

JIMMY DIUGUID

Jimmy Diuguid began his love affair with baseball at an early age, playing at every opportunity, in the neighborhood, at school recess, and later on organized teams, including the Madison Heights High School team that won a district championship in the 1953 season. But that team would have been considered a late-comer in a family who had been involved with a local championship team in 1924, and later a Madison Heights team that won a city championship in Lynchburg in 1932.

The young Diuguid grasped a passion for baseball, first as a player, later as a supporter, coach, and scout. A journal kept as a mid-teenager revealed entries about baseball almost on a daily basis. He recorded when he acquired his first bat and glove.



His connection to baseball even extended to his wife of almost 50 years, whom he met at a baseball game and who assisted him in his later years when he continued to follow his beloved youth teams.

He adopted the Baltimore Orioles as his own, and later served as a part-time scout. Diuguid played a role in the fact that one local athlete, Amherst Hall of Famer Kenny Dixon, pitched for the Orioles for four years. Baseball and youth provided two primary focal points in Jimmy Diuguid's adult life, as he sought opportunities both through his work and his volunteering to help direct young people toward productive and purposeful lives through sports.

Diuguid's ten-year tenure as a truant officer allowed him to counsel young people regarding school, and no doubt enabled him to direct some to sports. In his work with the Madison Heights Dixie Youth teams, he often provided players with the equipment that their families could not afford. As a tribute to him for his many years of faithful service, Madison Heights Dixie Youth dedicated one of the playing fields in his honor in 1998.

When debilitating illness diminished his ability to be directly involved in developing baseball players, he nevertheless followed and supported their progress as long as he could. In the final analysis, Jimmy Diuguid's interest in baseball, and those who played it, influenced several generations of youth in Amherst County.

James Frederick Diuguid – October 25, 1935 - April 8, 2013

Career Highlights

- Madison Heights High School: Baseball – outfielder, catcher, district championship (1953)
- Madison Heights Semi-Pro Baseball: catcher, outfielder
- Dixie Youth Baseball: Manager, first Madison Heights team to appear in Dixie Youth World Series (Louisiana, 1978); baseball field at W. Glenn Ricketts Baseball Complex named in his honor (1998)
- Coach: Youth baseball in Amherst County (mostly Dixie Youth leagues), 12- and 13-year-olds, 50 years of service
- Part-time scout: Baltimore Orioles