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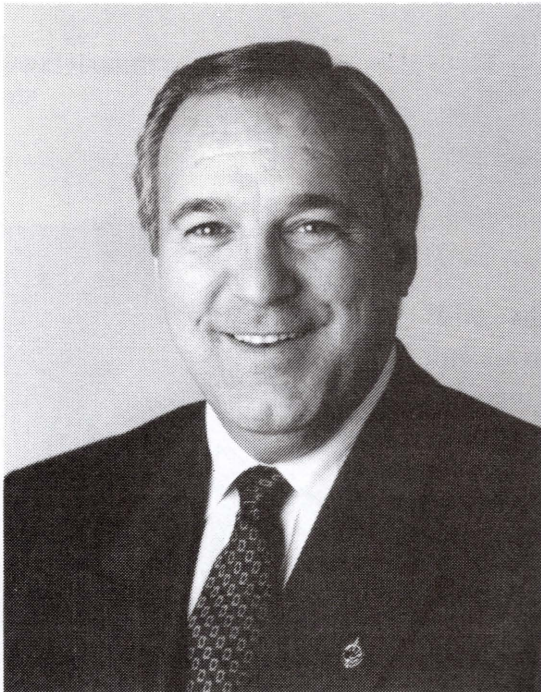
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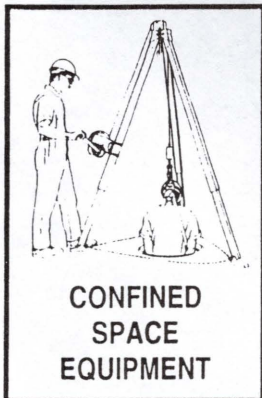
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



When spring breezes blow, the London Majors come out to play and they are raring to go!! On behalf of City Council, it is my pleasure to welcome the players, their families, friends, sponsors and fans to the 142nd season of London baseball.

We pass along our best wishes to the London Majors for a terrific season. City Council is proud to recognize the contributions you have made to our city and to thank you for your efforts.

Enjoy the game and all your discoveries of London.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Mayor Dianne Haskett in black ink.

Mayor Dianne Haskett



Announcer - Paul McCarrey

Statistician - Brian Jermy



# DO YOU REMEMBER THE LONDON PIRATES?

By Carl McCoomb

London was granted a franchise in the class D Pennsylvania Ontario New York League (popularly known as the PONY League) for the 1940 season. Other teams in the PONY League at this time were Batavia NY, Bradford PA, Hamilton Ont, (known as the Red Wings), Jamestown NY, Olean NY and Niagara Falls NY.

At this time organized baseball had a "class designation". Class AAA leagues, such as the international League, American association were some of the minor leagues at the highest level, next to the major leagues. The class D leagues were the lowest level of professional baseball.

The Pony League operated from 1939 to 1956. Other teams in the league at various times were Corning NY, Erie Pa, Hornell NY, Lockport NY and Wellsville NY.

The London Pirates were sponsored by the Pittsburgh Pirates and were commonly known as the "Baby Bucs". The installation of lights at Labatt Park occurred at this time and the park became one of the most beautiful baseball parks in professional baseball. It should be noted that in 1937, the Thames river went on a rampage through London, and knocked down the old wooden grandstands, which were replaced by sturdy grandstands that are still in place today.

The 1940 Pirates started off slowly in the season, but eventually won enough games to qualify for the playoffs. They defeated the Jamestown Falcons in a Monday night game on Sept. 2, 1940 to qualify for the playoffs, despite the fact that Jamestown hurriedly imported a pitcher named Sal "The Barber" Maglie, who went on to start in the major leagues with the Dodgers and Giants. London lost out in the first round of the 1940 PONY League playoffs to the Batavia Clippers.

In 1941, the London Pirates were never in contention and finished the season in the cellar. The Pittsburgh Pirates withdrew their support of the London Pirates after the 1941 season.

Professional baseball was not played in London until the London Tigers of the AA Eastern League in 1989.

London had other professional baseball teams prior to the Pirates.

In the 1870's, the London Tecumsehs played in the International Association against teams such as the Pittsburgh Alleghenys, Guelph Maple Leafs and the Lynn Live Oaks. Games were played at Tecumseh Park, now the site of Labatt Park. A well known London player at this time was Fred Goldsmith, co-inventor of the curve ball. From 1896 to 1897, the team was known as the London Alerts while in the Canadian League.

In 1911, London joined the class D Canadian League, which included many Ontario cities, as well as Erie, Pa. The league disbanded as a class B League after

the 1914 season. At the start of the 1911 season the London team was known as the Cockneys and later reverted back to Tecumsehs. London outfielder "Greasy" Neale went on to start for Cincinnati for many years.

The London Tecumsehs became a charter member of the class B Michigan - Ontario League in 1919. London won the pennant in 1920, 1921 and 1922. The calibre of play in this league was outstanding, in fact, in 1921 the American League's Boston Red Sox played an exhibition game in London and were beaten by the Tecumsehs, 5-3.

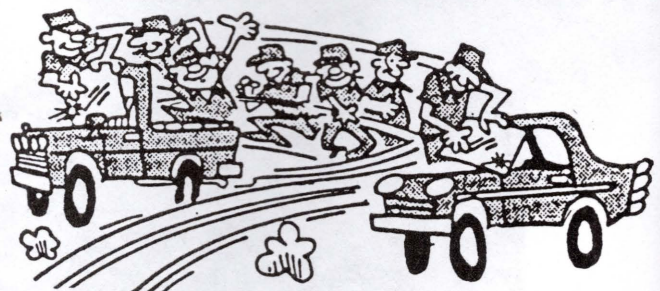
In the 1924 season, future Hall of Famer, Charlie Gehringer played 2nd base for London. In 1925, London adopted the name Indians. This league disbanded after the 1925 season.

In 1930, the London Tecumsehs entered the class D Ontario League, which disbanded in July of the same year. London had to play their home games at Queen's Park as the Dundas St. bridge was being replaced. Other team included St. Thomas, St. Catharines, Hamilton, Guelph, and Brantford.

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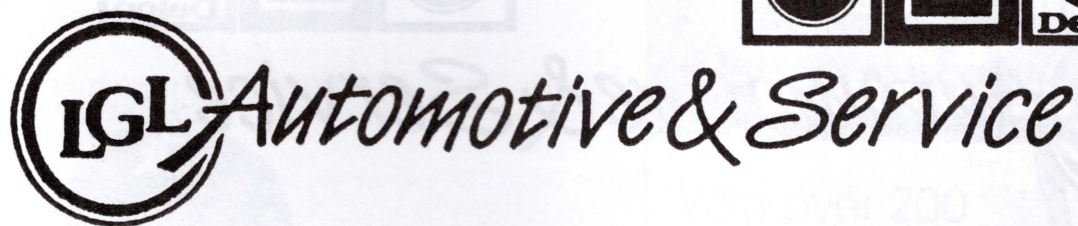
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# FERGIE JENKINS

## A HALL OF FAME LONDON MAJOR

by Jeffrey Reed

Intercounty P.R. Director

Before Cooperstown rightfully honored Canadian pitcher Ferguson Arthur Jenkins with membership in the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991, the London baseball community was well aware of Fergie's love of the game and first-class demeanor. Why else would one of baseball's greatest hurlers, a seven-time 20-game winner, return to amateur baseball?

In 1984, after retiring from 19 years of major-league service, Jenkins took Arden Eddie up on his offer to join the London Majors. What a thrill it would be for both London baseball fans and the Majors themselves. In fact, Eddie, himself a veteran, was just thrilled to be able to call Jenkins a teammate.

Eddie remembers: "Fergie was just one of the guys, riding the bus with us, telling stories. He was a classy guy. In fact, when someone got a hit off of him, which wasn't often, they never showed him up, never said a word. There was nothing but total respect for the man." Eddie recalls an embarrassing moment from Fergie's first game as a Major. Even with a wet infield, the Majors owner (playing first base) opted not to wear his outfield cleats: "It was the first batter he faced. He hits a pop up between first base and home, between the pitcher's mound and the foul line. I come in full speed, and out go my feet from underneath me. Boom! I'm flat on my back! The ball comes down and lands just beside my head. Fergie, at 6'5" is looking down at me, flashing this Hollywood smile. I'm on the ground, my nose at the top of his shoes. And I wasn't quick enough to say anything! Not even 'Welcome to the Bigs' or anything!"

Jenkins just finished his professional playing days with the 1983 Chicago Cubs, pitching as a big-leaguer for the Majors in '84. In 12 starts, he completed 10 games and finished 9-3, with 81 K's, only 7 walks and an ERA of 2.30. He also impressed with his bat, hitting at a .384 clip with 7 doubles and 3 HR, 24 RBI and 12 runs scored.

Jenkins returned to the Majors for 14 games in 1985, occasionally taking the mound, and still impressing with his bat, finishing with a .367 average. More importantly, Jenkins batted 1.000 with the London Majors and their fans, as he returned to his roots, strengthening the belief that he is a classy individual.

No one know more about Jenkins' pitching talent than the batters who faced him while he threw smoke for the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago Cubs, Texas Rangers and the Boston Red Sox. After signing as a lanky all-around athlete from Chatham in 1962, Jenkins played four years of minor pro ball before suiting up for the Phillies on Opening Day in 1966. Between 1967-1972, while battling for a less than impressive Cubs club, he accumulated six-consecutive 20-win seasons.

The winner of 284 games, with 3,192 strikeouts under his belt, won the 1971 National League Cy Young Award, and was the American League Comeback Player of the Year in 1974. Four times, Jenkins was named Canada's Male Athlete of the Year, and he is a member of the Order of Canada. He was enshrined into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987.

On June 5, 1992 the Majors, along with a packed Labatt Park, celebrated Fergie Jenkins Night. His No. 31 was retired by the ballclub. Members of the 1984 and '85 Majors lined the first base line while Canada's greatest baseball player of all time thanked Londoners for their support.

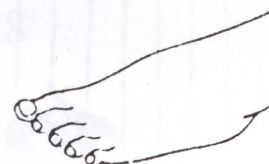
Jenkins is the only Canadian ever to be elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame. Londoners are proud in knowing that for two seasons Fergie wore the legendary pinstripes of the London Majors.



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## WELCOME

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**Announcements** - The Majors would be pleased to make birthday or anniversary wishes, family or group greetings. Please fill out the announcement list located at the 1st base concession booth. Announcements are usually made around the seventh inning.

**Concessions** - The concession stand is located on the first base side. When we have a large crowd there are bbq's available for your convenience or you may order something from one of the hawkers in the stands.

**Foul Balls** - Please return any foul balls as this greatly helps us in keeping our costs down.

**Gate** - The gate is open to the public one hour before game time. Tickets are sold at the front gate.

**Lost & Found** - If you find an item please give it to one of the concession staff at the first base side; also if you lose something this is where to check for it.

**Parking** - Parking is free in the park but it is limited. Handicapped vehicles and group buses will be fine but it would help if you call ahead to make sure that the gate person knows you are coming. Parking on the sidestreets around Labatt Park is allowed subject to the hours listed on parking signs posted along the thoroughfares.

**Rainchecks** - Any game postponed before it is officially completed (5 innings constitutes an official game) allows the ticket holders for that game to exchange their tickets for tickets to a future regular season London Majors game. Raincheck tickets can be exchanged in advance at the first base concession stand or at the main gate when the gate opens on game days.

**Restrooms** - Men's and Ladies's washrooms are located under both the first and third base grandstands. There is also a family, wheelchair-accessible washroom located between the third base and home plate grandstands.

**Telephones** - Pay telephones are located at the back of both the first and third base grandstands.

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# Killer Instinct Helped Majors Find Success

by Jeffrey Reed

Intercounty P.R. Director

When London Majors owner Arden Eddie asked me to write about the man they called "Killer" the first thing I did was dig into my personal archives for the 1976 London Majors yearbook. For it was on Mike Kilkenny who helped the 1975 Majors capture the Intercounty title with his pitching expertise.

Those of you who are lucky enough to own a copy of the '76 yearbook, honoring London's last Intercounty champs, can find enjoyment in leafing through the pages, reading profiles on players like Dave Byers, Reid Heffernan, Dave "Whitey" Laphorne. In my search, a photo of Kilkenny's classic pitching motion caught my eye, shortstop Byers crouched in the background.

Further reading brought me to Kilkenny's feature, which reads: "Much of the Majors success last year was due to the pitching staff, and of course Mike, who was named Most Valuable Player, led the way. His record of nine wins without a loss, an ERA of 1.31 and his league leading 129 strikeouts speak for themselves. Another great year from the "Killer" will go a long way in helping the Majors reach another championship. We hope that his job as club professional at the Llyndinshire Golf Course will allow him to play as much as he would like to."

Retire batters is what Kilkenny did so well. After a major-league career with the Detroit Tigers, Oakland

Athletics, San Diego Padres and Cleveland Indians, he brought his talent to Labatt Park, where he became an instant fan favorite. The call of "Strike em out, Killer" still echoes in the grandstand. The '75 Majors' season was a special one for Kilkenny, who pitched in 12 games, completed 9 of 10 starts, allowed only 46 walks and only one home run. Most importantly, he helped bring a championship to the Forest City.

Kilkenny entered pro ball at age 17. In 140 major-league games from 1969-1973, he amassed a 23-18 record, while providing badly needed left-handed pitching. Killer is probably best known as a Detroit Tiger. He joined the club after their 1968 World Series victory. No doubt, his teammates' professionalism rubbed off on him. After baseball, Kilkenny earned his professional golfer's card, showing his versatility as an athlete.

As a 13-year old pitching in the Eager Beaver Baseball sandlot ranks, I would often visit Labatt Park on a hot summer's afternoon to watch "Killer" work his magic on the mound. Sure, he was a lefty and I was a right-handed hurler, but it didn't matter. Just as long as he won. He certainly was a winner, as were his Majors teammates. For me, it was on of those summers special to a boy's youth. And "Killer" baseball was part of that season.

---

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# HISTORIC LONDON MAJORS A LONDON INSTITUTION

by *Jeffrey Reed*

Intercounty P.R. Director

Stan "Gabby" Anderson. Dave Byers. Tom Burgess. Frank Colman. Bobby Deakin. Arden Eddie. Jack Fairs. Fergie Jenkins. Russ Evon. Wayne "Doggie" Fenlon. Dave "Whitey" Lapthorne. Ken McFadden. Roy and Alex McKay. Tommy White. These are just a few of the men who have made London Majors baseball a London institution. It's a tradition that today's Majors bring with them to the Intercounty diamonds. As you watch the Majors this summer, take a good look around Labatt Park. The ball yard at Wilson and Riverside is now an official designated historic site. For about 150 years, baseball has been played at the fork of the Thames. And London's senior ball club has played a large part in that history.

The nickname Majors is traced to 1944, when a group of Londoners, including Clare Van Horne (who would operate the team for a decade before Frank Colman took charge) tagged the senior club with its current handle. But one must go back to 1855, when the London Baseball Club played just north of where Victoria Park now rests. Of course, the legendary London Tecumseh's amateur club began play in 1868. The Tecumsehs were the forefathers of today's Majors. In 1877, professional Tecumsehs - the 1876 Canadian champs - beat the Pittsburgh Alleghenies to win Canada's first major-league baseball championship.

Also that year, the pro Tecumseh ball club moved to Tecumseh Park, today known as Labatt Park, a gift to the city of London from the Labatt family. It remains a city landmark, and home of the Majors.

London ballclubs, amateur and professional, would form and disband, but baseball would continue to grip London. In 1925, during their first year in the league, London won the Intercounty title. The Intercounty celebrates its 80th anniversary in 1998. During the Second World War, the London Army Team won the Canadian Sandlot Congress title in 1943 and '44. In 1945, the team was given the Majors name, in honor of Canada's fighting soldiers. The Majors continued a winning tradition, capturing the 1947 and '48 Congress championships.

Perhaps London's most famous athletic club of all time, the 1948 Majors ballclub, won the World Sandlot title, beating Fort Wayne in a best-of-seven affair which ended at Labatt Park in late September. London's Tommy White, who would become a St. Thomas sporting legend, won three games for that '48 team. His friend, hitting legend Russ Evon, was also a member of that squad. Other members make a Who's Who list of local baseball heroes: "Gabby" Anderson; Tom Burgess; Jack Fairs; Ken McFadden, to name a few.

In 1955 Frank Colman, the former Pittsburgh Pirate and New York Yankee, purchased the ballclub and brought London the 1956 Intercounty Title. Jumping to the Great Lakes-Niagara District Association in 1957, the Majors won the Great Lakes portion, but lost the championship to Niagara Falls. London returned to the Intercounty in 1958.

The 1960 and '61 ballclubs, known as the Chester Pegg Diamonds, briefly became the Majors in 1962 under manager Dave Taylor. But in 1963 London Free Press reporter Bob Ferguson came to the rescue, purchasing the club and gathering sponsorship from London Motor Products. The new London Pontiacs finished first in 1964, '65 and '68, but failed to win the Intercounty Championship. The 1969 team, under former pitching legend Roy McKay, won it all.

And that was all for the Pontiacs, who became the Avcos for four seasons, 1970-73. The El Morocco Majors played ball in 1974 and '75; that '75 ballclub, under manager McKay, was London's last Senior Intercounty championship team. Arden Eddie purchased the club after the 1976 season, and strives to continue the legend of Majors baseball today.

Take a look at some "Major" accomplishments: pitching champion Brian Murphy turned in an E.R.A. of 0.93 in 1968. The popular Joe Bechard won the league batting title in 1949 with a .424 average. Hank Czerwieniec equaled that feat with identical numbers in 1962. Then Dave Byers hit at a .457 clip in 1977. Home runs came often too. Legendary river shots blasted off the bats of Russ Evon and Larry Haggitt, and important member of the 1975 squad when he hit .412 and knocked in 22 R.B.I. Arden Eddie, London's Mr. Baseball, is enjoying his 31st Intercounty season. He's the holder of many records, including seasons and games played, hits, walks and stolen bases. More importantly, he continues to keep senior amateur baseball alive in London. Many recent Majors stars, like local sandlot products Steve Bushby, Richard Thompson, Chuck Westman, Mike Lumley, Mike Shewan, Jon Owen - the list goes on - are glad Arden has kept their Field of Dreams alive.

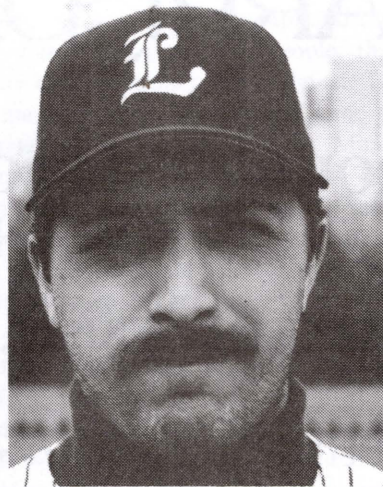
There are many more outstanding London Majors - the roster is too large to list here. So when you're cheering on today's London Majors, think about the city's baseball heritage. It's a history full of London Majors highlights.



## 1997 London Majors



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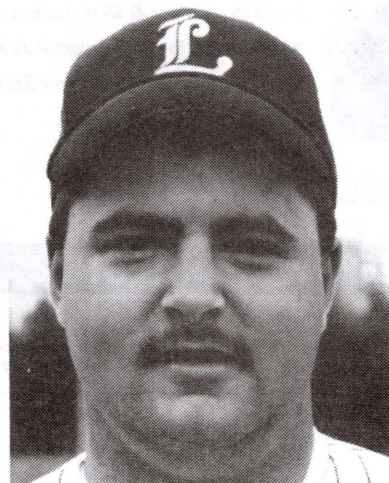
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appearances	Randy Curran, Kit	.385	35	130	34	50	8	1	13	49
	Richard Thompson, Ldn	.372	33	137	27	51	8	2	1	11
	Scott Perrin, Gue	.371	26	97	20	36	7	0	2	15
	Brad Hagedorn, Kit	.367	31	120	26	44	5	0	1	17
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# The Impact of Baseball

## by Gary Allan Price

Baseball is such great game. It's beauty is reflected in symmetry, leisurely pacing, precision timing, one-on-one confrontations between pitcher and hitter, spectacular skill and subtle strategies, soft hands and brute power. The competition is fair, the statistics usually don't lie, and the second-guessing is both fun and forever.

But perhaps the greatest beauty of baseball, and the reason I love it so much, is its ability to bring people together, focus them and unify them. More than any other sport, baseball is common ground.

Case in point. July 1967. The racial and economic tensions of an entire community boil over. The streets of Detroit become war zones of rioting and destruction. Gordon Lightfoot called it "Motor City Madness."

The city and the people were in turmoil, and yet the interest in the Tigers remained high. The Tigers had alot to do with easing tensions. The people of Detroit love their Tigers.

The Tigers battled for the American League Pennant that season, losing on the final day. But that simply set the stage for what was to come a few months later.

In 1968, Detroit was still trying to pull itself together after the black days of July. The city and the people still needed something on which to focus, something positive. The Detroit Tigers filled that need. A baseball

team provided the glue to bring their community back together. Everybody rallied around the Tigers.

History has recorded, of course, that the Detroit Tigers won the World Series in 1968. And while the championship was great, the way the Tigers captured that title was even greater. Paralleling their own people, the Tigers clawed their way back from the brink of defeat. Trailing 3-1 to St. Louis, manager Mayo Smith made some gutsy moves. He also appealed to players such as Mickey Lolich, Jim Northrup, Al Kaline, Bill Freehan, and Mickey Stanley to give everything they could. The players responded.

After they won Game 5, there was an attitude change. That change was a spirit and a will to come from behind and win the series in seven games.

It's simplistic, of course, to suggest that the Tigers healed the wounds of a trouble city. But the Tigers of 1967 and 1968 did reflect the 'ups' and 'downs' of Detroit, and they did provide a positive focus which united the people in a unique way. When Bill Freehan made the final out of the 1968 World Series, it signaled a new beginning. For the honest and hard-working people of America's industrial heartland, the slate was clean. Out with the fussin' and fightin,' in with a new era of growth, understanding and cooperation.

No doubt about it, 1968 was a wonderful period in Detroit Tiger history. It was both memorable and meaningful. It added a great chapter in the long and glorious Tiger tradition.

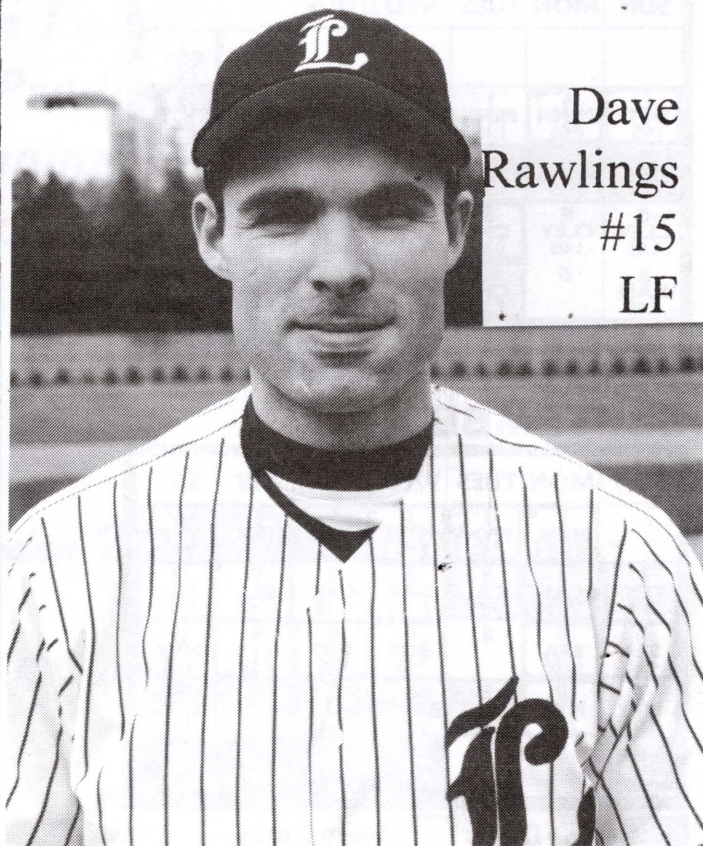
Baseball's tomorrow's build on it's yesterdays. That's another of it's beauties.



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# 1997 TORONTO BLUE JAYS REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 OAK 4:05	2 SEA 10:05	3 SEA 6:35	4	5 OAK 7:35	6 OAK 7:35	7 OAK 4:05
8 OAK 1:05	9	10 SEA 7:35	11 SEA 12:35	12	13 PHI 7:35	14 PHI 7:05
15 PHI 1:35	16 ATL 7:35	17 ATL 7:35	18 ATL 7:35	19	20 BAL 7:35	21 BAL 4:05
22 BAL 1:05	23 BOS 7:35	24 BOS 7:35	25 BOS 7:35	26 BAL 7:35	27 BAL 7:35	28 BAL 7:05
29 BAL 1:05	30 MON 7:35					

## JULY



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 MON 1:05	2 MON 7:35	3 NYY 7:35	4 NYY 7:05	5 NYY 4:05
6 NYY 1:05	7	8 ALL-STAR GAME	9	10 BOS 7:05	11 BOS 7:05	12 BOS 5:05
13 BOS 1:05	14 BAL 7:35	15 BAL 7:35	16 TEX 8:35	17 TEX 8:35	18 CAL 10:05	19 CAL 10:05
20 CAL 4:05	21	22 MIL 7:35	23 MIL 7:35	24 MIL 7:35	25 KAN 7:35	26 KAN 4:05
27 KAN 1:05	28 MIL 8:05	29 MIL 2:05	30	31 DET 7:05		

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 DET 7:05	2 DET 7:05
3 DET 1:05	4 MINN 8:05	5 MINN 1:15	6 CLEV 7:35	7 CLEV 7:35	8 DET 7:35	9 DET 4:05
10 DET 1:05	11 DET 7:35	12 MINN 7:35	13 MINN 7:35	14	15 CLEV 7:05	16 CLEV 1:05
17 CLEV 1:05	18 CLEV 1:05	19 CHI 8:05	20 CHI 8:05	21 CHI 2:05	22 KAN 8:05	23 KAN 8:05
24 KAN 2:05	25	26 CHI 7:35	27 CHI 7:35	28 CHI 12:35	29 FLA 7:35	30 FLA 4:05
31 FLA 1:05						

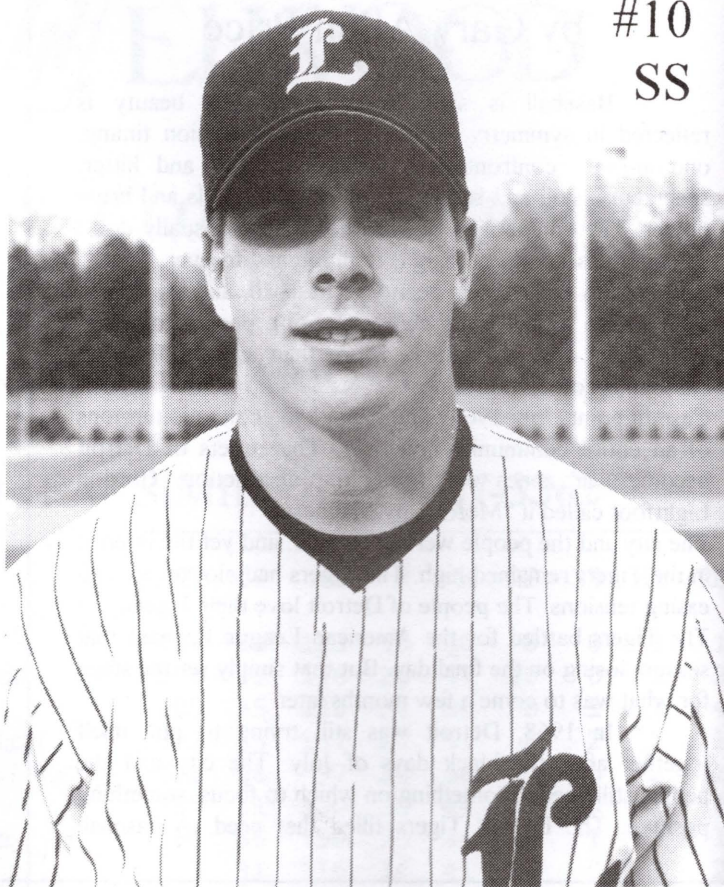
## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 NYY 1:40	2 NYY 7:40	3 NYY 7:40	4 TEX 7:35	5 TEX 7:35	6 TEX 4:05
7 TEX 1:05	8 CAL 7:35	9 CAL 7:35	10 OAK 10:05	11 OAK 3:15	12 SEA 10:05	13 SEA 9:05
14 SEA 4:35	15 SEA 10:05	16	17 BOS 7:05	18 BOS 7:05	19 NYY 7:35	20 NYY 4:05
21 NYY 1:35	22 NYY 7:35	23 BAL 7:35	24 BAL 7:35	25 BAL 7:35	26 BOS 7:35	27 BOS 1:05
28 BOS 1:05	29	30				

 Home Dates  Away Dates

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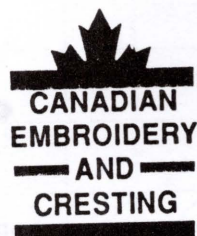
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### London Majors 1997 Home Schedule

May	23	Fri	8:00 pm Toronto Maple Leafs (Home Opener)
May	25	Sun	1:30 pm Kitchener Panthers
May	30	Fri	8:00 pm Hamilton Cardinals
June	5	Thur	7:50 pm Stratford Hillers
June	12	Thur	8:00 pm Toronto Maple Leafs
June	15	Sun	1:30 pm Stratford Hillers
June	17	Tue	7:50 pm Kitchener Panthers
June	20	Fri	7:50 pm Guelph Royals
June	22	Sun	1:30 pm Hamilton Cardinals
June	26	Thur	7:50 pm Brantford Red Sox
July	1	Tue	6:30 pm Stratford Hillers (Fireworks)
July	4	Fri	8:00 pm Toronto Maple Leafs
July	8	Tue	7:50 pm Guelph Royals
July	11	Fri	7:50 pm Brantford Red Sox
July	17	Thur	7:50 pm Guelph Royals
July	22	Tue	7:50 pm Kitchener Panthers
July	25	Fri	7:50 pm Brantford Red Sox
Aug	1	Fri	8:00 pm Hamilton Cardinals

### Away Schedule

May	11	2:00 pm	Toronto
May	20	8:00 pm	Stratford
May	21	8:00 pm	Hamilton
May	31	7:30 pm	Guelph
June	8	2:00 pm	Toronto
June	14	7:30 pm	Guelph
June	18	8:00 pm	Hamilton
June	24	8:00 pm	Stratford
June	28	7:30 pm	Brantford
June	29	2:00 pm	Kitchener
July	2	8:00 pm	Brantford
July	6	7:30 pm	Kitchener
July	13	2:00 pm	Toronto
July	19	7:30 pm	Guelph
July	20	7:30 pm	Kitchener
July	23	8:00 pm	Brantford
July	29	8:00 pm	Stratford
Aug	3	1:30 pm	Hamilton



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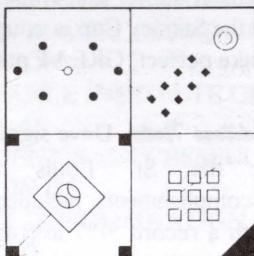
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	Pitcher, Club	ERA	GP	W	L	IP	R	H	BB	SO
<b>1996 INDIVIDUAL LEADERS - 53 or more innings pitched</b>	Scott Medvin**, Kit	1.59	11	6	1	56.2	17	37	13	60
	Jason Gooding*, Brn	1.85	10	6	1	58.1	17	37	22	72
	Craig Bishop*--**, Kit	2.24	11	4	0	60.1	21	47	21	61
	Casey Cooper*, Gue	2.41	12	5	4	89.2	36	86	23	46
	KEVIN Thomas, Ldn	2.60	12	7	5	97.0	37	87	46	70
	Derek Masse, Str	3.00	13	6	2	75.0	28	60	31	70
	Chris Rauth**, Tor	3.01	15	7	4	74.2	41	83	24	68
	Kevin Curran*, Kit	3.25	12	9	3	72.0	28	63	22	67
	Ian Harvey, Gue	3.32	13	6	2	59.2	29	53	26	33
	Jason Martin*, Gue	3.60	12	7	4	70.0	34	71	57	43
	Pete Mendham, Ldn	4.06	13	2	5	71.0	48	68	36	20
	Mark Fraser, Str	4.09	14	4	5	72.2	44	82	36	46

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## "THE TEAM"

by Dave Byers

"What makes baseball teams will?" "That's easy," you say, "good pitching, hitting, defence up the middle, speed on the bases...." Yes, all of these points are major contributors - but the main reason good teams become GREAT is excellent TEAM play. On offence, the timely bunt, the hit and run executed to perfection, the stolen base, the squeeze play - and let's not forget the delayed steal being executed by a big man which put your team in scoring position and deflated the opposition's momentum. On defence, denying a bunt situation from advancing the runners - by holding the runner close and having the third, first and/or pitcher aggressively charging the plate. Definitely this aggressiveness could be hazardous to your health if the batters swings away, but the manager has given the signal that a certain (well practiced) bunt defence is on. The play is automatic because of repetitious practice and hard work. I could talk of many more defensive plays - like the various infield depths, depending on the situation/score i.e. half-way, in tight or cover the lines, the different pick-offs, cutoffs, etc., etc....but I probably have bored you all by now.

But how does this enhance the team? Well, the honing of the above skills through practice/team interaction is the ingredient that brings the team closer. It makes the team unique from others and enhances a feeling of oneness. It also encourage creativeness and dialogue among ALL, to come up with the best method of execution i.e. signal to

activate, decoys/fakes, style, etc... Oh, what a feeling it is when execution is perfected in the "heat of the battle" - the team exaltation, the momentum gained, the togetherness. But that moment can't last forever, it has to be repetitive - recreated through execution/teamwork. Each time the feeling is cumulative (it gets better and better).

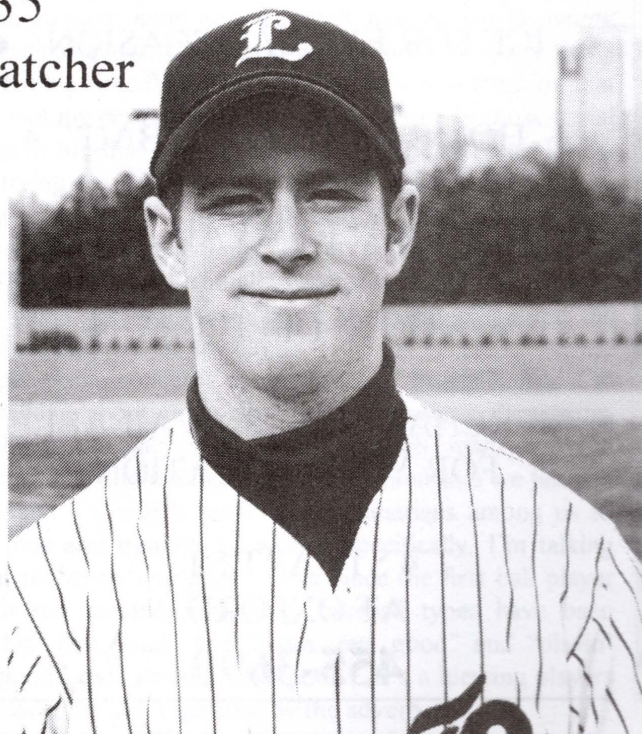
On GREAT teams, the team chemistry is so strong you don't want to go home after the game. You want to sit and enjoy each others' camaraderie/stories. Game situations are rehashed and on occasion the team goes out together after the game - all players are equal, there are no cliques. More stories are born for the next game. The TEAM gets STRONGER.

For the '97 London Majors and all London teams, I hope this unique team feeling can be realized many times-with success surely to follow. I will end with a Mike Kennan quote, said while coaching the New York Rangers to the Stanley Cup, a couple of years ago: "Practice doesn't make perfect; GREAT practice makes perfect."

*Editors Note:* Dave signed a Pro contract and played 3 yrs in the St. Louis Cardinal chain. Dave's I-C accomplishments included the batting champion in 1977 with a record .457 average; 74 HRS. Also a record when he retired; 442 games played, 551 hits, 101 doubles, 317 RBI's; and 6 times an All-Star. In his last I-C game Dave hit 3 home runs.



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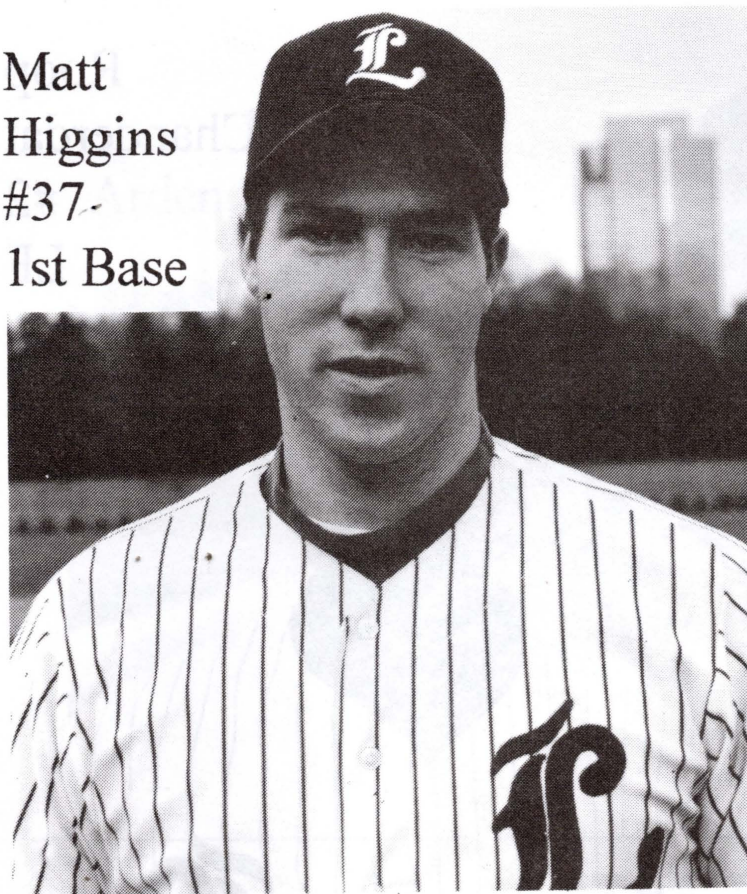
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# "SPEAKING OF BASEBALL"

by Gary Alan Price

## Got a minute for a pet peeve?

Nothing major, mind you. Certainly nothing worth getting too excited about. Cold hot dogs warm sodas - now that's worth a big-time flap. You gotta go right to the top on that one! Not my pet peeve, though. It's just one of those trivial things in life that irks far more than it should. You know, like trying to open those little plastic mustard containers. They never have the 'starter threads' to get you going like gum wrappers or band-aids, so you pull and push and bite and fight until you eventually splatter mustard all over your own pants and your neighbor's scorecard. Give me the good old squeeze jar any day!

My pet peeve concerns the language of baseball. And I'm not talking about those erudite, beak-to-beak discussions which occasionally take place between managers and umpires. No, I'm talking about those comments we hear on radio and TV which cause the grammarians among us to turn blue and tremble, or worse. Specifically, I'm talking about the term 'real good'. Ever since the first ball player began spitting and scratching, baseball types have been "pitchin' real good" and "hittin' real good" and "playin' real good" and "throwin' real good". It's a blessing players and managers don't get paid by the adverb.

That's my pet peeve. And yet, to be fair, I would be the first to admit that for all the 'slanguage' of baseball which drives some of us around our own personal basepaths, the language of baseball has had a remarkable impact on our everyday lives. The cliches, the lingo, the terminology, the speech patterns - all of these have become a very real part of our English language. It's almost as if we 'speak baseball' to a great degree. Columbia University professor Jacques Barzun may have put it best when he said, "To understand America, you must first understand baseball".

Other sports have contributed a handful of expressions to everyday conversation. For example, the terms 'game plan' and 'getting our signals crossed' come from football, while golf has given us 'that's par for the course.' But baseball remains the runaway leader in supplying words and phrases. In fact, several research papers and articles have been written on the subject, including one by Penn State University professor Edward J. Nichols entitled "An Historical Dictionary of Baseball Terminology." Speaking later about his work Professor Nichols commented that "nobody raises an eyebrow any more when a politician's record is summarized as his 'box score,' a business maneuver is represented as a 'squeeze play' or a 'hit and run' is used to describe a driver who leaves the scene of an accident."

One of the most comprehensive articles on the subject was written by John Q. Herbold of Lakewood, California and was published in "Verbatim: The Language Quarterly." In that article, Herbold listed many of the most frequently-used expressions which are directly related to baseball. Some of those expressions include:

- 1) He was born with two strikes against him.
- 2) He couldn't get to first base with that girl.
- 3) He sure threw me a curve that time.
- 4) I'll take a rain-check on it.
- 5) He really went to bat for me on that one.
- 6) He's way out in left field this time.
- 7) I liked him right off the bat.
- 8) He's a foul ball.
- 9) You're way off base on that.
- 10) It was a smash hit.
- 11) Let's take a seventh-inning stretch.
- 12) Don't forget to touch all the bases in your report.
- 13) Could you pinch-hit for me?
- 14) He doesn't even know who's on first.
- 15) I just call 'em as I see 'em.
- 16) He's only a bush-leaguer.
- 17) Major league all the way
- 18) I'll be in there pitching.
- 19) He was safe by a mile.
- 20) He has a lot on the ball.
- 21) All you have to do is take your best swings.
- 22) No game's over until the last man's out.
- 23) That was a great double-play.
- 24) Three strikes and you're out.
- 25) That's not fair ball.

Baseball is a game of continual action, which must not be confused with continual movement. It's a game of great grace, pace, power and precision. It's also a game of speed, skill, strategy and symmetry. And as we have seen, it's also a game of wonderful expressions, expressions which have infiltrated our everyday English language in colorful and meaningful ways. The word of the diamond and dugout are now a part of our daily dialogue.

That's one of the game's beauties and one of its appeals. My pet peeve notwithstanding, when I hear someone speak in baseball language, I understand real good.

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# UPBEAT & OFFBEAT

By Gary Alan Price

More than any other sport, baseball lends itself to the funny and fascinating, as well as the weird and wonderful. Just when you think you've heard it all, you hear something new. So, for your enjoyment between plays, between innings, or between sips of your favorite beverage, here are some baseball stories from the "upbeat and offbeat" file.

Back in 1976, Detroit Tiger pitcher Mark Fidrych had one of the most remarkable and colourful season in baseball history. Not only did "The Bird" capture the imaginations of baseball fans everywhere, but he also captured the fancy of sports reporters with his refreshing post-games quotes. During one game Fidrych gave up a base hit and immediately returned the ball to the umpire. When asked about it after the game, Mark replied, "That ball had a hit in it, so I wanted to get it back in the bag. That way it could goof around with the other balls in there and maybe learn some sense and next time come out a pop fly."

Even when he was on a hot streak Joe Garagiola was never a great hitter. But against Warren Spahn poor Joe simply did not have a chance. In fact, Garagiola himself says it got so bad that, "Warren used to send a limousine to my hotel just to make sure I'd make it to the ballpark."

When Ted Williams was growing up in San Diego back in the 1930's, he loved tennis much more than baseball. One day, however, his tennis career came to a quick end when he broke two strings on his racket. It would have cost 30 cents to replace the strings, but times were tough for the Williams family and his mother told Ted he had better find another sport. The rest as they say, is history.

All baseball fans know that the most insecure job in the game is to be the manager of the New York Yankees. It's obvious George Steinbrenner did not have the revolving door installed for nothing. But he skipper situation in the Bronx was perhaps best put into perspective a few years ago when Steinbrenner actually received three votes in the Associated Press balloting for American League Manager of the Year.

Strange but true: During his great career, former Baltimore third baseman Brooks Robinson hit into five triple plays.

Whenever a team loses a doubleheader they have a right to feel a little black and blue. But for the Kansas City Royals one afternoon against the Yankees, they were literally black and blue. The Royals lost both ends of the twinbill and their losing pitchers were Bud Black and Vida Blue.

Minnesota twins scout Ellis Clary claims he once checked out a pitcher who was so bad that, before he came into the game, the grounds crew dragged the warning track.

In 1941 Joe Dimaggio set and unbeatable record by hitting safely in 56 straight games. He was also the American League's Most Valuable Player. Yet before the next season the Yankees tried to force Joe to take a pay cut. His salary in '41 was \$2,500.

Baseball slugger Harmon Killebrew had 8,147 at-bats during his long and illustrious career. However, he played his entire career without one successful sacrifice bunt.

Trivia: Who replaced Babe Ruth as the Yankees' regular right fielder? Answer: The Babe's last season as the regular right fielder was 1934. In 1935 George Selkirk took his place.

Back around 1900 a tremendous rivalry developed between two teams from Minnesota. Whenever Willmar and Benson met, the action was intense. After nine innings in one game, the score was still 0-0. In the 10th, Benson took a 1-0 lead. In the bottom of the extra inning, the lead-off batter was the pitcher, Thielman, who singled. The next batter, O'Toole, cracked a long ball to the gap in left-centre. As the runners raced for home Thielman collapsed. O'Toole picked him up and threw him across the plate. The umpire ruled that both runs counted and Willmar won the Game 2-1. Only then did they discover that Thielman had suffered a heart attack and died. That made it the only game in baseball history ever won by a dead man.

CBS News anchor Dan Rather was once a part-time PA announcer for the old Houston Colt 45s. He earned \$13 per game.

Believe it or not, the old Chicago White Sox once had the bases loaded with nobody out, and were retired on one pitch...and a pitch out at that! Manager Jimmy Dykes relates the story this way: "On the pitch-out, their catcher throws to first trapping the runner in a rundown. He gets tagged out. I look up just as the guy on third decides to sneak home. He gets caught in a rundown and is tagged out. By this time, the runner on second has wondered off the bag and is standing there with his mouth open, wondering what to do next. The catcher throws to the shortstop and our last guy is tagged out. One lousy pitch-out retired the side."

Reggie Jackson must really love the number 44. When Reggie taped his TV commercial for his short-lived "Reggie" candy bar, he had to bite into 44 bars before he got it right.

The baseball classic "Casey at the Bat" was first published on June 3, 1888 in the San Francisco Examiner. Ernest Thayer immortalized Casey and the rest of the Mudville Nine more than 100 years ago.

A Florida man, who shall remain unnamed, once filed a three-million-dollar lawsuit against a TV station in Tampa, accusing it of false advertising. The man's complaint involved the World Series, which he maintained was not really a 'world series' because it was not open to baseball teams from all countries. He claimed the TV station was guilty of fraud whenever it used the term 'world series.' The suit was filed from the man's jail cell where he was



serving 150 days for writing several bad cheques. The case was dismissed.

**Rules Test:** Team A leads Team B by a score of 2 to 1 with two out in the bottom of the 9th inning. The next Team B batter hits a double to left-centre field. He represents the potential tying run. Team A brings in a relief pitcher who is instructed to issue an intentional walk to the next batter. Team B now has runners on first and second with two out. Then, Team A brings in a second relief pitcher who immediately gives up a game-winning extra-base hit to the one batter he faces. Which Team A pitcher takes the loss? Answer: Although it doesn't seem fair in this case, the relief pitcher who faced one batter and was instructed to issue the intentional walk suffers the loss. According to the scoring rules, an intentional pass is treated the same as an unintentional one.

Former St. Louis Cardinal Ducky Medwick, a Catholic, met a high ranking official of the Catholic church one night at a banquet. "What kind of work are you in?" asked Medwick. "I'm a Cardinal," replied the church official. "Hey, so am I," replied Medwick. "Yes, my Son, but I'm in

the right field." "Hey, me too," said Ducky, "Ain't that sun terrible out there sometimes?"

By self-admission, Bob Uecker was the Rodney Dangerfield of baseball. Says Bob: "One time I'm batting against the Dodgers. They're leading 2-1, it's the last of the ninth, bases loaded, two out and the pitcher has a full count on me. I look over to the Dodgers' dugout and they're all in street clothes."

Before sticking to golf, Jack Nicklaus was an all-city catcher in Columbus, Ohio.

Former major leaguer Bert Campaneris must be in the record books somewhere. Campaneris was involved in 11 no-hitters during his career. Five times he was on the winning side, six times on the losing side.

It may be the only game in history ever called because of hunger. Pembroke State and North Carolina-Charlotte were tied 8-8 after nine innings. But it was 6:25 p.m. and the school's dining hall closed at 6:30. Said the Pembroke State manager, "We don't have the kind of money the big colleges do, and we don't have a lot of rich kids either, so we called the game and hit the buffet."

## FIGURING AVERAGES

**WON, LOSS PERCENTAGE** - Number of wins divided by games played. Example: The London Majors were 16-19 or won 16 games in 35 contests. 16 divided by 35 result in a winning percentage of .457.

**GAMES BEHIND THE LEADER** - The number of games on team is ahead or behind in each of the won/loss columns, divided by two. Example: Toronto, Stratford, Kitchener and Guelph finished the regular season with a 23-12 record while the London Majors were 16-19. Therefore, London trailed Toronto, Stratford, Kitchener by 7 games in the win column and 7 games in the loss column. The total of 14 (7+7), divided by 2, left the Majors 7 games behind.

**MAGIC NUMBER** - The number of games yet to be played by the division leader, plus one. Then subtract the number of games ahead in the loss column from the closest opponent. The result is the magic number to clinch the division. Example: On September 25, 1989, the Toronto Blue Jays had an 85-71 record with 6 games to play. Toronto's magic number was (6+1)-1=6. Any combination of Toronto wins or Baltimore losses totaling 6 clinched the pennant for the Blue Jays.

**BATTING AVERAGE** - Hits divided by total at-bats. At-bats, which do not count in this total include walks, hit by pitch, sacrifice bunts or flies, or catcher's interference. However, a player is charged with an at-bat in the case of an error or fielder's choice. Example: Richard Thompson had 44 hits in 106 at-bats. Therefore 44 divided by 106 was good for a league leading .415 batting average.

**SLUGGING PERCENTAGE** - Total bases divided by total at-bats. In determining total bases, award one base for a single, two for a double, three for a triple and four for a home run. Example: Mike Shewan had 31 singles, 7 doubles, 1 triple and 2 home runs, good for 56 total bases (31 + (7x2) + (1x3) + (2x4), divide by 131 at-bats, Mike's slugging percentage works out to be .427.

**EARNED RUN AVERAGE** - Number of earned runs allowed by a pitcher, multiplied by nine, then divided by the number of innings he has pitched. Example: Pete Mendham allowed 51 earned runs in 73.0 innings of work. Pete's ERA is therefore (51x9)/73 = 6.29.

**FIELDING PERCENTAGE** - Total of putouts and assists divided by total chances accepted. Total chances include putouts, assists and errors. Example: The London Majors had 906 putouts, 367 assists and they committed 55 errors in 1995. The team fielding percentage calculates to (906+367) / (906+367+55) = .959.

### Peter Mullins

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"It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone. You count on it, you rely on it to buffer the passage of time, to keep the memory of sunshine and high skies alive, and then, just when the days are all twilight, when you need it the most, it stops."

*A. Bartlett Giamatti*

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## THE MEN BEHIND THE MASKS

by Michael Mitchell, I-C Assignor of Umpires

"Who ARE those guys????!!!"

Rest assured, this isn't the ONLY thing you can hear from the stands at any Inter County ball game. The "Men in Blue," as they are referred to from time to time, have been called many things over the years - most of which is unprintable! But the question remains, "...who ARE they, indeed???"

The current roster of Intercounty umpires includes fellows from all types of backgrounds. Pretty much everyday people, really. Sales executives, labourers, journalists, teachers, retirees. Some with 20 years experience. Some with two. Some are former Intercounty players (All-Stars, too!). All sharing a common passion for the game of baseball. No, this isn't a career. It's a hobby. An umpire might earn pocket money in the range of \$60.00 on a given night in the Intercounty league. Not too shabby, some will say. But not enough to make a living.

There are six "crews" representing six of the eight cities. London and St. Thomas umpires are listed as a single crew, while Guelph hasn't enough senior-level umpires to make up their own crew. So the Royals are serviced by the Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener crews. The crews are shifted around during the season, so as to avoid "home-team" advantage. Most crews work about 20-25 games in the regular season. In the playoffs, the more experienced umpires are selected and the crews "mixed".

How do you become an Intercounty umpire? I've heard some fans say "...just show up at the door, and they'll find you a shirt, some pants and shoes, and off you go!!!" But

it's a little More than that. The best approach is to work your way through your local association, gain the knowledge and experience necessary to move up from age group to age group. The next step to junior and senior baseball becomes as natural a move as for any player having similar goals.

Players will tell you the best games played are those in which the umpires are never noticed. It's true. As umpires, we understand this theory and make every attempt to let the players decide the outcome. But umpires DO have a universal creed. We DO make mistakes...but admit this? NEVER!

Enjoy the 1997 Intercounty Season. Be kind to the boys in blue!





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## BASEBALL NICKNAMES

by Gary Alan Price

You can tell a lot about a sport by its nicknames. In baseball, nicknames abound. They have played a creative and colorful role in building a rich tradition and heritage. Just ask "Yogi" Berra.

Over the years, the weaving of baseball nicknames into the fabric of the game has been so intricate that it's often difficult to remember which is the real name and which is the nickname. Fans internalized nicknames to such an extent that the name itself becomes the identification. Right, "Sparky"?

So, to give you an idea of the impact nicknames have had on the game and its fans, we invite you to take your best swings at the paired pitches below. Down the left side you'll find the fastballs, down the right side you'll find the curves. Your job is to smack a series of doubles. Good luck!

(To find out if you're safe at second, check page 36)

- 1) Daniel Staub
- 2) The 1927 NY Yankees
- 3) Lou Gehrig
- 4) John Powell
- 5) Yankee Stadium
- 6) Reggie Jackson
- 7) Bill Skowron
- 8) Luis Tiant
- 9) Andre Dawson
- 10) Denton Young
- 11) Ty Cobb
- 12) Leo Durocher
- 13) Tom Seaver
- 14) Ted Williams
- 15) Ernie Banks
- 16) Jerome Dean
- 17) Pete Rose
- 18) Edward Ford

- a) The Georgia Peach
- b) Shoeless Joe
- c) Senior Circuit
- d) The Splendid Splinter
- e) Dizzy
- f) Homerun
- g) Connie Mack
- h) Marvellous Marv
- i) The Sultan of Swat
- j) Red
- k) The Big "O"
- l) Hammerin' Hank
- m) Pudge
- n) Louisiana Lighting
- o) The Penguin
- p) Catfish
- q) Scooter
- r) Tug

- 19) Frank Baker
- 20) Joe Jackson
- 21) Robert Grove
- 22) Rich Gossage
- 23) Babe Ruth
- 24) Bob Feller
- 25) Cornelius MacGillicuddy
- 26) Walter Johnson
- 27) Hank Aaron
- 28) Olympic Stadium
- 29) Willie Mays
- 30) Steve Garvey
- 31) Albert Schoendienst
- 32) The 1906 Chicago W.S.
- 33) Jim Hunter
- 34) Mark Fidrych
- 35) Carlton Fisk
- 36) Stan Musial
- 37) Brooks Robinson
- 38) Albert Lyle
- 39) Enos Slaughter
- 40) Ron Cey
- 41) Frank McGraw
- 42) Harold Reese
- 43) Edwin Snider
- 44) Phil Rizzuto
- 45) Ron Guidry
- 46) Dave Parker
- 47) Left-field wall at Fenway
- 48) Joe DiMaggio
- 49) Marv Throneberry
- 50) The National League

- s) The Iron Horse
- t) Green Monster
- u) Mr. Clutch
- v) Moose
- w) The Man
- x) The Bird
- y) Pee Wee
- z) Hawk
- aa) Country
- bb) Duke
- cc) Murderer's Row
- dd) Mr. October
- ee) Whitey
- ff) Rapid Robert
- gg) Human Vacuum Cleaner
- hh) Yankee Clipper
- ii) The Lip
- jj) Big Train
- kk) The House Ruth Built
- ll) Lefty
- mm) The Say-Hey Kid
- nn) Tom Terrific
- oo) Goose
- pp) Rusty
- qq) The Cobra
- rr) Charlie Hustle
- ss) Senor Cigar
- tt) The Hitless Wonders
- uu) Mr. Cub
- vv) Boog
- ww) Sparky
- xx) Cy



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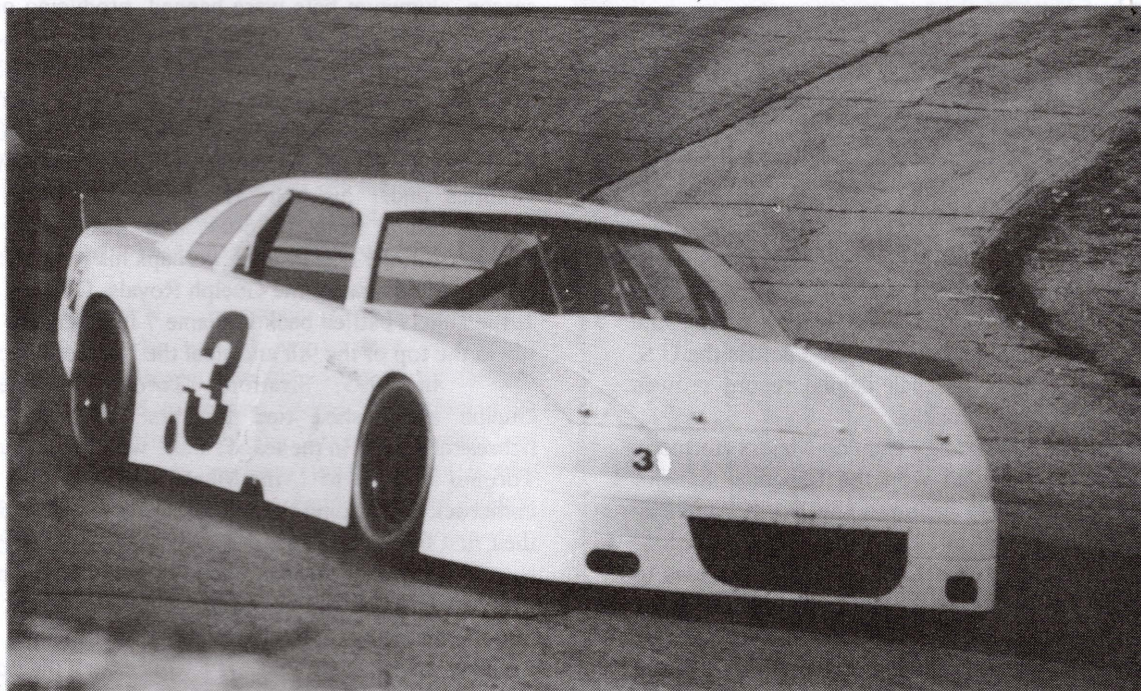


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**Owner** - Mike McColl - McColl Racing - Motorsports Division

**Crew Chief** - Burt McColl

**Team Manager** - Carol McColl

**Driver** - Rob Fletcher

### Team Members

Bill "Nick" Nichol - Al "AG" Guest - Karen Guest - Jeff Nichol - Chad Fletcher - Ritch Venhuizen



# Brief League History

by Jeffrey Reed

The Intercounty Major Baseball League, enjoying its 79th season in 1996, is one of the oldest organized athletic leagues in North America. Since 1919, Ontario baseball fans have enjoyed the best senior amateur baseball in Canada.

The baseball hotbeds of Galt, Guelph, Kitchener and Stratford were the Intercounty's charter clubs, with the latter two clubs dominating until 1935, winning 13 league titles (including Galt's championship reign from 1927-31). Early research shows London first entered a team in 1925, and promptly won the title. To its credit, during the Great Depression of the 1930's, the Intercounty steamrolled to success, and it continues to survive during W.W.II. The post-war Intercounty flourished, with league calibre the envy of many professional leagues scattered across the U.S. The introduction of night baseball helped record crowds pour through Intercounty turnstiles.

In 1948, the Intercounty London Majors (formerly the London Army team who won the Canadian Sandlot Congress titles in 1943-44) captured the North American Sandlot Championship. But in 1957, London and Brantford jumped ship, joining the Great Lakes pennant, but loss to Niagara Falls in the league final. The next year, London, Brantford and Hamilton rejoined the Intercounty loop; the GL-ND League folded. From 1959-63, the Brantford Red Sox won five straight titles. Tough times existed in 1962-63, as only five clubs competed, but a rebuilding period was initiated in 1964, when the Stratford Club rejoined the league.

The 1960's and 70's saw the Majors change their nickname to the Diamonds (1960-61), back to the Majors (1962-63), the Pontiacs (1964-69), the Avcos (1970-73) and finally back to the Majors, a handle which current team owner Arden Eddie grabbed for good when he purchased the team in the fall of 1976. Eddie, in his 31st season, was an Intercounty rookie in 1967. Today, he holds numerous records, including most games played (825), hits (759), RBI (378), stolen bases (179), walks (641) and seasons played - and counting. Eddie was a part of London's Last Intercounty championship team in 1975.

In 1969, Jack Dominico's Toronto Maple Leafs entered the league and have been a strong competitor from the east ever since. In 1976, after a 14 year absence, the history-rich St. Thomas Elgins returned, and in 1984 won their last championship. The powerhouse Windsor Chiefs brought a western flavour to the league from 1979-81, and in 1982 the new East and West divisions were respectively renamed the Halpern and Hamel Divisions, after Commissioner Reub Halpern and Secretary Lorne Hamel, who still fill the post today. In 1984-85, the Intercounty returned to one division, then split again from 1986-90.

But perhaps one of the largest decisions made came in 1977, when league officials welcomed the livelier aluminum bat, striking fear amongst league pitchers. Last season, aluminum bats were banned, producing one of the most exciting seasons in league history. Fittingly, the team which dominated since 1986, manager Dennis Schooley's Stratford Hillers, were part of a four-way tie for first place in 1995. Schooley, an infielder with 23 years experience, entered the 1996 season with a record 443 managerial victories under his belt. He guided the Hillers to six championships from 1986-94, and made it a habit of appearing in the league final. Perhaps his proudest moment came in 1994 against the Guelph Royals. Down 3 games to 1, the Hillers battled back in Game 7 in Guelph to score 10 run in the top of the 9th and steal the Intercounty crown.

In 1995, Stratford, Toronto, Kitchener and Guelph all finished tied for first, forcing a thrilling tiebreaker series. In the league final, with the Hillers leading Toronto 3 games to 1, the Maple Leafs this time were the comeback kids, riding the arm of hurler John Douris to win their first title since 1988.

The 1996 season captured every bit of magic the game of baseball has to offer. The year began with the Majors marching into Christie Pits on opening day and walking away with a 6-1 win over the defending champions., Veterans Dean Diczenco of Hamilton, Eddie, Schooley and Kitchener's Curran brothers - Kevin and Randy - added to their records. It was also the year of the one-run ballgame - 33, to be exact - as wooden bats ruled for a second consecutive season.

Home runs, scores, batting averages, earned run averages and game times all decreased in 1996, but there was plenty of excitement. New stars emerged in Toronto catcher Dominic Campeau, who became the first player ever to win both Rookie of the year and MVP honors. Youngster Darby Parsons of St. Thomas won the batting crown with a .407 average. Diczenco tied Kitchener manager Tom McKenzie with 570 hits, third all-time. Eddie and Schooley (566) added to their games played records. But it was the Currans who captured the spotlight.

The Panthers won their first title since 1990, beating the Maple Leafs 4 games to 2 in the final. On July 30, at Emslie Field in St. Thomas, all-star outfielder Randy Curran became the all-time home run king with round trips #83 and #84. He finished the season with 85, three more than Scott Gardiner's 82 lifetime home runs. Curran was named the playoff MVP, and was awarded the Tim Turow Trophy by commissioner John Coppes for outstanding achievement. All-start lefty Kevin Curran won a league-best nine games on the mound for 73 lifetime, moving into a tie for second all-time with Doug Landreth.



Sadly, the St. Thomas Elgins folded at the completion of the 1996 season. Their 4-31 finish set a futility record under a 35-game schedule.

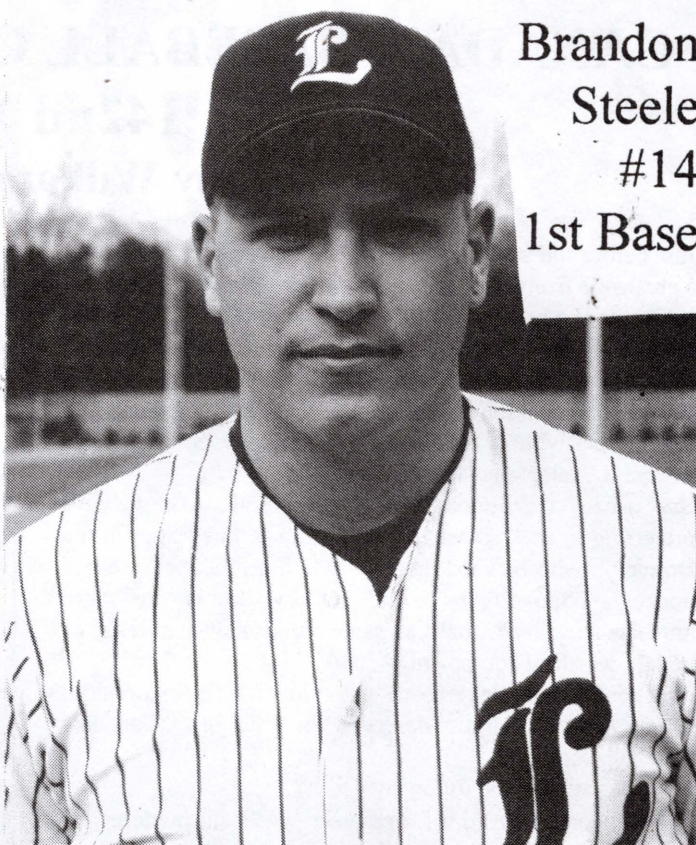
The Intercounty Major Baseball League, 79 years old, holds a lot of memories for baseball fans in Ontario. We welcome you to the ballpark in 1997, a year which promises more of the same excitement.



*Submitted by Carl McCoomb*

**LOST IN THE WOOD** - In a tight game one afternoon, Yogi came to bat with the bases loaded and took three called strikes without moving the bat off his shoulder. He then returned to the dugout, tossed his club toward the rack, and remarked, "That bat ain't got no wood in it."

**STUDY IN BROWN** - Inasmuch as Yogi's favorite literature is comics, he was always in awe of his ex-roommate, Bobby Brown. Bobby, now a full-fledged doctor, always carried something "heavy" with him. One evening Yogi saw Bobby poring over a fat text on anatomy. Yogi didn't say anything until he saw Bobby close the thick volume, then he brightly asked, "Hey, Bobby, how did it come out?"



**Brandon  
Steele  
#14  
1st Base**

#### TEAM PITCHING

1996

CLUB	ERA	GP	W	L	CG	IP	R	ER	H	HR	BB	SO
Kitchener	2.38	35	26	9	7	298.1	120	79	241	11	106	300
Guelph	3.48	35	23	12	10	297.2	148	115	295	13	144	173
Toronto	3.54	35	23	12	13	300.0	159	118	317	17	96	231
Stratford	3.84	35	22	13	4	305.0	152	130	275	13	168	253
London	4.23	35	13	22	10	297.2	188	140	308	15	148	156
Brantford	4.89	35	17	18	4	307.1	195	167	293	6	192	252
Hamilton	6.45	35	12	23	3	296.0	270	212	381	25	178	211
St. Thomas	6.68	35	4	31	8	272.1	270	202	356	18	191	133

#### TEAM BATTING

CLUB	PCT	GP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	SB	BB	SO	RBI
Stratford	.293	35	1220	231	357	52	1	21	42	151	186	191
Guelph	.291	35	1202	212	350	66	5	14	73	135	229	180
Kitchener	.282	35	1135	230	320	52	6	21	38	218	183	209
Toronto	.268	35	1143	191	306	45	2	12	69	158	190	165
Brantford	.263	35	1188	194	312	40	10	21	65	142	249	157
London	.258	35	1178	170	304	37	5	6	60	147	220	143
Hamilton	.248	35	1151	170	286	38	4	17	24	162	215	144
St. Thomas	.222	35	1039	104	231	20	3	6	33	110	237	85



# CANADA'S BASEBALL CAPITAL CELEBRATES 142nd YEAR

by William Humber

Just before the start of the 1989 baseball season I accepted a challenge from the CBC radio's afternoon phone-in show to debate the notion that baseball, not hockey, is Canada's national game. A flurry of puck aficionados from Wawa to Renfrew had me backtracking for almost an hour until the caller from London came on the line. He embraced the proposition with as much enthusiasm as myself and I kept him on the telephone as long as possible.

I've since abandoned such clutch and grab debates preferring to seek solace in the wisdom of finer cities in the Dominion who realized that not only does baseball predate hockey's popularity by a half century, but is far more universally played than a game requiring hundreds of dollars worth of equipment.

Nowhere is the above more self-evident, than in London, which I beg to argue deserves the title of "Canada's Baseball Capital".

Consider at least the following:

- London's record of organized baseball predates by three years even that of the home of the Blue Jays.
- The only major league baseball title won by a Canadian team was captured by London in 1877.
- Today's London Majors play in the oldest still functioning site for organized or amateur baseball anywhere in the world.

Of the above the first is fact, the second requires clarification, and the third awaits a challenge to the claim.

There's no doubting the primacy of London and its surrounding region in the origins of baseball in Canada. The thorough research of Bob Barney and Nancy Bouchier at the University of Western Ontario clears any doubts from the loose threads I included in my baseball history "Cheering for the Home Team" released in 1983.

Going all the way back to June 4, 1838, they untangled all the details of a game in Beachville, Ontario, just outside Woodstock. Under the watchful eyes of young Adam Ford who recalled it in splendid details a half century later, two teams, back of Enock Burdick's shops, knocked about a ball made of double and twisted yarn, with a cedar club blocked out with an axe and finished on a shaving-horse with a drawing knife. They played the five bases game then popular in Massachusetts, it being less than a decade before Alexander Cartwright would formalize the now popular 4 bases New York game.

George Railton's 1856 London directory listed a London baseball club and its 22 members who practiced twice a week on the military grounds. The Canadian game with 11 men on the field was then in vogue, though by the end of the decade Cartwright's 9-man game had moved westward and induced even Torontonians to give the game a crack.

The best Canadian teams of the next 15 years were London's neighbors--Woodstock, Hamilton, Ingersoll and Guelph. In 1875 however, an ambitious group of Londoners equipped their well meaning amateur outfit with what was then dubbed "a better class of American professionals". At the same time

London boys were coming into their own as future major leaguers. If there was ever a time of the gods in London baseball when heroes walked the land and legend rang tall it was the four brief summers from 1875 to 1878.

London's baseball leadership included, Jacob Englehart, a pioneer oil man and future Imperial Oil vice president; London newspaperman Harry Gorman; Ed Moore, manager of the Tecumseh House; Richard Meredith, a future chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario; William Southam who was to found a publishing empire; and to add an egalitarian touch, Jim Jury, janitor at the collegiate institute.

After years of chasing Guelph, the London Tecumsehs swept to the Canadian championship of 1876 led by the magnificent curveballer Fred Goldsmith, a star in Chicago in the 1880's and Joe "Ubbo Ubbo" Hornung, a future fan favorite in Boston.

Seeking greater glory, London and Guelph joined the International Association for its inaugural 1877 season. Later historians have dubbed the association, baseball's first minor league. It's false and unfair claim. For one thing, the reserve clause, the basis of major and minor league ball, wasn't even in use until the 1880's. Every player was effectively a free agent. Correspondence indicates that the International Association rejected any attempts by the National League, founded a year earlier, to control its affairs. There was simply an understanding to respect each other's contracts.

---

Answers from Nicknames on page 31:

- |      |       |       |       |       |       |           |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1)pp | 8)ss  | 15)uu | 22)oo | 29)mm | 36)w  | 43)bb     |
| 2)cc | 9)z   | 16)e  | 23)i  | 30)u  | 37)gg | 44)q      |
| 3)s  | 10)xx | 17)rr | 24)ff | 31)j  | 38)ww | 45)n      |
| 4)vv | 11)a  | 18)ee | 25)g  | 32)tt | 39)aa | 46)qq     |
| 5)kk | 12)ii | 19)f  | 26)jj | 33)p  | 40)o  | 47)t      |
| 6)dd | 13)nn | 20)b  | 27)l  | 34)x  | 41)r  | 48)hh     |
| 7)v  | 14)d  | 21)ll | 28)k  | 35)m  | 42)y  | 49)h 50)c |



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## LONDON MAJORS - TURNED PRO

1) ROY McKAY	TIGERS	33) TOMMY WHITE	INDIANS
2) STAN SLACK	BRAVES	34) HARRY FISHER	PIRATES
3) BILL SLACK	RED SOX	35) LOU FISHER	GIANTS
4) FERGIE JENKINS	CUBS	36) JERRY WILSON	GIANTS
5) MIKE KILKENNY	TIGERS	37) ED JORDON	
6) DAVE ROSEMA	TIGERS	38) GENE RIZAK	TIGERS
7) DENNY McLAIN	TIGERS	39) ARNOLD EARLY	RED SOX
8) DAVE BYERS	CARDINALS	40) RAY YELLE	INDIANS
9) JIM RODRIGUS	TIGERS	41) BOB DEAKIN	YANKEES
10) RIED HEFFERNAN	PIRATES	42) LES THOMAS	CARDINALS
11) DAVE MOHARTER	SENATORS	43) CHRIS CSARNIK	ATLANTA
12) DEREK BRANDOW	JAYS	44) DAVE MILSTIEN	BOSTON
13) MIKE LUMLEY	TIGERS	45) PETE CRAIG	
14) KENNY WILLIAMS	TIGERS	46) BILL LAJOYE	TIGERS
15) HARRY MUIR	JAYS	47) TY CRAWFORD	TIGERS
16) DAVE HAMMOND	TIGERS	48) BILL ATKINSON	EXPOS
17) BARRY BRUNDENCAMP	RANGERS	49) JACKIE TUCKER	CARDINALS
18) KEN BENJAMIN	DODGERS	50) TERRY COX	JAYS
19) JIM PRICE	TIGERS	51) RANDY RIVER	
20) LARRY HAGGITT	TIGERS	52) GREG JACOBS	BOSTON
21) RICK BIRMINGHAM	BRAVES	53) BOBBY ROSE	
22) TOM BURGESS	CARDINALS	54) BOB MCBEE	CARDINALS
23) FRANK COLMAN	YANKEES	55) PETE GRAY	BROWNS
24) AL GREENBERG		56) GEORGE (MOONEY) GIBSON	PIRATES
25) DON McLENNAN	CARDINALS	57) JIM DALTON	TIGERS
26) ROLF SCHEEL	ORILLES	58) FRED GOLDSMITH	CHICAGO
27) CHARLIE WINGER	GIANTS	59) JOE (UBBO UBBO) HORNUNG	BOSTON
28) DON COOPER	CARDINALS	60) BOB EMSLIE	
29) JOHN AMBROSE	PHILLIES	61) WILLIAM MOUNTJOY	
30) STAN (GABBY) ANDERSON	DODGERS	62) CHARLIE GEHRINGER	TIGERS
31) TED BOGAL	DODGERS	63) BOB ATTRILL	CARDINALS
32) BILL DIXON	DODGERS		

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# London Juvenile Badgers

Managed by Graeme Nichol

This team was formed for the 1995 season and has played since inception, in the Intercounty Minor - Junior (Juvenile) League. It was created to provide high calibre competition for local talented players, especially those graduating from the fledgling midget badgers team established a year earlier.

In 1995, the team placed third in league play and won the OBA - "B" Provincial Championship. RHP Mike Meyers and SS Geoff McCallum were named to the Ontario Youth Team which competed in the national Championship Tournament. Meyers then played for the Canadian All-Stars in a Western Hemisphere Tournament at Cape Cod, Mass.; and was drafted by the Houston Astros. 3B Al Ready and McCallum were invited to attend school in Vancouver and play with the NBI Team on Toronto Blue Jays referrals. Meyers and RHP Corey VanSligtenhorst chose invitations to U.S. Junior colleges.

Last year, the badgers went 27-3 in Intercounty play but placed a disappointing fourth in the Ontario Summer Games (OBA-"A") in London in August. Meyers was re-drafted by Houston in a much earlier round while RHP Will Cornish was selected by Kansas City Royals. Ready returned to NBI while McCallum joined Meyers at Blackhawk Jr. College in Moline Ill. Van Sligtenhorst returned to Cardinal Strich J.C. in Milwaukee, Wis.; RHP Matt McCormick accepted an invitation to play at Eastern Michigan University and Cornish elected to attend Grand Rapids J.C., also in Michigan.

In February of this year, the speedy Christian Heffernan signed a professional contract with the Atlanta Braves. He will report to their affiliate team in Orlando Florida after graduation in June. Christian will be sorely missed by his home team the London Badgers. The team, of course, wishes him the very best of success. The Braves have never before signed an Ontario player.

The 1997 edition of the Juvenile Badgers will again be very competitive and hope to repeat as ICBA Champions and to represent London in the OBA-"A" Championship Tournament at Sarnia in August.



## 1997 London Badgers of the Intercounty Juvenile Baseball League

### Home Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Park	Time
Tue	May 6	Cambridge	Labatt	7:30 pm
Thu	May 8	Guelph	Labatt	7:30 pm
Sat	May 24	Cambridge	Labatt	2:00 pm
Mon	May 26	Waterloo	Labatt	7:30 pm
Tue	Jun 3	Guelph	Labatt	7:30 pm
Mon	Jun 9	Guelph	Labatt	7:30 pm
Sat	Jun 14	Brantford	Labatt	7:00 pm
Thu	Jun 19	Waterloo	Labatt	7:30 pm
Sat	Jun 21	Brantford	Labatt	7:00 pm
Mon	Jun 23	Cambridge	Labatt	7:30 pm
Wed	Jul 9	Brantford	Labatt	7:30 pm
Tue	Jul 15	Waterloo	Labatt	7:30 pm
Thu	Jul 31	Guelph	Labatt	7:30 pm
Mon	Aug 4	Cambridge	Labatt	7:30 pm
Thu	Aug 7	Brantford	Labatt	7:30 pm
Thu	Aug 14	Waterloo	Labatt	7:30 pm

### Away Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Park	Time
Sun	May 4	Waterloo	Bechtel	6:30 pm
Mon	May 12	Guelph	Hastings	7:30 pm
Wed	May 21	Cambridge	Dickson	7:30 pm
Thu	May 22	Brantford	Cockshutt	8:00 pm
Sun	Jun 1	Waterloo	Bechtel	6:30 pm
Tue	Jun 10	Brantford	Cockshutt	8:00 pm
Mon	Jun 16	Guelph	Hastings	7:30 pm
Wed	Jun 18	Cambridge	Dickson	7:30 pm
Fri	Jun 27	Brantford	Cockshutt	8:00 pm
Sun	Jun 29	Waterloo	Bechtel	6:30 pm
Mon	Jul 7	Guelph	Hastings	7:30 pm
Sat	Jul 19	Cambridge	Dickson	1:30 pm
Tue	Jul 29	Brantford	Cockshutt	8:00 pm
Sun	Aug 3	Waterloo	Bechtel	6:30 pm
Mon	Aug 11	Guelph	Hastings	7:30 pm
Wed	Aug 13	Cambridge	Dickson	7:30 pm

### 1997 London Juvenile Badgers Roster

No.	Player	Position(s)	No.	Player	Position(s)
30	Kris Kewley	SS/2B	46	Bryan Howcroft	C
31	Marc Purdy	IF/OF	49	Peter Babcock	1B/C
32	Jeremy Hudson	IF/OF	50	Cole Bertsch	P/1B
33	Aiden Kennedy	P	51	Ryan Phillips	P/1B
36	Brian Divers	P/OF/1B	52	Culley Ford	OF/P/3B
38	Chris Mulhall	OF/3B	54	Jason Farmer	3B/1B/SS
39	Kyle Hack	OF/1B			
40	Spencer Lang	P			
41	Jamie Schmuck	OF	34	Graeme Nichol	Manager
42	Craig Chambers	C/OF	35	Reid Heffernan	Coach
43	Peter Wiebe	IF/OF	37	Greg Meyers	Coach
44	Jeremy Heffernan	P/1B/OF	47	Dave Cornish	Coach
45	Jim Cocksworth	P	48	Dave Nichol	Coach

### Tournament and Championship Series

Days	Dates	Tournament	Site
Fri - Mon	May 16-19	South London	London
Fri - Sun	June 6-8	Tillsonburg	Tillsonburg
Fri - Sun	July 11-13	Oakville	Oakville
Wed - Sun	July 23-27	Gold Bat	Sarnia Area
Mon - Wed	Aug 18-20	ICBA 2/3 Final	TBA
Fri - Sun	Aug 22-24	OBA Championship (A/B/C)	Various

Note: For additional information, call Graeme Nichol at (519)679-9586



# A GAME OF INCHES

## Just why is the diamond that size, anyway?

by Jim Chapman

It's a curious thing, a baseball diamond: at ninety feet from base to base, sixty feet, six inches from the pitcher's mound to home plate, the dimensions haven't changed in more than a century. These distances may seem rather arbitrary at first glance, yet they are pleasingly symmetrical in their clean precision and somehow, for lack of a better word, 'appropriate' out on the field. They look good.

But why ninety feet? Why not ninety-five, or eighty-six? How different might the game be today had the distances laid down in baseball's dim beginnings been themselves a little different? Make it eight-six feet and the runner stealing second will get there safely almost every time; make it ninety-five and he's dead meat for all but the slowest catcher's arm. But at ninety, there's a perfect balance. If the runner gets away clean and the catcher is even a blink slow, it's a safe steal. If the catcher anticipates the action and gets that extra little snap in his throw, the runner trots back to the dugout, hat in hand. It's the perfect distance.

On the mound, the pitcher stares down at the batter, reading the signs, planning his strategy. Sixty feet, six inches away, the batter digs in, trying to anticipate what path the white blur will take as it hurtles towards him. A quality big league hitter will solve that dilemma and put the ball where he wants it one time out of four. Make the distance seventy feet, give him that extra millisecond to read the ball coming in, and maybe he hits it every second time. And in so doing, changes baseball completely, turning it into a hitter's and fielder's game.

Shorten the distance to, say, fifty-five feet, and the pitcher wins almost every time. There just aren't enough milliseconds for even a well-trained human body to respond to the input it receives from the eyes and make contact successfully with a ball whirling in at ninety-plus miles an hour. At fifty-five feet from mound to plate it's a pitcher's game all the way, and probably a boring one, too.

Set up your computer, factor in everything we know about human reaction times, muscular response to visual stimuli, human body performance parameters. Then outline the game of baseball the way it's played by good players; stolen bases and pick-offs, close plays at first, batters connecting with the ball just often enough to keep the game interesting, a bouncing grounder towards the hole allowing the shortstop just enough time to back up, make the grab and beat the runner to first...maybe.

Input all your data, then ask the computer to lay out the field dimensions that will make the game work most effectively. Chances are you'll get what we already have; ninety feet from base to base, sixty feet, six inches from the mound to home plate.

There is some debate about exactly when the first baseball diamond was laid out to the present dimensions. And it's not entirely clear what criteria were used when selecting the distances so familiar to us now. Was it just luck that the dimensions chosen have suited the game so well, have proven to be so appropriate for the abilities of the human beings who play it?

In some sports, the changing dynamic of the game and the steadily increasing size and fitness level of the players have brought into question the dimensions of the playing surface. In hockey, for example, there's a move underway to increase the size of the rinks, the rationale being that the players are bigger, stronger and faster than they used to be, and the old-style ice surfaces simply aren't large enough to allow them to play the game at its highest level.

But in baseball the best hitters still chase the elusive .400 mark, a top pitcher still heaves a sigh of relief at twenty wins, and the stats of the average player aren't all the different than they were at the run of the century. The very fastest runners may steal second more often than their counterparts in days gone by, but that's about the only concession to better conditioning the game has offered. By and large, the size of the diamond is still near perfect to allow most lib-league-caliber players to compete within the rules of the game, and keep the action exciting for the fans as well.

Distance, that's the key. Baseball is a game of distance, from the fractions of an inch that turn a foul ball into a home run, to the half a foot that makes the difference between beating that grounder to first, to the hundreds of feet that take the home runs out of the park.

And somehow, for reasons that have faded from our knowledge, at some obscure point in the earliest days of baseball someone laid out a set of precise distances that have proven to be so appropriate to the abilities of the players and the demands of the game that even today there's no need to change them. Not by an inch.

Good Luck  
This Season!

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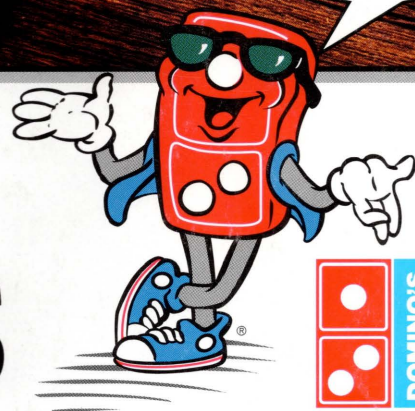


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