

Elmwood Giants Baseball Club



Alumni & Friends
NEWSLETTER

Fall Edition 2009

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BOSCH



Our Cover Photo

Our cover depicts **Mark Flynn**, a member of the Juvenile and Junior Giants from 1946 through 1951. He is a member of Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame (2002) and a continuing contributor to the Club.

He has recorded a video describing his days in Manitoba baseball that can be seen here (<http://www.mbhof.ca/videos.php?inductee=62>) on the MBHOF site.

(Editor's note: The interviewer is Bob Picken, yet another Giants alumnus and MBHOF member!)

Our Web Sites

Watch our web sites for developments. We plan to update them over the coming weeks and months and hope to keep them current with all the latest events. We also plan to launch a Club site that will highlight the work done on behalf of all three teams, the field and the baseball community.

2009 Season Notes

Elmwood Juniors Champs Again!

The Elmwood Giants Juniors claimed the Manitoba Junior Baseball League and Provincial Championships over Saint Boniface. This was Elmwood's fourth championship in the last five years.

Both teams were weakened by players returning to college and the Giants lost **Shane Seddon**, **Cody Hunter** and **Daryl Ellis** to Manitoba's Summer Games team. Elmwood won the final game of the best-of-three final by a 4-2 score. **Bryan McIntyre** pitched a one-hit seven-inning victory after going eleven innings three days earlier to win game 1.

On the WEB: www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiantsjr

Senior Giants Falter in Playoffs

After winning the Senior AA All-star Provincials in Stonewall, the Giants won their last league games to finish first in the Winnipeg Senior Baseball League standings. This matched the Giants up against an always tough Mitchell team in the quarterfinals. Although the Giants swept the best of three series in two straight games, they had a tough time with the Mariners.

Advancing to the semi-finals, they themselves were swept in three straight games by the Stonewall Blue Jays. The Giants' bats went ice cold and negated excellent outings by pitchers Chris Lemay and Mark Bullion in games 1 and 2. The Giants' thoughts quickly turned to preparing for next year's Western Canada Senior AA Championships in Saskatchewan.

For a Blue jays perspective on the result, you may want to consult the online version of the Stonewall Argus <http://www.stonewallargusteulonimes.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1718698>).

On the WEB: www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiants

The logo for the Elmwood Giants. The word "ELMWOOD" is in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "GIANTS" is written in a large, bold, red font with a thick blue outline and a slight 3D effect.

Mudcats Bow Out in Quarterfinals

The Kildonan Mudcats finished the '09 season in sixth place and played the Fort Garry Brewers in the quarterfinals. They lost two straight to the much-improved and younger Brewers who were led by former Elmwood Juniors **Lee Darracott** and **Jon Ali**. The games were close and the Mudcats got decent pitching from **Mike Zurba** and **Josh Voth**. **Chris Leclerc**, returning from his honeymoon, hit well throughout the series.

The highlight for the year for the team was taking part in the Provincial Championship in Wawanesa. They won one game and had two close losses in the tournament. The Mudcats could field a strong starting line-up but need to add some overall depth for next year if they hope to win consistently at the upper levels of the league.

On the WEB: www.ballcharts.com/kildonanmudcats



Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 am, the Board of Directors of the Elmwood Giants Baseball Club will be holding a Breakfast Buffet Meeting at the Aalto's Restaurant, Canad Inns, 826 Regent W (where we held the Bud, Spud & Steak). Bring \$5 and the Giants will cover the balance of the bill.

This Meeting is open for Board Members and any other interested Giants supporters. If you are going to attend, please phone Al Kinley by Wednesday, October 14 at 338-9603, so that there is seating for everyone.

Giants Director Needs Our Support

The Elmwood Giants family takes this opportunity to offer long-time Director, volunteer and friend, Mike Krykewich, his wife Catherine and son Alex our thoughts, prayers and support during difficult times. Watch this space and our web sites for details of ways to help them out in this time of need.

Cash Calendars

The sale of the Cash Calendars is the single most important fund-raiser for the Elmwood Giants Baseball Club again this year. Without another sell-out of the 3000 calendars printed, the Club may not be able to undertake some of the important upgrades described elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Board of Directors wishes to emphasize once again the importance of a successful drive. It will enable them to act on the Club's long-term goals and sustain its ability to provide an opportunity for future generations of players and coaches in the Elmwood community to achieve high levels of success in the sport of baseball.

With all that is being done and planned, we encourage everyone to sell their Cash Calendars. Without a good profit, none of these projects are possible. At press time, we still have 600 calendars not yet distributed.

News Flash!

If anyone reading this has a hockey, volleyball or other sports team that needs a quick cash infusion, call Al Kinley (338-9603) for information about a 50 / 50 split on calendar sales.

You will be able to return all sale proceeds and unsold cash calendars to the Elmwood Legion on Thursday, October 29 starting at 7:00 PM. At that event, you will be able to meet with some of the other directors and volunteers; a great way to stay in touch!

You can also return same to any of the following Board members:

- Ken St-Germain at Bee-Clean on Nairn or at 123 Mutchmore Close
- Don Krasowski on Rockspur Crescent
- Bryan Hodgson at 289 Knowles
- Gord Menzies at 21-667 St. Anne's Road
- Al Kinley at 9 McLennan Road, St. Andrew's (338-9603)

Prize award drawings will commence on the evening of November 1! As another innovation, the Executive will post the daily, cumulative and final results on the Club's various web sites (i.e., Juniors, Seniors and Mudcats, along with (possibly) a new club site!).



Manitoba Junior Baseball League Award Winners Named

For a complete list, go to the league web site at www.MJBL.ca.

Bryan McIntyre won the “**Sportsmanship and Ability**” award and he tied for the “**Outstanding Pitcher**” award.

McIntyre had sixty-seven shutout innings in the seventy-seven innings he pitched, allowing a total of only nine walks. Of his three losses, two of them were by 1-0 scores (both runs were unearned!). He threw:

- a no-hitter against Interlake
- a nine-inning 0-0 game (suspended for darkness; when it was resumed he pitched more scoreless innings, then pitched in the regularly scheduled game that followed!)
- an eleven-inning game for a win and
- a ten-inning game for another win

Brian pitched hurt and on short rest, such as for the one-hitter he posted in the League Finals.

Also of note in his memorable season with the Giants:

- his great clutch hitting (exemplified by his high RBI total with a less than stellar batting average)
- his fine defensive play (he was nominated by one of the other member teams for an All-Star award at third base!) and
- his outstanding leadership on a young team

MJBL All-Star Selections

The following players from Elmwood are members of the **2009 MJBL All-Star Team**:

- **Keith Sigurdson** (Centre Field)
- **Wes Pomarensky** (Shortstop) and
- **Bryan McIntyre** (Right-handed pitcher; tied)

Brendan Johnson had great offensive statistics and defensive play, but his nomination was out-voted at both the First Base position and in the “Utility Player” category. Also, **Justin Pasichnyk** was tied for “Rookie of the Year” honours but lost in the third round when one team representative changed his vote.

Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Inductees for 2010

The next crop of Hall of Fame inductees with Elmwood Giants connections include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Al Kinley | Long-time Giants Coach and Organizer (45 years of coaching), One of the founders of the modern-day Giants (1976 to the present) |
| Kollesavich Family | Including father Dan and sons Jim, Gerry, John and Rob ; Dan organized minor ball in Rivers and umpired when he moved to Winnipeg. The boys all played for periods of time with the Giants. |
| Morgan de Peña | A flaming-red-haired fire-baller who pitched for the Giants Seniors in the early '80's in the Redboine Senior League, he was a dominant pitcher in the Winnipeg region. |
| Brock McConachy | Brock played for the Elmwood Juniors in 1967. His father Dave had played for and coached the Giants in the late '40's. |
| Hank Lemoine | One of Elmwood's all-time most "hated" opponents who was always admired at the same time, Hank continues to contribute as an umpire in the Senior, Junior and minor baseball ranks after a great playing career with Carmen and St. Boniface. |

The Elmwood Giants Baseball Club, its Executive and entire Board of Directors congratulate all of you on achieving this honour. In particular, the other Board members take this opportunity to thank **Al Kinley** for his dedication to the club for so many years.

Watch future editions of the newsletter for detailed profiles of some of the people named above and for details about the induction banquet.



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Pages From The Past

August 22, 1947

2500 people watched the North Division pound the South in the Junior Baseball League All-Star game. Elmwood Giants on the North Division team were:

- Curly Haas (Coach)
- Jack Warwick
- Tom Johnson
- Wally Kormylo
- Alex Kurceba and
- Murray Brown

August 7, 1985

Perfect day leads way

AUG 8 1985

By LORNE STELMACH
Star Staff Writer

A little luck went a long way for Darrell Anderson yesterday.

"I was a hit baby" at the plate," said Anderson, who had a double and a triple when going three-for-three in leading the Elmwood Giants to a 3-0 win over the St. Boniface Native Sons in Game One of their Red-Haker Senior Baseball League best-of-five semi-final.

"When you come to bat, you're looking for pitches you think you can hit," the right fielder said. "I was just fortunate to connect."

Anderson's two-out triple in the seventh inning scored second baseman Bill Kiley and shortstop Mike Foster, opening up what had been a tight, scoreless game after 4 1/2 innings.

He also scored the game's first run in the fifth. After opening with a single, Anderson advanced to third on Glen Shuter's sacrifice bunt and a St. Boniface error.

He then got caught all the same, but managed to avoid the tag by St. Boniface pitcher Don Muskiev and scored standing up.

Anderson opened the Giants' third by hitting a double just inside the left field line.

Although he was pleased with his own performance, Anderson said their strong team play was a more important factor.

"Everyone covered their positions and made very few errors," he said. "We're off to a good start."

Giants' pitcher Jason Dyck had a no-hitter after five innings, but gave up singles to Ray Mottler in the sixth and John Hendall in the seventh to finish with a two-hitter. He also walked only one batter.

Muskiev gave up only four hits and two walks, but three errors proved costly. Muskiev also struck out seven in taking the loss.

Anderson is confident the Giants will be able to keep up their strong team play for the remainder of the best-of-five series.

"I wouldn't say we're overconfident," he cautioned. "but I do have a lot of confidence in the players on this team. They're making very few mistakes."

And maybe the rest of the team will be able to match some of Darrell Anderson's luck.



Giants' Darrell Anderson beats the throw to the plate to score the winning run.

Birchwood

Field Update

The Board of Directors is considering giving the green light to two major long-term projects that would be undertaken in the coming months, ahead of the 2010 season. At the top of the list is the purchase and installation of a scoreboard. The proposal under consideration would see the purchase and installation of a nine-inning scoreboard with remote control. The total cost to the Club would be in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

There are less expensive models, but, as usual, the Executive would prefer to go first class! The display will have room for advertisers and will be installed so as to make it visible to anyone travelling west on Chalmers Avenue past the park. Anyone with a potential sponsor for it should call Dave Kodak.

A second proposed improvement on the field will be the purchase and installation of 300 feet of green fence weave material at a cost of approximately \$5000. The material would be the same as seen on the outfield fence at the Neil Andrews Stadium (formerly Westbran Stadium) in Brandon.

The field crew, headed by Bev Fisher, will be replacing the mound and we are also considering bringing in a load of Shakopee Sand for the infield.

Newsletter Costs

The Club Executive is pleased to provide this newsletter to all Giants alumni, friends, players, coaches and supporters. We take this opportunity to remind those who receive the printed copy that the Club incurs printing and mailing costs in its production.

The periodic newsletters are available electronically via the teams' web sites and, in the future, via the Club's own site; an option that reduces costs to the Club. If you received the printed newsletter and have not made a recent contribution, we ask that you help the Club cover the cost of production by making a donation of any amount that you may deem appropriate.

At this time of year, if you wish, the Executive can convert your donation into Cash Calendar purchases and enter your name in the November draws by signing over an appropriate number of calendars to you. We will even forward the Domino's coupons, if you so desire!



B. A. Robinson Co. Ltd.



Pages From The Past

1935

The Junior League consisted of 6 teams split into two divisions: the Sherburn Maroons, St James Canadians and the Red Sox played in the "B" Division and the Elmwood Cubs, Transcona and St. Boniface played in the "A" Division. The Elmwood Cubs defeated the St. Boniface Canucks two games to one to reach the Final. Pitching ace **Nick Libitt** delivered both Elmwood wins with two one-hit shutouts.

In the Finals, the Cubs led once again by Libitt, defeated the Sherburn Maroons two straight to win the Drewry Cup and the Championship. In game one, Libitt struck out 18 and got three hits as Elmwood earned an 8-3 win. In game two, Libitt struck out 16 and drove in two runs with three hits as the Cubs earned an 8-5 victory and clinched the title.

Team members were: **Burron (SS), Mehner (2B), T. Schledewitz (C), Kull (1B), B. Schledewitz (CF), Libitt (P), Gross (RF), Czeuicke (2B), Procyk (LF), Gross (OF) and Matthes (OF).**

Editor's note: Many familiar Elmwood names, eh!

July 8, 1984

The Manitoba Junior Baseball League announced its All-Star team. Members from the Elmwood Giants were:

- **Rob Kollesavich** (LHP)
- **Lorne Korol** (1B)
- **Al Chobotar** (2B)
- **Chuck Goren** (Coach)

Kollesavich, 1983's MVP, had a 4-0 record. Slugging first baseman Korol had three home runs in one game and was a great clutch hitter. Chobotar was leading the league in home runs with seven and was playing great defence.





Help us solve a mystery from our archives

The Club has a significant archive of photos, clippings and articles related to Club activities and Winnipeg baseball history in general. Unfortunately, not all of them are well documented.

Our own resources have helped us identify the following people:

- **Bob Smith** and **Al Tresoor** (Coaches)
- **Gary White**
- **Kenny Ingram**
- **Clint Hoskins**

We believe the photo dates from around 1955.

With these hints and your own memories, can you help us identify the year, the age category and the players for the above photo? If so, then get in touch with the Executive.

Even better: as you can see, we have only a photocopy of the original picture. For bonus points: If you have the original photo, we would love to have the opportunity to improve our archives by scanning it!

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