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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 old-time baseball. 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 game of baseball 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-time baseballers of London, with their teams, the Goldsmiths and Powers, who later played with Chicago, and the Maple Leafs of Guelph, were famous teams in the States. They had membership 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 curve a ball. Other crack players on the team were Phil Powers, Joe Horning and Juice Latham. Hamilton could not beat the London team as they were the greatest team 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 sent 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 doubt that the spectators enjoy a slugging game, even though the price of the pitcher is hurt.

Now a man is on first, the next is on second. The writer remembers when Charlie Collins tried to introduce sacrifice hitting and was told that he had no business to do so. Men like Murr had time to be on base, but they wanted to keep up their batting averages, and were not at all concerned with the game if a team wants to score.

Scores in the old days were larger. It was not a battle between pitchers. The man in the box used to be a good deal more of a soldier and did not attempt to strike out so many men. Now new rules are constantly introduced to spoil the effectiveness of the pitcher. The pitcher has no more position, has more improvement made than in the old days. One reason for this is that the pitcher does not have so much to do, a team carrying a staff of twirlers, and a pitcher is not called upon to toss the ball more than twice a week, and he has a chance to rest on his back. In the old days a catcher had no protection at all. The mouthpiece was later introduced, but the catcher was dressed like a warrior, with gloves, mask and breastplate. It's almost impossible to hurt him, and thus protected he should be able to catch every day, providing he does not get sore. So much improvement has been made in base-running that a catcher must be a great thrower. The game was not so scientific as it is now. To-day, team playing is a great factor, but it is doubtful if the individual players are any better.

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 Strathmore, Tom Carroll, James Kay, Tom McCann and Harry Sargent. Then there were the Stars, against the players being the Banquet brothers, George McCully, Dick 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, John 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; James Myers, 1b; Pat McGraw, 2b; Wes Campbell, 1b, and c.; and Tom Crooks, utility. The club was in existence until 1878, and others who played with the team were Nagle, Collins, 2b; George Wallace, 1b; John Moore, 3b; Hank Crawford, 2b; 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.; Tom Crooks is more round than the batting, and there is no doubt that the spectators enjoy a slugging game, even though the price of the pitcher is hurt.

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 North Park hotel was manager of the Eagles. W. (Sarge) Gillespie, since dead, was the pitcher. Joe Weber, now a successful manufacturer of clothing, 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 Peter Armstrong, electrician, who was at the Savoy with the Vassar girls last season; Charlie Collins, Jack Moore, 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 McLachlan, 2b; Jimmy Reynolds, 3b; ex-Ald. Church, Charlie Tindell, the Reynolds, Jim Fox, Jimmy Hever, and Billy Buckingham.

In 1881 there was great rivalry between the teams in the city league, composed of the Eagles, Centrals, Primroses and Buckeyes. The championship was won by the Hop Bitters with Jimmy Beardon and Phil Hughes as pitchers; George Brand, catcher; Riley and Bob Jackson, first basemen; John Tait, second; Ed. Patterson, short; Cotton Heath and Ike Webb, third basemen; Mike Rodden, pitcher; Dennis Rodden, Jack Tomkins, James Hinchey and Pick Axe Collins also played with the team. Jimmy O'Brien, the Primrose, did the catching. Tom Costello played first base; Tom Cones, second; Dubber Williams, short; Dave in increasing importance. The team was improved more than in the old days. One reason for this is that the pitcher does not have so much to do, a team carrying a staff of twirlers, and a pitcher is not called upon to toss the ball more than twice a week, and he has a chance to rest on his back. In the old days a catcher had no protection at all. The mouthpiece was later introduced, but the catcher was dressed like a warrior, with gloves, mask and breastplate. It's almost impossible to hurt him, and thus protected he should be able to catch every day, providing he does not get sore. So much improvement has been made in base-running that a catcher must be a great thrower. The game was not so scientific as it is now. To-day, team playing is a great factor, but it is doubtful if the individual players are any better.

The Buckeyes were composed of Hal, Billy Barnfather, who managed the champion Senators; Bob Hunt, Hooper, Walter Gray, Billy Buckingham, who was a great insider; Harry Tindell and Jerry.

The Eagles, Centrals and Black Hawks also played that year. In one game W. H. Watkins, former manager of the champion Detroit team, was of the game. 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, Dick Robinson 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 Hop 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 art

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 Pina played first base; Dave Garrison, second; Delan, short; Whelan, third; with Jimmy Chas. Catchpole and Sam Curry in the outfield. The Baysides won the championship.

The Hop Bitters changed their name to the Clippers in 1884. William Sloud, being manager and George Sterling secretary. The other teams in the league were the Primroses, with Maurice Foley, president; Jack Quinn, 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. Jim Wood played first; Pat McGraw, second; A. L. Bennett, short; Jimmy Wilson, third; Oscar Atkinson, left field; Charlie Wilson, centre, and Barnfather, right. Big Young, pitcher, and Jones and Henigan were the battery for the Primroses. Cosarson and Williams were the outfielders, Dave Garrison and A. L. Richardson were in the middle of the pitching for the Baysides. Tom Wardell, late M. L. A., played second base and his brother Dr. Harry Wardell was shortstop. Dan McCauliffe 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 Quebec. Charlie Collins was played with Indianapolis and Detroit, returned to Hamilton and managed the Clippers. Getting together a crack team. The Wood brothers opened 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 Ed. Chas. Collins was signed to play third base and he developed into a great pitcher, besides being a hard hitter. Ed. Stapleton played first. Collins second, W. A. Croghan, 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 L. Wood joined the team. Mickey Jones played first; and Pat McGraw second, but later Billy Beardon was signed and in a few years he became one of the crack players in the big league.

Tom Miller, James, Dave Garrison, Jeff Wood, Barnfather, Jimmy Wilson, Billy Pina, George McGraw, Don Wardell and Whitey Williams were the Clippers, also played with the team during the season. The Toronto team was composed of pitcher Kinley, Big Steinyer, who was called "Big Steinyer" because of his powerful delivery; Hooper and Wagner; O'Rourke, Patsy Smith, Hanaugh, Fred MacKinnon, Donald Manning, Wade, Wheeler and Billy Reid. The Hamilton team were Kent Fitzgibbon, Russ Purvis, Ed Hever, Charlie Maddocks, Tommy Cockman and Jimmy Hever. The Long Point team were Ed. Quinn, Steve Dunn, Quinn, Billy Smith, Captains and Count Campen.

One of the most exciting games was between the Toronto and the Clippers towards the end of the season. Big Steinyer, who depends upon his great speed, had the Clippers at his mercy, and after the Toronto had their ninth inning the score

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 tied the winning run. The Clippers won the championship, the standing of the teams being:

	Won	Lost	P.C.
Clippers	88	10	767
London	27	12	692
Toronto	34	19	558
Guelph	8	28	225
Primroses	8	31	205

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There were some good players in the Canadian league, a number of them graduating into the International League, which was organized in 1886, and remained in existence until 1890, although chances were made in its composition from year to year. The first team was composed of Hamilton, Toronto, Guelph, Syracuse, Rochester, Quebec, Buffalo and Indianapolis. Those were great days in baseball and many games were witnessed. The Hamilton players were: William, Arthur, Mike and John and did the twirling. The Toronto team was composed of pitcher Kinley, Big Steinyer, who was called "Big Steinyer" because of his powerful delivery; Hooper and Wagner; O'Rourke, Patsy Smith, Hanaugh, Fred MacKinnon, Donald Manning, Wade, Wheeler and Billy Reid. The Hamilton team were Kent Fitzgibbon, Russ Purvis, Ed Hever, Charlie Maddocks, Tommy Cockman and Jimmy Hever. The Long Point team were Ed. Quinn, Steve Dunn, Quinn, Billy Smith, Captains and Count Campen.

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