



Newsletter

June 2019.

2019 Induction Ceremony

The large crowd that gathered to see the induction of local legends was not disappointed. From the opening of the doors until closing everyone was entertained. The meet and greet portion was a time for old friends and team mates to get reacquainted and to talk to the sports celebrities in attendance, and there were plenty of those to see. There were over 30 past inductees in attendance to welcome the newest members to the Wall.

- **Joe King**, (Bowler) a world class bowler and even a more world class guy, was represented by his children. His bowling accolades were so numerous that it took several minutes to list. The high water mark for bowling is a “400”, well Joe did this over 100 times as well as still holding the record in the St. John lanes of 497 and 202 for his single string. His championships in all levels of the sport were read and lead all the way to world championships.
- **Robbie Graves**, (Hockey) a gifted skater and a gritty attitude carried Robbie all the way from Minto Minor Hockey to a stint with the Fredericton Express of the American Hockey league with successful stops along the way at the Junior Hockey level, where he became the MVP of the Fredericton Red Wings, a University Star at both UNB and St. Thomas, and later an All Star with his home town Senior Hockey Lakers. Robbie and his family now call BC their home.
- **Bob Lynch**, (Coach) began coaching Minor hockey in high school and never stopped for over 30 years. Bob attributes his love of coaching to the young people that he was able to connect with. Some coaches form a special bond with their players that last a life time and Bob is one of those coaches. The girls and boys that were fortunate to learn

hockey and life skills from Bob continue to speak fondly of him today. Bob and wife Nola have recently moved to Fredericton to be close to Grandchildren but Minto will always be their home.

- **Mike Tyler**, (Badminton) a tall, strong physical build with a will to succeed made Mike the Best player in New Brunswick in his High School years. Coming from a single “A” school, Mike was able to defeat all comers from “AA” & “AAA” schools and win three Provincial Championships in singles, along with Provincial titles in both men’s doubles and mixed doubles. Mike, after graduating from UNB moved around the country and throughout the US for work and continued to dominate when he was able to play. He won several titles in Alberta, New Mexico and Arizona. Mike finished his playing days with a runner up finish in the US senior Open doubles championships. Mike and his family now reside in Calgary Alberta.
- **Grand Lake Thrashers** (Hockey Team) Dominated the New Brunswick Senior “A” hockey league from 2006 through 2008 winning two Provincial Championships along with collecting all the individual hardware from scoring titles to goaltender awards. This team put life back into the Minto arena and fans showed their appreciation by coming out in droves to support them.
- **Zack Firlotte** (Hockey) Showed from an early age that he would be a good player but no one foresaw the talent that was going to lead Zack through a career of such success. Zack moved from Minto Minor Hockey to Prep School in the US and there honed his talents into being a Major Junior Star in the Quebec Major League, University Star at Acadia University, and playing professional hockey in the US and later in Australia. Zack now practises Law in Nova Scotia.
- **Kirk Firlotte** (Hockey) Was an all - star at the University of St. Thomas, an all - star in the Maritime Senior league, winning Allen Cup and Hardy Cup titles with PEI and Campbellton. Kirk also had a tryout with the New Jersey Devils of the NHL. He was involved in player scouting for several years. Kirk has now been inducted onto 5 Walls of Fame. Kirk and his wife Dixie continue to reside in Minto.

The Minto Sports Wall of Fame is pleased and honored to welcome these latest inductees to the fraternity, and their stories along with other local legendary Sports Figures is on display at the Wall of Fame located at the Minto Memorial High School.

One to Watch – 2017 Inductee Rudi Mills continues to be one to watch.

This past winter he collected four more medal at the New Brunswick S.O. Games with his gold in his favourite event the snowshoe race and three addition medal in his other events. He continues to achieve high levels of sports success and doesn't appear to be slowing down. Rudi was recently honored at a village council meeting by the Village, Province and Country. We will keep watching and enjoying Rudi's successes.



Minto - Grand Lake Teams Fare well at Provincial Bowling championships

The two teams representing the Grand Lake area were in the mix all week at the Provincial Championships. Minto actually led the event for three rounds of competition but ran into some hot teams and fell back a bit. The Grand Lake team also ran into those same teams and were unable to slow them down. Grand Lake finished fourth and Minto sixth. Grand Lake did however win the local grudge match over Minto 8-0. A highlight of the event was a high single thrown by Rick Bourgeois of 165. The area teams show that the sport of candlepin is in a good shape in our area.

Just Sayin...

The Stats

Today, baseball is a game of statistics, spin rates, finger pressures, arm angles, pitch count, ground ball rates, swing speed, fly ball rates, launch angles, matchups, defensive shifts, computer generated lineups, and on and on.

Teams have a manager, pitching coach, hitting coach, infield coach, outfield coach, first base coach, third base coach, bench coach, conditioning coach, several trainers, doctors, a shrink and of course a team of statisticians.

Stadiums are designed around the team makeup as a hitter's park or pitcher's park, or maybe grass or astro turf or synthetic material with odd names to impress the fans.

Rosters are set based upon salary caps, service time or contract obligations. Drafts are based on a 16 year old kid's stats for being a "five tool player". Kids are getting arm surgery without being injured to improve their velocity for big league levels.

Long ago, without all this knowledge and information Cy Young was able to win 500 games, Babe Ruth hit over 700 home runs, Ted Williams had a .480 on base percentage over 20 years, Nolan Ryan threw 7 no hitters, Manny Rivera came in against lefties and righties and got 500 saves, Ricky Henderson stole every base on every pitcher, even when they knew it was going to happen.

I doubt that Ted Williams worried about his launch angle or Nolan Ryan was concerned about pitch count.

Players spent their entire career with one team and we could love that team forever, now the guy we like moves around like checkers on a board, so each year we need to embrace a rebuild or a deadline trade for the chance at the brass ring. Playoff positions are pretty much set by June so we trade for the future and hope a no name brand player is able to help our team in 3-4 years.

Back in the day, Coaches chewed tobacco, wrote down lineups by themselves, decided to change pitcher because they looked tired, maybe sat a guy out because he had a hangover, and generally coached by the feeling in his gut.

I would agree, that today's players and teams are better prepared to play the game, and would probably knowing all the stats on these old guy, would win more games, but I am also very certain that with two or three announcers and two or three analyst quoting a bunch of numbers between commercials, most of us don't care about or understand, players and especially fans are not enjoying the game as much.

Just Sayin.....

Did You hear the one About...

In 1985, my good friend Roy Maston and I decided to get involved in Senior Hockey by bringing the Senior "A" Lakers into the Maritime Senior League. We planned everything, right down to what we would say to the media. Bob Deap agreed to coach as our first order of business, we were very excited, and so I planned every word I would say when the call came from the media, knowing that one false word could get us off to a bad start. So, the day after Bob came on board I was in the bathroom at home shaving when I heard the telephone ring, Deb called out it was the Daily Gleaner on the phone. I was so excited that I cut myself with the razor and stubbed my toe on the door casing, but undaunted, I rushed to the phone rehearsing what I would say. I picked up the phone and said hello, to which the lady on

the other end of the line said, **“for just 99cents** a week you can get a 3 month subscription”.

You tell us

In our March addition we asked you to tell us about any interesting stories, and you sure did. We received this newspaper page, dated Tuesday, November 6, 1934 out of The Shields News in England. In the lower left side section it tells the Story of English immigrants that moved to New Brunswick. The article tells of men constructing a soccer field in the province and forming at least two Football clubs to compete.

The Article reads:

A football field with elaborate dressing quarters, canteen, etc. mad out of virgin forest land is a fine example of practical football enthusiasm of East Northumberland and county Durham men living in New Brunswick, Canada. Among the East Northumbrians are Veno Calabrese, Charles Calabrese, and Harry Coxford(Bedside) , James Petterson (Shankhouse), J.Hall (Ashington), James Gribble, Jack Patterson (Seaton Delaval) while those from Durham County are A. Gaddess, David Gaddess, Dave Hughes, Joe Greennalgh, and R. Eltringham. Their efforts resulted in the forming of the Black Dimond and Rothwell United F.C.'s.

A few inquiries have show that the field was constructed in the location occupied by the Black Diamond softball field today. An interesting part of the article is that the names of families involved still remain very prominent in the area today and these families and all Village citizens should be very proud of this achievement.

We want to thank Hazel MacKenzie for this article which she received from a cousin in England and kindly forwarded to us.

Please keep your ideas coming.

Fast Pitch Softball returns to Minto

Wednesday May 29th, softball returns to Minto in the form of a 7 team Fredericton and District League. The team will face strong competition from their old nemesis

Hoyt as well as Two Fredericton teams, Oromocto, Kingsclear and the U16 Provincial team. Teams will play a 24 game schedule with Minto playing a home game every Wednesday night starting at 8:00 PM.

There will be a league playoff as well as each team participating in Provincial playoffs at various levels.

A familiar name playing for the Minto Heat is Wall of Fame standout Scott Maston. The team is hopeful to provide good entertainment and strong competition.

If you have some time on Wednesday nights come out and support these guys in their quest to become the next team or star to get nominated for the Sports Wall of Fame.

See you there.