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LONDON MAJORS

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PROGRAM



SEASON
1947

Nº 1461

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The President's Message

As President of the London Majors of the Inter-County Senior Baseball League, may I extend to you a most cordial welcome from myself, my colleagues, the team manager and the players, whose efforts are combined to field a team that will win and add to your pleasure and entertainment.

I wish further to express my deep appreciation to the fans who were so loyal and generous to our team in the season of 1946, and I sincerely hope that you will continue to give us the same loyal support in the season of 1947.

WM. FARQUHARSON
President

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MEET THE MAJORS

Regarded as one of the top amateur sports promoters in Western Ontario, Bill Farquharson has been instrumental in keeping London on the baseball map during the past four years. His London Majors have attracted thousands of fans from all over Western Ontario for their games. It was mainly through Farquharson's efforts that London was first awarded the National Congress Tournaments. Born in London, Bill has lived here all his life. A standout athlete in his younger days, he stepped from playing into promotion a few years ago, with outstanding success.

T'WAS EVER THUS

He didn't like the pitching.
He groused about the score
He swore he wouldn't enter
The ball park any more.

He called the shortstop lousy,
Who played up on the grass,
He said the game was terrible,
He got in on a pass.



BILL FARQUHARSON
Manager

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MEET THE MAJORS



CLARE VAN HORNE
Coach

One of the smartest baseball coaches in the country, amateur or professional, Clare started his senior baseball career back in 1933. A fighting coach, along the line of Burleigh Grimes, Clare is always yelling for "more" runs, no matter how far ahead his team is. Still gets into the occasional game for the Majors, but it's his work on the coaching lines that has helped them win championships.

The London Majors' management wish to thank all our advertisers for their kind and generous support in taking advertising space in our Official Program, and trust that our many friends and patrons will remember these firms when in need of their merchandise.

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MEET THE MAJORS

Played some pro ball, before enlisting in the Army. Joined the Majors while stationed at Chat-ham and has been one of the consistently "hot" pitchers since. Has led the league in the mound department several times. Considered to be the best fielding-pitcher in the province. He's a Windsor product and does everything from the "right" side. Hits well and occasionally plays first or the out-field.



TOMMY WHITE
Pitcher

EPITAPH No. 12345½

Here lie the bones
of Ump McGuire
Whom players called
A crook and a liar.

For twenty years
These names unkind
Could not disturb
His peace of mind.

But when one called
Him right and wise
The Ump dropped dead
Of sheer surprise.

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MEET THE MAJORS



BILL WAGNER
Pitcher

Bill was the leading Intercount League pitcher in 1945 and had an excellent record last season too. Hails from Leamington and played a good deal of ball around Chatham. Has one of the best "sinkers" in amateur ball.

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MEET THE MAJORS

Youngest member of the Majors' mound corps, John has led the junior pitchers for the past two seasons. Moved up for games with the Majors, he was a mild sensation. He pitches and bats from the right. He's another London playground graduate. Currently attending Osgoode Hall.



JOHN GILLIES
Pitcher

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MEET THE MAJORS



BOBBY BLOXAM
First Base

The "find" of the season and a real aspirin to Bill Farquharson and Clare Vane Horne, who suffered several headaches when Hank Biasatti turned professional. Fresh out of junior ranks, Bobby stepped in Hank's shoes and not only clipped the ball at a .335 average, but fielded smartly as well. He bats and throws from the port side.

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London Majors, Canadian Senior Champions 1944



Front row: Wallace Woods, of; Tim Burgess, of; Bill Farquharson, Pres.; Clare VanHorne, Mgr.-of; Tommy White, p; Russ Eyon, ss, and John Gillies, p. Back Row: Bill Knowles, util.; Bob Bloxam, of.; Bill Brown, c.; Wilf Dippel, of.; Bobby Rose, 2b; F. Chase, p.; Gil Betzel, trainer; Duncan Galbraith, c.; Dick Watts, of.; Ossie Swift, 3b.; and Hank Biassatti, 1b. Maskot: Don Donahue.

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London Majors, Canadian Senior Champions 1945



Top Row, left to right: Don Stone, of; Hank Bissatti, 1b; G. Betzel, Trainer; Russ Evon, ss; Dick Watts, df; Barry Moore, Util.; George Clark, p; Middle Row: Wally Woods, of; Bill Rose, 2b; Clare Van Horne, cf and Manager: Bill Farquarson, President; Dunc Galbraith, c; Gil Robertson, c; Don Cooper, inf; Bill Brown, c; Front Row: Bill Wagner, p; Chuck Dalton, 3b; Tim Burgess, lf and p; Frank Slota, rf; Gord McWain, 3b; John Gillies, p.

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First Baseman	3	Centre Fielder	8
Second Baseman	4	Right Fielder	9
Third Baseman	5		

Symbols of Plays

Fumbled Grounder	A	Struck Out	K
Base Hit	—	Sacrifice Hit	H
Two-base Hit	==	Passed Ball	B
Three-base Hit	===	Balk	BK
Home Run	====	Base on Balls	BB
Fielder's Choice	FC	Muffed Fly	O
Hit by Pitcher	HP	Wild Throw	W
Wild Pitch	WP	Forced Out	XX
Stolen Base	S		
Left on Bases	L		

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MEET THE MAJORS



GORDON "Wacky" McMACON
 Second Base

Played part of last season in pro company in Ohio and joined the Majors in mid-season. He wound up the season with the Majors hitting at a neat .298 clip. He's one of the surest fielders on the club. Gordon is another London playground product.

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LONDON — ONTARIO

Getting Hits Is An Art Not A Gift, Says Hornsby

"The Rajah" Tells How to Meet the Ball — Was One of the Game's Best Hitters.

Rogers Hornsby, one of the Greatest batters baseball ever knew, tells how in the Chicago News this way:

"It is not easy to be a great hitter, or even a good one, because a star batter is not born. He is made; made by constant practice by correcting faults, by facing any pitcher with confidence.

"When I came up to the Cardinals in 1915, I had hit only 232 and .277 in two years play in the minor leagues. I was 19 years old and skinny as a rail. I had no power. I certainly was no 'natural' at that time.

"A youngster comes into baseball with a certain amount of ability. Maybe he has good legs and a good arm. If he handles himself easily, he can be taught to hit; it's merely a question of directing him along proper channels.

THINGS TO KNOW

"Know the strike zone. Be confi-

dent. Keep your eye on the ball and be ready to hit when the pitch comes.

"The strike zone is, theoretically, between the shoulders and knees. Actually the real zone is from the knees to the armpits. Above the armpits, you're gambling that the umpire will call a strike.

"Most of the time he won't. So you must be ready and able to umpire your own game; to call the pitches for yourself.

"Don't worry about the pitcher. He's got to get the ball over the plate and that's exactly where you want it to be, isn't it?

"Before you step into the box select a bat that feels free and easy in your hands. Don't try to swing club that you can't get around on an inside fast ball.

"The whole secret of hitting is to be as natural as can be and a bat that 'feels good' in your grip is

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Getting Hits Is An Art

half the battle. That's why bats range in weight from 30 to 42 ounces and vary in length.

"I used bats anywhere from 36 to 42 ounces and I remember Ken Williams of the old Browns swinging a 54-ounce stick. The main thing is not to let the bat be a drag on you.

HOW TO DO IT

"Most important is being ready to hit. Don't let the pitcher catch you waving the bat or easing it down on your shoulder at the wrong moment.

"Take a position in the box that is natural. There is no set spot. The problem is simply to adjust your stance so you can protect the entire 17 inches of plate, no matter where the ball crosses.

"The shorter the stride the better —because then you're not lunging after a pitch and getting off balance. Joe DiMaggio, of the Yanks, apart so that when he swung he advanced his front foot only a few inches.

"Shift around in the box. Be thinking all the time. Watch the pitcher and don't let him catch you in a rut. Then: don't make any

unnecessary moves with the bat.
HIT STRAIGHTAWAY

"Take a hitting position, with arms and elbows away from the body, and the bat back, ready to bring around. Don't be an uppercut hitter. Ruth was one and so was Babe Herman, but I never believed in swinging any way except on a dead level with the ball.

"You'll loft enough anyway. Besides, Ruth was a home run specialist. The ideal hitter is the straightaway, line-drive batsman.

"Hit the ball where it is pitched. Be prepared for a fast ball, a curve or any change-up pitch, and remember, don't stop the bat when it contacts the ball. Break the wrists and roll them with the swing. Follow through. Finish your swing with the bat around the opposite shoulder and head.

Don't try to outguess the pitcher. The odds are all in favor of him.

"If you are perfectly poised for any pitch and have the rhythm and timing of the 'follow through' in your wrist and shoulders, you have the fundamentals of a real hitter."

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GOOD SPORTS

More and more each year our citizens realize how much sport affects the life of our youth for good. Experience has proven that "Thou shalt nots" or even punishments alone cannot cope with delinquency. There must be something constructive to give scope to the energies. There must be an outlet for pent-up enthusiasms along safe and sane lines. There must be guidance and direction to Youth for character building on the field of sport as well as in the home, the school and the Church or the good influence of the latter may be largely lost. Precepts for self-discipline, for unselfishness, for courtesy and for fair dealing can best be learned by living them on the playing field and in everyday life and no sport I know of tests those qualities better than baseball. Parents need have little worry over their Youth if they are in the best sense of the words "Good Sports".

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Hamilton at Kitchener
London at Stratford
Galt at Guelph

Mon. 19—Waterloo at Hamilton
Wed. 21—Stratford at Guelph
Kitchener at Brantford
Hamilton at London (N)

Sat. 24—A.M. Guelph at Stratf'd
P.M. London at Brantf'd
Stratf'd at Kitchen'r
Waterloo at Galt

(floodlight)
Guelph at London
Galt at Waterloo

Mon. 26—Brantford at Hamilton

Wed. 28—Hamilton at Guelph
Waterloo at Stratford
London at Kitchener
Galt at Brantford

Sat. 31—Hamilton at Stratford
Brantford at London
Galt at Guelph
Kitchener at Waterloo

JUNE

Mon. 2—Kitchener at Hamilton

Wed. 4—Galt at London
Stratford at Brantford
Guelph at Waterloo

Sat. 7—Waterloo at Kitchener
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Stratford at Galt

Mon. 9—London at Hamilton

Wed. 11—Hamilton at Galt
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Brantford at Waterloo

Sat. 14—Guelph at Brantford
Stratford at London
Galt at Kitchener
Hamilton at Waterloo

Mon. 16—Galt at Hamilton
Kitchener at Stratford

Wed. 18—Kitchener at Guelph
Brantford at Stratford
Waterloo at London

Sat. 21—Galt at Stratford
Kitchener at London
Hamilton at Brantford
Guelph at Waterloo

Mon. 23—Brantford at Galt
Guelph at Hamilton

Wed. 25—Brantford at Kitchener
Stratford at Waterloo
Guelph at Galt

Sat. 28—Kitchener at Galt
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How to Play Baseball

FIRST—PHYSICAL FITNESS

First of all, I cannot lay too much emphasis on physical fitness and training. The lean, well-conditioned athlete finds his muscles elastic and ready to respond to quick, well-timed action. When an athlete is over-weight, he wastes precious energy as fat is a burning fuel which is bound to slow him up.

Proper training and diet are absolutely essential in playing Big League baseball. A Major Leaguer's breakfast, for instance, consists of fruit, cereal, two soft-boiled eggs, toast and coffee. He eats very little at noon, for he plays better ball on a partially empty stomach. Then, after the game, he is ready for a good, hearty dinner.

Every player will build himself up physically by getting lots of practise in the position which he is to play, but he must be sure to get enough work, so he won't tire when he is playing a regular game.

LONG, HARD PRACTISE IS ESSENTIAL

In Spring Training down south the Big Leaguer runs around the ball park several times before he even handles a ball. Warming and limbering up his body in this way lessens the chance for injury and prepares him for a long, hard practise.

Now, there are several reasons why the Major Leaguer must practise long, hard and regularly. Of course, he practises on his weaknesses to eliminate them, and practise serves to perfect his skill in all departments of the game. However (and this is very important) it also hardens him; builds up his wind and stamina, so he can stand the gauntlet of a long hard playing season. Championships are won by players who can "Take it in the Stretch!"

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How to Play Baseball

In the same vein, star ball players must have good equipment.

Fielders should select a glove which generously covers the hand, with ample finger length, so the ball will stick there. If your glove is too small you will have trouble grabbing and holding on to the ball. Major League players have their gloves fitted to their hands, so important is it to have the right sized glove.

In a catcher's mitt, look for plenty of fullness and weight. With a large, full mitt you will handle the ball with more certainty and its ample weight will withstand the steady pounding of fast balls.

And while we are on the subject of equipment, let us not overlook the importance of good baseball shoes. Never buy cheap shoes which quickly get out of shape or do not fit properly. These will greatly impair your speed and balance, and speed and balance are vital to successful baseball playing.

ATTENTION
YOUNG PITCHERS

Many young pitchers make the mistake of merely throwing the ball to get into shape. Don't forget that good strong legs are vital to pitching success. Throwing a fast ball for nine or more innings cannot be done on weak underpinning.

Big League pitchers get their legs in shape by going out in the outfield and having someone hit fly balls far off to the left and right of them, and they chase the ball at full speed whether they can make the catch or not. They continue this practise until they are dog tired, for they know that many a game has been lost because the pitcher's legs failed him.

In getting your arm in shape, throw fast balls a long time before starting to work on curves. My advice to young pitchers is to work hard on your fast ball, always trying to throw just a little faster, as
(Continued)

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Left to right, back row—Hargreaves, Infield; Hollowell, Outfield; Lockington, Outfield; Alex Galbraith Infield; Art Herchenratter, Outfield; Dunc McColl, Infield; Jones, Catcher; Swift, Infield.
 Centre row — Huber, Pitcher; Staff-Sgt. Bill Mann, Assistant Manager; Galbraith, Coach; Capt. C. H. Smith, Manager; Males Outfield.
 Front row — Augie Herchenratter, Infield; "Gill" Anderson, Catcher.
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London Baseball Champions

Bringing a Canadian baseball championship to London, a feat accomplished by the London Army in 1943 and the London Majors in 1944 and 1945 in winning the Sandlot title—is reviving a lot of memories because veteran baseball fans in the Forest City have never quite forgotten that back in 1876, the

London Tecumsehs won the world's baseball championship.

So all through the years there's been a sort of standard to maintain and while the diamond game has had its ups and downs in London, the standard has pretty well been held.

Back in the years before the last

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Great War and right after the war too, London had professional ball — the Class B Mint League. That was real baseball and the fans went for it in a big way. In and around 1920 when Buzz Wetzel, now the boss of the Cleveland Indian's farm system, was head of the London club, they ran up quite a record. In the 1920 season they won the championship with a mark of 86 victories against 32 losses.

After the Class B session died down, London went back into amateur ball although they did have some lean seasons where there was really nothing at all. Even the playing field, old Tecumseh Park, went to pot. It was revived by a few hard-working baseball lovers and later on John and Hugh Labatt took it over and handed it to the city as a gift.

A couple of times they have tried

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to revive professional ball in London. Once they tried to get the monied boys going at Queen's Park but this effort died naturally because of the location of the playing field. Pittsburg came in with a class "D" club in the Pony League but poor financing and unwise leadership washed the Pittsburg club out of London although they left behind an \$11,000 lighting system in the park. London

certainly gained on that deal.

Now the amateurs are holding forth again, thanks to the London Majors and London is once again hitting the high spots in the simon-pure ranks. It should be pointed out too, that in addition to the senior ranking London Major team there are some 40 other teams playing amateur baseball in London.

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Meet The Majors

BILL FARQUHARSON
President and Manager

There are two very excellent reasons why London Majors are considered to be tops in amateur baseball circles. One is Bill Farquharson, the canny manager of the club, and the other, is of course, Clare Van Horne, Probably the best diamond coach in Ontario.

When the Majors were organized after the London Army team had folded a few years ago, there were few baseball minded citizens in London who thought the team would be a success.

But they failed to reckon with Farquharson and Van Horne.

The minute the Majors moved onto the baseball diamond at Labatt Park, they immediately made a hit with the fans, to say nothing of making hits off opposing pitchers. Their sparkling brand of ball and general-all-round hustle soon drew crowds of three and four thousand to the Labatt ball pasture,

figures that haven't been rivalled by any amateur nine in the province.

Of course, managing the Majors is only one of Farquharson's many duties. The sudden surge of popularity of baseball among the minors in London is directly due to Farquharson's untiring efforts on their behalf. He's made the local minor ball setup one of the most envied in Ontario, and not even Toronto, with excellent playground system, has anything on Bill's playground leagues.

Farquharson, who is the head man of the London playground system, is one of these rare fellows who has a promotive mind, as well as a keen interest in athletics. Not only has he put London on the baseball map in a great big way, but his organization of all branches of sport in London is considered particularly outstanding.

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Questions And Answers

In the following list of "tricky" baseball rules and their correct answers you will find many that have been the cause of much argument. Study them and then try them out on your team mates and friends.

QUESTION: If a base-runner going from one base to another is hit by a batted ball he is out—but who gets the credit for making the put-out?

ANSWER: The player closest to the base-runner when he was hit by the batted ball.

QUESTION: If a ball is right on

the baseline is it a fair or foul ball:

ANSWER: To be a foul the ball must be outside the line.

QUESTION: If the ball strikes the ground in front of the batter is he allowed to hit it?

ANSWER: Yes—but if he does not swing at it such a delivery would be classed as a ball—even though it bounced in a good hitting position over the plate.

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