

NATIONAL NEWS

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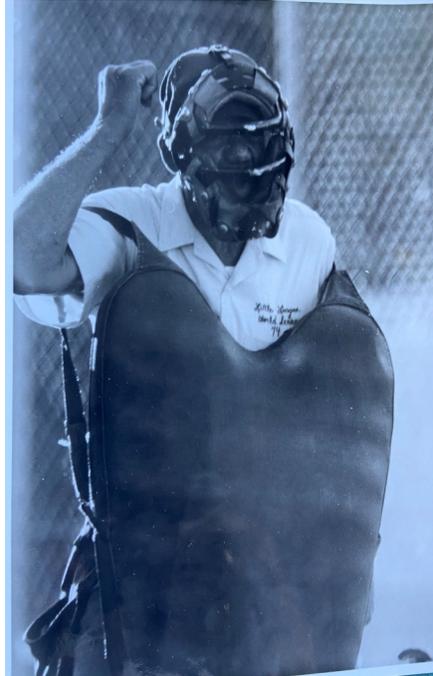
National Little League Celebrates 70 years

National Little League is celebrating their 70th anniversary this year. Starting in 1953, this iconic ballpark has seen thousands of players grace its fields, including sports broadcaster John McKeachie, and international singing sensations, The Mofatt's. In the first year, there were four major teams that were drafted by the managers. More than 150 kids were on a waiting list as there was no minor program. National ball park has fallen on hard times recently, but thanks to some innovations from a couple of our executive members, Mike Ross and Ryan Dalrymple, the registration grew from 120 players to 190 players, followed the next season by 300 players. Celebrations will be ongoing through the season, with an entry in the Victoria day parade and a dance possibly in the works. We will be hosting two tournaments this year, a mini minor tournament in May and the Majors district tournament in July. Volunteers will be needed.

Sponsor from day one

The Oddfellows sponsored a team at National Little League in the first season, 1953 and they still sponsor today. 70 years of sponsorship is a long time and on behalf of everyone who consider themselves a Nationalite, past or present, we thank them and hope that they will be able to commit to us another 70 years.

The baseball diamond at National Little League Park, became Jerry Hale Field in 1982, Honoring another legend who was known as "Mr. baseball". Mr. Hale served on the executive board from 1959-1996. He volunteered in every position other than president. Jerry kept score for every major game, and never turned down a request for a freezie from one of our players.



Doug Hudlin, The gentleman umpire. Mr. Hudlin umpired his first game at National in 1953 and was revered by players and coaches alike. He made such an impact on players from all of the little league parks in Victoria, that most of them, now adults still remember him with fondness. Mr. Hudlin was the only international umpire to be asked to umpire the little league world series in Williamsport twice and is a member of many halls of fame including the Victoria sports, B.C. baseball and Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. He retired from umpiring in 1992 with his last game, where it all started, at National Little League.

The Man, The Myth, The Legend



Registration is now open
nationallittleleague.org

Thank you

To our sponsors who make it possible for us to continue running a program for our players.



Tip of the month

Batting is the most difficult skill to learn, because both the bat and the ball are round and the contact point is the size of a dime. Bat selection is important. Choose a bat that is not too heavy, if it is, you have to choke up. Don't take your eyes off the ball. Don't swing at bad pitches. Be aggressive and always step toward the pitcher.