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1930- 2000's



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Windsor Wildcats Fastball Team

Front row: Sarah Siddall, Laura Gignac, Jaime Reid, Liz Tremaine, Jessica Kavanaugh, Kelly Gray, Kiki Verkoeyen, Kristen Gray

Back row: Lem Gray, Jim Stonehouse, Tracy Lambert, Becky (Australia), Angie Lauzon, Chantelle Seguin, Dayna Rodrigues, Leanne Byrne, Judy Stonehouse, Ken Lauzon

Webb a winner Windsor's Lith Webb had a hit, scored a run and stole a base Sunday as the University of California-Pennsylvania swept Shippensburg State 3-0 and 1-0 to win their second straight NCAA II Mid-Atlantic regional softball championship.

The Vulcans, now 48-5, will play Florida Southern in the NCAA II championships next weekend.

FASTBALL

WINDSOR MEN'S LEAGUE

Monday Results

Metro Catering 6-9 Amherstburg Chiefs 0-6
Archie's /Cullen All-Stars 021 021 0-6-5-1
Windsor Body/Buck or Two 100 002 0-3-4-1
Rick Martin (W) and Rick Burns, Shawn Batson; Paul Flynn (L), Garry Jeffries and Sam Gigliotti. Top hitters: John Richard 2/3 (A), Shawn Batson 3/4 (A), Nick Keren 2/3 (WB)



Lith Webb

Windsor Ontario
2020



LOCAL ROUNDUP

Wildcats caged

The Villanova Wildcats softball season came to an end Friday when they were edged 3-2 by Detroit Ladywood in a semifinal for the Detroit Catholic AA Girls League.

Sarah Leblanc drove in both runs for Villanova. Each time it was Laurie Thompson who crossed the plate.

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Softball player honored Windsor's Colleen Caplin, a junior softball player and president of the captain's council at Eastern Michigan University, has been selected by EMU's athletic department to attend the National Collegiate Athletic Association leadership conference in Orlando, Fla., later this month.



MARY CATON
STAR SPORTS WRITER

Fastball season Seven city high schools are taking part in an abbreviated girls fastball league schedule this spring. Playoffs are this week with the final set for Friday at Wigle Park at 6:30 p.m.

The league, which includes Kennedy, Riverside, St. Joseph, Assumption, Brennan, Walkerville and Massey, uses diamond time provided by the Windsor Wildcats' fastball league. The high-school league is nine games long and organizers are being careful not to step on the toes of traditional spring sports such as soccer and track and field.

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Webb honored

Windsor's Lith Webb scored both runs to lead California, Pa. to a 2-0 win over Wisconsin-Parkside and its first-ever NCAA Division II National Softball Championship in Salem, Va. on Sunday.

Webb scored in the third inning and sixth inning as California rallied from a one-run deficit to win.

"I was so nervous," Webb said. "I was just trying to stay on my feet."

Webb's performance in the tournament also earned her a berth on the all-tournament team at third base.

"In my eyes of playing ball, she's the ideal, tremendous third baseman," California coach Rick Bertagnolli said of Webb. "She's proven that year in and year out thus far in her three-year college career in the United States."

She had five assists in the final in support of winning pitcher Danielle Penner.

"She saves my butt and grief," Penner said of Webb. "She's an incredible third baseman."

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FASTBALL

WINDSOR MEN'S LEAGUE

	W	L	T	P
Metro Catering	4	0	0	8
Midwest/Sleeman	3	0	1	7
Windsor Body/Buck or Two	1	2	1	3
Archie's/Cullen Allstars	1	1	0	2
South Windsor Selects	1	3	0	2
Amherstburg Chiefs	0	4	0	0

Tuesday Result

Archie's Place 000 000 0—0 5 0

Midwest/Sleeman 000 001 x—1 4 0

Rick Martin (LP) and Rick Burns; Steve Johnston (WP) and Rod Drouillard. Top hitters: Mike Vernon 1/1, Shawn Hurley 1/1 (Archie's Place); Kirk Ehgoetz 2/3, Bill Lahey 1/2, gwrbi (Midwest Sleeman).

Thursday Game Metro Catering vs. Windsor Body/Buck Or Two at Windsor Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

WEBB ALL-AMERICAN

Windsor's Lith Webb continued to shine in the wake of helping the University of California (Pa.) to the NCAA Division II women's softball championship. Webb has been awarded first-team status on the 1997 National Fastpitch Coaches Association Louisville Slugger Division II All-American team. Webb, a Kennedy graduate, led her squad with a .437 batting average, 47 runs, six homers, 17 doubles and 11 stolen bases. She also finished the season with 39 RBIs and a .684 slugging percentage.

FASTBALL

Windsor Men's League

	W	L	T	P
Metro Catering	5	1	0	10
Midwest/Sleeman	3	2	1	7
Win. Body/Buck or Two	3	2	1	7
Archie's/Cullen Allstars	3	1	0	6
South Windsor Selects	2	4	0	4
Amherstburg Chiefs	0	6	0	0

Thursday Result Amherstburg Chiefs vs. Metro Catering, p.p.d. wet grounds

Wildcats champs Sara Smith and Natalie Taylor combined to allow five hits Sunday as the Windsor Wildcats bounced back to defeat Stratford in the championship game of the Markham fast-pitch tournament.

In preliminary round action, Stratford edged the Wildcats 2-1 but the tables were turned when it counted.

In round-robin action, the Wildcats defeated New York 15-5, Quebec 3-1 and Belleville 14-1 before knocking off New York 2-1 and Port Perry in the playoffs to earn a berth in the final.

The Wildcats were led offensively by Stephanie Sanders who hit .375, Taylor who hit .348 and drove in seven runs, Melissa Holmes who had five RBIs and Danielle Downs who had four.

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FASTBALL

WINDSOR MEN'S LEAGUE

	W	L	T	P
Windsor Body/Buck	5	2	1	11
Midwest/Sleeman	5	2	1	11
Metro Catering	5	2	0	10
Archie's/Cullen Allstars	4	3	0	8
South Windsor Selects	2	6	0	4
Amherstburg Chiefs	1	7	0	2

Monday Results Midwest/Sleeman Cardinals 7 Metro Catering 3

Amherstburg 15 Archie's Place/Cullen All-stars 8

Tonight's Game Windsor Body vs. South Windsor at Windsor Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

FASTBALL

Windsor Men's League

	W	L	T	P
Metro Catering	7	1	0	14
Wind. Body/Buck or Two	6	2	1	13
Midwest/Sleeman	5	2	1	11
Archie's/Cullen All-Stars	4	4	0	8
South Windsor Selects	2	8	0	4
Amherstburg Chiefs	1	8	0	2

Thursday Result Metro Catering 1 Archie's/Cullen All-Stars 0

Eagles Caplin scores highly

Windsor's Colleen Caplin, a junior second baseman at Eastern Michigan University, has been named to the All-Mid American Conference first academic team.

This season, Caplin, a sports medicine major, sported a 3.76 grade-point average.

Caplin batted .316 for the Eagles. She was second on the team in fielding percentage with a .962 mark.

She also led the Eastern Michigan Eagles with 13 stolen bases, 23 walks and finished with an on-base percentage of .432.

FASTBALL

WINDSOR MEN'S LEAGUE

	W	L	T	P
Windsor Body/Buck	8	2	1	17
Metro Catering	8	2	0	16
Midwest/Sleeman	6	2	1	13
Archie's/Cullen All-Stars	4	4	0	8
South Windsor Selects	2	10	0	4
Amherstburg Chiefs	1	9	0	2


Monday Result Metro Catering 3 South Windsor Selects 0



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Dayna Rodrigues, Paul Hungler top county athletes

Dayna Rodrigues and Paul Hungler received the ultimate honor for high school athletes in the county Thursday.

The pair were honored as the Essex County Secondary School Athletic Association athletes of the year. Rodrigues, of Villanova, will receive the Repko Cup and Hungler, a Kingsville student, will take home the Hadre Cup.

Rodrigues has enjoyed success in every sport she's tried. A combination of raw talent and determination made her an unanimous all-star selection in both basketball and volleyball. She was the top ranked senior girls' discus thrower but was unable to attend the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships because she'd made the provincial junior fastball team.

She learned of her award by way of the answering machine where volleyball coach Linda Micelli had left the good news.

"It was a great message," the 18-year-old said. "They had a lot of great athletes in the county to consider this year."

The highlight of her OAC year was leading the Wildcats to a gold medal at the OFSAA girls' AA volleyball championships.

Rodrigues is considering a scholarship offer for volleyball and softball at a NCAA division II school in the U.S. next fall.

Until then, her time will be taken up with the Windsor Wildcats travel fastball team and playing first base for the provincial team which will head to Brandon, Man. for the Canada Games in August.



Dayna Rodrigues

Hungler, meanwhile, was on the golf course most of the day and didn't hear about the award until mid-evening.

"It feels great because I know there were all kinds of other great nominees and I'm honored to win a prestigious award such as this," said Hungler, who plans to attend Royal Military College on an academic scholarship next year to study aerospace engineering.

"I've been interested in RMC for a number of years and aerospace seemed such a fascinating course of study," added Hungler. "I'd like to play basketball at RMC because it's become my favorite sport. In fact, you're required to play two sports as part of the overall program at the school so I'll have to choose another once I get there."

While at Kingsville, Hungler played basketball, volleyball, soccer and was a member of the athletic council. In basketball, he was team captain and most valuable player, he was assistant captain and second team all-star in volleyball and team captain and most valuable player in soccer.

He was also named Kingsville's male athlete of the year.

Academically, he carried a 92 per cent average in his OAC year and was also involved in various extra-curricular activities such as Goodfellows and Meals on Wheels.

Let's start a healing conversation
Dayna Rodrigues
 Registered Psychologist
 Owner, Shared Healing Consulting & Psychotherapy
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Wildcats third Danielle Girard batted .533 and drove in two runs on the weekend as the Windsor Wildcat bantams won the bronze medal at the Ann Arbor Summer Classic girls softball tournament.

Andrea Sikora batted .467 and drove in four runs while Natalie Taylor hit .313 and drove in three as the Wildcats lost 5-4 in the semifinals to the host Ann Arbor club.

In earlier games, Windsor lost 4-0 to Ann Arbor and then defeated Bay City 6-2, Auburn Hills 8-0 and Northwest Ohio 6-3.

FASTBALL

Windsor Men's League

	W	L	T	P
Win. Body/Buck or Two	11	3	2	24
Metro Catering	11	2	0	22
Midwest/Sleeman	8	3	2	18
Archie's/Cullen All-Stars	5	8	0	10
South Windsor Selects	3	12	0	6
Amherstburg Chiefs	3	13	0	6
Thursday Result Metro Catering 8 Amherstburg Chiefs 0				

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Webb playing her part with Team Canada

By Dave Hall
Star Sports Writer

If Canada has a future in world women's softball circles, Windsor's Lith Webb intends to be a part of it.

Webb, a third baseman, was set to leave this morning with Team Canada for a trip which starts in Columbus, Ga., for a tune-up tournament and continues in Medellin, Colombia where the Pan-Am Games qualifying tournament will begin July 16.

Two weeks ago, Webb was in Holland where Canada placed third in another tune-up tourney behind Australia and China.

"I'm 21 and it's mind-boggling to think we're trying to establish ourselves against players in their late 20s who have been playing at this level for the better part of a decade," said Webb, who plays her collegiate ball at the University of California-Pennsylvania.

"I'm the youngest on the team and while we're inexperienced, we have time on our side," added Webb. "By the Sydney Olympics in 2000, we'll have had a chance to grow together and I think we have a chance to be an excellent team in the next few years."

The Canadians are coached by Ron Clark with former player Lori Sippel and Mike Rennie acting as assistants.

Team Ontario

Dayna Rodrigues and Laura Gignac of the LaSalle Turtle Club, Villanova and Windsor Wildcats have survived final cuts and will represent Ontario in the softball tournament at the Canada Summer Games in Brandon next month.



Dayna Rodrigues

Wildcats advance: Windsor Wildcats bantams have qualified for the U.S. Softball Association championships scheduled for Chattanooga, Tenn., July 28-Aug. 3.

The Wildcats earned their berth finishing second in the Firecracker Fastpitch Xplosion tourney in Hartland, Mich., over the weekend.

Windsor lost in the final 7-4 to the Indiana Bulldogs.

The Wildcats were led at the plate by Gillian Farrah who batted .522 with two homers, Maggie Gray with a .478 average along with Jane Weber and Sarah Tremaine, each at .400.

Wildcats baseball

The quest to battle some of the best softball teams in the United States is half over for the Windsor Wildcats under-18 squad.

The team qualified to compete at the National Softball Association World Series in Chattanooga, Tenn., by finishing fourth in the Michigan championships last weekend.

Now, all they have to do is raise \$6,000 to fund the trip to the tournament which begins July 30.

At the tournament over the weekend, the Wildcats won four of six games behind strong pitching performances from Heather Vernes and Robin Farrand.

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SOFTBALL

South Canadians shine in Calgary

Regardless of today's outcome, the Windsor South Canadians are guaranteed a spot in Thursday's final at the Canadian Little League senior girls softball championships in Calgary.

The South Canadians enter today's game against winless Calgary Northwest with a 2-0 record following weekend action.

Monday, South Canadians mercied the host Calgary Centennial team 16-2. Sunday, they defeated Lake Hill from Victoria, B.C., 11-8.

Against Lake Hill, South Canadians trailed 5-4 after four innings, but rallied for seven runs in the fifth. The key blow was a bases-loaded triple by Jessica Way. Julie Maria got to the plate twice in that inning and drove in a pair of runs with a single and double.

Melissa Galamb and Way combined to hold Lake Hill to just five hits.

Way and Talya Natyshak each tossed two innings against Calgary Centennial. Jackelyn Desjardins pitched the fifth and final inning. South Canadians rapped out 17 hits in all, three by Danielle Monette who collected one RBI.

Thursday, South Canadians will meet the winner of today's game between Calgary Centennial and Lake Hill.

South Canadians are a team of 13-15 year olds.

On to final Windsor South Canadians rallied for a 15-8 victory over Calgary Sunridge Monday at the Canadian Little League Major Girls Softball Championships in Calgary.

With the win, South Canadians are guaranteed a spot in Thursday's final against the winner of today's match between Layritz, B.C., and Sunridge. Each team is 1-1 while South Canadians are 2-0 going into their game today against winless Calgary Centennial.

Against Sunridge, South Canadians trailed 7-3 after two innings. Julie Malian relieved starter Jessica Murphy in the second inning. South Canadians scored seven times in the fourth inning to take a 11-7 lead and then Malian hit a two-run homer to help her own cause in the sixth.

Torey Gault had four hits for Windsor in that game.

Against Layritz, Krista Switzer held her opponents to just three hits over six innings. Jenna Moulder, Michelle Baggio and Jessica Murphy each had two hits in the game for South Canadians, who are 11- and 12-year-olds.

FASTBALL**Windsor Men's League**

	W	L	T	P
Midwest/Sleeman	17	4	2	36
Metro Catering	18	5	0	36
Wind. Body/Buck or Two	15	6	2	32
Archie's/Cullen All-Stars	9	13	0	18
South Windsor Selects	4	18	0	8
Amherstburg Chiefs	3	20	0	6
Friday Result Midwest/Sleeman 3 Amherstburg Chiefs 0				

Cougars purr Windsor's Colleen Caplin tripled to drive in a pair of runs Saturday in Calgary as the Chinguacousy Cougars closed in on a third straight Canadian junior women's fastball championship with a 2-0 semi-final win over British Columbia.

Caplin, one of two pickups on the Chinguacousy squad, injured her ankle on the play and missed Sunday's action when the Cougars wrapped up the gold medal by beating Manitoba 2-0 and 5-0.

Caplin batted .600 as the Cougars went 9-0 and was twice named player of the game. Windsor's Lith Webb was also a member of the championship team.



JIM PARKER
STAR SPORTS WRITER

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National recognition Windsorites Colleen Caplin and Jen Grainger are seeking national recognition as well as a national title this week in Calgary.

The Windsor Wildcats' players have joined the defending national champion Chinguacousy Cougars for this week's tournament.

"They're allowed to pick up three (extra) players for the tournament," the 21-year-old Grainger said.

The Cougars, who also have Windsor native Lith Webb on their roster, selected Grainger and Caplin after watching the two perform at the provincial tournament.

"We played them (at the Ontarios) in a nine-inning game and even though we lost 6-5 we both had good games," the 22-year-old Caplin said.

Caplin is a middle infielder and Grainger is a pitcher.

The Cougars have a small roster and both players are expected to see plenty of action.

It will also give both a chance to catch the attention of the national team coaching staff who will attend the tournament.

"At the nationals is where they ask players to tryout," Grainger said.

And while both would love a national title, they'd also love to see a national team invitation.

"That would be an extra bonus," said Caplin, who is on scholarship at Eastern Michigan University.

"One day I'd like to be on it, but I just want to go out and play well.

Wildcats second Windsor Wildcats won a silver medal in the midget division on the weekend at the Ontario girls' softball championships after losing 3-0 in the final to Oshawa.

The Windsor squad won four of six games, with both losses coming against Oshawa.

Softball Windsor defeated Erindale 10-4 Wednesday during the Canadian Big League Softball Championships at Optimist Park.

Pitcher Tammy Robinson got the win for Windsor, striking out five in five innings. Robinson hit two for five with two RBI.

Windsor also got a triple from Liegh

Girls fastball Windsor's Colleen Caplin is having a good tournament with her pickup team at the Canadian Junior Girls Fastball Championships in Calgary.

Both Caplin and Windsor's Jen Grainger were picked up by Brampton's Chinguacousy Cougars for the tournament. The Cougars are 3-0 following weekend action and Caplin went seven-for-nine at the plate in those games.

In a 6-2 victory over Calgary Silver Mountain, Caplin went three-for-three with two runs batted in, including the winner. The left-fielder was named her team's player of the game.

Grainger was the starting pitcher in a 4-3 win over Saskatchewan. She was not involved in the final decision.

The tournament continues this week.

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Futile dive

Windsor shortstop Tammy Robinson crashes to the turf in a valiant effort to snag a ground ball Wednesday during the Canadian Girls Softball Championships at Optimist Park. Victoria beat Windsor 13-2 to advance to Friday's championship game against Calgary.

Star photo: Ted Rhodes



Victoria victory An eight-run sixth inning powered Victoria, B.C., to a 13-2 rout of Windsor in the Canadian Girls Big League Softball Championships at Optimist Park Wednesday. Jackie Irving worked a one-hitter and cracked a pair of doubles for the winners, who advanced to tonight's final with a 3-0 slate. Melissa Caton had three hits and three RBIs to pace the attack. Lisa Peladeau took the loss for Windsor, which got its only hit from Tammy Robinson. Calgary (2-1) will join Victoria in the final, thanks to a 10-0 shutout of Erindale, Ont., Wednesday. Lindsey McLafferty tossed a three-hit shutout and Katie Kinsman, Sarah Onofrychuk and Jennifer Bader knocked two hits each.

— See page E2

HOPES DASHED



Members of the Windsor entry in the Canadian Girls Softball Championships at Optimist Park watch with concern from the dugout as Victoria puts together a big inning. The sixth-inning run parade produced a 13-2 victory and eliminated Windsor. The B.C. team meets Calgary in the championship final Friday. See story E4.

Star photo: Ted Rhodes

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WINDSOR SOUTH CANADIANS LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPS

Michelle Fitzsimmons smacked an inside-the-park home run as the Windsor South Canadians blanked Victoria Layritz 6-0 Thursday afternoon for the Canadian major Little League softball championship.

The 12-year-old left fielder's sharp grounder scooted through the legs of Victoria right fielder Tracy Lohr and rolled to the wall at Foothills Little League Park, also scoring shortstop Torey Gault and pitcher Krista Switzer.

The Canadians now advance to the major softball World Series, for players aged 11 and 12, which starts Sunday at Portland, Ore. For many of the Windsor players, it's a return trip; the club has now won the Canadian major softball title three years running.

On Thursday, Switzer made Windsor's whitewash complete with six innings of shutout ball, striking out 13 Victoria batters while allowing a pair of hits, two walks, and one hit batter.

Seniors lose Victoria Lakehill squeaked out a 2-1 win over the Windsor South Canadians at Foothills Little League Park in Canadian Senior Little League softball play. A total of five errors — including a pair that allowed Victoria's winning run to cross the plate in the final inning proved to be Windsor's undoing.

Newsome's run broke open a tense pitching duel between Victoria's Tasha Chewpoy and Windsor's Melissa Galamb.

Victoria advances to the senior World Series, for players aged 13 to 15, at Kalamazoo, Mich., Sunday.

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Big inning sinks Canadians

Windsor South Canadians are 1-2 following Tuesday play at the World Series of Little League for major division girls softball in Portland, Ore.

The South Canadians gave up an eight-run third inning Tuesday enroute to an 11-1 loss to the U.S. West representative from California.

"That inning kind of did us in," coach Roger Murphy said. "I thought we did well against a team that plays all year round."

Shelby Aldous doubled home Julie Malian in the third inning for Windsor's only run. Krista Switzer took the loss on the mound for Windsor.

South Canadians will now drop into a tier of teams that will battle for third place. They will face U.S. Central today.

On Monday, South Canadians trounced a team of U.S. army brats from Germany 22-2 in a four-inning mercy rule game. South Canadians scored six runs in the first inning and seven more in the second to put the game away early. Caitlin Foster went five-for-five with three runs batted in for Windsor. Michelle Baggio and Torey Gault each went four-for-five.

Malian and Jenna Moulder each went three-for-four in the game. Jessica Murphy was the winning pitcher.

The South Canadians opened the tournament Sunday with a 9-0 loss to the Phillipines which is representing the Far East.

Krista Switzer had the only hit for Windsor in the game which featured a six-run rally by the Phillipines in the first inning of play.

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Magone just keeps going and going

By MARY CATON
STAR SPORTS WRITER

His uniform isn't pink or fuzzy, but when it comes to slowpitch, Wilfred Magone just keeps going and going and going.

Magone, who will turn 71 in December, has been playing fastball or slowpitch on area diamonds for 55 years.

This month, he was part of the winning team at the Softball Players Association Championships in St. Louis, Mo.

Magone, an outfielder, went four-for-four as his Garden City team defeated Cleveland 24-4 in the final.

For the tournament, he was 14-of-19 at the plate and was named to the American All-Star Tournament team.

"I can hold my own with the best of them," he said of his performance at the plate. "I'm in pretty good shape and I can still run. That's the important thing."

Looked to U.S.

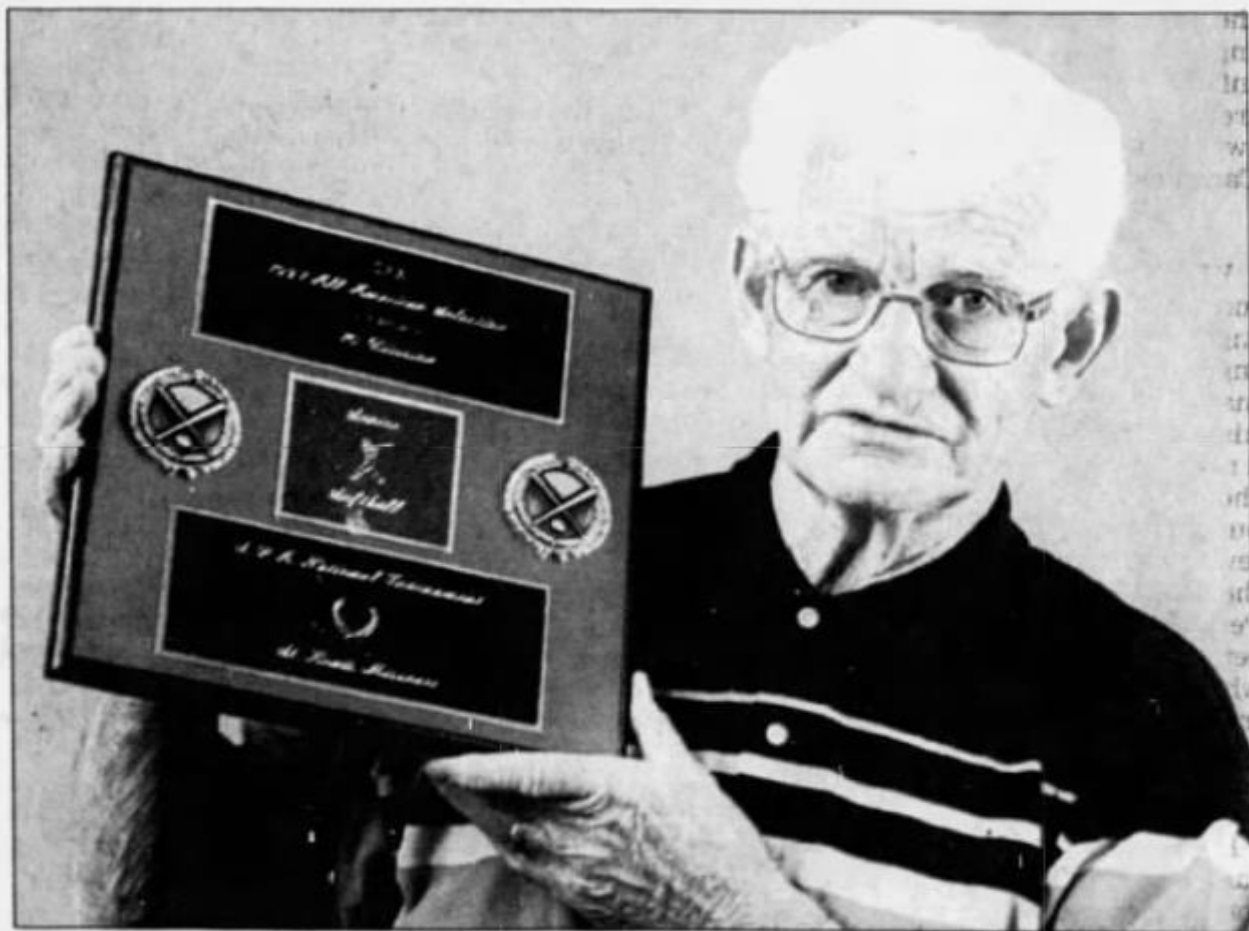
Magone hooked up with Garden City three years ago. Locally, he had played in the 55+ league and then the 65+ division. But there's nothing yet for those 70 and over as there is in Garden City.

"I couldn't play in the other divisions (55+ and 65+) in Detroit because I'm Canadian and the two countries have an agreement against doing that," Magone said.

"Canada hasn't got a team in the 70s yet so I'm safe."

His team travels all over and won tournaments in New York, Michigan and Ohio.

The St. Louis event was one of the bigger ones attracting teams from Tennessee, Geor-



Windsor's Wilfred Magone displays the trophy he won as the MVP at the Softball Players Association Championships recently in St. Louis, Mo. The 71-year-old outfielder went 14 for 19 at the plate to lead the Garden City, Mich., team to the tournament title.

Star photo: Jason Kryk

gia, Maryland, Ohio, Michigan and the host state.

As champions, Magone and his teammates get an automatic invite back to next year's event.

Magone, a retired City of Windsor worker,

gets his softball fix in Florida during the winter months where he and wife Mildred wait out the cold in Melbourne.

"I love the game," he said.

And just how long will he continue to play?

"Until the man upstairs says no," he replies.

Top umpire left legacy of baseball excellence

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is one of six profiles of this year's inductees into the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame Oct. 18.

BY DAVE WADDELL
STAR SPORTS WRITER

Umpires prefer not to be the centre of attention, but it was hard not to notice the late Art Ray.

Ray was considered one of the finest umpires in Ontario for 27 years and one of the area's leading sportsmen for seven decades.

That legacy of excellence is being recognized Oct. 18 when Ray is officially inducted into the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame.

"We're so pleased and proud that he got in," said Fay White, Ray's eldest daughter.

Ray was voted into the hall the first time his name appeared on the ballot.

It's a fitting tribute for a man that was first in so many things.



Art Ray

Born in Victory Mills, N.Y., on July 23, 1903, Ray was only 14 when he began to make his mark on local sports by being a charter member of the Mic Mac Club.

In the 1920s, Ray played football for the Mic Macs and the Windsor Wolverines until he suffered a near-fatal back injury in a game in 1923.

Unable to continue as a player, Ray became a trainer, coach and official for a number of local baseball, hockey and football teams.

In 1937, Ray help found the Windsor Umpires Association and an instructing school for area umpires.

Tony Koski was one of Ray's umpire school students in the early '40s.

"He knew everything there was to know about

umpiring," said Koski, who umped from 1945 to 1974. "He was such an excellent umpire — the best.

"He knew all the little things like positioning yourself to make a call. He was a great teacher.

"One of the hardest things in umpiring is knowing the rules and how to interpret them. Art knew how to do that.

"When you had Art as a umpiring partner, you never had any worries. He'd take care of things."

Despite drawing praise from ballplayers and fellow umpires, Ray remained modest when discussing his own skills behind the plate.

When told by a *Windsor Star* reporter that a team from Stratford had called him the best umpire they'd ever seen, Ray embarrassingly disputed the claim.

"Shucks, I wasn't so good," said Ray following the game that took place in the early '30s.

"I missed one. It was a good curve that sailed half an inch wide of the plate."

When he wasn't umpiring, he was coaching — often four teams at once.

When ball season ended, it was off to the arena for hockey or down to the local bowling alley.

"People used to say it must be hard because your father must never be home," White said. "But, I always remember him being there for us.

"We'd go and watch his games. Sports was just a big part of our family life."

As the '50s wound down, Ray turned to administration and became vice-president of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association and president of the Ontario Umpires Association.

The OASA recognized his efforts in the '60s by giving him the first OASA Award for a lifetime of contributions.

Ray continued his formal involvement in baseball until retiring in the mid-'70s.

"He became a resource then," White said.

"Right up until he died in 1990, people would call him asking his opinion about certain rules and plays. He loved that."



Umpire Art Ray, right, calls a runner out at home plate in this undated file photo

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