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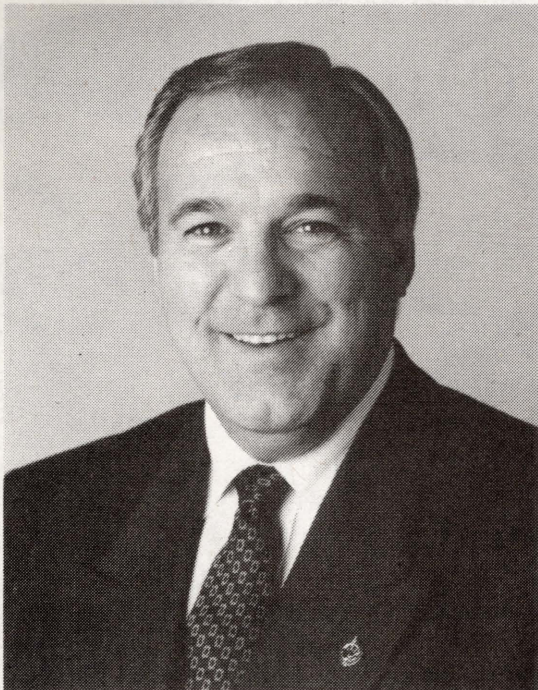
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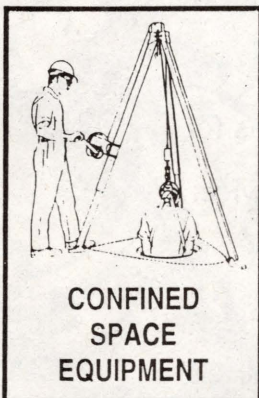
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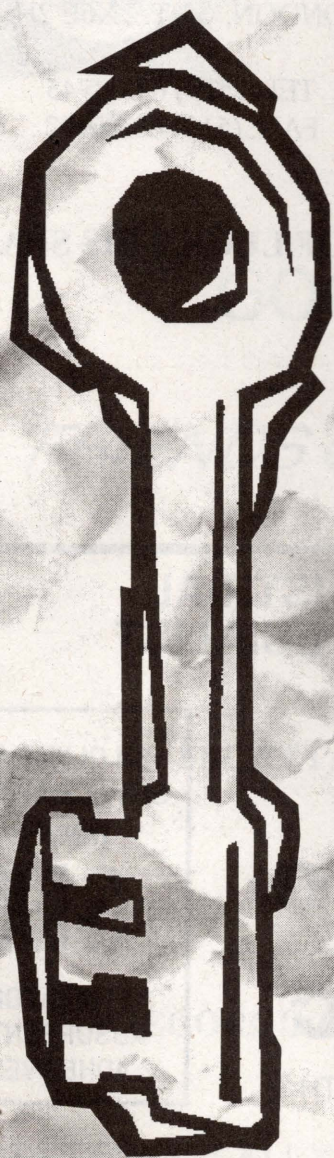
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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 141st 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.

Mayor Dianne Haskett



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# DO YOU REMEMBER THE LONDON PIRATES?

By Carl McComb

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.

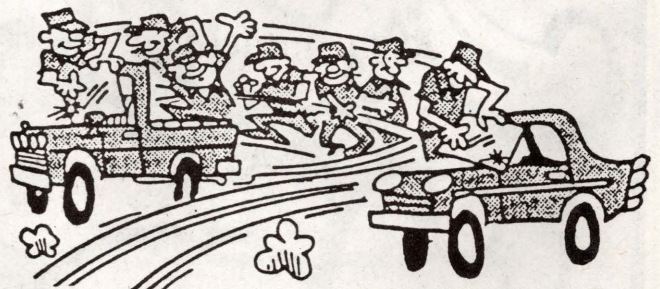
In the 1924 season, future Hall of Famer, Charlie Gehringer played 2nd base for London. In 1925, London adopted the name Indians. This league disbanded after the 1925 season.

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. Catherines, Hamilton, Guelph, and Brantford.

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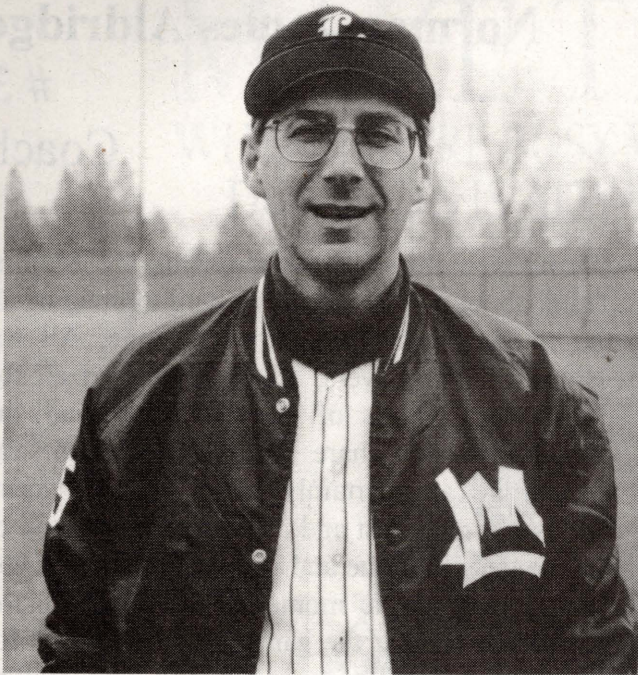


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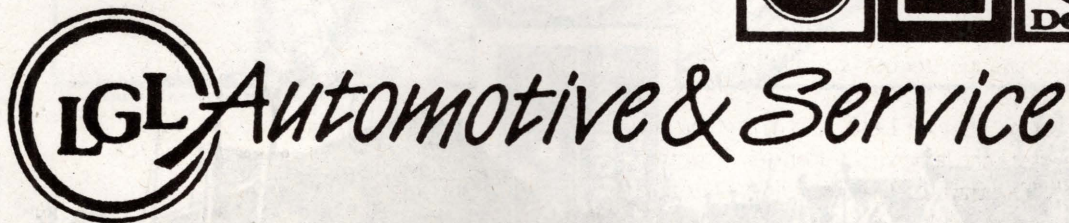


**Alex McKay**

**# 6**

**MGR**

Al is a 16 year veteran of the Intercounty League. A second baseman pairing with short stop Dave Byers for many of those years; they consistently turned 30 or more double plays leading the League year after year. Prior to his playing days Al spent much of his youth chasing bats as the Majors bat boy. While spending 4 years from ('77-'81) at Southern Mississippi University he met his wife, Melissa. They have two beautiful daughters; Katie (8 yrs) & Beth (5 yrs). Always a student of the game Al begins his first full year as the Majors Skipper.



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## Norman James Aldridge

### # 3

### Coach



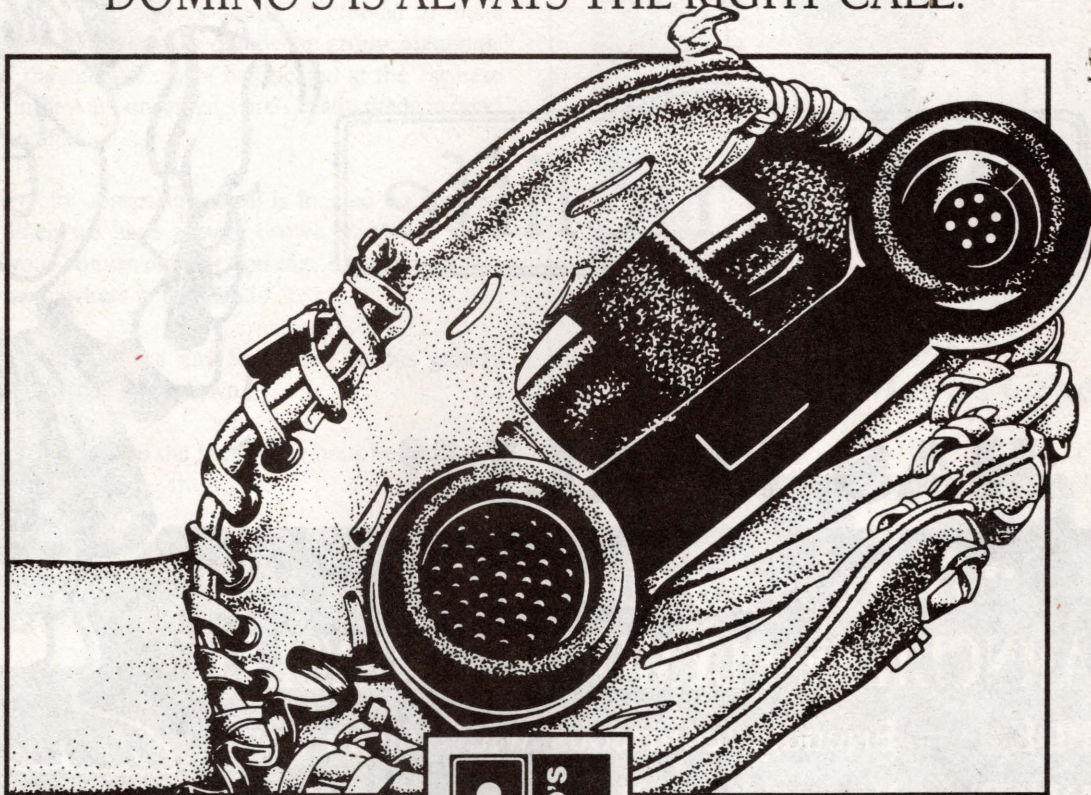
Norm, is in his 6th decade with the Majors. Think about it, 6 decades. It's hard to imagine all the things Norm has seen and done. All the games, all the players, all the trips, and all the experience. Those of us that have had the opportunity to share the stories and the knowledge are certainly better for it. Norm, brings a certain zest and love of the game and of people that is unique and wonderful. Fans, if you want a truly magic moment, slide down to the rail before or after the game; Norm has time for everyone. A word of warning..take note: Before or after the game. We will not be held responsible if you make your move during the game. Norman James Aldridge.....Thank you.



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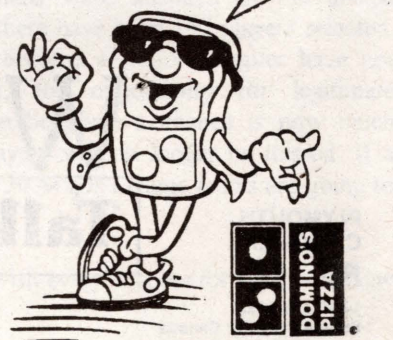
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## WELCOME

from the "Majors"

**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.

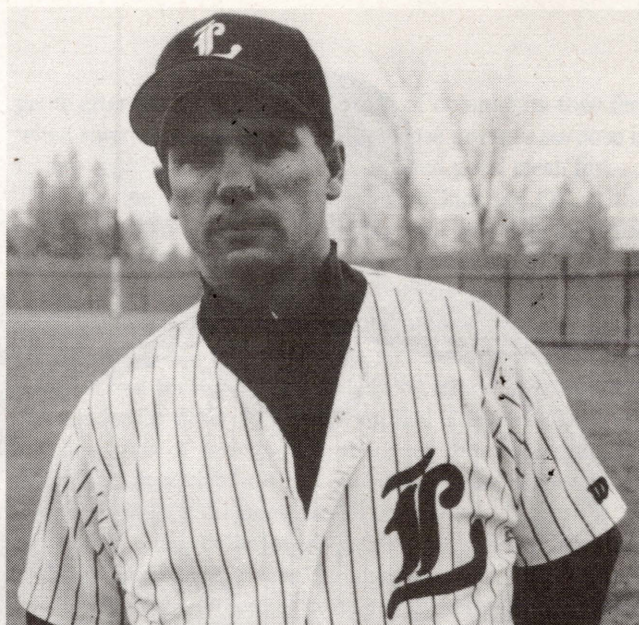
**Rainchecks** - Any game postponed before it is officially completed (5 innings constitutes an official game) allows the ticket holders for that game to exchange their tickets for tickets to a future regular season London Majors game. Raincheck tickets can be exchanged in advance at the first base concession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

**Wheelchair Access** - Wheelchair seating is located along the main walkway behind and to the left and right of home plate. Plexiglass is installed for your protection.

**Majors Administrative office** - can be reached by calling 641-2137 or fax 641-7033.



**Jay Lapp #13**  
**London Majors Coach**



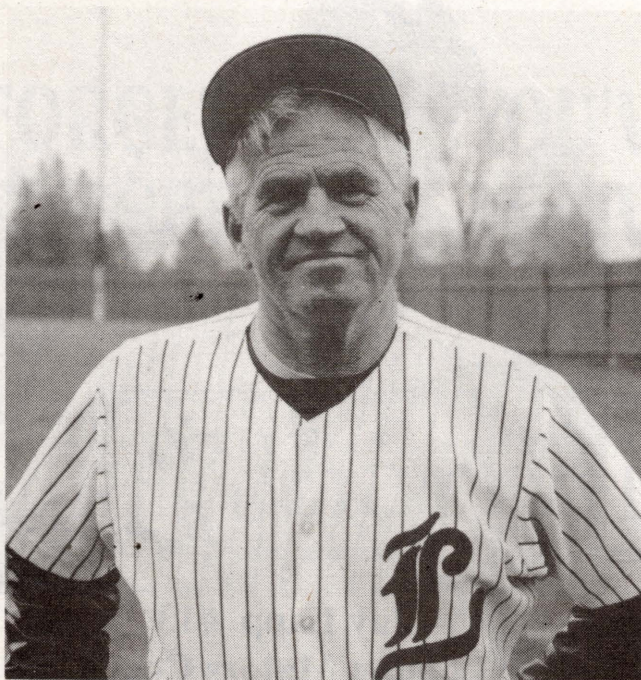
On March 1, 1991, Major League owners voted to include Canadians in the annual June draft. Prior to this Canadian players were deemed "Free Agents", which meant that any player could be signed by any team at any time. With this new interest in Canadian players, the Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau came to Canada.

The purpose of the Bureau is to identify and evaluate Major League prospects and communicate accurate information of these players to the Scouting Directors of all 30 Major League clubs. There are 15 Territorial Scouts located throughout Canada, the newest addition being former London Major pitcher and now coach, Jay Lapp.

Since Canadians were included in the annual Major League Draft, there have been 145 players selected. The requirements to become a Major Leaguer have not changed. However, the opportunity for legitimate Canadian prospects to be given a chance is now much greater. Deserving players will no longer be missed. If a Canadian can play, all 30 Major League teams are going to hear about him.

The Majors wish every success for Jay on his new venture.





**Dan "Uncle Buck" Mendham**

**# 21**

**London Majors Coach**

Dan was an All-Star 3rd baseman for the Majors in the 50's and 60's. Until recently, Dan, held the I.C. record for being hit by a pitch, which is in full character with the toughness he brought to the playing field. Uncle Buck returned to the Majors as a coach 3 years ago. He's a quiet man (umpires have a different opinion) that brings a calming element to the game. His good nature and vast experience will go a long way in making this an enjoyable, successful summer.

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# THE BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

by Jim Chapman

It's a man's game, so they say, yet the stands are full of women of all ages. Conventional wisdom tells us "the game's the thing," but many nights there's a lot of excitement in the bleachers, too. "Only baseball fans go to the baseball games"; you hear that sometimes, but it's not entirely true either.

Baseball is one of the most popular sports in the world but the action on the field is only part of the fun of attending a London Majors game. The hitting, the pitching, the clever fielding plays; that is what the games are all about, but even if you can't tell a ground ball from a groundhog, you can still have lots of fun at Labatt Park.

Look around you. Look at the people who've come to the park for today's game. Some of them are avid fans, clutching their scorecards and carefully noting every pitch, every hit, every out. Others are more casual observers, enjoying the action but not analyzing it. Then there are the highlight fans; they pay attention only when there's a tight situation developing, or the crowd makes a lot of noise about a particular play.

Last (and believe me, far from least) there are the ballpark fans. Note I said ballpark and not ballgame. These are the folks, of both sexes, who come to the park for reasons beyond the action on the field. They may not understand the finer points of the game, and even a lightning triple play may leave them unimpressed, but they do notice the girl in the short shorts, the kids in the neon sneakers chasing a foul ball, and the elderly gentleman who sports a Blue Jays cap.

The ones who see all this, who watch it with interest and enjoyment, these are the people caught up in the ballpark experience. The game is a part of it, sure, but there's a lot more that brings them to Labatt Park. They also come to see the people, taste the hotdogs, hear the crowd roar, watch the night settle gently on the field as the city beyond grows dark. And in their own way they are fans just as surely as the guy up in the bleachers who knows the current batting average of every player on the team.

They bring their own kids, and smile at other people's. They clap when one of our boys hits a homer, and they laugh at the antics of the hawkers in the stands. And when the game is over, they take their souvenirs and head for home, sometimes not even knowing who won or lost, but satisfied they've had a good time.

They are an important part of the ballpark experience itself, and in a sense almost a farm team for fandom. Many of them who come initially just for the fun of being at the park catch the fever and get into the intricacies and enjoyments of the game itself. Others never will understand nor much care what goes on out on the field, but they'll come back

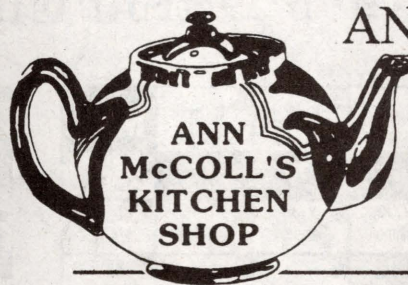
game after game, enjoying the sense of community they feel when surrounded by other people whose primary purpose is to have a good time, some old-fashioned good clean fun.

They are the mothers who know their kids are OK at the park; they can be sent for a soda and they'll come back safely. They are young couples, sometimes more intent on each other than the game on the field, enjoying a courting ritual that stretches back into the last century. They are oldsters who like to feel they're still a part of something, and find that feeling of camaraderie by sitting in the stands, surrounded by other people having fun. They are the wives and husbands of serious fans, there for the companionship of the one they love, not too concerned about who wins or loses the game, but having fun all the same.

Every age, every color, every gender, the folks in the seats at the ballpark all know the summertime secret that's really no secret at all: "there just isn't any better summertime fun!"

Let's make no mistake though - the game being played on the field is at the heart of what's happening on game day at any ballpark. Whatever may happen around it, the action out on the diamond is the ultimate justification for being there. But it's not the only one: it takes a combination of the game plus all the action and excitement around it to create the unique summertime happening known as the ballpark experience.

There's fun for everyone and a place for all kinds of fans at the ballpark, so settle back, watch the game or watch the crowd, have a hotdog or a cool drink, and enjoy everything that the ballpark experience has to offer. See you there!



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## 1996 London Majors Baseball Club

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26 1:15 Cleveland	27 8:05 Kansas City	28	29 8:05 Kansas City	30 8:05 Chicago	31 8:05 Chicago	<b>MAY</b>
<b>JUNE</b>						1 7:05 Chicago
2 2:05 Chicago	3	4 7:35 Baltimore	5 7:35 Baltimore	6 7:35 Baltimore	7 7:05 New York	8 1:05 New York
9 1:15 New York	10 7:05 Baltimore	11 7:05 Baltimore	12 1:15 Baltimore	13	14 8:05 Minnesota	15 8:05 Minnesota
16 2:05 Minnesota	17 7:05 Oakland	18 7:05 Oakland	19 1:15 Oakland	20 7:05 Minnesota	21 7:05 Minnesota	22 1:15 Minnesota
23 1:15 Minnesota 1:05 Boston	24 10:05 Oakland	25 3:15 Oakland	26	27 7:05 Boston	28 7:05 Boston	29 1:05 Boston
<b>JULY</b>						
1 7:05 Milwaukee	2 7:05 Milwaukee	3 7:05 Milwaukee	4 7:05 Toronto	5 7:05 Toronto	6 1:15 Toronto	
7 1:15 Toronto	8	9 All-Star Game Philadelphia	10	11 7:05 Boston	12 7:05 Boston	13 1:05 Boston
14 1:15 Boston	15 8:05 Milwaukee	16 8:05 Milwaukee	17 2:05 Milwaukee	18 7:35 Toronto	19 7:35 Toronto	20 4:05 Toronto
21 1:05 Toronto	22 10:05 California	23 10:05 California	24	25 10:05 Seattle	26 10:05 Seattle	27 10:05 Seattle
28 4:35 Seattle	29	30 7:05 California	31 7:05 California			

<b>AUGUST</b>							1 1:15 California	2 7:05 Seattle	3 7:05 Seattle
4 1:15 Seattle	5	6 7:05 Texas	7 7:05 Texas	8 7:05 Texas	9 7:35 New York	10 1:05 New York			
11 1:35 New York	12 8:35 Texas	13 8:35 Texas	14 8:35 Texas	15	16 7:05 Cleveland	17 1:05 Cleveland			
18 1:05 Cleveland	19 7:05 Chicago	20 7:05 Chicago	21 1:15 Chicago	22 8:05 Kansas City	23 8:05 Kansas City	24 8:05 Kansas City			
25 2:35 Kansas City	26 7:05 Cleveland	27 7:05 Cleveland	28 1:15 Cleveland	29 7:05 Kansas City	30 7:05 Kansas City	31 1:15 Kansas City			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>									
1 1:15 Kansas City	2 2:05 Chicago	3 8:05 Chicago	4 8:05 Chicago	5	6 7:35 Baltimore	7 7:35 Baltimore			
8 1:35 Baltimore	9 7:35 Baltimore	10 7:05 New York	11 7:05 New York	12 1:15 New York	13 7:05 Baltimore	14 7:05 Baltimore			
15 1:15 Baltimore	16	17 7:05 Boston	18 7:05 Boston	19 1:15 Boston	20 8:05 Milwaukee	21 8:05 Milwaukee			
22 2:05 Milwaukee	23 7:05 Toronto	24 7:05 Toronto	25 1:15 Toronto	26	27 7:05 Milwaukee	28 7:05 Milwaukee			
29 1:15 Milwaukee	30								

All games and times subject to change

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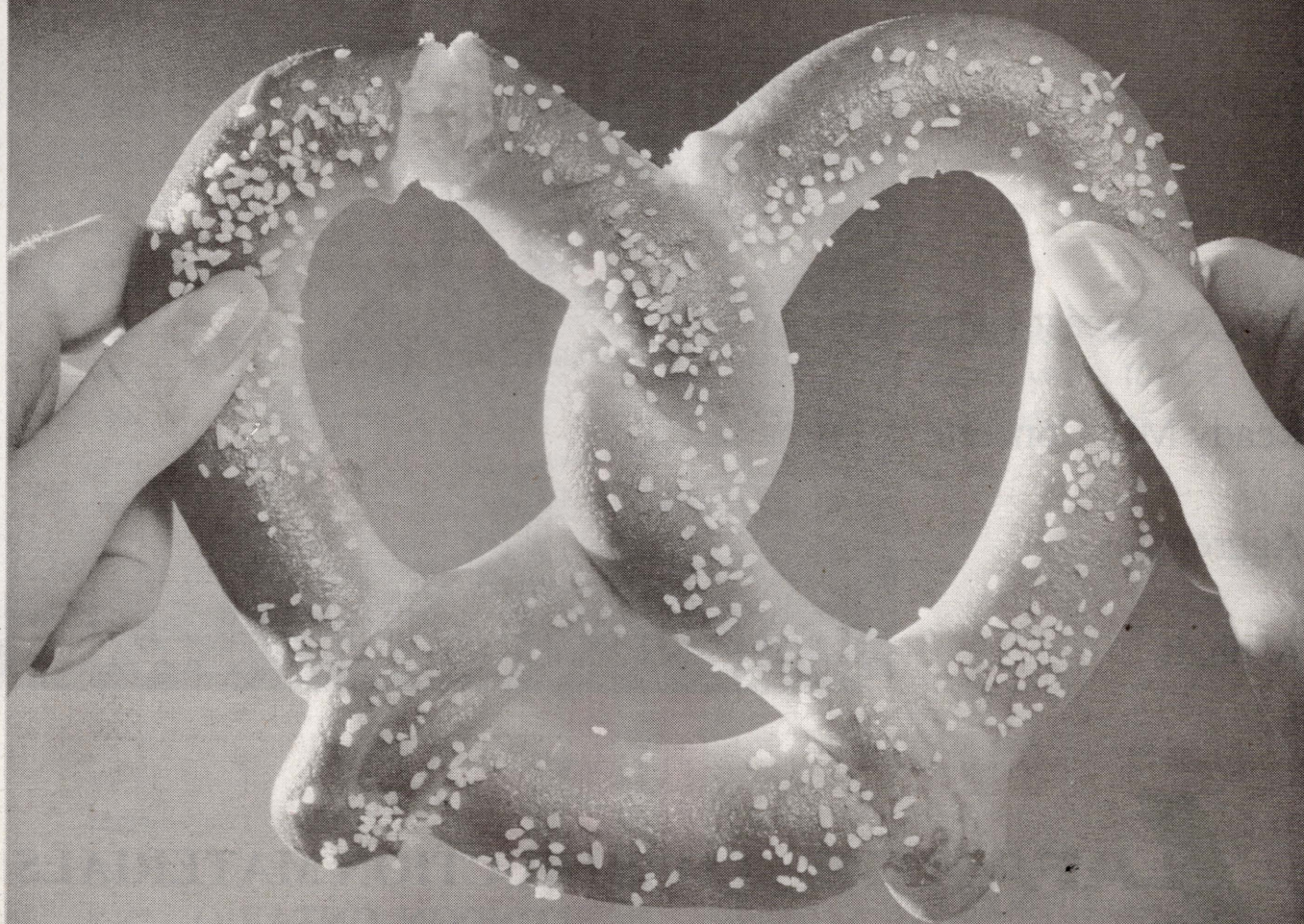
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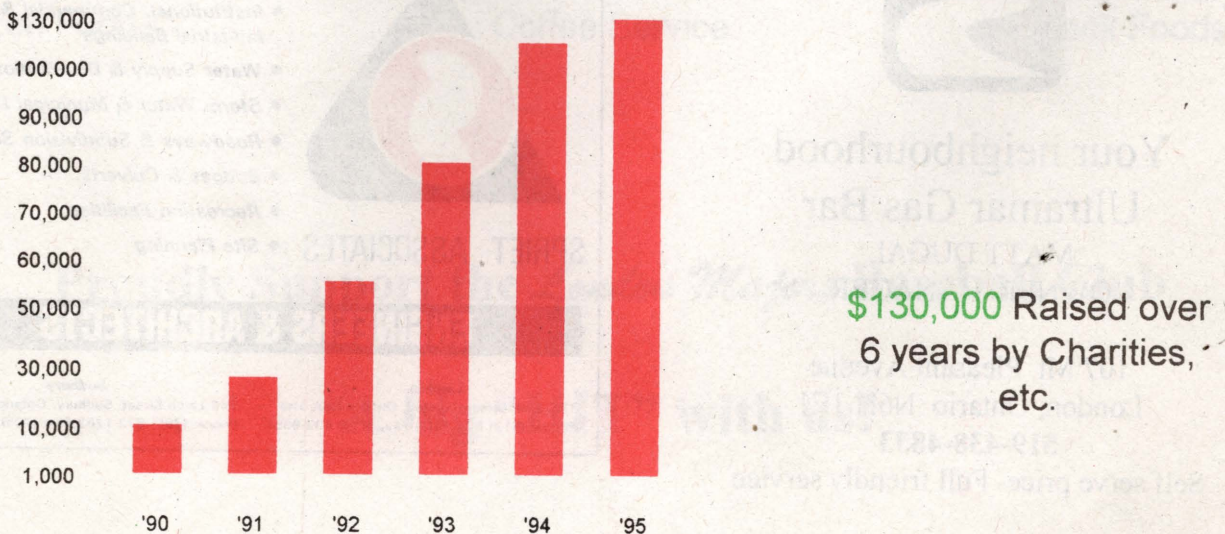
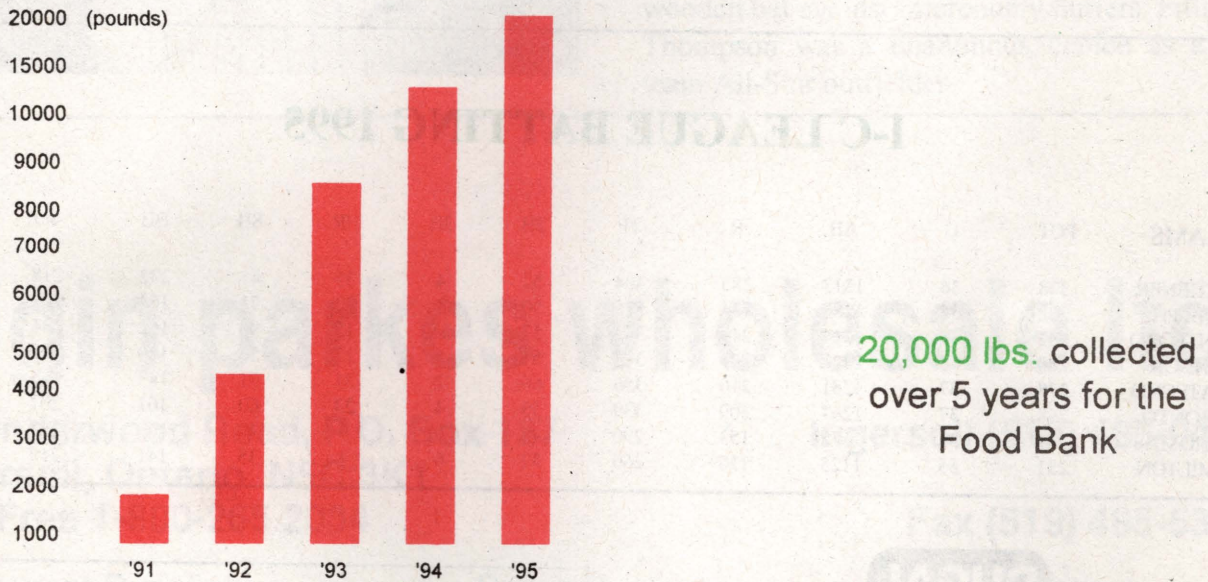
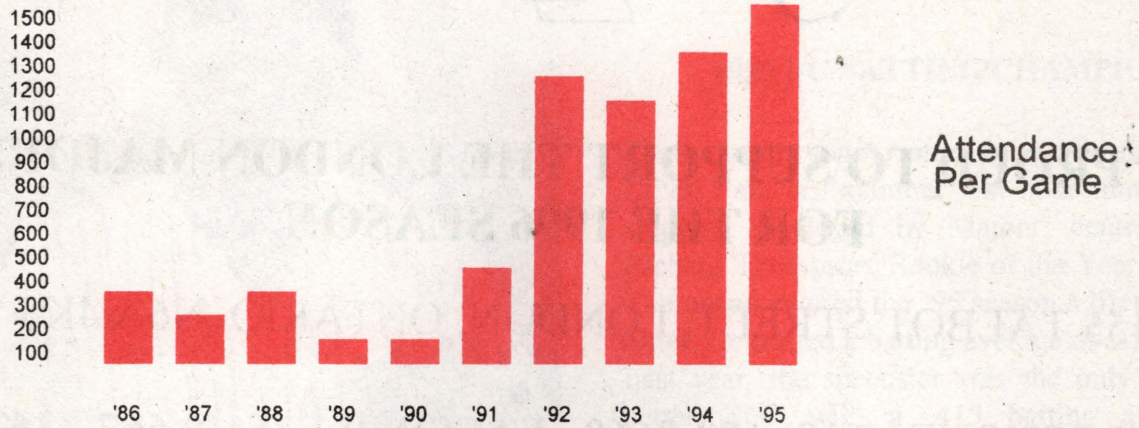


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TEAMS	PCT	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	SB	BB	SO	RB1
KITCHENER	.308	36	1313	283	404	52	4	35	41	232	218	247
GUELPH	.292	36	1283	234	375	50	7	20	71	161	221	197
BRANTFORD	.282	35	1214	240	342	57	15	15	96	162	234	201
LONDON	.280	35	1240	209	347	51	5	13	56	130	185	177
STRATFORD	.278	37	1281	216	356	66	2	31	71	147	188	191
TORONTO	.268	37	1267	209	339	53	4	23	60	161	207	176
ST. THOMAS	.246	35	1178	153	290	42	0	9	46	106	268	113
HAMILTON	.231	35	1125	130	260	32	6	4	35	141	219	105



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# The Impact of Baseball

## by Gary Allan Price

Baseball is such a 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 a lot 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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HOME----

## MAY

27 7:00 CHIC	28 7:00 CHIC	29 7:00 CHIC	30	31 7:00 K.C.		
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## JUNE

					1 3:30 K.C.	2 12:30 K.C.
3	4 7:00 N.Y.	5 7:00 N.Y.	6 7:00 N.Y.	7 8:00 TEX	8 8:00 TEX	9 2:30 TEX
10 7:00 N.Y.	11 7:00 N.Y.	12 12:00 N.Y.	13 9:30 CAL	14 9:30 CAL	15 9:30 CAL	16 3:30 CAL
17	18 7:00 SEA	19 10:00 SEA	20 9:30 SEA	21 9:30 OAK	22 3:30 OAK	23 3:30 OAK
24	25 7:00 SEA	26 7:00 SEA	27 12:00 SEA	28 7:00 MIL	29 3:30 MIL	30 12:30 MIL

## JULY

1 12:30 BAL	2 7:00 BAL	3 7:00 BAL	4 6:30 DET	5 6:30 DET	6 12:45 DET	7 12:45 DET
8	9 ALL STAR	10	11 7:30 MIL	12 7:30 MIL	13 7:30 MIL	14 1:30 MIL
15 7:00 BAL	16 7:00 BAL	17 7:00 BAL	18 7:00 DET	19 7:00 DET	20 3:30 DET	21 12:30 DET
22 7:00 CLEVE	23 7:00 CLEVE	24 7:00 CLEVE	25 7:00 OAK	26 7:00 OAK	27 3:30 OAK	28 12:30 OAK
29	30 6:30 CLEVE	31 6:30 CLEVE				

## AUGUST

			1 6:30 CLEVE	2 2:00 CAL	3 3:30 CAL	4 7:30 CAL
5 6:30 BOST	6 6:30 BOST	7 6:30 BOST	8 12:30 BOST	9 7:00 TEX	10 3:30 TEX	11 12:30 TEX
12 7:00 BOST	13 7:00 BOST	14 7:00 BOST	15	16 7:30 MINN	17 7:30 MINN	18 1:30 MINN
19 7:30 K.C.	20 7:30 K.C.	21 7:30 K.C.	22 7:30 CHIC	23 7:30 CHIC	24 6:30 CHIC	25 1:30 CHIC
26 7:00 MINN	27 7:00 MINN	28 7:00 MINN	29	30 7:00 CHIC	31 3:30 CHIC	

## SEPTEMBER

						1 12:30 CHIC
2 12:30 K.C.	3 7:00 K.C.	4 7:00 K.C.	5	6 7:00 N.Y.	7 1:00 N.Y.	8 1:00 N.Y.
9 7:00 TEX	10 7:00 TEX	11 7:00 TEX	12	13 7:00 N.Y.	14 3:30 N.Y.	15 12:30 N.Y.
16 7:00 N.Y.	17 7:30 MIL	18 1:30 MIL	19	20 7:00 BAL	21 6:30 BAL	22 1:00 BAL
23 6:30 DET	24 6:30 DET	25 12:45 DET	26 7:00 BAL	27 7:00 BAL	28 3:30 BAL	29 12:30 BAL





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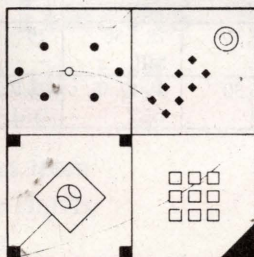
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	G	G S	CG	W	L	S	ERA	IP	R	ER	H	HR	BB	SO	HB	WP
KEN WILLIAMS	3	3	0	1	0	0	0.00	6.2	0	0	3	0	4	2	0	1
JON OWEN	3	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	8.0	0	0	4	0	4	4	0	0
SCOTT STAFFORD	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	4.0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0
MIKE LUMLEY	11	3	1	3	0	2	2.83	35.0	22	11	33	1	11	37	3	7
HARRY MUIR	3	2	0	0	1	0	4.05	13.1	8	6	18	0	8	6	2	3
RICK ROSS	8	4	2	1	3	2	5.18	33.0	24	19	39	0	15	12	3	2
BILL WEIR	2	0	0	0	0	0	5.40	1.2	1	1	1	1	3	2	0	0
PETE MENDHAM	13	11	2	3	7	0	6.29	73.0	56	51	92	5	42	29	9	4
DAN BROWN	10	3	0	2	4	0	6.42	33.2	26	24	41	2	25	18	5	3

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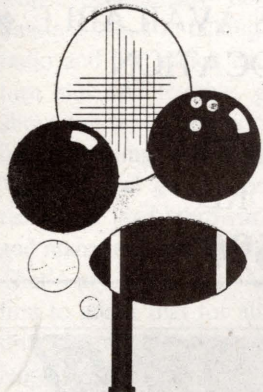
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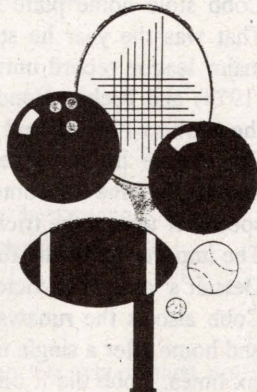
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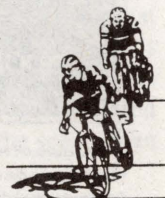
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"YOU FEEL GUILTY TELLING THE BATTERS TO GO OUT THERE AND GET A HIT. THEY LOOK AT YOU FUNNY, AS IF TO SAY, "YOU TRY IT." - RAY MILLER

"I COULD NEVER PLAY IN NEW YORK. THE FIRST TIME I EVER CAME INTO A GAME THERE, I GOT IN THE BULL PEN CAR AND THEY TOLD ME TO LOCK THE DOORS." - MIKE FLANAGAN



## The Cobb Legend

Ty Cobb, who ravaged American League diamonds and pitchers for 24 years, is rated by many observers as the greatest all-around baseball player ever.

The former Tiger great established more records in more phases of the game than any other player. He possessed a competitive spirit and will and equally sharp baseball mind unequaled by any player.

Cobb's record performances are as long as a Babe Ruth home run. But one of Cobb's most unusual feats is his record of stealing home 35 times in regular season play. He also did it once in a World Series. Only one player--George J. Burns, a National League outfielder from 1911 to 1925--came anywhere near the swift Cobb with 27 steals of home. Among active players, Rod Carew leads the pack with 17.

Cobb stole home plate six times for the Tigers in 1915. That was the year he stole 96 bases, which stood as the major league record until Maury Wills (1962), Lou Brock (1974) and Rickey Henderson (1982) came along to raise the mark to 104,118 and finally 130.

Cobb stole home twice in one game during his record season. In June 18 contest against Washington, the Tiger speedster turned the trick in both the first and fifth innings. The importance of the thefts is emphasized by the fact that Detroit's margin of victory was two runs--5-3.

Cobb also is the runaway leader of stealing second, third and home after a single time at bat, having turned that trick six times. Cobb did it on Sept. 2, 1907; July 23, 1909; July 12, 1911; July 4, 1912; June 18, 1917; and Aug. 10, 1924.

Three other Tigers turned the trick for a total of four times. Jackie Tavener did it on July 10, 1927 and repeated the performance on July 25, 1928. Bill Donovan was the first Tiger to do it on May 7, 1906. Bill Coughlin followed it on June 6, 1906.

The total of 10 give the Tigers the Runaway major league lead. Pittsburgh is second with five, one less than Cobb's individual performance.

But Cobb was more than a base stealer. He also was the best hitter the game have ever seen. Cobb won a record nine straight American League batting championships from 1907 through 1915. He repeated again in 1917-18-19.

Cobb also won the RBI championships in 1907-08-09-11. In 1909 he won the triple crown with a .337 average, nine home runs and 115 runs batted in. Cobb's 4191 hits are the most in history. His lifetime batting average of .367 may never be challenged.



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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 speck 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 and 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 assist 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.

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# CANADA'S BASEBALL CAPITAL CELEBRATES

## 141st 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, Ingersol 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. Theirs was simply an understanding to respect each other's contracts.

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The International Association was a serious reform minded attempt, maybe the last, to give smaller centers an equal chance to compete with big cities. While it's schedule was a little muddled and it's play may not have been quite as good as that in the National League; it was an independent major league rival. On the last day of the 1877 season in early October, London defeated the Pittsburgh Alleghenies 5-2 to win the International Association title. It was a time of mixed emotion; only a few days before, London's fine catcher, Ed Somerville had died suddenly of pneumonia in a Hamilton hospital. Still it had been a remarkable year particularly at mid season when London, as Canadian Championship of 1876, swept Chicago--the previous year's National League winners--in a two game series. Not a world series perhaps, but nevertheless, victories that would become part of London's folklore.

Over the next winter, amazing developments almost pushed London into a historic first. The National League faced with a real crisis in its membership invited London to join the Tecumseh's Board of Directors wrestled with their options through December. In a frank letter to the Buffalo International Association team, Gorman stated "our members seen inclined to accept the offer and I will go to Cleveland to see what they have to say". What Gorman found was that regardless of their present troubles, the league had decided to stick to its guns regarding limits on games with outside clubs. For London this would have meant an end to lucrative dates with neighboring cities like Guelph. The Tecumsehs rejected membership delaying Canada's entry over 90 years until the Expos joined.

I suspect this decision was fatal to the Tecumsehs though the 1878 season got off well. The Association was stronger, the schedule more rigorous, and the quality of play higher. By mid season however, the Tecumsehs were in trouble. Internal wrangling, financial problems, and rumors of thrown games, conspired to end a glorious chapter. By September the best players had been replaced by local amateurs. In the team's executive ranks, Harry Gorman left for the newspaper business in Sarnia, and Englehart was off to Petrolia. By 1879 the fabled Tecumsehs were history. Yet baseball survived in London and over the years the city's teams played in a number of minor leagues. Future major leaguers like Bob Emslie, George Gibson and William Mountjoy were graduates of London sandlots. Another player, Adam Beck, was to become a prominent Ontario civic leader. Old Tecumseh Park, first occupied in 1877 when the Association team had to vacate an inner city park following a petition launched by the tavern keepers, gradually deteriorated. By the time Fred Goldsmith returned for Booster Day in 1936, the grounds were in need of renovation. Labatt's took on the task and in the 1940's fans sat in a new grandstand to cheer on the world sandlot champion London Majors. Inter-county baseball and local sports dominated the now renamed Labatt Park. The London Majors and local L.D.B.A. teams are fitting tenants for baseball's oldest still-functioning location.



## EVER WONDER HOW IT BEGAN?

**LADIES DAY** - First used regularly by the Cincinnati Reds, who discovered that when handsome Tony Mullane was to pitch, the turnout of women fans was much larger than usual. The astute club owner in 1889 advertised that Mullane would pitch every Monday and that all ladies accompanied by paying male escorts would be admitted free. Mullane, with black, wavy hair and waxed mustache, won 283 major league games.

**SEVENTH-INNING STRETCH** - First noted in baseball writing of 1869 but more popularly believed to have been started in 1910 when President William Howard Taft, a great baseball fan, rose to stretch his legs. The fans, thinking he was about to leave, stood out of respect.

**FAN** - When Chris Van de Ahe, a genial German owner of the St. Louis teams in the 1880's noted a fan who seldom missed a game, he commented: "Dot feller's a regular FAN-a-tic" with the accent on the first syllable.

**HOT CORNER** - A Cincinnati writer coined this one in 1889 after a game in which the Reds' third baseman, Hick Carpenter, caught seven line drives. Wrote the amazed scribe: "The Brooklyn had old Hick on the hot corner all afternoon and it's a miracle he wasn't murdered."

**SHUTOUT** - This one comes from the world of horseracing. In 1879, a Troy, N.Y. writer reported: "The Troys have at least been whitewashed - shut out, as the horse men say." Until then, the term was "a Chicago" because the first no-run game was pitched by a Chicago hurler.



Verna Wakeling

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## MAJORS

[illegible]

## VISITORS

[illegible]



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character.  
They reveal it.

– Heywood Broun

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Darren Klumpers



Larry Kearns



Lisa Champion



Norm Penney

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## LONDON MAJORS 1996 SCHEDULE



Home Away



### MAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 2:00 TOR	13	14	15	16 8:00 STRAT	17	18
19 2:00 KIT	20	21	22	23 8:00 ST.TH	24	25 2:00 GUE
26 1:30 STRAT	27	28 8:00 STRAT	29	30 7:50 GUE	31	

### JUNE

						1
2 2:00 TOR	3	4	5	6 7:50 GUE	7	8
9 2:00 HAM	10	11 7:50 KIT	12	13 8:00 TOR	14	15 2:00 BRANT
16 1:30 BRANT	17	18	19	20 7:50 GUE	21	22 7:45 GUE
23 7:30 ST.TH	24	25	26	27 8:00 TOR	28	29
30 7:30 KIT						

### JULY

	1 6:30 STRA	2	3	4 7:50 HAM	5	6
7 2:00 HAM	8	9	10	11 7:50 ST.TH	12	13
14 7:30 ST.TH	15	16 8:00 TOR	17	18 7:50 BRANT	19	20
21 7:30 KIT	22	23 7:50 ST.TH	24	25 7:50 HAM	26	27 2:00 BRANT
28 2:00 HAM	29	30 8:00 STRA	31			

### AUGUST

				1 7:45 BRANT	2	3
4 1:30 KIT	5	6	7	8	9	10



# London Juvenile Intercounty Badgers

Managed by Graeme Nichol

The London Badgers baseball team competes in the Intercounty minor junior (juvenile) League. This is its second year of operation. It is an all-start team consisting of 18 and 19 yr-old players chosen from various local associations within, or affiliated with, the London District Association.

In 1995, the Badgers won the South London Juvenile Tournament and the O.B.A. Juvenile 'B' Provincial Title. This year they have their sights set on the 'A' Championship Tourney schedule for London August 15 - 18 as part of the Ontario Summer Games.

Five members of the 1995 roster are presently attending schools on baseball referrals. One, Mike Meyers, was drafted by the Houston Astros.

The team is even stronger in 1996 and expects this process to continue and expand. The Badgers are sponsored by the Fanshawe Optimists.

## Badgers Home Game Schedule (at Labatt Park)

May 6	Guelph	7:30
May 11	Cambridge	2:00
May 27	Waterloo Major	7:30
June 1	Brantford	7:00
June 3	Kitchener	7:30
June 10	Waterloo Minor	7:30
June 17	Cambridge	7:30
June 24	Brantford	7:30
June 26	Waterloo Major	7:30
July 8	Waterloo Minor	7:30
July 15	Kitchener	7:30
July 22	Waterloo Major	7:30
Aug 5	Guelph	7:30
Aug 13	Cambridge	7:30
Aug 19	Brantford	7:30

*Note:* O.B.A. Juvenile "A" Championship  
Tournament is Aug 15 -18, '96

## "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 '96 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.



## Majors Park Staff



**Concession  
Manager**

1st row: Brian Jermy (Statistician) , Art Lierman (" The Music Man"), Paul McCarrey (Announcer)  
2nd row: Diane Tillotson ( Front gate, Singer), Shelley Eddie, Sue Gibson ( Scoreboard)  
Concession Manager: Sherri Cecchetto

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*A. Bartlett Giamatti*

## 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.

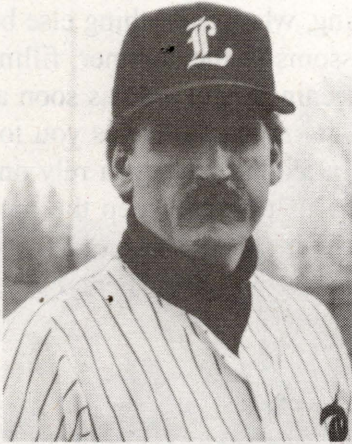
Players will tell you the best games played are those in which the umpires are never noticed. It's true. As umpires, we understand this theory and make every attempt to let the players decide the outcome. But umpires DO have a universal creed. We DO make mistakes...but admit this? NEVER!

Enjoy the 1996 Intercounty Season. Be kind to the boys in blue!





## 1996 LONDON MAJORS



Jon  
Owen  
# 1  
RHP



Ken  
Frohwerk  
# 10  
2B



Mike  
Shewan  
# 12  
Catcher



Dan  
Mendham  
# 34  
3B



Rick  
Ross  
# 11  
LF/RHP



Arden  
Eddie  
# 24  
1B



# LONDON'S BASEBALL HERITAGE IS RICH

by Barry Wells

Now and then we all come across an incredibly positive community interest story of passion, commitment and tradition. This is one of those stories. It's even better if we as citizens can do our bit to further the cause.

Arden and Shelley Eddie's long-standing torch of the London Majors Baseball Club at the world's oldest ball park (Labatt Park), reaffirms my belief the best things in London or any community, grow from the grassroots skyward, not from the bureaucratic red-tape down.

Every April when the snow melts and the smell of the earth wafts up his nostrils, London Majors' owner/player Arden Eddie gets antsy for baseball. The 1996 season will be the 78th for the Majors in the Intercounty Baseball League. Eddie first played for the London Majors in 1967. He took over the club in 1977 and moved his team back into the white-frame, cottage-style clubhouse, after a hiatus of 9 years, during which the team dressed in the clubhouse beneath the first base-line grandstand. At his own expense, Eddie rewired "the shack" as he affectionately calls it, and re-shingled the roof.

In 1994, the city's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee rightly recommended to city council that Labatt Park be designated an historic site, under the Ontario heritage Act. It was designated on Canada Day of 1994 in a civic ceremony organized by the Blackfriars' and Oxford Park Neighbourhood Associations. The history of the park dates back to 1877 when the London Tecumsehs were the terror of the newly-formed International League. It's never been challenged that the park is the oldest in the world still in its original location. In 1990, Labatt Park won the prestigious "Beam Clay Award" as the best natural grass playing field in North America, edging out Anaheim Stadium, home of the California Angels.

But something was missing. The reasons for designation of the park failed to protect the old clubhouse, built following the flood of 1937. Despite the commemorative designation of Labatt Park, the city could have levelled the clubhouse at any time should the Majors move out of the building. City staff previously indicated they had no interest in preserving it, failing to recognize its significance as a landmark structure to London's rich sports history. Frankly, if Eddie hadn't moved the Majors back to

the clubhouse in 1978, the city would have torn it down years ago.

So what's the big deal about the clubhouse? For starters, it's one of the few of its style still standing in the province. The fact it's still in use and not merely a "museum piece", only adds to its value. The number of prominent sportsmen and women, both local and international who have passed through the clubhouse, run the gamut from barnstorming Negro teams, Connie Mack, Russ Evon, Oscar "Lefty" Judd and Fergie Jenkins, to name but a few.

Last May UWO sports historian Bob Barney organized a "Baseball Tour of a Lifetime" that included stops at Labatt Park, Beachville St. Marys, the Skydome and Cooperstown, New York. The high point of the tour, according to Barney, was the Majors' clubhouse. It's the real deal, on par with the former Canadiens' dressing room in the Montreal Forum. It's a trip back in time.

Earlier in April, council rectified the situation (after a little prodding) by amending the previous reasons for designation to include the clubhouse saved by Eddie and the Majors from certain destruction. Next on the agenda is raising the funds to install a new cedar-shake roof and renaming it the Roy McKay clubhouse in honour of the long-time Major who passed away last Christmas. With the \$8.7 million Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame slated for construction in St. Marys within two years, London is perfectly positioned to draw droves of American tourist, if marketed properly.

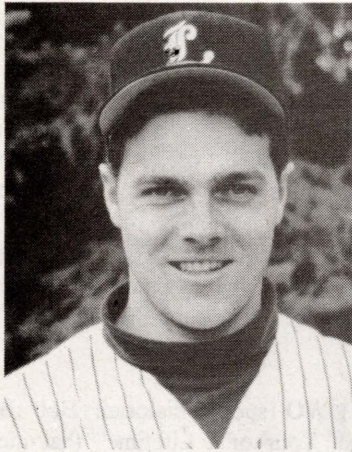
When Arden Eddie finally hangs up his spikes, the iron-man of London baseball will have left a legacy for future Londoners even greater than his Intercounty League records. It is a lasting vision from the grassroots, despite past bureaucratic indifference.

If you have anecdotes about Labatt Park or can help with the clubhouse repair fundraising call Barry at 679-1106.

*Editors' Note:* Barry Wells is a member of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, vice-chair of the Canada Day Committee and secretary of the Oxford Park Resident's Association.



## 1996 LONDON MAJORS



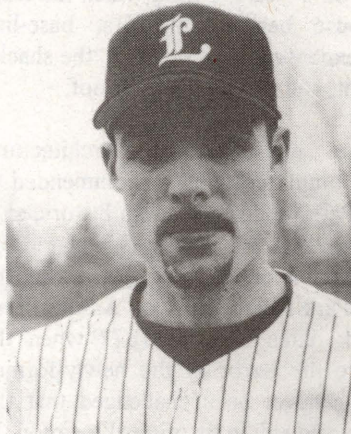
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Lierman  
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Chad  
Cowan  
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Pete  
Mendham  
# 33  
RHP



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Rawlings  
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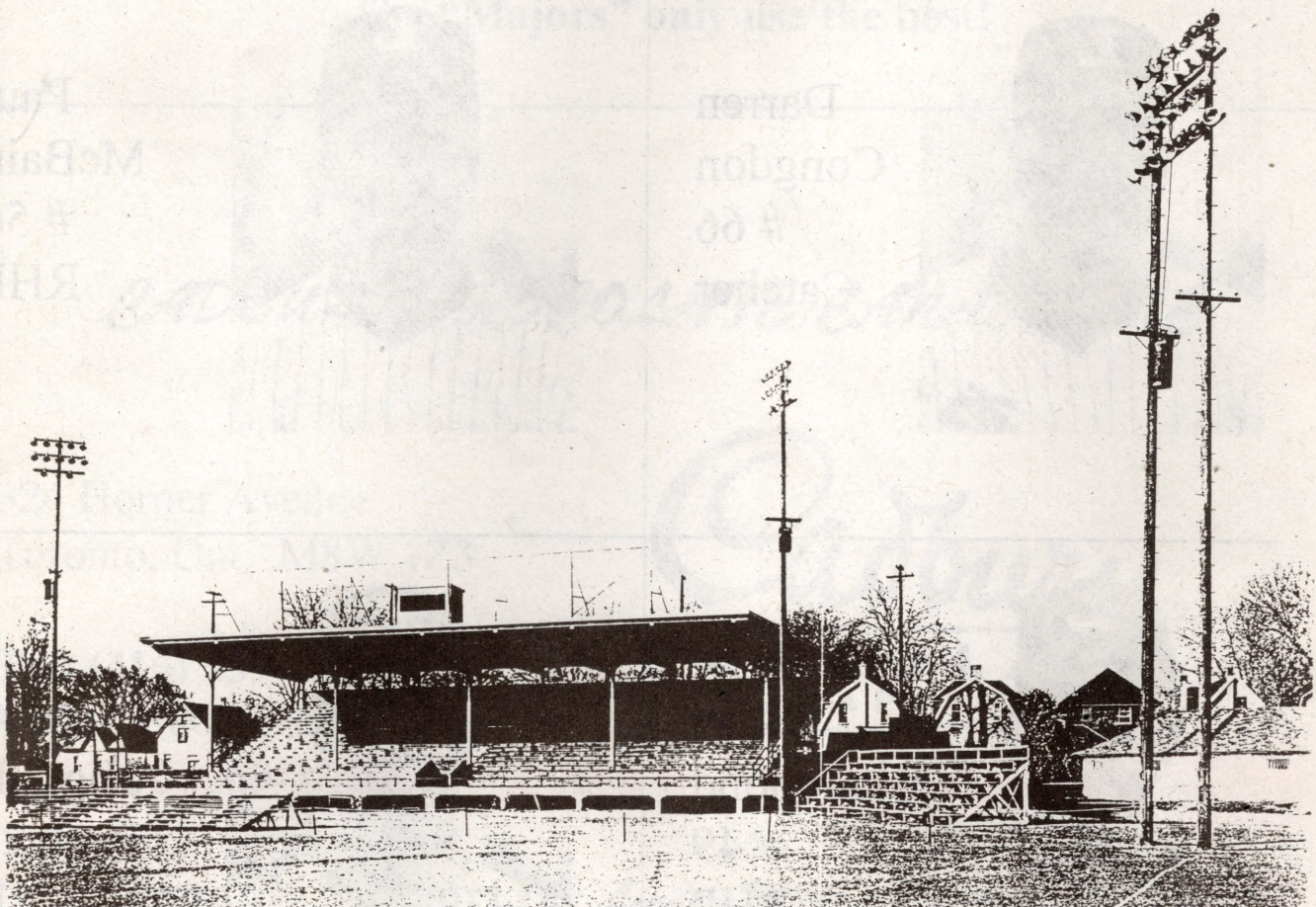
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Labatt Park in the 1940's.

Note the dugouts below the covered grandstand and the clubhouse on the right.



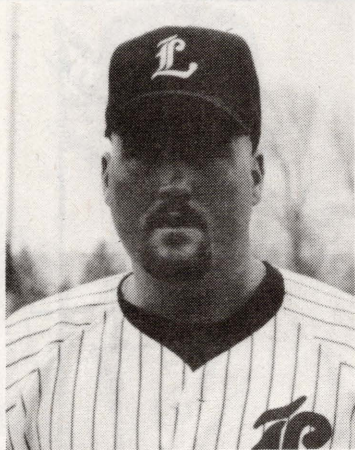
## 1996 LONDON MAJORS



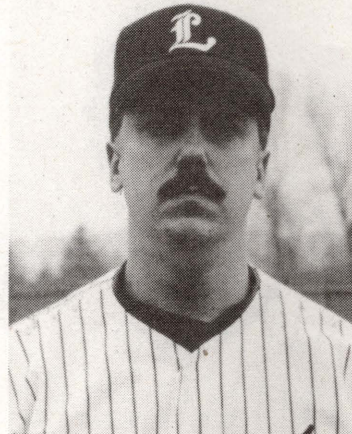
Wayne  
Foreman  
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Shawn  
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Darren  
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Paul  
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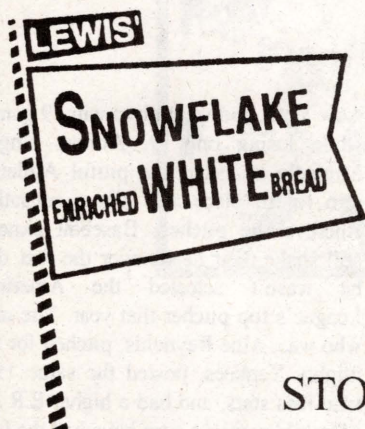


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# THE BABE FROM THE BUSH

By Jim Chapman

His name was Phil Marchildon, he was born in Penetanguishene, Ontario, and his pals called him "the Babe" even before George Herman Ruth made the nickname sporting legend. Spotted by pro scouts literally "in the bush" at Sudbury, Marchildon was signed to the International League Toronto Maple Leafs in 1939, at the ripe old baseball age of 26. He had never, to that point, seen a professional game, nor even talked to anyone who had.

His first pro season was a taste of things to come; he played well on a disastrous team that was to lose 101 games. His pitching was strong enough, however, to attract the attention of Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics late in the 1940 season. A deal was signed and the next spring Marchildon got the intensive coaching he had never experienced. It turned him into a deadly fastballer, and Connie Mack endorsed a contract for \$4,500 a respectable salary of the day. The Athletics were at the bottom of a long slide and "the Babe" won 10 while losing 14. Dismal stats on most teams but very impressive on a squad as bad as that year's edition of the Athletics.

The next year Phil Marchildon blossomed into a star, and hitters around the league acknowledged his deadly precision. The legendary Jimmy Foxx: "He's got the damndest fastball I ever saw." Phil "the Scooter" Rizzurto: "When Marchildon is pitching I might just as well leave my bat in the dugout." Hub Miller: "He fought every batter in every inning in every game as if the World Series was at stake." High praise indeed.

Marchildon won 17 victories for one of the worst professional teams ever assembled. Those in the know said he would have 25, maybe even 30, had he been with one of the better teams of the day. It's a fact that he lost a one-hitter, two two-hitters, and a number of other games where even minimal run production from his teammates might have put a win on the scoreboard. Everybody had their eye on Phil Marchildon, the "busher" turned "ace." Everybody, including the Canadian Government. Though he was already 29

years old, the Royal Canadian Air Force needed men for the war in Europe, and Phil Marchildon was one of those called to the colors. As the season ended, Marchildon was third in wins, behind only Bonham of New York and Hughson of Boston, each of whom had 20 victories playing in front of the two top teams in the league. He exchanged his Athletics uniform for R.C.A.F. blue, and went off to war.

More than one opposing batter had compared Marchildon's fastball to a cannon shot but it was the real thing, fired from a German Messerschmidt, that ended his combat career in the Air Force. Shot down over the North Sea, he was rescued by Danish fishermen but eventually ended up in the Stalag Luft III prison camp, made famous as the launching point for the Great Escape. He spent ten months in captivity before the advancing Russians liberated him and he was 32 years old and seriously underweight when he arrived back in Canada.

Just five short weeks after being liberated he was in Philadelphia and back on the mound for the Athletics, billed as a returning "Canadian War Hero." Attendance had been terrible and Connie Mack thought the crowds might return to see their ace pitcher's comeback appearance. And return they did. Average attendance had been hovering around 3,000, but almost 35,000 turned out to welcome Phil Marchildon back to the Big leagues. In spite of not having played ball for three years, and being a prisoner of war for the past ten months, the Babe threw three strong innings before tearing a muscle in his leg. Sadly, the injury kept him on the bench for the rest of the 1945 season.

The next year, in spite of contract hassles and at the advanced age of 33, Marchildon won 13 games, surprising everyone except, perhaps, himself. His 1946 contract had matched his pre-war stipend at \$4,500 but an embarrassed Connie Mack upped it to \$12,000 for the following season.

And what a season it was! He started by beating the mighty Yankees at home in

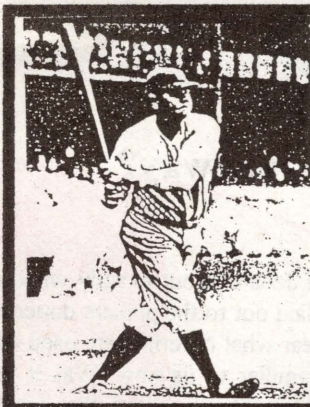
New York, and went on to win 19 games while losing only 9. Almost single-handedly he lifted the pitiful Athletics into fourth place and was a sensation wherever he pitched. Baseball experts still shake their heads over the fact that he wasn't selected the American League's top pitcher that year. The man who was, Allie Reynolds, pitched for the mighty Yankees, posted the same 19-9 won-loss stats, and had a higher E.R.A.! Marchildon might even have had the first perfect game in the majors since 1922 except for a very questionable call by the umpire in the bottom of the 8th in a game against the Cleveland Indians. Angry at being robbed of his rightful place in the history books, Marchildon made sure of at least a win by driving home the winning run himself in the 12th.

The following year he named his own price - \$17,500 and won 5 of his first 6 starts. Then it happened.

The doctors had warned him that there might be a delayed reaction to the years of wartime stress and captivity, and Marchildon began to suffer from mysterious weakness of his pitching arm. Tests were done, experts consulted, but he couldn't seem to get the ball over the plate any more. His strength was gone, and with it, slowly, went his confidence. He returned to the Athletics in 1949 but was never the same again. The cocky, confident Phil Marchildon was gone, the "busher who made it big" betrayed by an arm that just wouldn't work any more. Demoted to Buffalo after spring training in 1950, he kicked around the minors for a few years and finally wound up working in a factory in Etobicoke until his retirement in the late 70's, honoured by induction into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame but largely forgotten by the world of American professional baseball.

Phil Marchildon's story isn't likely to be repeated: a recreational player from the sandlots of Northern Ontario going straight to pro ball, and excelling when he arrived. It may not happen again but it did happen once, to a lanky kid from Penetanguishene, Ontario name Phil Marchildon, "The Babe from the bush!"





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## OVER THE YEARS

by Ken Benjamin

In 1953 I came to London to try out for the Senior Intercounty--the London Majors. At that time they had such great players as Tom White, Bob Penny, Russ Evon, Bob Deakin, and Stan Slack, just to name a few. The team was owned by Bill Farquharson and managed by Van Horne who wore his slippers to practices. I was offered a chance to play with the London Juniors but decided to go north and play for Sudbury in the Senior League.

In 1954, I went to Listowel to play Senior B and in 1956 Listowel joined the Senior "A" Intercounty. From 1956 to 1974 I was fortunate to play and manage three teams--Listowel, Brantford and London. In those years I saw some great players who each played more than six years.

The best right-handed and left-handed pitchers played for Brantford - Spud Bush and Ron Stead. Wray Upper was the most colourful player - a good fielder, third baseman, over 300 hitter and kept Galt in the league for many seasons. Bob McKillop was Mr. Everything. He could pitch (All Star) and catch (All Star). When I first saw Tom McKenzie play, he was a good fielder but no hitter. He worked very hard at making himself not only a good hitter but a great hitter - leading the league. He was an All Star short-stop and manager as well. Brian Pearen was an All Star at three different positions - short-stop, second base, and centre field. He also lead the league in hitting. Roy McKay was the All Star Manager in 1970, '75, & '76. He was the Walter Alston of the Inter-county, managing with compassion. His record speaks for itself.

Last but not least, the owner of the London Majors, Arden Eddie. He holds many records; oldest player, most walks, hits, steals & strike-outs. But his greatest record does not show up in the books. Arden has done more for baseball in the city of London than anyone for example; the team travels by bus, he runs baseball

schools and keeps London in the League even when the competition for fans was the London Tigers.

For me, the highlight in baseball was winning the Canadian Senior Championship in Halifax in 1969 with the Inter-County All Stars.

### Editors Note:

Ken "*Benny*" Benjamin was All Star Manager in '1966, '67, '68, '69, & '72.



### A PAIGE OUT OF THE OLD BOOK

Satchel Paige was one of the immortals of baseball. He pitched some 2500 games in his career including 153 in one season and atleast 100 no-hitters. The quotes - rightly or wrongly - attributed to him could fill a library. But the most often quoted are his "Six Rules For Remaining Youthful." "If your over six years of age," he said, "follow these rules closely."

- 1) Avoid fried foods which angry up the blood.
- 2) If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts.
- 3) Keep the juices flowing by jangling around gentle as you move.
- 4) Go very light on the vices, such as carrying on in society. The social ramble ain't restful.
- 5) Avoid running at all times.....a credo that Wayne Fenlon & Ken Frohwerk live by.
- 6) Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.



# 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 catchers 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.

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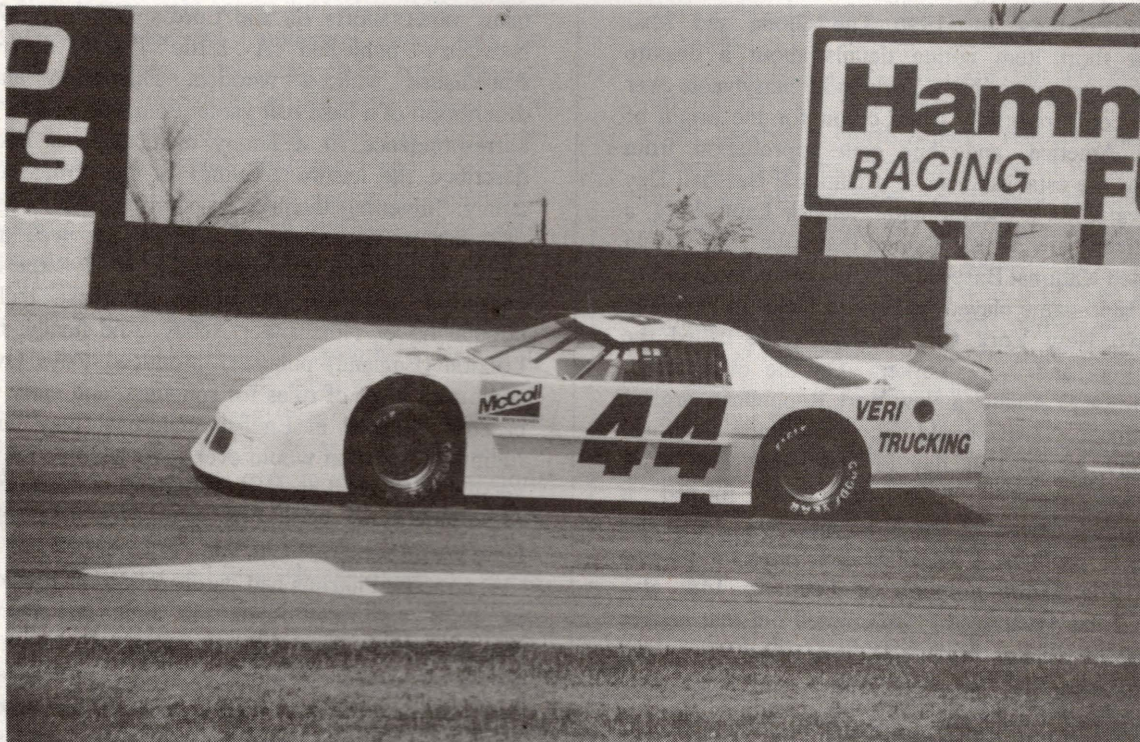


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# "Much Ado About Nothing: National Baseball Day, Congressional Arguments, and Baseball History"

by Bob Barney

On February 14, 1996 The Globe and Mail published a short item noting details about a dispute between the governors of New York and Pennsylvania over which state could rightfully claim credit for the origin of baseball in America, and thus gain approbation from Congress for the establishment of a National Baseball Day to be celebrated on a specific date. Senator Lautenberg, a Democrat from New Jersey, argued that June 19th should be proclaimed National Baseball Day, in commemoration of a June 19, 1846 game played on Elysian Fields in Hoboken between two New York City baseball clubs called the Knickerbockers and New Yorkers. On the other hand, Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican, argued that September 23rd should be proclaimed National Baseball Day, as on that day in 1845 the New York Knickerbocker Baseball Club organized, formed a constitution, and delegated one of its members, Alexander Cartwright, to produce a set of written rules for playing the game. The Globe notation of February 14th also reported that the Associated Press pointed out that neither Senator Lautenberg nor Senator D'Amato "acknowledged a Canadian claim that the game was played in 1838 in Beachville, Ont." How shall the "great debate" ever be resolved? What really constitutes origin? A recorded game? A written set of rules? The establishment of a baseball club? A precise date? Whatever your favorite "criterion candidate," you should know that lots of baseball history swirled around the old pasture long before the events described above occurred, history that just might prompt others to join the debate, each arguing their own peculiar persuasions. For the record, though, consider the following.

There is really little doubt that the earliest antecedents of what we now call baseball occurred in Mother England in the form of a young folks' game called by several names, among them, ball, baste ball, rounders, stoop ball, stool ball, and even base ball. Consider the following England-related historical notations. In 1085, a dozen or so years before the Crusaders conquered Jerusalem, the Domesday Book, published in London, contained a description of stool-ball, a primitive base, stick and ball game that in time evolved into rounders. By the eighteenth century, some Englishmen were referring to the base, stick and ball pastime as base ball. For instance, we learn of a certain Reverend Thomas Wilson, a Puritan divine, who lamented in his diary in 1700: "I have seen Morris-dancing, cudgel playing, base ball and crickets, and

many other sports on the Lord's Day." In 1744, John Newberry published A Little Pretty Pocket Book embellished with a woodcut illustration and rhyme description of a base ball game. Four years later, in private correspondence to a family member, one Lady Henry described the leisure activities of the Prince of Wales' family: "diverting themselves with base ball, a play of all who are or have been schoolboys are well acquainted with." Progressing chronologically, in 1798 the celebrated authoress Jane Austen, mentioned "base ball" in her popular novel, Northanger Abbey. And finally, in 1828, a London (England) publisher produced Boys Own Book, containing a set of rules for rounders, and early version of baseball. Rooted in English childrens' play culture, the rudiments for what would eventually become the American version of baseball crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the 1600s and 1700s in the cultural baggage of children belonging to New World settlers.

The Pilgrims had hardly landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620 and established the first settlement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony when Governor William Bradford, a staunch Calvinist, bemoaned the fact that he had witnessed "frolicking in ye street, at play openly, some at pitching ye ball, some at stoole ball and shuch like sport." As time went on, older folks began engaging in the pastime of ball play. George Ewing, encamped with George Washington's army at Valley Forge in 1778, recounted in his diary of "playing a game of base ball." With the armed hostilities between English and Yanks scarcely ended in the early 1880's, we hear (in 1782) of Princeton College prohibiting ball games "...on account of it being dangerous as well as beneath the propriety of gentlemen." But, boys being boys, play seemingly never ceased for long. In fact, baseball may have been the first sport rage on college campuses. In 1824, the celebrated American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, while a student at Bowdoin College in Maine was prompted to write: "There is nothing now heard of, in our leisure hours, but ball, ball, ball." And in Rhode Island in 1827, a Brown College student, William Latham, noted in his diary: "We had a great play at ball today noon."

Baseball occupied the leisure hours of more Americans than simply college students. In the first third of the nineteenth century, it is evident that the old ball game was expanding in the northeastern United States. Sometimes it was called town ball, at times, old cat, on



other occasions, base ball, and often, just plain ball. Almost twenty five years before Abner Doubleday was said to have "immaculately conceived" baseball in Cooperstown, New York in 1839, the trustees of the town destined to become the nation's baseball shrine, enacted an ordinance in 1816 warning: "That no person shall play ball in Second or West Street, under penalty of one dollar, on each and every offence." In 1820 we are told that "the Olympic ball club" was formed in Philadelphia in order to play town ball on the July 4th holiday celebrations. And, in 1831, we learn that an association of town ball players was organized in Camden, New Jersey, right across the Delaware River from Philly. Two years later, the Camdenites joined with the Olympic Club to form what may have been baseball history's first union of ball clubs. Baseball matters were developing in upstate New York also. In Rochester, Thurlow Wood, a noted journalist and politician, remembered playing baseball as a youth in Mumford's Meadow around 1825: "A base ball club, numbering nearly fifty members, met every afternoon during the playing season." There are countless notations similar to those listed above, but, using Adam Ford's alibi, "space forbids."

So what about the now celebrated Beachville event in light of the above? And, what about that debate down New York/New Jersey way? With regard to Beachville, there is really little doubt, as it has been argued previously, that baseball play over in neighboring Oxford county almost certainly evolved from the play of young folks whose parents were Americans from New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania intent on "going

west" prior to and following the War of 1812, but who, for one reason or another, terminated their westward journey in southwestern Ontario and put down roots. The oldest Beachville individual cited in Adam Ford's now well known reminiscence of the events of June 4, 1838 was one Silas Williams. Genealogy records inform us that as a young man Williams came to Beachville from Goshen, New York (not far from West Point) in about 1809. Adam Ford's reminiscence also tells us that Williams and "Old" Ned Dolsen ("they were grey haired men then") were the individuals who instructed the Beachvilles and Zorras on how to play the game, "for that was the way they played it as youths."

In light of all this, how can any precise date be rationalized for celebrating a National Baseball Day? In effect, baseball in North America reflects a lengthy cultural history, the earliest gestation period of which was without regard for precise dates, geographical boundaries, indeed, universal rules. What the game did need, and has always needed, of course, was quite simple--a stick, a base, a ball and a group of boys and girls to play. The object of the game never changed. A ball was thrown and struck, folks ran to and from bases, outs were made, tallies scored. It's the same today. Only the manner in which those actions are carried out has changed. So how will the great debate in Washington be resolved? It's quite likely that Congress will throw up its hands and throw both cases out of court. Really, the argument can be reduced to something Shakespeare once wrote: "Much ado about nothing."



**BASEBALL AT TECUMSEH PARK (now Labatt Park) 1876**



## 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		

## Humorous Baseball Quotes



"I don't see why reporters keep confusing Brooks and me. Can't you see that we wear different numbers?"

- *Frank Robinson*

"I got one that can throw but can't catch, and one that can catch but can't throw, and one who can hit but can't do either." - *Casey Stengel*

"Fifteen minutes after the Mets had cinched their championship, their followers had torn up the Shea Stadium surface...and, being true Mets fans with their roots in 1962, they missed first base." - *Leonard Koppett*

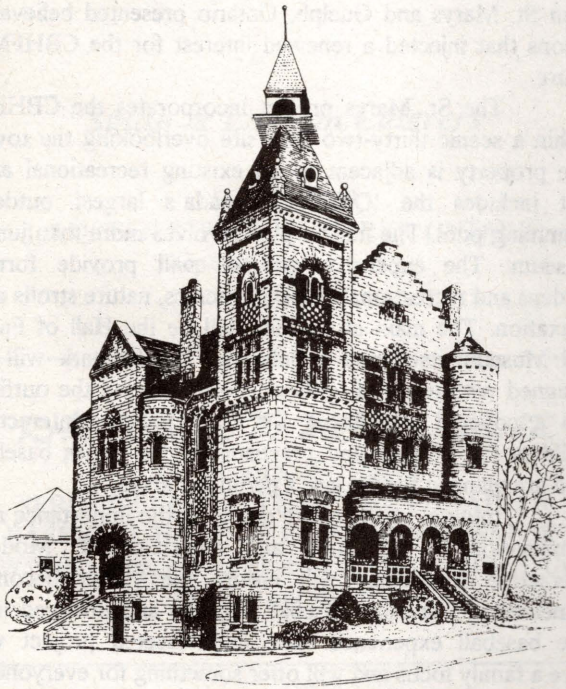
"If I stay healthy, I have a chance to become the first player ever to collect three thousand hits and one thousand errors." - *Hank Greenberg*

"The way our luck has been lately, our fellows have been getting hurt on their days off." - *Casey Stengel*

"We got a guy on our club who has such bad hands his glove is embarrassed." - pitcher *Frank Sullivan*, 1961



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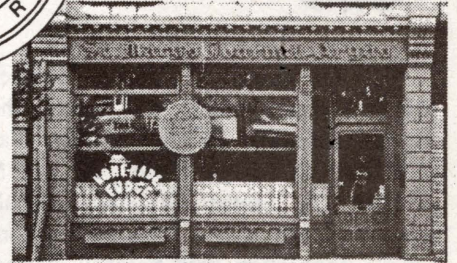


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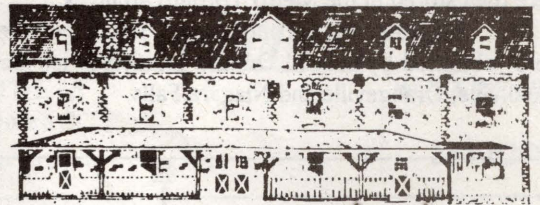
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# THE CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM IN ST. MARYS, ONTARIO

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By Art Lierman

On August 25, 1994, it was officially announced that St. Marys, Ontario would become the permanent home for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (CBHFM). St. Marys' bid for the CBHFM began in the fall of 1992. The 'Stonetown's' rich baseball heritage and old town traditions made it the ideal location for the Hall. The town's connection with baseball started with one of its earliest settlers, Dr. Adam E. Ford, who published a reminiscence of a game played during his youth on June 4, 1838, in nearby Beachville, Ontario. This match has been authenticated as the first recorded game of baseball in North America. The town was, for many years, home of the St. Marys Wood Specialty Company that produced the St. Marys bat, the forerunner of the Cooper bat currently used in the Major Leagues.

St. Marys' endeavor to become Canada's baseball shrine would have been more daunting had the Hall not already existed. The CBHFM was established in 1983 and was initially located in a corner of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame building next to Exhibition Stadium in Toronto. In 1985, the CBHFM moved to Ontario Place; however, in 1989, the CBHFM was forced to cease operation due to financial difficulties and the Blue Jays' move to the Skydome. The Hall's artifacts, memorabilia and records were then stored in the Metro Toronto archives.

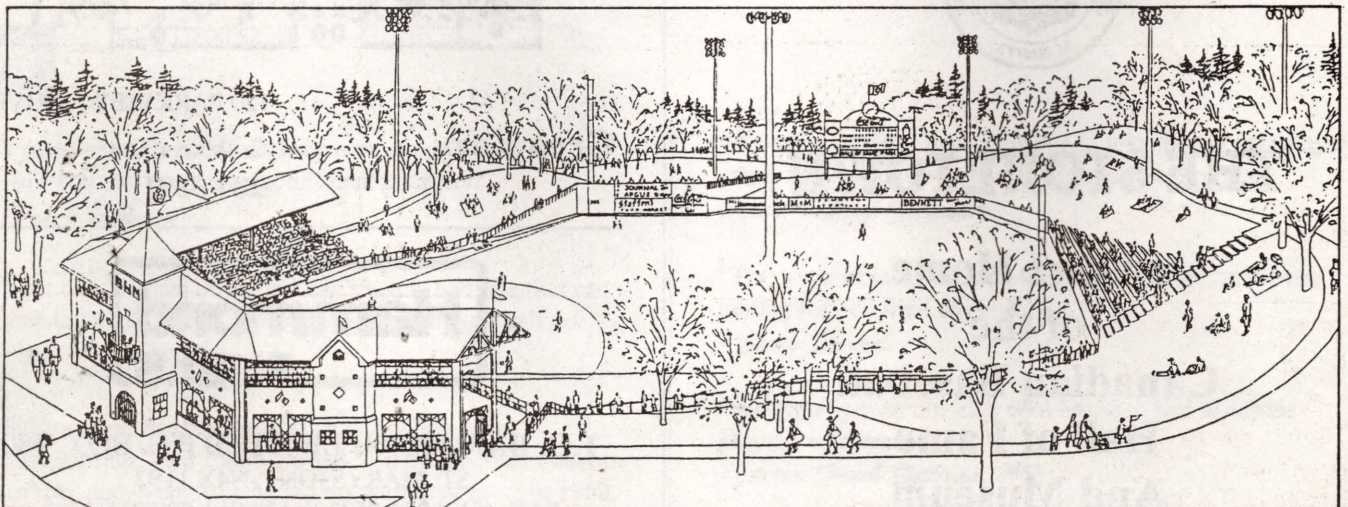
Subsequently, proposals to relocate the Hall were submitted by several Ontario municipalities including Brockville, Orangeville and Niagara Falls.

It was not until September 15, 1993, that bids from St. Marys and Guelph, Ontario presented believable visions that injected a renewed interest for the CBHFM's future.

The St. Marys project incorporates the CBHFM within a scenic thirty-two acre site overlooking the town. The property is adjacent to an existing recreational area that includes the 'Quarry', Canada's largest outdoor swimming pool. The master plan involves more than just a museum. The expansive grounds will provide formal gardens and recreational areas for picnics, nature strolls and relaxation. The main attractions will be the Hall of Fame and Museum itself and a ballpark. The ballpark will be designed with terraced, grassed slopes around the outfield and a covered grandstand for 2000 people. Interactive facilities for training and practising and a youth baseball field are planned for the site's perimeter areas.

Integral to the entire design is the importance and combination of education and entertainment. Modern interactive technology will ensure the visitor becomes immersed in Canadian baseball heritage and involved in a true baseball experience. The multi-faceted project will have a family focus and will offer something for everyone.

The artifacts and memorabilia are now stored in St. Marys. A feasibility study and a site master plan have been completed and a national fund raising campaign is under way. The projected 'opening day' for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is June 4, 1998, the 160th anniversary of the Beachville game.



Artist's concept for the Ballpark  
Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Marys, Ontario



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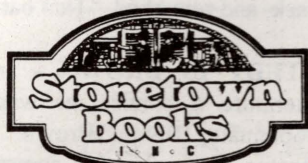
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# Brief League History

## by Jeffrey Reed

The Intercounty Major Baseball League, enjoying its 78th 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 WWII. 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 Avco's (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 30th season, was an Intercounty rookie in 1967. Today, he holds numerous records, including most games played (801), hits (750), RBI (371), stolen bases (176), 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 Intercounty Major Baseball League, 78 years old, holds a lot of memories for baseball fans in Ontario. We welcome you to the ballpark in 1996, 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?"

**POISON-ALLY SPEAKING** - The latest Yogi Berra tale concerns his visit to the St. Petersburg waterfront to watch a yacht race. One of the boats was flying a Jolly Roger pennant, complete with the pirates' skull and cross bones. "Know what that means?" Yogi asked. "Sure," answered Yogi. "Iodine."



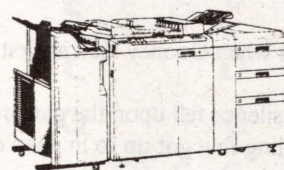


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### 1995 I-C FINAL STANDINGS

CLUB	GAMES	WON	LOST	PCT	GBL
STRATFORD	35	23	12	.657	-
TORONTO	35	23	12	.657	-
KITCHENER	35	23	12	.657	-
GUELPH	35	23	12	.657	-
BRANTFORD	35	19	16	.543	4
LONDON	35	16	19	.457	7
HAMILTON	35	8	27	.229	15
ST. THOMAS	35	5	30	.143	18



Baseball polkas and poems turned up as frequently as pennant winners in those early years. Yet none of the 19th century compositions had the flair and flavor of that fictional opus written in 1888, and popularized by the masterful recitations of De Wolf Hopper, to wit:

## CASEY AT THE BAT

By Ernest L. Thayer

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day;  
The score stood four to two with but one inning more to play.

And then when Cooney died at first, and Barrows did the same,

A sickly silence fell upon the patrons of the game.

A straggling few got up to in deep despair. The rest  
Clung to that hope which springs eternal in the human breast.

They thought if only Casey could but get a whack at that--  
We'd put up even money now with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake,  
And the former was a lulu and the latter was a cake;  
So upon the stricken multitude grim melancholy sat,  
For there seemed but little choice of Casey's getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all,  
And Blake, the much despised, tore the cover off the ball;  
And when the dust had lifted and the men saw what had occurred,

There was Johnny safe at second and Flynn a-hugging third.

Then from 5,000 throats and more there rose a lusty yell;  
It rambled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;  
It knocked upon the mountain and recoiled upon the flat,  
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place;

There was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile on Casey's face.

And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,

No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at bat.  
Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt;

Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt.

Then while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,  
Defiance gleamed in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,

And Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.  
Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped--

"That ain't my style", said Casey. "Strike one", the umpire said.

From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,

Like the beating of the storm waves on a stern and distant shore.

"Kill him! Kill the umpire!", shouted some one in the stand,  
And it's likely they'd have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.

With a smile of Christian charity great Casey's visage shone;

He stilled the rising tumult, he bade the game go on;  
He signalled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew;

But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said, "Strike two".

"Fraud!", cried the maddened thousands, and the echo answered "Fraud!"

But one scornful look from Casey and the audience was awed.

They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,

And they knew that Casey wouldn't let that ball go by again.

The sneer is gone from Casey's lip, his teeth are clenched in hate;

He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate.

And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,

And now the sir is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.

Oh! somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;

The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light.

And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout;

But there is no joy in Mudville--mighty Casey has struck out.





## BASEBALL WACKY WORDIES

At press time we were still out in left field as to whether there'd be an opening day in baseball or not, but to cover all the bases, here's a collection of Wacky Wordies related to the national pastime. The game, as always, is to discover the familiar word or phrase represented by each arrangement of letters. For example, #1 below depicts "triple play." Though we're not really playing a hardball here, some of these Wacky Wordies might throw you a curve; if so you can always touch base with the answers on page 62.

1. play play play	2. stop	3. who who first	4. s s e r c o o c r e s s
5. inning inning inning inning inning inning inning	6. field	7. —— drive	8.
9. fly	10. pitcher's	11. world, ...	12. b a s e a b a l l
13. hitter hitter hitter → hitter hitter	14. play	15. wind	16. the ninth
17. on base	18. d e n c o k	19. batting	20. paw



# A FATHER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Peter Lierman

Certain memories you carry forever! Your son's diving leap to snag a line drive at second and tag the runner trying desperately to get back to the base. He was only nine at the time. That inside-the-park homerun at St. Thomas. Hitting five for five against Toronto. The homerun hit at Labatt Park to give us our only three runs of the game! That running catch at the fence and throwing out the runner advancing from third. A second son playing his heart out and stealing bases in the city's over-thirty league. I don't know who enjoyed himself more - my son or his father watching his son enjoying one of our finer sports. Three sons playing on the same team - one guarding short like his life depended on it. Another blocking the plate daring anyone to break for home! My daughter playing first like a pro, throwing and hitting with the best of them!

A father's perspective? Baseball is a most enjoyable pastime for the spectator as well as the player. But if you have a child on the team? The enjoyment increases one hundred fold. You develop an attachment to the team that is indescribable. And when your son or daughter takes to the field or steps to the plate, you feel for them and want to extend to them all of the English that you can muster from the stands. Your cheers become more exuberant, the tension more enhanced. It is, for me, a feeling like no other. You listen to him/her replay the game on the way home, and you quickly come to appreciate the mental gymnastics that a keen player exercises during the course of any given game. "Should I try and run down this fly ball? It's in foul territory, but we have only one out. If the runner on third breaks for home, he could tie the game. But he's not their fastest runner. A good throw will beat him." And so the catch and throw were made.

Game in and game out, I have heard my son replay the game and analyze his moves in particular situations. I wonder if our coaches give their players credit for their pre-, during and post game analyses. Hopefully, they don't give a "routine" fly ball that is missed in the outfield the flippant one game a season fan retort.

My perspective? Your child is getting to experience so many of life's lessons, but in an atmosphere that is totally to his liking - playing the game of baseball. The lessons? The value of team work. How important it is to show up each game determined to give it your best. To learn from your mistakes because an opportunity WILL arise to either repeat that mistake or correct it. And what of the life lasting friendships that are developed playing with the same mates game, nay - year after year? The stories of bus and clubhouse antics have entertained us for hours over the years.

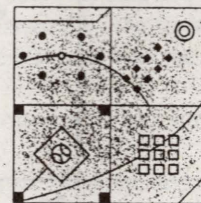
Is the father reliving his youth through the person of his son? Rather, I think that the son is living the

experience of a lifetime - his own experience. My thrill is in seeing the enjoyment, the growth and the learning that he is experiencing. I wouldn't have wanted him to miss it for the world!

To you parents who are wondering whether to enlist your child in the competitive sports scene, it can be such a high for the child and, admittedly, for you. But monitor the situation. Your child's enjoyment of the experience must be of foremost consideration. But if it's baseball, and if your child loves it as our children do, GO FOR IT.

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## Josh Workman #1

### EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Beginning as a bat boy 6 years ago, Josh's leadership & organizational qualities quickly became apparent. Within a couple of years he was in full control of the bat boys and ball chasers. That is not something to many people could do at age 12. Now as the equipment manager, still handling the bat boys & ball chasers, about the only thing Josh isn't asked to do is drive the bus. That's only because he's not old enough. There's been contact with the Toronto Blue Jays about becoming there bat boy. Once again, age is the only factor. The Blue Jays gain will certainly be the Majors loss. It's always been the Majors intent to do what we can to help young men attain their goal to be in the Big Leagues. Josh, if your opportunity comes, you have all the London Majors' best wishes.

## 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 62)

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Daniel Staub        | a) The Georgia Peach     |
| 2) The 1927 NY Yankees | b) Shoeless Joe          |
| 3) Lou Gehrig          | c) Senior Circuit        |
| 4) John Powell         | d) The Splendid Splinter |
| 5) Yankee Stadium      | e) Dizzy                 |
| 6) Reggie Jackson      | f) Homerun               |
| 7) Bill Skowron        | g) Connie Mack           |
| 8) Luis Tiant          | h) Marvellous Marv       |
| 9) Andre Dawson        | i) The Sultan of Swat    |
| 10) Denton Young       | j) Red                   |
| 11) Ty Cobb            | k) The Big 'O'           |
| 12) Leo Durocher       | l) Hammerin' Hank        |
| 13) Tom Seaver         | m) Pudge                 |
| 14) Ted Williams       | n) Louisiana Lighting    |
| 15) Ernie Banks        | o) The Penguin           |
| 16) Jerome Dean        | p) Catfish               |
| 17) Pete Rose          | q) Scooter               |
| 18) Edward Ford        | r) Tug                   |

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 19) Frank Baker               | s) The Iron Horse        |
| 20) Joe Jackson               | t) Green Monster         |
| 21) Robert Grove              | u) Mr. Clutch            |
| 22) Rich Gossage              | v) Moose                 |
| 23) Babe Ruth                 | w) The Man               |
| 24) Bob Feller                | x) The Bird              |
| 25) Cornelius MacGillicuddy   | y) Pee Wee               |
| 26) Walter Johnson            | z) Hawk                  |
| 27) Hank Aaron                | aa) Country              |
| 28) Olympic Stadium           | bb) Duke                 |
| 29) Willie Mays               | cc) Murderer's Row       |
| 30) Steve Garvey              | dd) Mr. October          |
| 31) Albert Schoendienst       | ee) Whitey               |
| 32) The 1906 Chicago W.S.     | ff) Rapid Robert         |
| 33) Jim Hunter                | gg) Human Vacuum Cleaner |
| 34) Mark Fidrych              | hh) Yankee Clipper       |
| 35) Carlton Fisk              | ii) The Lip              |
| 36) Stan Musial               | jj) Big Train            |
| 37) Brooks Robinson           | kk) The House Ruth Built |
| 38) Albert Lyle               | ll) Lefty                |
| 39) Enos Slaughter            | mm) The Say-Hey Kid      |
| 40) Ron Cey                   | nn) Tom Terrific         |
| 41) Frank McGraw              | oo) Goose                |
| 42) Harold Reese              | pp) Rusty                |
| 43) Edwin Snider              | qq) The Cobra            |
| 44) Phil Rizzuto              | rr) Charlie Hustle       |
| 45) Ron Guidry                | ss) Senor Cigar          |
| 46) Dave Parker               | tt) The Hitless Wonders  |
| 47) Left-field wall at Fenway | uu) Mr. Cub              |
| 48) Joe DiMaggio              | vv) Boog                 |
| 49) Marv Throneberry          | ww) Sparky               |
| 50) The National League       | xx) Cy                   |



The American public, notorious in its constant clamor for a "winner", wouldn't settle for a discredited Casey. In the very nature of the baseball's campaign, "there is always another game tomorrow," so mighty Casey had to have his revenge. It remained for a proud young southerner to redeem the fallen hero by composing this ode in 1906:

## CASEY'S REVENGE

By James Wilson

There were saddened hearts in Mudville for a week or even more;

There were muttered oaths and curses--every fan in town was sore.

"Just to think," said one, "how soft it looked with Casey at the bat,

And to think he'd go and spring a bush league trick like that."

All his past fame was forgotten--he was now a hopeless "shine"--

They called him "Strike-out Casey" from the Mayor down the line;

And as he came to bat each day his bosom heaved a sigh, While a look of hopeless fury shone in Casey's eye.

He soon began to sulk and loaf--his batting eye went lame; No home runs on the score card now were chalked against his name.

The fans without exception gave the manager no peace.

For one and all kept clamoring for Casey's quick release.

The lane is long, some one said, that never turns again,

And Fate, though fickle, often gives another chance to men;

And Casey smile--his rugged face no longer wore a frown--

The pitcher who had started all the trouble came to town.

All Mudville had assembled--ten thousand fans had come

To see the twirler who had put big Casey on the bum;

And when he stepped into the box the multitude went wild,

He doffed his cap in proud disdain--but Casey only smiled.

"Play ball!" the umpire's voice rang out--and then the game began;

But in that throng of thousands there was not a single fan

Who thought that Mudville had a chance, and with the setting sun

Their hopes sank low--the rival team was leading "four to one."

The last half of the ninth came round with no change in the score,

But when the first man up hit safe the crowd began to roar; The din increased--the echo of ten thousand shouts was heard

When the pitcher hit the second and gave "four balls" to the third.

Three men on base--nobody out--three runs to tie the game!

A triple meant the highest niche in Mudville's hall of fame; But here that rally ended and the gloom was deep as night, When the fourth one "fouled to catcher" and the fifth "flew out to right."

A dismal, groaning chorus came--a scowl was on each face--

When Casey walked up, bat in hand, and slowly took his place.

His bloodshot eyes in fury gleamed--his teeth were clenched in hate;

He gave his cap a vicious hook and pounded on the plate.

The pitcher smiled and cut one loose--across the plate it sped--

Another hiss---another groan--"Strike one," the umpire said.

Zip! Like a shot the second curve broke just below his knee--

"Strike two!" the umpire roared aloud--but Casey made no plea.

No roasting for the umpire now--his was an easy lot;

But here the pitcher whirled again--was that a rifle shot?

A whack--a crack--and out through space the leather pellet flew;

A blot against the distant sky--a speck against the blue.

Above the fence in centre field in rapid whirling flight

The sphere sailed on--the blot grew dim and then was lost to sight;

Ten thousand hats were thrown in air--ten thousand threw a fit--

But no one ever found the ball that mighty Casey hit.

Oh! somewhere in this favored land dark clouds may hide the sun,

And somewhere bands no longer play and children have no fun;

And somewhere over blighted loves there hangs a heavy pall;

But Mudville hearts are happy now--for Casey hit the ball.

### Answers from Nicknames on page 61:

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

### Wacky Wordies Answers:

1) Triple Play	11) World Series
2) Short stop	12) Baseball Diamond
3) Who's on first?	13) Designated hitter
4) Box Scores	14) Squeeze play
5) 7th inning stretch	15) Wind up
6) Centre field	16) Top of the 9th
7) Line drive	17) Left on base
8) Dugout	18) On deck circle
9) High fly	19) Batting slump
10) Pitchers mound	20) South paw



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*From the Editor:* (Speaking as someone who knows). Arden has accomplished many things besides all of the Intercounty records that will go down in history. Helping charities and groups is one of the accomplishments he is most proud of. This has taken many hours of preparation and planning. The London Majors have added this aspect to it's tradition. The tradition continues..... Shelley



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It takes a lot of time and commitment to operate a team in the Intercounty Major Baseball League. There is also a tremendous commitment made by players, managers, coaches and everyone that's involved with the team. Wives and girlfriends spend half the summer in the stands or waiting for their guy to return home from a road game. Moms & Dads are always there for you.

Those of us with precious children are all to aware of the time that can never be recaptured.

All Our Love,

Mommy & Daddy





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