



1992 SPECIAL



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION GENERAL STEWART BRANCH NO. 4

SPECIAL AWARD

Athletes in a variety of sports owe a debt of gratitude to the Royal Canadian Legion, General Stewart Branch No. 4. The Leithbridge Legion donates \$20,000 annually to minor sports. Among the sports that have benefited from the Legion's financial contributions are Little League baseball, girls' softball, soccer, winter curling, minor hockey, and ice hockey. Thousands of participants have been involved in these programs through the years, and the Leithbridge Legion has helped make these programs possible.



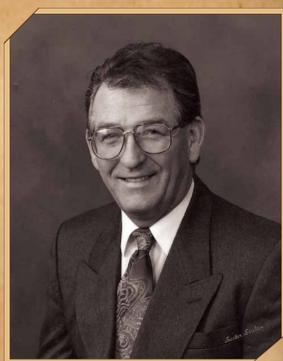
DAN BODELL HOCKEY

Dan Bodel distinguished himself during a 36-year coaching career in Leithbridge hockey circles. Starting in 1973 in the Leithbridge minor hockey program, Bodel guided teams of all ages, from Mite on up to Major Midget. In the 1977-78 season, Bodel piloted a Leithbridge rep team to the Bantam Tier 1 league championship and was named Leithbridge's Bantam Coach of the Year. He served as an Assistant Coach with the Leithbridge Midget Elite (Bantam) from 1979-1983 and helped the team to the Southern Alberta Major Midget Championship in 1980-81. In 1983, Bodel began coaching in the Leithbridge Athletic Association program, and from 1985 to 1989 he coached the Val Matteoni Golden Hawks AAA Bantam squad. The Hawks won the Provincial Championship in 1988-89, and also won the Patsdale Cup Western Canadian Championship in Brandon, Manitoba. Bodel was named the LAA's Coach of the Year for 1989. Bodel retired from coaching in 1989, but continued to assist LAA teams and also serve as a scout with the Western Hockey League's Leithbridge Hurricanes.



PETER LEWKO MULTI SPORTS

Peter Lewko has made a career of administrative service in a variety of sports. He umpired Little League and Pony League baseball for eight years, and served on the executive for four years. His 24 years of minor hockey involvement included seven years on the Leithbridge Minor Hockey Association Executive. Lewko also served with the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association for 17 years, wearing an assortment of hats, including South Zone Referee Chairman, Zone 5 Minor Hockey Chairman, and South Vice Chairman for Minor Hockey. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Directors with responsibility for senior hockey (for one term) and as an Appeal Chairman (for two years), and was Co-Chairman of Hockey for the Canada Winter Games. Lewko served for several years on the Board of Directors of the Leithbridge Flying Club and was also a member of Henderson Lake Golf Club and the Leithbridge Curling Club (senior division).

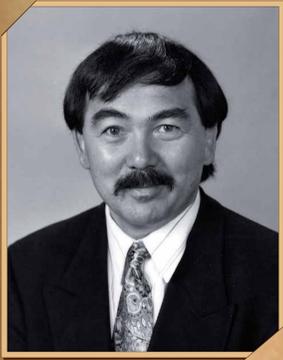


PAT HAMILTON MOTOCROSS

Pat Hamilton was instrumental in the development of the sport of bicycle motocross in Leithbridge. He played a key role in 1978 in the formation of the Leithbridge Bicycle Motocross Association, the first BMX Association to be formed in Canada. Starting with a membership of 12 riders, the organization quickly grew to serve more than 160 local youngsters each year. The riders raced at a variety of locations that first year, then moved to a track near Marshall Lane, Weyburn, from 1979 to 1981. They raced adjacent to Racquettime from 1982 to 1985. Hamilton was responsible for securing a lease agreement with the City of Leithbridge that led to the building of a permanent BMX facility, the Leithbridge Elks BMX Park, which opened July 29, 1986, in Dave Elton Park. Hamilton's involvement in bicycle motocross helped put Leithbridge on the map in the sport, and the city has subsequently played host to several national races, attracting competitors from across the country.



1993 ATHLETES



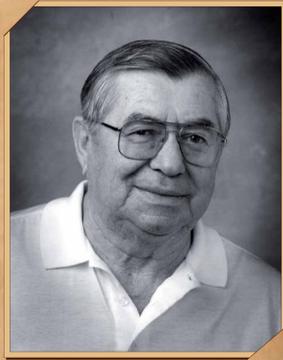
PHIL ILLINGWORTH JUDO

Judo has been a big part of Phil Illingworth's life for more than 30 years. He took up the sport at the age of 11 and later developed into a Canadian Judo Champion. In 1972, he won the Canadian Senior Championship in the middleweight class and represented Canada at the 72 Summer Olympics in Munich, West Germany. Illingworth earned numerous local and provincial titles during his long judo career, including a third-place medal at the 1978 Canadian Championship. The sport also gave Illingworth many opportunities for travel. Holder of a black belt, he trained in Japan for two years, in 1970 and 1971, and also trained in England. Following his competitive duty, Illingworth remained involved in judo as a coach.



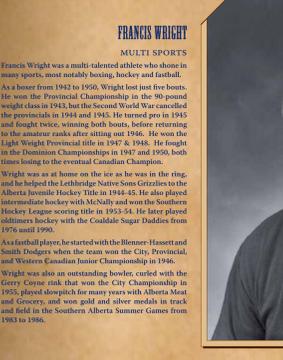
DAN SANTONI BASEBALL

The Santoni name is well known in football circles, and Dan Santoni is one of the best known who made it so. Santoni was a standout in the sport from his teenage years, when he led the Leithbridge Indians to three straight provincial championships from 1963 to 1965. He swept almost every honour available in the Major Men's Football League in 1965, emerging as a batting champion, home run champion, all-Star shortstop and most valuable player. Santoni won the batting title again the next year, and led the Dallas Hotel Cowboys to the Senior B Provincial Crown. In 1970, he hit a home run off the famed Eddie Faganer of The King and His Court at Dave Elton Park. Santoni helped the Leithbridge Miners win the Senior A Provincial Crown in 1974, and was again a member of the Senior A Provincial championship in 1976. In 1978, with the York Hotel Aces, he was a member of the Senior B Provincial Champs. He retired as a player in 1991. Football wasn't the only sport at which Santoni excelled. In 1963, he was the league scoring champion and MVP while leading St. Francis College to the Southern Alberta High School Football League Championship. He also participated in basketball, hockey, curling, and bowling.



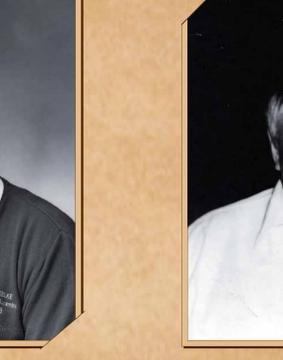
BERT MEZEL BOWLING

Bert Mezel was one of Leithbridge's top bowlers through the 1960s and early '70s. He represented Western Canada at the Canadian Championships (1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1967 and 1971). He helped the Southern Alberta Men's Team to the Canadian Championship, marking the first time a team from Southern Alberta had won the National Crown in five-pin competition. Mezel retired as the Southern Alberta Men's Champion in 1963 and was the City Men's Singles Champ in 1965. In 1964, he bowled a perfect 300 game, just the second in Leithbridge history and the first since 1934. He later served as Coach of the Southern Alberta men's team which won the silver medal at the Canadian Championships in 1977. In his younger days, Mezel was a boxer and was runner-up at the provincial championships in 1947. He also played soccer with the Army and Navy Squad. Later in life Mezel took up golf, recording a hole-in-one in 1985.



FRANCIS WRIGHT MULTI SPORTS

Francis Wright was a multi-talented athlete who shone in many sports, most notably boxing, hockey and football. As a boxer from 1942 to 1950, Wright lost just five bouts. He won the Provincial Championship in the 90-pound weight class in 1943, but the Second World War cancelled the provincial in 1944 and 1945. He turned pro in 1945 and fought twice, winning both bouts, before returning to the amateur ranks after sitting out 1946. He won the Light Weight Provincial title in 1947 & 1948. He fought in the Dominion Championships in 1947 and 1950, both times losing to the eventual Canadian Champion. Wright was at home on the ice as he was in the ring, and he helped the Leithbridge Native Sons Grizzlies to the Alberta Juvenile Hockey Title in 1944-45. He also played intermediate hockey with M. Nally and won the Southern Hockey League scoring title in 1953-54. He later played oldtimers hockey with the Coaldale Sugar Daddies from 1976 until 1980. As a football player, he started with the Henner-Hassett and Smith Dodgers when the team won the City, Provincial, and Western Canadian Junior Championship in 1946. Wright was also an outstanding bowler, curled with the Gerry Coyne rink that won the City Championship in 1950, played fivepint for many years with Alberta Men and Grocery, and won gold and silver medals in track and field in the Southern Alberta Summer Games from 1963 to 1966.



JOSEPH "JOCKO" TARNAVA MULTI SPORTS

Joseph "Jocko" Tarnava was a standout in three sports and earned acclaim as a speedy outfielder-catcher during his baseball days from 1946 to 1962. Tarnava helped the Leithbridge Junior Miners to the Alberta Championship in 1949, then moved on to the Senior Miners from 1950 to 1952. In 1954 and '55, he played with the semi-pro Gramham White Sox that won the Provincial Crown in both seasons. He returned to the Leithbridge Minors in 1956 and was one of the top hitters and base stealers in the Southern Alberta Baseball League. Tarnava later played with the semi-pro Leithbridge Warriors and Leithbridge White Sox. He also shone as a player-manager for the St. Basil's ice hockey team during the 1950s. The team won the Western Canadian Championship in 1954 and '55. Later Tarnava became an avid curler, playing on two Shireburne Bantam champions, the Fred Kalliom rink in 1960 and the Lawrence Lemson rink in 1974. Also in '74, he helped Lemson's foursome to the Army, Navy and Air Force Canadian Championship. He remained active in curling until his death in 1986.



1993 TEAMS



Back Row (L-R): Dave Sharrow, Gary Paskauski, Ken Lupul, Alex Kogler, Dave Steward, Bruce Lowe, Middle Row (L-R): Karl Sorokowski, Len Chalmers, Jerry LeGrandeur, Roy Fox, Len Frig, Keith Ferrel, Howard Heggedal, Gerald Zachnowski, Fraser Robertson, Fairview, Dave Sharrow, Leithbridge, Dave Steward, Cranbrook, B.C., Bruce Lowe, Saskatchewan; Syd Hall (Manager), Leithbridge, Adrian Usherette (Secretary-Treasurer), Leithbridge; Carl Trentini (President), Leithbridge; Don McLean (Coach), Leithbridge; Jack Kerr (Trainer), Leithbridge; Max Kurze (Equipment Manager), Leithbridge; Karl Sorokowski (Goalkeepers' Coach), Leithbridge.

1969-70 SUGAR KINGS

HOCKEY

Before the Leithbridge Broncos of the 1980s, the Leithbridge team that came closest to a Memorial Cup was the 1969-70 Sugar Kings. That season, the Sugar Kings finished first in the Alberta Junior "B" Hockey League during the regular season, then outlasted the Red Deer Rustlers in a thrilling seven-game playoff final after eliminating the Edmonton Oilers in the semi-final. The Sugar Kings went on to defeat the B.C. representative, Victoria Cougars, in six games before losing to the powerful Regina Pats in six games in the Western final. Regina went on to reach the Memorial Cup final, losing to Dave Schultz and the Montreal Junior Canadiens.

The Kings boasted a lineup made up mostly of Leithbridge and district players. Bow Island's Daryl Knibbs was the team's leading scorer in the regular season and playoffs, and Howard Heggedal and Jerry LeGrandeur of Leithbridge were other top point-getters. The team was coached by Don McLean and the goalkeepers' coach was Karl Sorokowski — both coaches were members of the World Championship Leithbridge Maple Leafs of 1951.

Team Members & Hometowns:
Don Hall (Goal), Leithbridge; Craig Simmons (Captain), Leithbridge; Daryl Knibbs (Alternative Captain), Bow Island; Gerry Carmichael (Goal), Leithbridge; Len Chalmers, Fairview; Jerry LeGrandeur, Leithbridge; Roy Fox, Broadview; Len Frig, Leithbridge; Keith Ferrel (Alternative Captain), Bow Island; Howard Heggedal, Leithbridge; Gerald Zachnowski, Saskatchewan; Fraser Robertson, Fairview; Dave Sharrow, Leithbridge; Dave Steward, Cranbrook, B.C.; Bruce Lowe, Saskatchewan; Syd Hall (Manager), Leithbridge; Adrian Usherette (Secretary-Treasurer), Leithbridge; Carl Trentini (President), Leithbridge; Don McLean (Coach), Leithbridge; Jack Kerr (Trainer), Leithbridge; Max Kurze (Equipment Manager), Leithbridge; Karl Sorokowski (Goalkeepers' Coach), Leithbridge.



LEITHBRIDGE OLDTIMERS SPORTS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE
Back Row (L-R): Fred Robinson, Tim Tjo, Middle Row (L-R): Jim Stewart, Rick Williams, Dwight Donbowick, Gary White, Syd Hall, Bill Sturgeon, Front Row (L-R): Cliff Nelson, Brian Murkin (Treasurer), John McLellan (President), Don Hyrnyk (Vice-President), Dick Gibson (Secretary), Fred Keck.
Missing: Bob Trevis (Past President), Bill Seeling, Lance Nordin.

LEITHBRIDGE OLDTIMERS SPORTS ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL AWARD

The Leithbridge Oldtimers Sports Association has come a long way from its beginnings in 1975 when it was formed with just six members. Their original aim was to play in the Oldtimers Hockey division in the Canada Winter Games in Leithbridge. Since then, the organization has grown to over 200 members and features a six-team hockey league for players aged 35 and over. The Association also stages an annual Oldtimers tournament each November. This tournament has attracted teams from throughout Western Canada and the Northwestern US.

In 1989, the Association began awarding annual scholarships to students who excel athletically and academically to help them further their education. The organization is also a dedicated supporter of minor sports, the Boys' and Girls' Club of Leithbridge, the Leithbridge Handicapped Riding Association, and the Leithbridge Hurricanes hockey club.



1993 SPECIAL



Photo Courtesy of The Galt Museum & Archives

Chuckwagon race at Leithbridge Whoop-Up Days