

Interesting Conversations About Little League

This started with the 1956 Season roster

Revised 4/1/2016

First e-mail

The attached file ([this link will open the file](#)) includes the 1956 Season roster, schedule and ground rules for managing the play of baseball from Charley Carlson's scrapbook (before Little League?). There are a lot of familiar names that I have not heard for years like Richard Hickman, Larry Walters, Bill Blair, Billy Buckland and Ronnie DeWeese. There are many on the roster that are now deceased.

Reply to the first e-mail

Junior League for players older than Little League age, i.e. players older than 12 yrs.

Reply to the above comment

I thought Little League ages went to 18 years of age.

Answer to the previous comment

You are quite right that Little League runs thru 18 yrs.

From my 15 years of Little League Involvement . . . LL was 9-12 yrs. As I recall, your age prior to July 30 was your LL age for a year. . . . (I could be wrong - it's been 21 yrs since my last "tour")

LL also sponsored "Junior League" for ages 13 - 15. I do not know if Cambridge City's "Junior League" was an official affiliate of LL BB or not. Probably was. But boys began to give up baseball after LL - hence, C City could only muster 3 teams of 13-15 yr olds. At the Junior League level, regulation distance Pitching Mounds & bases distances were used - the longer distances changes the game so dramatically for some kids that they get discouraged & give it up.

There also was (maybe still is) a Senior League division of LLBB, for 16-18 yr olds. I don't recall C City ever having a Senior League team, but there could have been at some points in time.

Instead, C City had an affiliate of American Legion Baseball for 16-18 yr olds, of which you have numerous photos. American Legion had different eligibility rules and "boundaries" than did LLBB. American Legion held tryouts, and they weren't compelled to allow any/all interested kids to be on the team, as with LLBB. So, guys from Milton, Straughn, Centerville, etc etc could play for CCity's team.

NOT that you asked!!! (Merely one of my passions)

Wrapping up the conversation

I have completed a conversation with an old friend that you will find interesting (at least I did) and asked permission to forward it to everyone. His name is withheld by his request.

Charley Carlson comments

The Little League discussion is interesting. A personal tie in to Official Little League is that was formed and registered, etc. in Williamsport, Pa by Carl Stotz in 1939. 1st World Series was in 1947. Headquarters and Stadium, seen every fall since the LL World Series was televised in the early '50s, is in South Williamsport where my grandparents lived on a mountainside. My mom and dad and sister and I traveled for vacation every summer and the LLWS became part of our trip until I became too involved locally to take the time away from where we lived. The early years I can remember were played in Williamsport across the Susquehanna River. My cousin Paul Shirey, Jr (LH pitcher & hitter and big for his age) hit the 1st

WS HR I was told. Paul Jr was my hero growing up. On the trips to PA from Indiana I would haul as many bats (broken from games I received occasionally) so I could swing them and make believe I was in the games myself. My sister was disgusted, my parents were tolerant.

LL now has the original 9-12, 13-15, and other ages and girls plus some other approved leagues. The most popular remain the 9-12 age group. Still is played in South Williamsport. My grandparents' home was purchased by eminent domain for a new S Williamsport school. Wish that 2-story home, on the side of the mountain, built by my granddad Shirey was still there. Still in my memories and pictures.

Looking for info on LL, I stumbled across my report cards my mom saved from Princeton (thru 4th grade), then 5th thru 12th in Cambridge City. Most of my early report cards had mention of slight paying attention problems and could be straight A if I wanted to. Yes I made plenty of Bs and Cs in HS and that one quarter report card mom saved was my straight A one. I was the top male (11th or 12th overall) in our class because all the other males goofed of more than I did, I guess. Teachers graded tougher back then, maybe. Or was it because it was tough to concentrate with raging hormones and beautiful females in our midst?

Good to hear Mary Alice is doing better.

Reply to Charley's first comment

Awesome e-mail, thanks for the information! As I see it, we could have all be straight A students *IF* we had put ourselves into the work. I was one of those that put no effort into school work and had to play catchup after free school was long past. With your permission, I would like to share your e-mail with our classmates since it is so jam-packed with great information.

Charley's second comment

Yes it's OK to send it on. I reread it today to make sure I didn't mess up so Mildred Cutter wouldn't roll over in her grave or at least smile for the effort. Saw a couple of grammatical errors but we'll let them go.

As an addendum, Carl Stotz left LL in the late 50s I think, because it was becoming to be commercialized. He formed another more like original LL but was not as successful with them. The newer group kept Original LL going and it is still interesting to many. Another thought was my Aunt Martha didn't marry until in her 40s or 50s as my dad found her a single man in Milton and they settled there upon dad marrying them. Aunt Mart would clip and send the articles from HS to mom in Illinois to include in the scrapbook. You may see some of her notes on an article. Aunt Mart's history was of working at the Grit, a well-known weekly in the 40s, 50s, 60s published in Williamsport, and organizing our picnics when we visited PA.

Besides our guarding of our female classmates we males, when away from school, were mainly hoping to find another Annette Funicello(sp) of the Mouseketeers or one of the good looking chicks from Dick Clark's after school program. Enjoyable time.

I found a photograph of the '57 Legion team that was kept (the website has a newspaper copy). I'll bring it out sometime. That was the team Brent's dad, Marshall, coached. I can remember him coaching us. He was knowledgeable about baseball. One memory was of him teaching us to roll our wrist through the hitting zone. Remembering some things and not others is strange phenomenon.