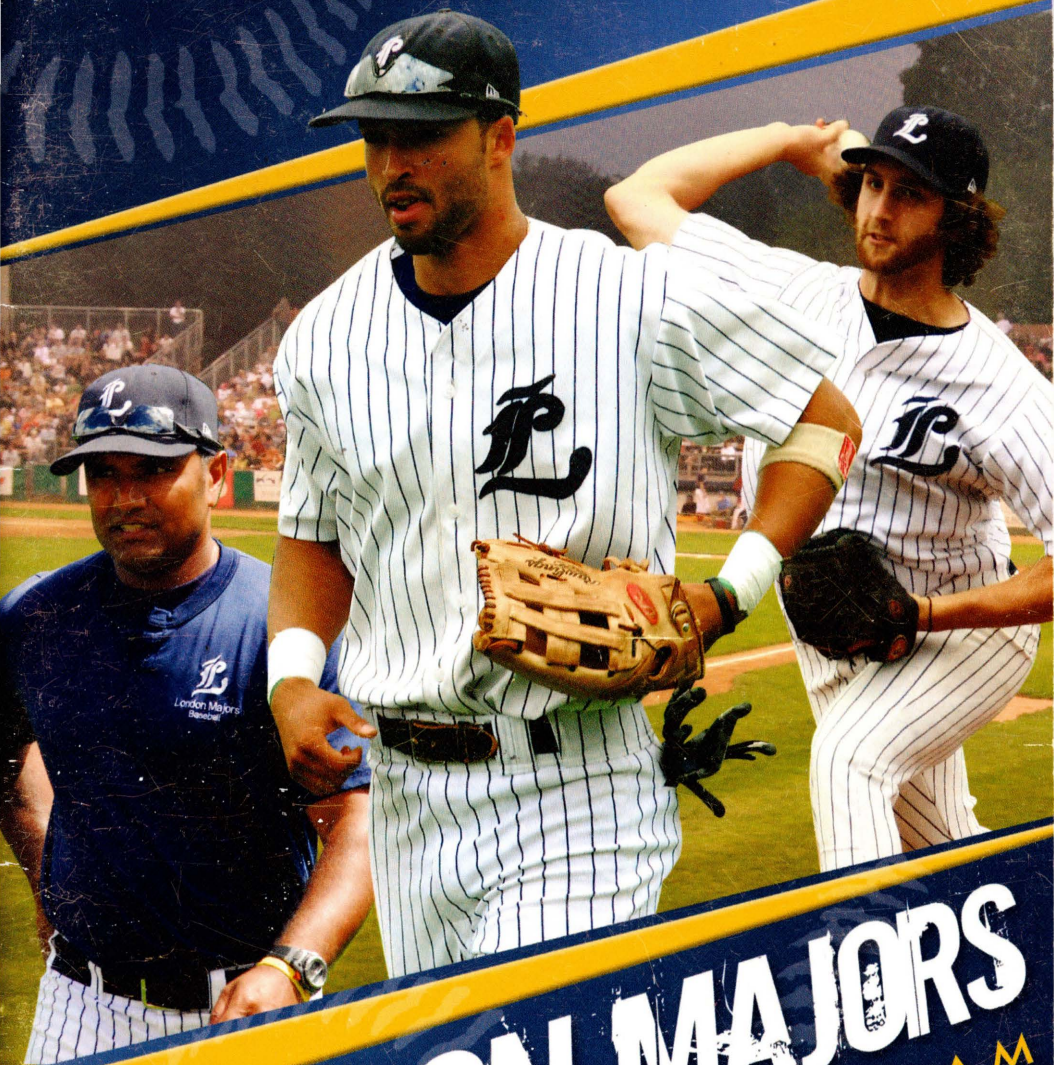


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LONDON MAJORS

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President's Perspective



I'd like to start off by thanking everyone for their support last season! We truly do have the best fans in the Intercounty Baseball League. Year over year our fan base has increased since Roop and I purchased the team in 2004 and this is a direct result of the quality of the players not only on the field, but off the field as well. Our players spend countless hours in the community helping where help is needed. In return, we have seen people want to return the favour by cheering on the players during the season. Our goal has been to make our games a lasting memory for fans and their families. We have seen a lot more people come out to the ball park to support our players in the quest to bring a championship to London. Even though it has been elusive, we feel that each year we are in a position to compete for a championship.

The Majors' players were not happy with our early exit from the playoffs last season and this year there is the renewed effort to put the team in contention for another run at the Jack and Lynne Dominico Trophy. The players that we have on the team this season are character guys and will create a lot of opportunities to win on the field as well as create great connections within the community.

Off the field we have a strong core group of individuals back. Jeremy Ouellete will look after our game day operations for the third year; Carly Felker will be assisting Jeremy in keeping things on track. Tamara Chapman can be found in the crowd selling 50/50 tickets and also running our Adult Beverage Concession. We have our established press box group again with Eric Collins manning the mic; Lynda Ross looking after our scoring (also our new real-time scoring on the internet); Sue Gibson looking after our scoreboard and probably some familiar faces filling in as needed. Cathy Dobrentey will be looking after our concessions on the first base side and Bill Ross will be looking after the concession on the third base side. Terry Dart can be found in his usual spot at the top of the ramp with our merchandise. We have a lot of volunteers that help with many other areas to make our games a success. They give freely of their time and I want to thank them for their efforts. If you see a volunteer doing a good job then please let them know.

I look forward to the coming season and seeing lots of fans from last season as well as a lot of new fans. If anyone has any suggestions to make the experience even better then please let me know.

Thanks again for being a fan of baseball and more importantly thanks for being a fan of the London Majors.

Yours in baseball,

Scott Dart
Co-owner, President
London Majors Baseball
www.londonmajors.com



Scott was named the IBL
Executive of the Year in 2008.

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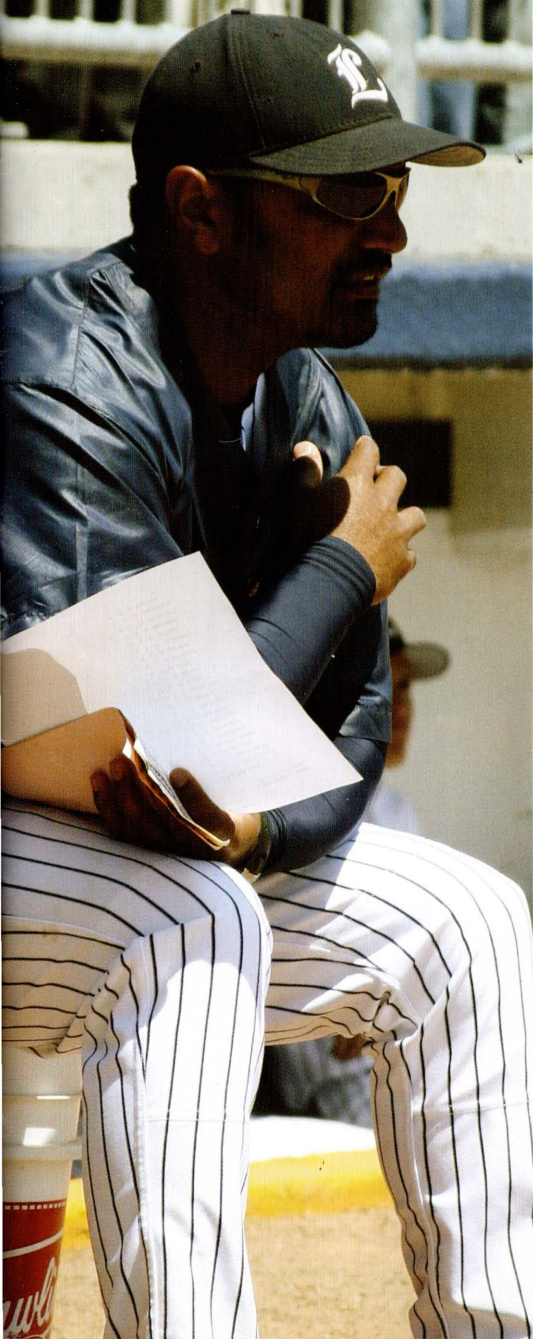
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Josh Palmer
Photo: Browns Photos

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Manager's Perspective



Welcome back to another exciting season of London Majors Baseball, this will be my fifth year as co-owner, general manager and field manager for the Majors and 12 years with the organization. We had another relatively successful season in 2009. We finished the regular season with a record of 21-15, for fifth place and only 5 games out of first place. Unlike 2006 and 2008, where we advanced to the finals, in 2009 we lost in the first round. We continue to develop pro player and managed to move several players from the 2009 roster to various pro teams.

Again last season we saw an increase in our fan base and the local businesses have continued to support our team. The team has also continued to work in the local community and has supported various charities and organizations.

The winter months are always very busy for me with my role as GM, and this year was no different, I had 10 returning players from last years' squad and was looking for 10-12 new players. It was a relatively good recruiting off-season that produced some talented position players and a few young pitchers with good arms. Based on our roster, we should have a strong hitting line-up and depth in our pitching staff. We will be a very competitive team that will play hard every game.

I continue to preach three main things to all of our players; **HARDWORK, DEDICATION & RESPECT**, we believe this is the foundation for a successful organization. I want to thank all our loyal fans and business partners for their support and I look forward to seeing them out at all our games. I would also like to thank all our staff and volunteers for their continued time and effort.

Let's have some fun watching our Boys of Summer at the Fork of the Thames.

Roop Chanderdat

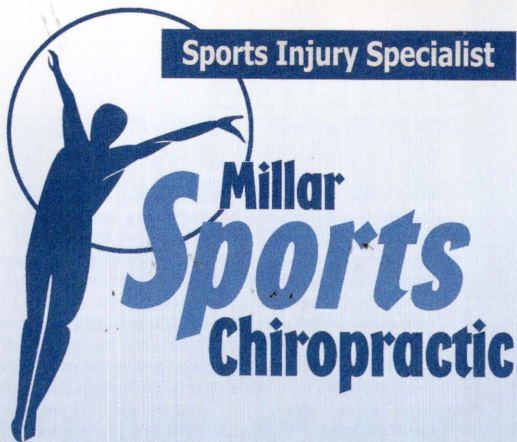
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Welcome Letter

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of London, I am delighted to welcome everyone to the 2010 London Majors Baseball season in The Forest City.

As Mayor, it is heartening to acknowledge the strong community leadership and support of the London Majors, as a vibrant feature in our city for so many years. Thanks to the ongoing dedication of the team's managers, coaches and players, London fans are once again enjoying high calibre baseball in our beautiful and historic Labatt Park.

As you know, downtown revitalization is a focal point in our city and we anticipate many exciting times in the downtown district as the London Majors entertain us this summer season. Thanks for helping to make London the best it can be and we wish our hometown team great success!

Sincerely,

AM DeCicco - Best

Anne Marie DeCicco-Best
Mayor



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Majors Retire Richard Thompson's No. 5

by Jeffrey Reed

www.JeffreyReedReporting.com



During the late-1980s and throughout the 1990s, the Labatt Park faithful were treated to watching one of the Intercounty Baseball League's greatest outfielders of all-time: Richard Thompson.

This season, the London Majors are proud to retire Thompson's No. 5. In fact, another Majors star outfielder, Stan Anderson, had his No. 5 retired by the Majors, too. Anderson was a six-time all-star between 1958 and '65. Thompson, too, was a six-time all-star. And both Richard and Stan shared the same nickname: "Gabby."

Just like "Gabby" Anderson, Richard "Gabby" Thompson let his performance on the field do all the talking for him. Without a doubt, Thompson was the star player for the London Majors during his nine-season career 1988-98. A five-tool player and all-around athlete, Thompson was one of the very best to don the Majors' pinstripes since the team's inception in 1925.

Roop Chanderdat, Majors co-owner, general manager and field manager says, "Since joining the Majors in an ownership role, I wanted to ensure that two great London Majors players that I had been teammates with as a player received their proper recognition. Last year, we retired pitcher Jon Owen's No. 1, and this year we retire Richard Thompson's No. 5. Richard is a first-class guy, great ball player and well deserving of this honour."

"I'm very honoured," says Thompson. That's a mouthful for the former centre fielder, whose play reminded everyone of another great outfielder who once wore pinstripes: former New York Yankee, Mickey Mantle.

A proud, hard-working ballplayer, Thompson didn't say much on or off the field. Rather, he let his bat, speed and finesse do the talking for him. Thompson, who turns 45 in August, retired early in 1998 at age 33. That year, he captured his second Intercounty batting title with a .412 average, and won his only stolen base title with 17 thefts. He retired with 118 stolen bases, seventh on the all-time list.

So, why did Thompson leave the Majors after a fourth-straight first-team all-star selection, and just nine hits shy of 400? According to Thompson, the time felt right.

"Playing for the Majors was a big commitment," explains Thompson, today a City of London maintenance worker. He and his wife, Cathy, have two children: Alyssa, who turns 7 in July; and Ryan, who turns 2 in September.

"I have no regrets leaving the team when I did," adds Thompson, "but I do miss the guys."

Former Majors third baseman, Dan Mendham, a long-time Thompson teammate, says despite the fact his good friend was an extraordinary athlete, Thompson's "work ethic" and "smarts" impressed him the most.

"Richie and I used to (practice hitting) every day – 100 swings a day, sometimes on our lunch hour from work. I guess we'd rather hit than eat back then," laughs Mendham, who since 2001 has played with Thompson for the Lakeside Lizards of the Southwestern Senior Baseball League.

"I've never seen (Richie) make a base running mistake in 15-16 years of playing with him," adds Mendham.

Born in Montreal, Richard moved with his family to London when he was in Grade 7. Richard's father, Doug, was an outfielder with the 1949 provincial champion London Midget 'A' ballclub, an outstanding local senior ballplayer, a football star with the Clemson University Tigers, and a member of the CFL's Toronto Argonauts in the late-1950s. Richard's great-grandfather, "Bull" Thompson, was a member of the legendary 1877 London Tecumsehs Baseball Club – International Association champions.

A minor baseball star with London's Eager Beaver Baseball Association, Richard played an important role in helping the Jim Bushby-managed 1981 London Midget ballclub claim the OBA title. As a hockey player, Thompson led all London Conference scorers with the South Lions in 1982-83. His Lions football jersey No. 20 is also retired.

Before joining the Majors in 1988, Thompson starred with the upstart London Royals Senior Baseball Club in 1986-87. Also during this time span, from 1985-89, Thompson was a 5'9", 180-pound gridiron star with the Mount Allison Mounties. He was AUAA rookie of the year in 1985, a CIAU All-Canadian in 1988 (the year he captured Intercounty Rookie of the Year honours) as conference-leading receiver, and an All-Canadian in 1989 while leading his conference in rushing.

The Intercounty Baseball League has rarely seen a rookie join the ranks with so much power and finesse as it did in 1988. Capturing the Brian Kerr Memorial Trophy as top rookie, Thompson led the league in runs scored (46), was a second-team all-star, and helped the Majors capture the Hamel Division with a 23-11 record. The '98 season ended with a semi-final loss, but the Majors had found a new hometown hero in Richard Thompson.

Thompson didn't disappoint during his sophomore season, again being named a second-team all-star in the outfield. In 1990, Thompson left the Majors and took his talents to the Senior 'A' Moncton Mets, but he returned the next year and wore pinstripes again in 1992. After another season away from Labatt Park in 1993, Thompson returned – and better than ever.

In 1994, Thompson hit .336. Then, in 1995, when the Intercounty returned wooden bats to play, Thompson was the league's only .400 hitter, finishing at .415 for his first batting title. He was also London's only all-star that season – the first of four-straight first-team all-star selections for the speedy outfielder. The 1996 campaign saw Thompson hit .372 (4th overall), and lead the league with 51 hits.

Mendham remembers Thompson as a "top of the line runner and defensive centre fielder, great first step acceleration. Very good contact hitter, can use the entire field. Many extra base hits." Mendham also remembers what he calls the greatest catch Thompson made during his career.

"A guy named Mark Mulhern from Brantford hit a rocket into the left centre gap, and Richie got a great jump on it, and laid out on the Labatt Park warning track and caught it. After he caught it, I was running off the field from third base ... and Mulhern was between first and second base, just shaking his head in disbelief," remembers Mendham.

In 1997, the Majors lost another semi-final playoff, but Thompson led the league with 20 post-season hits. He hit .381 that year and had moved into 6th all-time on the stolen base list with 14 thefts in '97 – a year when Thompson says he made his most memorable play.

On August 3, 1997, left-handed pitcher John Faragher almost tossed a perfect game while throwing the first Intercounty no-hitter since 1990 in a 3-0 seven-inning win over the Hamilton Cardinals at Bernie Arbour Memorial Stadium.

"I'll never forget diving in the outfield and catching the last ball for John Faragher," says Thompson, as unselfish as any player to wear the Majors pinstripes. "It was the first game of a double-header. Catching that ball – I will never forget it."

Many will remember Thompson's very first at bat for the Majors in 1988, when, incredibly, batting 9th in the order he hit a grand slam home run against the Toronto Maple Leafs at Christie Pits.

Thompson's last season was a memorable one. For a fourth-straight year he was named to the first-team all-star squad, and again was the league batting champ, thanks to a .412 average. Also, 1998 was the only year Thompson led the league in stolen bases (17) to, at that time, sit in 5th place all-time. Thompson played a big part in the Majors' 14-game winning streak in '98. "That was the best all-around ballclub I've played with," says Thompson. "If one guy had an off night, somebody else picked up the slack."

Thompson retired with six all-star team selections, two batting titles, and a stolen base title. His stats over nine seasons are impressive: 275 games, 1,126 AB, 391 hits, .347 BA, 276 runs, 60 2B, 14 3B, 23 HR, 118 SB and 193 RBI. And now, his No. 5 jersey is being retired along with 10 other London Majors: Jon Owen (1), Norm Aldridge (3), Russ Evon (4), Stan (Gabby) Anderson (5), Wayne "Doggie" Fenlon (9), Roy McKay (16), Tommy White (17), Dave Byers (18), Fergie Jenkins (31) and Arden Eddie (24).

Forever modest, "Gabby" Thompson won't say much at Labatt Park during his uniform retirement ceremony. But rest assured, his records say it all.

Jeffrey Reed is a long-time London sportswriter and broadcaster. A former play-by-play voice of the Majors on Rogers TV, and Intercounty Baseball League media relations director, Reed coached 3B and pitched for the Majors in 2000 and 2001. Today, he motivates others with his story of achieving goals on and off the field despite physical disabilities.



HOME AWAY

MAY 10	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
	HAM 2:00	2	3	4	5	6	7
	KIT 2:00	9	10	11	12	13	14
	HAM 1:00	16	17	18	19	20	21
						KIT 7:30	GUE 2:00
	OTT 1:00	30	31				

JUNE 10	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			GUE 7:30	1	2	3	4
			MISS 11:00am	8	9	10	11
	TOR 1:00 DH	13	14	15	16	17	18
	BRA 1:00	20	21	22	23	24	25
	BAR 1:00 DH	27	28	29	30		

JULY 10	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					TOR 4:30 DH	1	2
					KIT 7:30	8	9
							GUE 2:00
							OTT 1:00
	MISS 1:00	18	19	20	21	22	23

BAR - Barrie Baycats
BRA - Brantford Red Sox
GUE - Guelph Royals
HAM - Hamilton Thunderbirds

KIT - Kitchener Panthers
MISS - Mississauga Twins
OTT - Ottawa Fat Cats
TOR - Toronto Maple Leafs

MAY EVENT DAYS

Sunday, May 16th

Home Opener

- Nazem Kadri from the London Knights to throw out first pitch
- London Life

JUNE EVENT DAYS

Tuesday, June 15th

School Getaway Day (11:00 start)

Sunday, June 20th

Father's Day

Friday, June 25th

LBOA Day Sponsored by Mothers

- Free for all Uniformed Children
- First 250 kids receive medallions

Sunday, June 27th

Pack the Park

- Old Timer's Day
- Retiring Richard Thompson Number

JULY EVENT DAYS

Wednesday, July 1st

Canada Day Double Header

- Fireworks after the game
- London Life

Sunday, July 18th

South London Baseball Day

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co-owner/GM/field manager



Scott Dart
co-owner/president



Roop Chanderdat
field manager



James Sinfield
3B coach



Casey Pulham
1B coach



Anne Gladysz
marketing manager



Cam "Snacks" Simpson
equipment manager



Nicole Filson
trainer



Melissa Dobson
trainer



Tamara Chapman
group sales coordinator



Dr. Millar
chiropractor



Justine Turner
billboard / banner sales



Jeremy Ouellette
game day coordinator



Nathan McIntyre
bat boy

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#7 Ryan Cattrysse

OF



#8 Allan Cattrysse

OF/IF



#13 Vince Burke

2nd Base



#43 Pierre Deschenes

P



#15 Mike Mitro

P



#20 Mike DeLong

P/Utility



#26 Chris Chambers

1st Base/LF



#38 Josh Palmer

P



#14 Mitch Delaney

OF/1st Base



#23 Aaron Boag

P



#32 Matt Brennan

P



Jared Hurst

P



#38 Cleveland Brownlee

OF/1B



#27 Zack Breault

P



#45 Tyler Plumptre

C



#39 Chris Cox

P



#11 Paul Lytwenyk

3rd Base



Matt Lavers

P



#25 Chuncey Ward

SS



#40 Taylor Fredrick

C

MAJORS

2010 ROSTER



#21 Ryan LaPensee
OF



#21 Steve Froese
SS / 3rd Base



#10 Craig Bate
P



#34 Mike Welbourne
C



#19 Andy St. Gelais
P



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Looking to continue a winning trend: London Majors hope to continue a winning tradition in 2010

By: Sean Meyer, Londoner

In 2006, Roop Chanderdat took the London Majors all the way to the Intercounty Baseball League (IBL) championship series in his first season as the team's field manager.

The Majors would lose the series in five games to the Brantford Red Sox, but that season started a trend that Roop, the team's co-owner, general manager and field manager, is hoping continues this season.

The Majors were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs in 2007 before returning to the finals and an eventual game seven defeat to the Red Sox in 2008. Last season, the team was once again eliminated in the first round of the playoffs.

So, if this rather peculiar trend continues, Roop may well find himself in position to finally raise an IBL championship banner over the grounds of historic Labatt Park later this summer. "The every other year thing, it is there, and yes, it maybe pushes me a little. The trend is there and you can't ignore a trend. I look forward to those kinds of challenges. Can the team come together off the field, can they adapt and to learn and play the kind of ball I want, the kind that wins on the field," Roop says. "We have done it the first year, the third year, now can we do it in the fifth? It isn't about stats, I keep telling the guys the numbers will take care of themselves by the end of the year. Let's do the little things we need to win the game."

The Majors begin their season in Hamilton on May 2 before getting their home schedule started May 16 in a rematch against those same Thunderbirds. Start time for the home opener is 1 p.m.

For years now Roop has said his focus is on making sure London fields one of the league's most consistent and successful franchises. That being said, he also is quick to add a championship would be nice too.

"As I am getting older, a championship does matter. Not just for me, for Scott (Dart, the team's co-owner along with Roop), for the people at the concession stand, for everyone. All these people have put in all these hours. I want to win for everyone; I take that on myself," Roop says. "Even sometimes I look back to that Game 7 (against Brantford in 2008) and think we were so close, but it would be nice to win a championship for London in baseball. It would be nice to do this for everyone associated with it. We put an end to the pennant drought in 2008, maybe this year we can put an end to the championship drought."

Whatever this season's level of success might be, Roop says it goes hand-in-hand with the team's focus of getting players to the next level.

"I am going into my fifth year as the manager. In four years, I am coming up to my 100th win. In those four years we have had eight guys drafted to, or signed by, MLB (Major League Baseball) teams. This year we lost two guys to pro teams, Will Richards (.295, 7 HR, 33 RBI) and Craig Bate (1.72 ERA, 5-1, 54 SO)," Roop says. "So we continue our trend of moving guys along. I always say our goal is to be competitive; you always want to win, but to also develop kids. And I think we are doing that by showing guys do move on."

Owners of an IBL franchise don't typically expect to make bags of money off the venture and Roop is quick to say the Majors are only now reaching the break-even point.



London Majors
Baseball

"Overall, we are breaking even now, but I think we have a little catching up to do from the early years. Not that we didn't have good crowds the first few years, but things have really come a long way. I think we are averaging 800 fans a game now," Roop says. "Now I do expect to make that money back. If we can keep building, I think we are still on the up-rise. From a business standpoint we would like to get our money back. We knew this was a long-term investment, if you ever get your money back. But we didn't go into it from the business end; we went into it with a passion for the game."

In a season where the Majors are hoping to make it back to the finals – and hopefully win a championship for the city for the first time since 1975 – Roop says the team hasn't needed the complete overhaul the roster got last season.

"Last year we had a huge overhaul. This year, I want to say we are adding to a nucleus," Roop says. "With the core of guys we have, and if we can add some pieces, I think the London Majors are going to be right where they always should be, right in the mix, competing. That could be pennant; it could be sixth place. It depends a lot of how our schedule goes."

A pair of imports (the league allows three per team) are among the roster moves Roop says he hopes could make a big impact this season.

One of those imports, Cleveland Brownlee, 6-foot-6, 235 lbs., from Atlanta, Ga., brings with him a recommendation from someone who knows a little bit about hitting a baseball.

"Cecil Fiedler (who had a 13-year career in the major leagues) is his trainer and he emailed me, told me about this guy. This kid is looking to prove he can go to the next level," Roop says. "For him to come here, obviously he has some weaknesses, but from the scouting reports I have been getting, there are strengths and we are going to give him a chance to play outfield or first base."

Cleveland, along with fellow Atlanta import Chuncey Ward, bring with them intangibles Roop says he considers almost over their physical gifts.

"Cleveland was very polite; all yes sir, no sir and that is my kind of player. I have another kid from Atlanta, Chuncey Ward; he's a shortstop. He wrote me this long email and he closed it, 'God Bless, Chuncey Ward.' Again, just my kind of kid. He's 6-foot-4, plays shortstop. Right now I have guys who can play shortstop, but this guy is a shortstop. So these guys are real solid people. You give me nine character guys; I will take that everyday."

Another early signing Roop made is of Ryan Lapensee, from Windsor. Ryan, who attends Wayne State University, in Detroit, is someone Roop says should add a lot to the Majors' offence. Andy St. Gelaais, a pitcher from Quebec, will be joined by Zac Breaault, a 6-foot-6, right-handed pitcher. The Majors lost both Will Richards and Mason Riley from behind the plate so Roop signed Tyler Plumptre, who is from Peterborough and is also going to school in the U.S., to handle the catching role.

The Majors are bringing back a number of players who have proven their skills can transfer to the IBL game.

"Chris Chambers (.308, 4 HR, 27 RBI) is an import from last year, he's from California; he's back and injury free. He played last year with a torn ACL almost the whole year and still batted over .300," Roop says. "We have the Cattryse brothers coming back, Alan (.336, 11 SB, 21 RBI) and Ryan (.318, 2 SB, 13 RBI). They have become quite popular. Alan is very athletic, last year he played infield, mostly outfield. As my recruiting moves along, his role changes almost week to week and he knows that. He is an athlete who can play wherever I put him."

One of the most popular Majors in recent team history is also making a return.

"Kyle Piwowarczyk is back in some fashion. This is his second year of playing pro hockey (in Germany), so we have left it up in the air for now as to here he will fit," Roop says. "We haven't worked it out whether he is back full time or not. Kyle Piwowarczyk is a London Major as long as he wants to be. He needs to play a few more years; I would like to see his number retired at some point. He is a guy I have coached all along; he's put up some impressive numbers. He is a local guy. I would love him to play a few more years and get that recognition."

Another popular face will be returning to the mound for the Majors with the return of Josh Palmer. Although, Roop says when Josh takes the mound – and what his role might be – are still a little up in the air.

"Josh Palmer (5.63 ERA, 2-5, 27 SO) is one of our faces. He was injured last year and ended up in the bullpen, had arm surgery," Roop says. "We are nursing him along; he's doing rehab. I tell Josh your goal is to help us in July and August, to help us when it counts."

Roop, who has long stressed pitching and defence as the keys to winning baseball, is bringing back a pair of pitchers he says are among the best in the league.

"Pierre Miville-Deschenes (2.65 ERA, 3-2, 36 SO) is back to anchor our staff; that is his role. When you look at bringing in top-end pitchers, you ask can they beat Brantford, Guelph, Barrie. There are pitchers who can beat the middle to lower teams, but who can beat the top end teams? Pierre gives you an opportunity from that," Roop says. "Ryan McGorman (3.89 ERA, 2-2, 23 SO in 2008) is back from two years ago. The year we went to the finals, Ryan threw a nine inning, two-hitter in the playoffs against Brantford here at Labatt Park. It was probably the best pitched game I had ever seen. Those are the kind of credentials he brings. He is another top-end pitcher."

Another Londoner Roop is excited to have back is someone he says has become almost the poster child for London Majors baseball.

"Then there is Mike Mitro (3.68 ERA, 4-1, 23 SO). Mike is back for his sixth season," Roop says. "Mike is my utility pitcher. If I need him to start, come out of the bullpen, he does it all for us. And Mike bleeds blue, London Majors blue."



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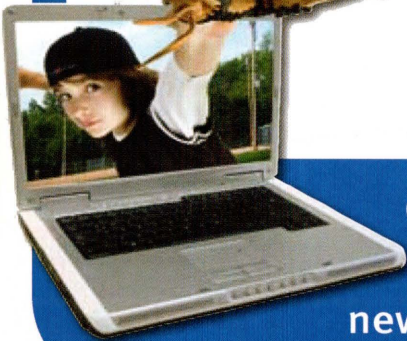
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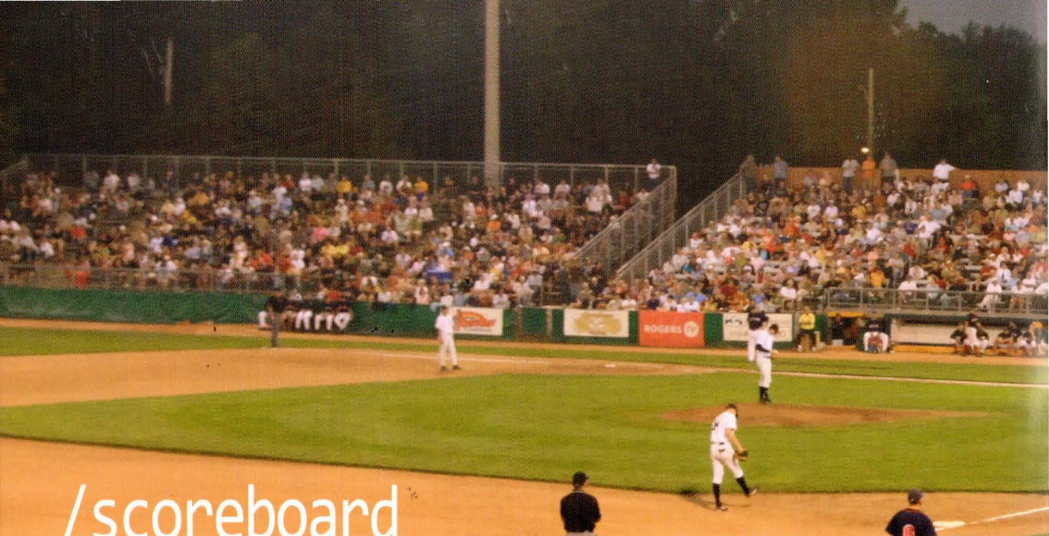
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HOME	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI	SB	E
Totals	H H	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/						

Pitchers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WW	W/L	Double Plays
									2BH
									3BH
									HR
									Passed Balls
									SH- SF-



AWAY											Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI	SB	E
Totals											H H	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/						

Pitchers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WW	W/L	Double Plays	
									2BH	
									3BH	
									HR	
									Passed Balls	
									SH-	SF-

1. Pitcher
2. Catcher
3. First Baseman
4. Second Baseman
5. Third Baseman
6. Shortstop
7. Left Fielder
8. Centre Fielder
9. Right Fielder
DH. Designated Hitter
- Single ———
Double =====
Triple =====
Home Run =====
Sacrifice - SH
Walk - BB
- Strikeout - K
Balk - BK
Foul Fly - F
Fielders Choice - FC
Hit by Pitcher - HP
Wild Pitch - WP
- Passed Ball - PB
Stolen Base - SB
Force Out - FO
Double Play - DP
Error - E
Sacrifice Fly - SF



Dick Fowler

by Gary Bedingfield

Toronto-born Dick Fowler played ten seasons in the major leagues during the 40s and 50s. Playing for the lowly Philadelphia Athletics he didn't have too many winning seasons, but in September 1945, in his first start after returning from military service, he achieved the incredible feat of hurling the American League's first no-hitter since 1940.

Richard J. "Dick" Fowler was born on March 30, 1921 in Toronto, Ontario. The son of a sawmill operator, he began pitching for Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams in Toronto and with St. Mary's School. A pitcher and first baseman, he attended a baseball school in 1938 that had been arranged by the Toronto Maple Leafs of the Class AA International League for semi-pro players aged 21 and over. "I hung around from ten in the morning to four o'clock every afternoon to get to pitch one inning," he told *The Sporting News* in 1945. "Howley [Dan Howley, Toronto's manager] thought well of me, but he quickly discovered that I was 16 not 21. That fall, however, he called me aside and asked me if I would like to go on the spring training trip with Toronto. Gosh, I had never been more than 20 miles from Toronto. I thought Avon Park, Florida, was on the other side of the world. And he offered me a salary of \$100 a month. I never knew there was that much money in the world."

Toronto assigned the 6-foot-4, right-hander to the Cornwall Maple Leafs of the Class C Canadian-American League for 1939. After making just three appearances for an over-inflated ERA of 11.25, he joined the Batavia Clippers of the Class D PONY League, where the level of baseball was more to his liking. In 29 appearances he was 9-11 with a 4.38 ERA.

Fowler spent spring training of 1940 with Toronto before being assigned to the Oneonta Indians of the Canadian-American League. Inspired that season perhaps by the fact that he met Joyce Howard (the future Mrs. Fowler, whom he married on March 8, 1941), he had a strong season with the Indians going 16-10 with a 3.57 ERA.

Fowler made the jump to AA ball with the Toronto Maple Leafs for 1941, appearing in 27 games for a 10-10 record, 3.30 ERA and near no-hitter (he had a no-hitter for eight innings before giving up two singles in the ninth). He was acquired by the Philadelphia Athletics in September and made his major league debut on September 13, beating the Chicago White Sox, 3-1. Facing such hitters as Hall of Famer Luke Appling, Myril Hoag and Taft Wright, the 20-year-old Canadian held the White Sox to just seven hits.

And Fowler wasn't the only Canadian on the Athletics' pitching staff. Phil Marchildon, a right-hander from Penetanguishene, Ontario, had joined the Athletics in 1940 and was 10-15 in 1941. He won 17 games in 1942 and after missing three seasons due to military service with the Royal Canadian Air Force — during which time he was shot down over Kiel Bay and taken prisoner by German forces — he won a career high 19 games in 1947. Other Canadian-born players in the major leagues at the time included Earl Cook of the Detroit Tigers, Jeff Heath and Joe Kraskauskas of the Cleveland Indians, Oscar Judd of the Boston Red Sox, Sherry Robertson of the Washington Senators, George Selkirk of the New York Yankees, and Aldon Wilkie of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Back with the Athletics in 1942, Fowler was 6-11 in 31 appearances and shortly after the season ended he received notice to report to his draft board. Serving with the 48th Highlanders of the Canadian Army, he had originally been classified 1-A but this was changed to 2-C due to chronic sinus problems and a knee injury he had sustained as a teenager. This kept him away from combat duty and assigned to duties as a postal clerk.

Stationed at Brantford, Ontario during 1943, there was a scramble for his services among teams playing in the Ontario Inter-county Senior Baseball League, notably between the Galt Terriers and Kitchener. Unlike in the United States, the Canadian Army permitted its athletes to compete in civilian leagues and every team wanted the big leaguer on their squad. In fact, the scramble became a factor in Kitchener's withdrawal from the league. Finally, to avoid further altercation, the military transferred Fowler to Toronto, where he pitched for the Army District Depot Invaders team which played its games at Toronto's Viaduct Park in the Congress-Services Senior League. Later in the war he pitched once a week for the Hamilton Thurstons in the Victory Baseball League. On June 7, 1945, Fowler struck out 12 in an 8-1 win over Mahers.

"That is where I really learned how to pitch," he said. "Because too much wasn't at stake. It was only about Class C ball and my job didn't depend on winning. I practiced my change of pace and curve ball until I was figuratively blue in the face and the catchers were exhausted.

On August 15, 1945, Fowler was discharged from military service. He returned to his family in Oneonta, New York where he was now living, before joining the Athletics at the end of the month. Beginning September 1, he appeared in three unexceptional relief chores against Boston, New York and Chicago, allowing 20 hits in 11-and-two-thirds innings. Only the wily Athletics owner-manager Connie Mack saw the potential young Fowler had. "That boy really has something," Mack said after Fowler's first relief role. "He is bigger, faster, has a better curve and a more baffling change of pace since he came back."

He made his first post-war start on September 9, 1945, and responded with the American League's first no-hitter since Bob Feller stopped the White Sox on opening day, 1940 (Clyde Shoun of the National League's Cincinnati Reds had pitched a no-hitter against the Boston Braves on May 15, 1944). Defeating the Browns, 1 to 0, and allowing only five balls to be hit out of the infield, Fowler walked four of the 29 batters he faced. "I felt I was going to pitch a no-hitter," he said after the game. "But I was worried after Lou Finney hit a long foul down the right field line in the ninth."

At that point, Milt Byrnes was on first after drawing a walk, but Fowler got Finney to ground into a double play to end the threat. However, the score still stood at nothing each. In the bottom half of the inning, Hal Peck tripled and Irv Hall singled him home with the winning run. "It was a wonderful feeling when we got that one run," said Fowler.

"My curve and my change-up were working perfectly, and I'm certainly glad this game came against the Browns. They beat me 1 to 0 in a 16-inning game here in 1942."

Buddy Rosar, who caught Fowler that day, said: "I wouldn't have got a good foul if I had been batting against him." Fowler's no-hitter proved to be his only win of 1945. He made another two starts and finished the season with a 1-2 record and 4.82 ERA. "One thing I'm sure of," he reflected later. "I never want to pitch another no hit, no-run game again. There's too much strain pitching one of those games. One of them is enough, I figure."

In 1946, Fowler was 9-16 for a team that lost 105 games, but as the Athletics improved in 1947, the young Canadian hurler enjoyed one of his best seasons, winning 12 games (second best on the Athletics behind fellow Canadian Phil Marchildon, who won 19), and his 2.81 ERA was third best in the American League. Carl Scheib, a fellow member of the Athletics pitching staff said at the time: "If you put a pennant contender behind Dick Fowler, he'd be a 20-game winner in a breeze. You just can't believe the balls that dribble through the infield because of lackadaisical effort. He's a great pitcher."

He led the Athletics with 15 wins in 1948 and repeated that win total in 1949, the year he became an American citizen. It was also his last good season in the majors. Fowler continued to pitch with the Athletics until 1952, but he never won more than five games in a season, suffering constantly from bursitis (inflammation of the joints) in the shoulder of his pitching arm. Having been released by the Athletics in October 1952, he was back in the minors pitching for the Charleston Senators of the Class AAA American Association in 1953, where his 10-15 record and 3.68 ERA was pretty good for a last-placed team. In two years with Charleston, Fowler became a fan favorite. "Everyone admired his sincerity, quiet behavior, ready smile and the way he worked," wrote Dick Hudson in the Charleston Daily Mail. "He set a pattern for the youngsters."

In 1954, a combination of tough luck and a late start to the season due to family illness saw his record drop to 4-17, and he retired from baseball at the end of the season. "He was always the first to volunteer to appear at luncheon clubs, work with youngsters on playgrounds and take part in clinics," wrote Hudson. "His time was anyone's time who needed it. All this, despite the fact that he was really shy and retiring."

He returned home to Oneonta where he worked as salesman and later as a night deskman at the Oneonta Community Hotel, but kept a keen interest in baseball. He managed an Oneonta Little League team and was part of the first organized Little League game ever held in the city. The opposing manager for that game was another ex-big league pitcher, Ken Chase.

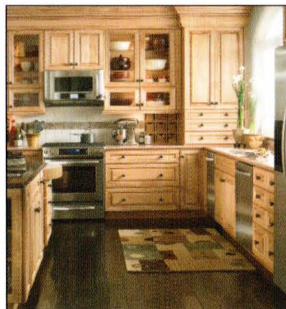
Following a long illness, Dick Fowler passed away at the A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital in Oneonta on May 22, 1972. He was 51 years old and survived by his widow, Joyce, a daughter, Candice, and a son, Thomas. He is buried at Oneonta Plains Cemetery. Joyce, who remarried in 1975, passed away on June 11, 1996, aged 73.

Thirteen years after his passing, on August 7, 1985, Dick Fowler was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame along with major league pitchers John Hiller and Ron Taylor, Jack Kent Cooke, former owner of the International League Toronto Maple Leafs, and Carmen Bush, who was involved in amateur baseball in Toronto for 60 years.

Baseball must certainly have been in the Fowler blood because his grandson, Khalid Ballouli, was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in 2002 and pitched in the minors for five seasons, climbing as high as the Class AA Southern League.

"Dick Fowler left a mark in baseball," wrote Dick Hudson. "That of a great pitcher until bad luck struck him down; that of a thorough gentleman at all times."

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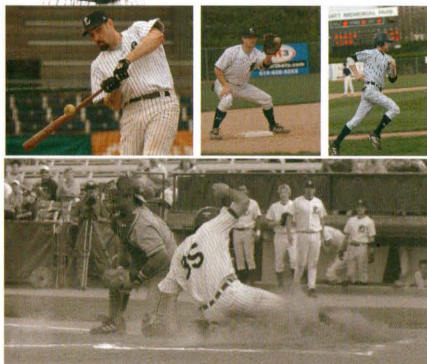
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2009 league stats

2009 League Stats

FINAL STANDINGS

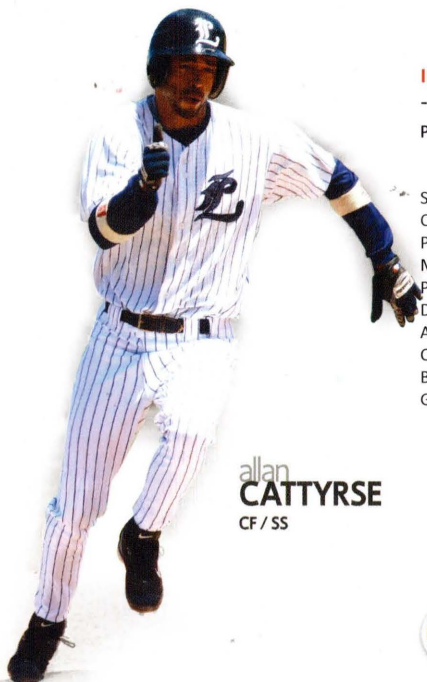
	G	W	L	PCT.	GBL
Barrie	36	26	10	.722	-
Brantford	36	25	11	.694	1
Guelph	36	24	12	.667	2
Toronto	36	24	12	.667	2
London	36	21	15	.583	5
Oshawa	36	17	19	.472	9
Mississauga	36	9	27	.250	17
Kitchener	36	9	27	.250	17
Hamilton	36	7	29	.194	19

INDIVIDUAL BATTING LEADERS (112 or more plate appearances)

Player, Club	PCT	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	SB	RBI
Jeremy Ware, Gue	.427	35	150	38	64	14	0	6	5	38
Kyle Degrace, Tor	.417	30	115	20	48	14	1	2	16	24
Ryan Spataro, Bar	.417	32	127	44	53	7	0	5	20	31
Jamie Pogue, Gue	.400	34	125	43	50	11	2	10	2	41
Sean Reilly, Gue	.368	36	144	34	53	8	1	11	4	45
Mat Taube, Kit	.364	35	143	28	52	3	0	12	1	33
Kern Watts, Tor	.360	34	136	43	49	8	1	4	10	22
Raul Borjas**, Tor	.359	34	128	32	46	5	0	2	2	17
Dan Gibbons, Tor	.354	33	130	24	46	8	0	5	0	33
Jordan Castaldo, Osh	.345	33	113	19	39	6	0	1	0	23

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS (45 or more innings pitched)

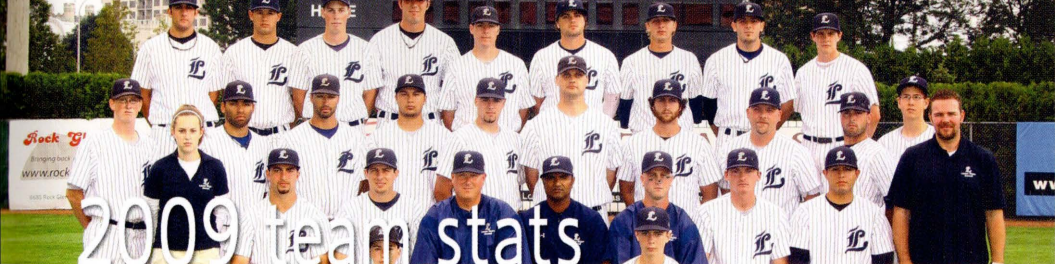
Player, Club	ERA	G	W	L	IP	R	ER	H	BB	SO
Stefan Strecker, Br	0.79	19	2	2	45.1	5	4	28	7	23
Craig Bate*, Lon	1.72	13	5	1	47.0	10	9	33	22	54
Paul Spoljaric*, Bar	2.11	12	8	2	81.0	25	19	67	7	62
Marek Deska, Tor	2.32	10	5	1	62.0	18	16	38	18	49
Pierre Deschenes, Lon	2.65	7	3	2	51.0	23	15	44	21	36
Drew Taylor*, Tor	2.75	12	6	1	68.2	29	21	62	23	28
Adam Garner, Osh	3.35	10	3	5	48.1	25	18	51	12	34
Chris Nagorski, Osh	3.54	9	4	4	56.0	42	22	61	22	37
Brett Lawson, Gue	4.08	10	5	3	57.1	39	26	53	21	56
Greg Byron, Osh	4.58	9	5	3	57.0	37	29	65	12	23



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2nd Team All-Star Craig Bate



2009 London Majors Stats

TEAM STATS


BATTING	PCT	OB%	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	TB	SB	BB	SO	RBI
Alan Cattrysse	.336	.386	31	127	113	21	38	5	0	1	46	11	11	16	21
Jordan Dreiling**	.323	.437	35	158	124	38	40	7	0	0	47	14	24	14	15
Ryan Cattrysse	.318	.423	29	104	85	15	27	5	0	2	38	2	10	13	13
Kyle Piwowarczyk	.310	.400	26	110	87	23	27	6	0	0	33	7	14	3	10
Chris Chambers**	.308	.402	33	127	107	22	33	6	0	4	51	2	16	17	27
Will Richards	.295	.400	32	135	112	25	33	11	0	7	65	0	17	12	33
Perry Silverman	.286	.313	24	83	77	13	22	6	1	1	33	7	3	19	12
James Lavinskas	.268	.313	21	80	71	7	19	3	0	0	22	1	5	4	13
Mike DeLong	.265	.283	28	53	49	9	13	0	0	5	28	1	2	13	14
Vince Burke	.258	.300	35	140	124	22	32	3	0	0	35	3	9	16	11
Casey Pulham	.250	.333	6	9	8	1	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	4	0
Chad McKellar	.200	.273	13	22	20	5	4	1	0	0	5	0	1	8	2
Phil Delisle	.190	.242	24	66	58	11	11	2	0	2	19	2	5	8	9
Mason Reilly**	.153	.277	31	119	98	13	15	6	0	2	27	1	15	18	12

PITCHING	G	GS	CG	W	L	S	ERA	IP	R	ER	H	HR	BB	SO	HB	WP
Craig Bate*	13	3	3	5	1	1	1.72	47.0	10	9	33	0	22	54	2	2
Matt Brennan	5	0	0	1	0	1	2.45	11.0	3	3	4	0	5	7	1	2
P.Miville-Deschenes	7	7	4	3	2	0	2.65	51.0	23	15	44	0	21	36	5	3
Mike Mitro	8	5	1	4	1	0	3.68	36.2	24	15	36	3	7	23	0	0
Mike DeLong	8	5	0	3	0	1	4.99	39.2	23	22	34	2	31	35	2	2
Aaron Boag*	9	1	0	2	0	1	5.40	16.2	12	10	18	2	6	7	2	0
Josh Palmer	10	7	2	2	5	0	5.63	40.0	31	25	50	4	33	27	4	2
Hiarali Garcia	7	4	0	0	1	2	7.43	23.0	23	19	41	3	10	21	2	3
Adam Echlin	6	4	1	1	4	0	9.53	22.2	24	24	37	4	6	10	2	0
Ted Kalnins	6	0	0	0	1	0	17.55	6.2	15	13	17	0	8	4	4	3

* denotes left-handed pitcher ** denotes an import player

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IBL Commissioner - Joe O'Neill

Welcome to the 2010 Intercounty Baseball League season! It should be another exciting year, with the Majors poised to contend again and the addition of Ottawa to our league. I am very pleased to have taken on the job as Commissioner of the IBL and I'm looking forward to getting to know the league, the teams and particularly the fans much better over the coming months and years. As a long time fan of the league, I have enjoyed the Majors games at Labatt Memorial Park and I know we offer a great family value, outstanding baseball and lots of fun!

I'm still involved in local baseball as the President of the London & District Baseball Association and I encourage all our young up and coming "superstars" to bring mom and dad and the family out to the park to enjoy the games and to learn by watching the game played live at such a high level of skill.

On behalf of all of us involved in the IBL, thank you to the fans and to the London community for supporting the Majors the way you do and for supporting the great game of baseball. Good luck to the Majors in 2010 and above all, have fun!

Joe O'Neill
Commissioner IBL

The Intercounty Baseball League (IBL) is an amateur men's baseball league operating in central and southern Ontario. The league is independent – that is, none of its teams are affiliated with a Major League Baseball team. The IBL was founded in 1919, and was earlier known as the Intercounty Major Baseball League and the Senior Intercounty Baseball League. The Teams play for the Jack and Lynne Dominico Trophy, as champions of the league. The 2009 Intercounty Baseball League Champions are the Brantford Red Sox.

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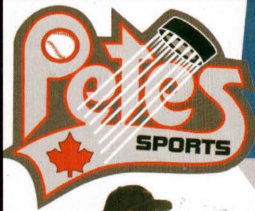
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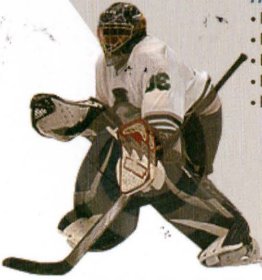


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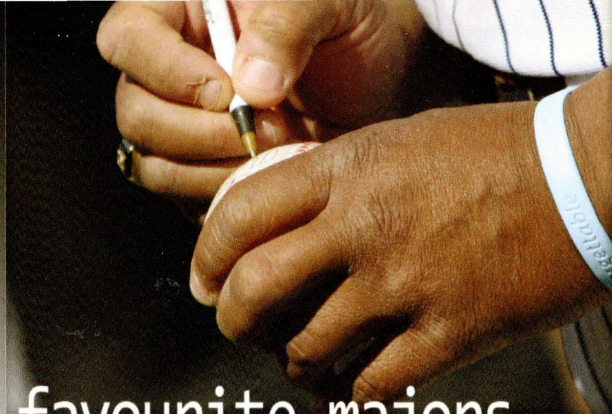
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