New Ulm	New Ulm	L, 9-8 (15 inn.)	League
8/1/1948	St. James	Springfield	W, 4-2	League
8/11/1948	St. James	Springfield	W, 4-0	W-M Playoffs - R1
8/12/1948	Albert Lea Packers	Albert Lea	W, 9-3	Exhibition
8/13/1948	St. James	Springfield	W, 8-2	W-M Playoffs - R1
8/18/1948	Fairfax	Springfield	W, 4-2	W-M Playoffs - R2
8/22/1948	Fairfax	Fairfax	W, 4-2	W-M Playoffs - R2
8/26/1948	Austin	Austin	L, 11-10	Exhibition
8/29/1948	New Ulm	New Ulm	W, 4-2	W-M Playoffs - R3
9/1/1948	New Ulm	Springfield	W, 6-1	W-M Playoffs - R3
9/5/1948	St. Paul Nickle Joints	Springfield	W, 6-1	Exhibition
9/11/1948	Minneapolis Bananas	Shakopee	L, 6-1	Class AA State Tournament
9/13/1948	West St. Paul	Shakopee	W, 5-0	Class AA State Tournament
9/15/1948	St. Paul Union Printers	Shakopee	W, 6-3	Class AA State Tournament
9/17/1948	Fergus Falls	Shakopee	L, 7-6	Class AA State Tournament

Springfield	ab	r	h
Marben, ss	2	2	0
Gisvold, cf	4	2	2
Albertson, 3rd	3	1	1
Wagner, lf	4	1	1
Woodall, c	4	1	2
Vandenberg, rf	4	0	0
Pankonin, p	3	1	0
Potter, 2nd	4	0	0
Stensvad, 1st	4	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
Faribault	ab	r	h
Barrett, ss	3	1	1
Love, 2nd, p	4	0	0
Howard, 1st	4	0	0
Mealey, cf	4	1	3
Engelhardt, c	3	0	0
Skaug, lf	4	0	1
Blaisdell, rf	4	0	3
Schulut, 3rd	3	0	0
Mayo, p	1	0	1
Burke, 2nd	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

Runs batted in: Albertson 3, Wagner, Woodall, Pankonin, Mealey, Skaug; Two Base Hits: Mealey, Albertson, Woodall; Three Base Hits: Wagner; Double Play: Stensvad to Marben to Stensvad; Struck Out; by Vandenberg 8, Mayo 3, Love 4.

MAY 26, 1948 VS FARIBAULT



Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this special celebration of 75 years since the first game under the lights at beautiful Riverside Park! Tonight, we'll reminisce about Springfield and MN amateur baseball played under the lights with names, stats, and stories we hope you'll enjoy.

In the early 1940s, Gail Mayo was a pitcher for Springfield, and in 1947, he led Albert Lea to the State Title. Mayo signed with Faribault in 1948, and tonight, we thank Faribault for agreeing to this "rematch" 75 years in the making! These teams and baseball towns were among the best in the state 75 years ago, and they continue to make their mark on MN baseball. Both Springfield and Faribault have proudly hosted the Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Tournament in recent years, a testament to their enduring baseball legacy.

Tonight, we'll recognize some remarkable individuals from the past. Eddie Albertson, who came to Springfield to be a teacher at SHS, or maybe a baseball player who happened to be a teacher, had an impressive baseball career. His son Douglas, who was pictured in the program at the age of 3 ½, will throw tonight's first pitch. Eddie signed a teacher contract in April 1947 but was forced to retire just before the playoffs due to torn lung muscles. Thankfully, he recovered and returned for the 1948 season. Bassie Wagner, another standout player, joined Eddie as the "Babe Ruths" of Springfield. Eddie's defensive skills at third base were exceptional, and he hit four home runs in four State Tournament games in 1948.

After WWII, in the late 1940s, night baseball was a growing necessity. As reported in the October 15, 1947 issue of the Springfield Advance-Press, the "Lighted Baseball Park Becomes a Certainty" in Springfield. With a cost of \$16,000, F.E. Pieschel chaired the project, ensuring that baseball enthusiasm and drawing power could be retained. Loans from Springfield individuals made this dream a reality in short order with things coming together in only about 10 days time. The resulting "arcs" created the best lighted field in this part of the state. The original plan included seven 80-ft steel towers with 120 floodlights, but the final construction featured ten towers, 160 floodlights, and double-towers along the first and third base lines to concentrate light in the infield. Springfield's field boasted 240,000 watts of illumination, with the same lights as Yankee Stadium. The towers were carefully arranged to avoid interfering with the construction of the baseball grandstand and accommodate night football and baseball. Springfield has been proud to host games between other area teams without lights, starting 75 years ago when Storden took on Comfrey in a Branch Line League playoff contest under the lights at Riverside Park.

The turnout for baseball games 75 years ago was incredible. In 1947, total attendance for the Springfield Tigers reached a remarkable 18,335. Regularly, between 1,000 and 2,000 or more fans would gather to watch the games. The rivalry between Springfield and New Ulm was especially fierce and very well-attended. In a 15-inning regular season game, witnessed by a record-breaking crowd of 3,853 spectators, New Ulm emerged as the 1948 Western-Minny pennant winners. However, Springfield had its revenge in the playoffs, sweeping New Ulm in a best-of-three series to secure a spot in the state tournament. The playoff game drew the biggest crowd at Riverside Park, with 3,143 fans in attendance causing traffic jams after the game. The passion for baseball was truly remarkable!

Within the Western Minny League, Springfield's Phil Von Fischer served as the league president. The league allowed three outside players on a roster, who were typically recruited and paid. Home players needed to live within a 15-mile radius. It's interesting to note that in 1948, the admission price was \$0.50, but tonight, we have the privilege of enjoying this game for free! The heavy expenses of running a Western-Minny ball club were a concern and ultimately contributed to the downfall of the league and others like it in Minnesota. It's worth noting that one pitcher's salary was \$130 per week, a considerable sum at that time. The six-team league in 1948 included New Ulm, Springfield, Sleepy Eye, St. James, Fairfax, and Redwood Falls.

Hy Vandenberg, a former MLB pitcher, was signed to pitch for Springfield in April 1947. He re-signed on March 13, 1948, after a trip by the local baseball “moguls” to the cities. Although he faced criticism from fans following a playoff loss to New Ulm in 1947, Vandenberg had an impressive 11-3 record. He had pitched for the Chicago Cubs in the 1945 World Series. With his return in 1948, he promised more pitching and less comedy on the mound, which he was very well known for! Hy also played for the Boston Red Sox, New York Giants in the Major Leagues and was in his early 40s when he manned the bump for the Tigers.

With the roster structure of the Western-Minny League, teams’ pitchers typically included college players and former professionals from around the country, trying to find an opportunity to keep playing baseball. Pitchers who wore the Springfield jersey in the 1940s, including Gail Mayo, Claire Stromann, Les Munns, Hy Vandenberg, and Jack Hellendrung were of this sort. Both Hy Vandenberg and Les Munns had previous MLB experience.

Alvin Gisvold, a teacher and coach at SHS, arrived in Springfield in 1941 after graduating from Luther College. He had a long tenure as a high school and legion baseball coach and played ten seasons of Western-Minny league baseball for Springfield as an outfielder and player-manager. “Gizzy”’s contributions extended beyond baseball as he taught history, physical education, health, and driver’s training at SHS.

Springfield has been a part of many “first night games”. They played in the first night game in Fairfax on September 4, 1947. The Tigers were scheduled to play in the first night game in Redwood Falls in 1948, but were rained out. More recently, Springfield has been the visitor to inaugurate lights in Searles in 2011 and Essig in 2015. By the end of 1948, all of the teams in the Western-Minny league, except St. James, had lights. In 1946, only New Ulm had lights among those towns. The style of light towers used here at Riverside Park can be seen in several other Minnesota ballparks who also “lit the candles” at their ballparks in the late 1940s.

Roland Boettger, an outfielder on the 1948 Tiger team, is honored with a plaque on the concession stand for the significant financial contribution to improvements done in recent years here at Riverside Park. Springfield baseball is forever thankful to Rollie and the Roland Boettger Trust!

The Tigers had memorable games against All-Star teams. In 1948, they faced the rest of the Western-Minny League’s All-Stars in a benefit game for former pitcher Claire Stromann, who was battling tuberculosis. They also played against Max Lanier’s All-Stars. The team was made up of Lanier and several other major leaguers who had defected to the Mexican League in 1946 due to a lucrative offer. Things didn’t go as well as they hoped and when Lanier attempted to return to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1948, he was barred from the MLB for 5 years by commissioner Happy Chandler. Several players sued Major League Baseball in federal court, challenging baseball’s reserve clause as a violation of U.S. antitrust law, but Chandler reinstated Lanier and the other players in June 1949 and the lawsuit was dropped. This delayed free agency arriving in the MLB by about 25 years.

The Tigers were not the only team making waves in 1948. The Springfield Cubs, a Class B amateur team consisting of only local players, finished second in the state tournament. Springfield High School and the Junior American Legion team also left their mark in the state tournaments, showcasing the depth of talent in our town.

Minnesota’s organized amateur baseball program has long been recognized as the best in the country. Thank you for joining us tonight, as we celebrated 75 years of baseball under the lights, at our beautiful Riverside Park. We hope you’ve enjoyed the trip back in time and we hope to see you down the road at the ballpark! Have a great night and a safe trip home!