



# CAREER MILESTONES

---

Another year in the books for the Saints, and there was plenty to be excited about. For one, the team was able to win a pair of playoff games, earning a spot in the Region 12C tournament. This can be attributed partially to the pitching staff's improvement. In NSL contests, the team ERA dropped significantly, year-over-year.

Since we're on the topic of pitching, here are some milestones that Saints pitchers reached in 2023. **Jacob Niemela** reached the 100 innings pitched mark, and was a staple for the staff, lowering his ERA by 2.78 runs from 2022 to 2023. **Paul Jacobson** earned his first career save on the hill, pitching a scoreless 9th inning on May 17th against the Glencoe Brewers. **Collin Krick** struck out his 100th career batter in that game, too, but we'll have a lot more on Krick later...



Offensively, a few Saints reached career benchmarks as well. **Jim Althoff** collected his 100th hit in a Saints uniform (103), as well as both his 50th stolen base (67) and RBI (53). **Ben Lindquist** and **Steve Boger** also collected their 100th Saints hits (112 and 110), while **Jordan Flick** reached base via walk for the 100th time in his career. **Dylan Weber** smacked his 50th hit donning pinstripes (58).

On the all-time Saints leaderboards, there was some moving and shaking in 2023...

In regards to the pitching leaderboard, J. Flick earned his 750th career Saints strikeout (772), passing North Star League Hall of Famer, Perry Thinisen, and moving into 3rd place in team history. He is also just 1.2 Saints innings pitched away from 1000 career total. Krick is just one win away (11) from entering the team's top-20, while **Michael Leffler** inches closer to his 200th career strikeout. Only 15 Saints have reached that milestone.

At the plate, **Tyler Brandel** moves in to the top-20 in XBHs (56), and is just 20 hits away from joining the 200 hit club. He also needs just 7 BBs to reach the 100 mark. J. Flick is 6 knocks away from the 300 hit club and Leffler is closing in on 150 hits (128). **Noah Halonen** is a mere 6 hits away from triple digits as well.

Some Saints records were broken in 2023. Let's take a look at both team and individual records...

June 10th was potentially the wildest game in team history. The Swingin' Saints made history, breaking the records for most runs (12) and RBI (12) in a single inning, while also tying the record for most hits in an inning (8), during the 6th inning of a shootout with the Brownton Bruins. The Saints would go on to win the contest, 24-20, falling just 5 runs short of the 29-run record set in 2016.

Individually, On July 19th, Krick became just the 4th pitcher in team history to record a no-hitter, doing so on just 59 pitches (44 strikes) against the Montrose-Waverly Stingers. He joins Dave Gasta, Perry Thinisen, and Darren Bruss in the no-no club. Leffler tied the record for most walks in a game (4) against the Hutchinson Huskies on July 14th. The last player to reach that feat was **Gus Flick** last season, oddly enough also against Hutch.

There were two awards/honors earned by Saints in 2023...

J. Flick earned All-Tournament Team honors at the MBA State Tournament as a draftee for the Maple Lake Lakers, helping them win a state championship by tossing 17.1 innings, earning two wins, two saves, and pitching to a 0.51 ERA.

Lastly, and most importantly, **Jeff Neutzling** was inducted into the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. It is a much-deserved honor for "Nitz", and you can read more about it by visiting [mnamateurbaseballhof.com/jeff-neutzling-2023.html](http://mnamateurbaseballhof.com/jeff-neutzling-2023.html).



With several Saints on the verge of milestones and records, you'll want to stay tuned and follow along during the 2024 season. While it's exciting to see current Saints climb the ladder to reach the heights of some of the all-time greats, the ultimate goal for this current squad is to continue to grow as a team and return to the state tournament. Historically, the Saints have experienced quite a bit of success. All-time, the Saints record is 1068-683 with 22 state tournament appearances, two 3rd place finishes, three 2nd place finishes, and one title. Can the team break through and get back to the dance for the first time since 2011? We'll find out in 2024!