



National

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70 years of memories

National Victorious at Inaugural 7-8 tournament

After defeating both Hampton and Layritz in back to back games on Sunday, National completed a three games in a row sweep by defeating Beacon Hill 5-4 in a thrilling game on Sunday May 7 at the vey first Doug Hudlin Charitable Society 7-8 year old tournament. The players on all of the teams played exceptionally well and should be proud of their efforts as they made plays that you would expect from their much older counterparts. The kids were excited to play as it was the first tournament for most of them. National little league did an outstanding job of giving these players a taste of what the ultimate tournament experience should be, and the teams lapped it all up by performing like all stars. I have had many proud moments in my time at National and this is one of them. Proud of the effort of all of these amazing players, proud of our junior umpires, proud of our sponsors, and proud of our few volunteers and organizers who were instrumental in making this happen.

1953 players a hit at the Doug Hudlin game.

A lot of players have stepped up to the plate in the last 70 years at National. The first little league game was played on May 12 1953 with four teams of majors. There was also a minor division which played at Topaz park. During the Doug Hudlin Charitable Society game, we were honored to have 12 of our first year players attend and hand out the gold medal to National and the silver medal to Beacon hill. These former players showed the true National spirit, by not only awarding these medals but more importantly engaging in conversation with these youngsters. The looks on these kids faces said it all as these alumni legends made their way down the line. The 1953 players had plenty of time to catch up and reminisce about their teams, games, special plays or hits. after all ,70 years later it seems that their memories have not faded and neither is their passion for the sport and the field where it all started seven decades ago.



Our Gold winning 7-8 year old tournament team with our inaugural players from 1953



Barb Hudlin and myself with the 1953 alumni Bob Holness, Russ Ashworth, Bud Taylor, Bob Bloomfield, Barb, George Hemming, Steve Bishop, Barry Williams, John Mckeachie, Ron Grant, Barry Sadler, John Balloch, Coach Don

A Hit to Remember

August Joo was hit in the face by an errant pitch to the face last season, which caused some physical, as well as psychological damage. A year later playing on Coach Sasa's major team, many were left wondering if August would be able to step up to the plate again. Much to his credit he did just that at a game at Central Saanich on May 6. He hit a blast over the right fielder's head and as it rolled to the fence, August bolted around the bases, the pitch to the face being a distant memory, as he headed for home, just beating the throw, scoring an inside the park home run in a 21-6 rout of Central Saanich. Congrats August.





Our 1953 Oddfellows teammates from left. Steve Bishop, John McKeachie, Barry Sadler, George Hemming, Barry Williams.

A Special Sponsor

The Oddfellows sponsored one of our original four teams in 1953 and they are still a sponsor of our little league, 70 years later. That is an incredible feat and we thank them for their devotion to our league and more importantly to our players. This amazing organization are always looking to welcome new members, so please check them out.

Did you Know?

Did you know that in 1953, players were not allowed to take their uniforms home. They had to come to the park and get changed in the clubhouse, and then remove their uniforms after their game.