

Centennial Moment 10

You may recall my Centennial Moment about the rowdy Rotary vs. Kiwanis hockey and broomball games, at which our Rotarian Reverend member got arrested. Well, the Kiwanis club challenged us again - this time to a game of baseball.

From Frances' ongoing research into the Examiner archives of 100 years ago, comes this breathless reporting of our brutal baseball battle with Kiwanians - and the re-match!

From *The Evening Examiner*, Peterborough, Friday, June 9, 1922:

ROTARY-KIWANIS STAGE A BATTLE ON THE DIAMOND

SCORE DOUBTFUL.

The much-heralded Rotary-Kiwanis baseball match was played at the Nicholls Oval yesterday afternoon before a large crowd of spectators, **which were most of the time torn between tears and cheers.**

Rotary won 8 to 5 according to the official scorer. Secretly, they maintain the real score was about 15 to 5. Jake Solomon, who was umpire, did not give them their dues. The Kiwanis Club, on the other hand, put up a similar alibi for not winning, and it was pretty well agreed that next week the whole thing will be fought out again at Riverside Park. The Kiwanis Club has no doubt about winning and the Rotary feels the same way.

The game was a battle from the drop of the hat. The nine men trotted out, **although most of them had been out of the game for years.** They made a pretty well-balanced outfit, and when the Kiwanis Club gets its batting average up a notch or two, the Rotarians will have to look to their laurels. If the Kiwanians could have done for Bob Abbott, they would have been well away, for Bob was Rotary's Kingpin on the willow. The first time up, he knocked the ball far, and the game was held up for several minutes till it was returned.

Gordon Matthews heaved for Rotary and the gentleman at the rear of the batter looked a lot like Jack McHardy. The resplendent uniform made it difficult to distinguish features, but the shining dome could not be mistaken. Doug Lawrie did wonders at second and with the willow. He worked so well, in fact, that Alex Dick intervened by throwing his 250 pounds on him at second base when the opportunity came.

Leon Fraser at short was in a state of excitement practically all the time on account of the admiring and envious glances directed at his Apollo-like form shown off by **the only other uniform the Rotarians had** beside Catcher McHardy.

The sporting event was brought to a close by cheers all round. Rotary cheered the Kiwanis and vice versa. **The umpire was forgiven by both sides** and came in for a hearty ovation.

AND NOW THE RE-MATCH!

From *The Evening Examiner*, Peterborough, Wednesday, June 21, 1922:

ROTARIANS GET ONE ON THE KIWANIANIS

Ball Game at Riverside Park Goes to Rotary With a 7 to 6 Score.

The reversible battery of the Kiwanians went ahead and reversed to their heart's content in the Kiwanis-Rotary game yesterday afternoon, but nevertheless went down to defeat with a 7 to 6 score.

The Kiwanians went to bat first and before Gordon Matthews and his trusty team mates had retired the necessary three, two runs had crossed the plate. The elation of the Kiwanis over this auspicious opening, however, soon cooled when the Rotarians came right back with three runs, a three base hit by Case being one of the features of the inning.

The game then Rotated and Kiwaned back and forth, until the Rotarians went to bat in the fifth inning with the score tied. Doug Lawrie managed to get on base, but by the time he got around to third, two men were out and the outlook was not so bright, until **Parson Young stepped up to the plate and whaled out a mighty single**, sending in the winning run.

(Bruce's note: "Parson Young" was Rotary member Reverend Harold Young, who managed not to be arrested this time.)

Gordon Matthews did the heaving for the Rotarians and though he remarked after the game he had lost eighteen pounds, **a close inspection showed that there was still enough avoirdupois left to cast a shadow**. Chris Graham, who officiated in the backstop position, was much embarrassed by the lack of a uniform, but finally consented to play in his every-day clothes.

Walt Smaill, who handled the short stop position for the winners, was so tuckered out at one period that **he had to sit down to make a throw to first**.

Whew! What inter-club drama!