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Reminiscences of Baseball.

(The Hamilton Herald.)

The talk of a revival of baseball here brings old enthusiasts back not only to the days of the International League, but to the days of the Standard, the Eagles, the Centrals, the Hop Bitters, the Primroses, the Union and the Guelphs. Many exciting games were played on the diamond at the old Crystal Palace grounds, and at Victoria Park, now Dundas Park. In the early days, the Guelphs and Hamilton were the great baseball cities of Canada, Toronto, where the game is now so popular, not having a strong team as compared with the others. The old Toronto baseball team, with their famous "Guelph" and "Hamilton" uniforms, who later played with Chicago, and the Maple Leafs of Guelph, were famous teams, holding their own against the crack nines in the States. They had a championship in 1877 in an international league composed of London, Guelph, the Syracuse Stars, the Buckeyes of Columbus, and the Fall River team of Pittsburg.

Fred Goldsmith of the Tecumseh was the great pitcher of his day, a writer in the London Free Press claiming that he was the first man to play a ball. Other crack players on the team were Phil Powers, Joe Horning and Juice Latham. Hamilton could not beat the strong team as Guelph or London in those days, but later it came to the front.

CHANGES IN THE GAME.
Many changes have been made in the rules since then, when the under-hand delivery was in vogue. The game has become more scientific but it is doubtful if it affords the spectator more pleasure than did the old style of play. Sacrifice hitting had not reached the perfection it has now, although it was practiced to some extent, a fast runner being first before the ball, but as a rule the players laced out the ball. "Annoyed it" was the way the old enthusiasts used to describe it. This increased the batting, and there is no denying that the spectators do enjoy a slugging game, even though the pride of the pitcher is hurt.

Now when a man is on duty, the next batter is instructed to sacrifice and get him to second. The writer remembers when Charlie Collins tried to introduce sacrifice hitting, and what a hard time he had. Men like Murr Phillips who could lace out a ball, and wanted to keep up their batting averages strenuously, objected to bunting, but it has since become a part of the game, and there is no denying that the spectators do enjoy a slugging game, even though the pride of the pitcher is hurt.

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OLD TIME TEAMS.
Old timers will recall the days of the Maple Leafs half a century ago. The best known players were the late Major Mason, Billy Shattlesworth, Tom Carroll, James Kay, Tom McCann and Harry Sargent. Then there were the Stars, against the players being the Banquet brothers, George McNeil, Peter and Walter Cook and Jerry Doyle. The Leafs were a good team but it was not until 90 years ago that the Standards brought Hamilton into prominence

in the baseball world. The club was organized in 1875, with Wm. Campbell as president, Josh Campbell as secretary and John Stewart manager. The personnel of the team was: Jas. Ennis, pitcher; James Fairburn, catcher; Tom Crofton, 1b; Coffey, 2b; Tom Shaughnessy, 3b; Ben Lear, 3b; Wes Campbell, 4b; and c., and Tom Crooks, utility. The club was in existence until 1878, and others who played with the team were: Charles Collins, 2b; George Wallace, 1b; John Moore, 3b; Hank Crawford, 3b; Mullin and McMullen, outfielders. Few of the officers and players are left. James Ennis is a job printer; Fairburn was an engineer on the G. W. R. and went west; Jim Myers is a clerk at Stroud's hotel; Ben Lear worked at the case in the old Spectator office on Macnab St., and Tom Crooks is more round than a potato. The big event about that time was a tournament in which the Woodstock and Bowmanville winning, the last-mentioned team winning.

AMATEUR TEAMS.
When the Standards disbanded the game was dead for a couple of years but in 1885 the Eagles and Centrals were organized, and were in existence for three years. Dan Cotter, of the Woodstock Park hotel was manager of the Eagles. W. (Sarge) Gillespie, since dead, was the pitcher. Joe Weber, now a successful manufacturer, was catcher. Fred Buscombe, ex-mayor of Vancouver, B. C., played 1b; Jack Elwell, 2b; Jimmy Malcolmson, 3b; Joe Armstrong, ss; Geo. (Pud) Myers, lf; Mike Rodden, rf; Billy Rowe, cf. Others who played with the team were Pete Armstrong, electrician, who was at the Savoy with the Vassar girls last season; Charlie Collins, Jack Moore, Ed Gorman, who was afterwards successful in the ring, Jay Bayne, Charlie Wilson, McGeachy brothers and Frank Beck, a pitcher from Poughkeepsie. The Centrals were composed of George Walker, pitcher; Robert Tindell, 1b; Dave McLaughlin, 2b; Jimmy Reynolds, 3b; ex-Ald. Church, Charlie Tindell, 1b; Reynolds, 2b; Jim Fox, Jimmy Hever, and Billy Buckingham.

In 1881 there was great rivalry between the teams in the city league, composed of the Hop Bitters, Primroses and Buckeyes. The championship was won by the Hop Bitters with Jimmy Beardon and George Hamilton as pitchers. George Hamilton and managed the Clippers, getting together a crack team. The Wood brothers opened the season with the Clippers, but quit about July 1. Peter B. going to Buffalo. Mike Morrison and Kid Hendricks were the pitchers, and Billy Hunter was the catcher. Later Edon Chapman was signed to play third base and he developed into a great pitcher, besides being a hard hitter. Ed. Stapleton played first, Colman second, W. A. Angus, short, John Croghan, who was the wit of the team, and Charlie Wilson and Dummy Hoyt outfielders. To strengthen the team Jerry Moore was signed as catcher, and Jack, afterwards named Rev. John, Rainey, covered third. Nicol and James Hanigan were the Primroses' battery at the start, but later Mike Morrison and Fred Wood joined the team. Mickey Jones played first; and Pat McGra second, but later Billy Beardon was signed and in a few years he became one of the crack players in the big league.

The Eagles, Centrals and Black Hawks also played that year. In one game W. H. Watkins, former manager of the Hamilton Detroit team, was the pitcher of the Big Four, played with the Black Hawks, being in the box. The Primroses won the championship in 1882, the other teams in the league being the Hop Bitters and Buckeyes. Charlie Quinn, Ben Holman and Pete Miller were among the men who played with the Primroses. A. L. Richardson, who was a crack little shortstop and the fastest man on the bases in his day, joined the Big Bitters that year. There were few changes in the Buckeyes. The Baysides had a strong team in 1883, being managed by Wm. Carroll, the well known tobacco man. The late Jack Campbell did the pitching and Billy Barnfather was the catcher. Tom Gauspy, second base; A. L. Richardson, first base; a successful 1st baseman, played first base. Hishajohn, short; and Thomas Kinella, third. The outfielders were Michael Hayes, Joseph Hendrich and James Lynch, now a hotelkeeper at Ansonie. George Pothe and Jack

money caught a few games. Dr. B. Wood and Fred L. Wood were the star battery for the Hop Bitters, the late Jimmy Beardon being change pitcher. Jim Heath played first base; Toad Thatcher, second; B. I. Patterson, short, and George Brand, third, with Bob Jackson, Charlie Vint and Dave Griffith in the outfield. Brig. Moore and O'Brien did the twirling for the Primroses, and the late Mickey Jones was the catcher. Tom Costello held down first base; Slack Thompson, second; Dubber Williams, short; Chas. Quinn, third; and Jim Jones and McNeil were in the outfield. The late Thomas Patterson, who was a great baseball enthusiast in his day, besides being a good fellow, managed the Union. The battery work was done by the Harrison Brothers, Fred and Jack; Billy Pinn played first base; Dave Garson, second; Delan, short; Whelan, third; with Jimmy Chucas, Catchmore and Sam Carberry in the outfield. The Baysides won the championship.

The Hop Bitters changed their name to the Clippers in 1884. William Slouso, being manager and George Sterling secretary. The other teams in the league were the Primroses, with Maurice Foley, president; Jack Campbell, manager, and George Shambrook secretary; the Baysides and the Entons. The Wood brothers, Peter B. and Fred L., were the crack battery of the Clippers. Jack Wood played first; Pat McGra, second; A. L. Bennett, short; Jimmy Wilson, third; Oscar Atkinson, left field; Charlie Wilson, centre, and Barnfather, right; Big Young, pitcher, and Jones and Hanigan were the battery for the Primroses. Cosarion and Williams were the outfielders, Dave Garson and A. L. Hendricks were the pitchers, the latter did the pitching for the Baysides. Tom Wardell, late M. L. A., played second base and his brother Dr. Harry Wardell, was shortstop. Dan McAuliffe covered first base. The Union had about the same team as in 1883.

This was the year when the famous game was played between the Clippers and Toronto, the latter trying to ring in the great Boston battery, Buffington and Hatchett. After a great deal of wrangling Toronto agreed to play its own team, and the game resulted in a tie 5 to 5.

THE CRACK CLIPPERS.
The first Canadian league was organized in 1885, being composed of the Clippers and Primroses of Hamilton, London, Toronto and Guelph. Charlie Collins was team player with Indianapolis and Detroit, returned to Hamilton and managed the Clippers, getting together a crack team. The Wood brothers opened the season with the Clippers, but quit about July 1. Peter B. going to Buffalo. Mike Morrison and Kid Hendricks were the pitchers, and Billy Hunter was the catcher. Later Edon Chapman was signed to play third base and he developed into a great pitcher, besides being a hard hitter. Ed. Stapleton played first, Colman second, W. A. Angus, short, John Croghan, who was the wit of the team, and Charlie Wilson and Dummy Hoyt outfielders. To strengthen the team Jerry Moore was signed as catcher, and Jack, afterwards named Rev. John, Rainey, covered third. Nicol and James Hanigan were the Primroses' battery at the start, but later Mike Morrison and Fred Wood joined the team. Mickey Jones played first; and Pat McGra second, but later Billy Beardon was signed and in a few years he became one of the crack players in the big league.

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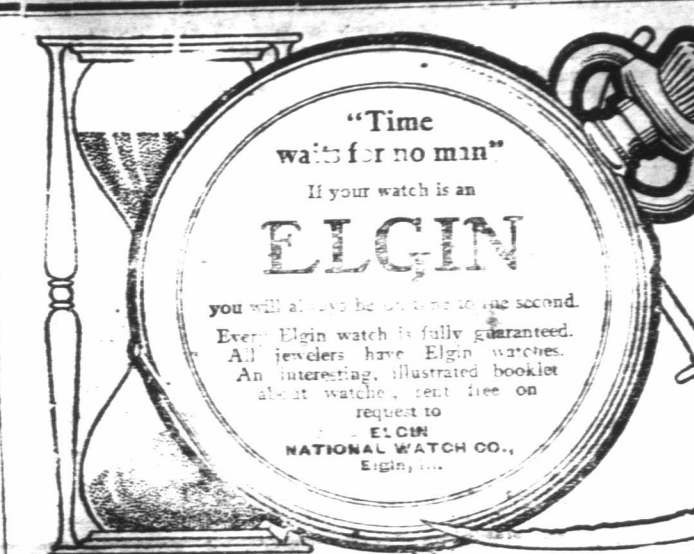
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stood 10 to 6 in their favor. Then the Clippers went in and tied the score. Neither team scored in the tenth, and in the eleventh Andrus tallied the winning run.

The Clippers won the championship, the standing of the teams being:

Team	Won	Lost	P.C.
Clippers	88	10	767
London	27	12	692
Toronto	34	19	258
Guelph	8	28	225
Primroses	8	31	205

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.
There were some good players in the Canadian league, a number of them graduating into the international league, which was organized in 1890, and remained in existence until 1896, although chances were made in its composition from year to year. The first season was composed of Hamilton, Toronto, Syracuse, Rochester, Quebec, Buffalo and Indianapolis. Those were great days in baseball and many games were witnessed. The Hamilton pitchers were William A. Arthur, Mike McNeil and a great one, Arthur had a case arm and did the last season that one season. Joe Knapp had been pitching in some games and when he came away on he went to the outfield. The catcher was John Jerry Moore, Jack McNeil and Bill Thompson. Mickey

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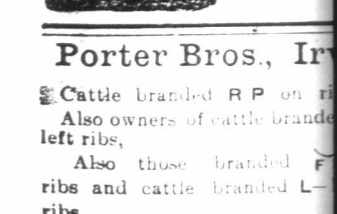
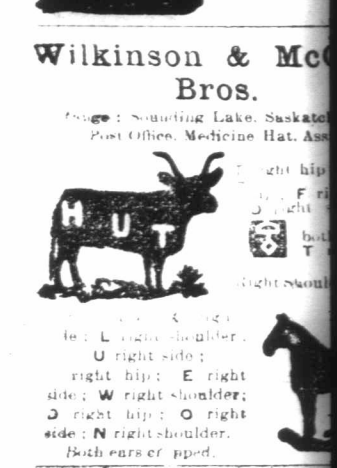
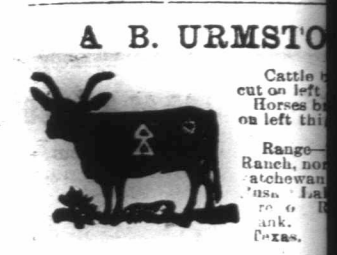
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