

Baseball days are here again, and days of yore recalled when there was a diamond on every vacant lot and on every school yard.

Lindsay had the North Ward Sluggers and East Ward had the Yannigans. The Separate School at the corner of Lindsay and Russell streets did not have a large diamond, but it was a busy one, and the diamond at the East Ward School was the busiest in town.

Rivalry was keen and male teachers seemed to hold the respect of boys if they played the game and encouraged others to play.

Many a class lesson in arithmetic, reading and writing suffered when school kids manifested greater interest in baseball. Baseball, or sport of any kind was strictly tabooed and elderly people were usually shocked if they heard of a ball game in the back yard.

The first break in breaking the Sabbath day took place when a bunch of young fellows started to use a sawdust diamond outside the then town limits on William Street, north. Players sneaked their baseball mitts, balls and gloves, and, unbeknown to mother and dad, these young fellows had a good time, but managed to run all the way home in time for supper. Gradually the game became so popular that even the parents began to attend.

History records the fact that in the early nineteen hundreds Lindsay had a team called the Red Birds, a team which won the league eliminating Belleville, Peterborough, Cobourg, Port Hope, and Oshawa.

These teams had paid batteries and at one time the Lindsay team brought in a left hand pitcher by the name of Curly McLaughlin who proved to be the best twirler east of Toronto. Other players included Norm McGill of Janetville at first base, Herb Workman at the initial sack, Herb Workman at second, who was so good that he had a try out with Rochester pros., Bert Menzies, a shoe merchant, at short, from Kingston, Bill Stalker and Dick Grey in the outfield and on outfielder called Joe Mark from Valentia. The Red Birds wore dark red uniforms.

Lindsay's next big dip in having a paid ball team took place when Brownscombe a sweet little recruit, was picked up at Uxbridge, Charlie All and the Cummins brothers came from Toronto, followed by a tremendous speed ball artist "Canon Ball" Ed Scott, a native of Fenelon Falls who played in Toronto.

"Teddy" Miller, a Lindsay printer, was a good short stop and also a pitcher with a curve with a five-foot drop. Howard "Tubby" Williamson was a sure catch in the outfield and a spare pitcher. Jack Stark

from Sylvester's was a valuable player and later on Les Richmond arrived from Cobocok and became a fixture. The three Spratt brothers were excellent players and also became the best on St. Michael's hockey team in Toronto.

Athletic heroes, or idols, in Lindsay's past include those who absorbed the brunt and bruises as lacrosse players. It was a very rough tough game when players were whacked on the arms and shoulders, hips and legs and tempers flared. Many a player ended the game "out like a log" and always a doctor was on hand to bandage the injured. The water boy who was admitted free to the game was occasionally so busy carrying water from a distant pump that he saw very little of the game.

"Shorty" Elliot of the East Ward was a good player and "Slats" Riley, a printer at the Evening Post was a fast runner and aggressive player. Walter Reesor, remembered as manager-secretary of Lindsay Hydro, was a stalwart player and George Carruthers a tailor, was another player.