NewsBank
Daily Gazette (published as SCHENECTADY GAZETTE) - August 30, 1954 - page 19
August 30, 1954 | Daily Gazette (published as SCHENECTADY GAZETTE) | Schenectady, New York | Page 19

Little League Champs Receive Tremendous Welcome

By HARRY SHAVE
Gazette Sportswriter

It was "Welcome Home" to the Little League's 1954 World Champions Saturday, and it was a tremendous reception the hometown accorded the Schenectady Little League's pint-sized champs, their coaches and officials. It was the largest reception accorded any local sport group in history.

The new champs were met at Central Bridge, some 20 miles from the Schenectady city line by a police escort and from there on in—the red carpet was out.

A number of jubilent local fans drove out as far as they could to await and join the motorcade from Williamsport, Pa., where the local youngsters won Little League's top prize. Others lined the route in to wave and yell their congratulations.

At the city line, a committee headed by Myles Burke, assistant city manager, met the group along with an amazingly large crowd who jammed the Bellevue section. It was the same thing down at the Hotel Van Curler where the motorcade picked up the brass band, which escorted the youngsters through the downtown section to the City Hall.

At City Hall, the formal welcome was given before a third and larger crowd of happy fans, relatives and parents.

After the players had stepped from the fire truck on which they rode from the Hotel Van Curler to City Hall, they single-filed up onto the City Hall steps and the formal welcome began.

Local city officials, including Burke, Tom Moynihan, Henry Pfeil and Osborne Nye, Chamber of Commerce president, showered their congratulations on the beaming young baseballers. Bob Hanna, former president of the Chamber of Commerce acted as master of ceremonies.

Congratulatory messages from Speaker of the Assembly Oswald Heck and Governor Thomas Dewey were made known at the City Hall gathering.

After the formalities on the steps the players were introduced one by one and in a particularly fine gesture, the proud parents of each player were presented flowers inside City Hall.

That wasn't all for the champs and their coaches and their Schenectady Little League officials—their jubilant day came to a climax with a trip around the Mont Pleasant area.

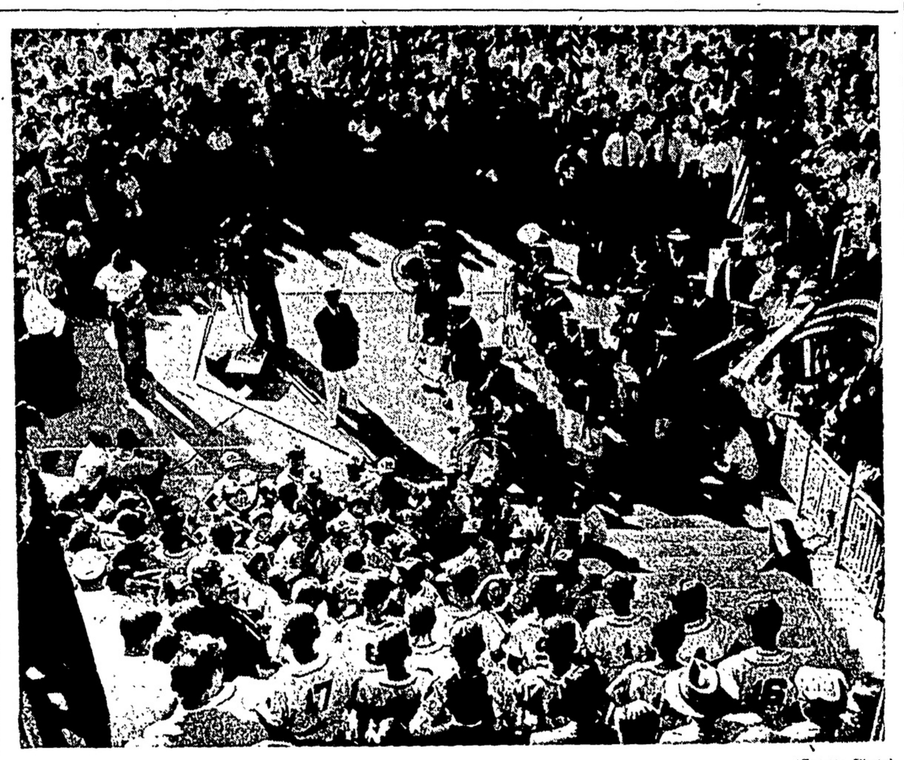
It was in that area, more specifically on Michigan avenue, where the 14 young men started their long climb to the Little League's World Series championship game.

Schenectady, with Mike Maietta and Lou Masucci at the helm, climaxed a comeback to Original Little League field in Williamsport last Friday with a thrilling 7-5 victory over Colton, California to earn the title "World Champions."

Last year, Schenectady lost by 1-0 to Birmingham, Ala., in the championship final and this trip, became the first Schenectady team in the eight year LL World Series history to come back and come home with the big banner which will soon be seen proudly flying from the Schenectady LL field on Michigan avenue.

—(Gazette Photo)

NICE GOING, BROTHER—Dorothy Neidel gives her brother, Chuck, a welcome home kiss Saturday. Chuck played first base for the world's Little League champs.



—(Gazette Photo)

BRASS BANDS AND FANS—Shown above is a shot of the vast crowd which welcomed the 1954 Little League World championship team at the City Hall Saturday. Fans, Little League colleagues from all over the county, and a brass band were on hand.

—(Gazette Photo)

HE'S OUR BOY — Mr. and Mrs. George Fennicks, pose proudly with their son, Warren, who held down the right field position with the Schenectady LL champs.

AMAZING FUEL SAVER
1 or 2 PKGS. OF
INFRA ACCORDION PLEATED
ALUMINUM BLANKET INSULATION
WORKS LIKE A GIANT VACUUM BOTTLE
. . . converts any dusty, drafty attic into a sparkling bright, comfortable and very useful room on the coldest days or the warmest nights.
Ideal for expansion attics . . . cannot sweat in walls and ceilings . . . declared a must in new homes to prevent condensation and paint peeling . . . it helps cool entire house, not just a room in summer.
Winter fuel savings are reduced to unheard of lows . . . nothing but nothing compares with INFRA for reducing fuel bills. Type 4 ST only 7c a sq. ft. Pays for itself in only a few short months. Accordion pleated INFRA is the best investment you ever made. Easy terms available . . . pay for your INFRA insulation out of your fuel savings.
Count your rafter spaces and phone us for an estimate and free literature. Remember, no house can be expensive to heat with accordion INFRA, the insulation sensation of the nation
HEADQUARTERS FOR NORTHERN HOMES
GAGNON BUILDING SPECIALTIES
1096 Forest Road (Near Mt. Pleasant High School) Ph. 4-8355

Tel. 4-4141 to Order Classified Ads

LL Series Aftermath

World--Not National Champs Return Home

By HARRY SHAVE

It's all over now but the shouting—the Little League World Series that is, and "we're" champs. You get to say "we're" when you refer to the Schenectady Little League's 1954 World Champions—especially if you happened to be fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to be with those little guys throughout their Series competition.

* * *

AFTERMATH of Schenectady's successful trip to Williamsport, the friendliest little city in Pennsylvania, brings to mind a lot of things.

First a couple of corrections. Namely, Schenectady is The World Champion of Little League baseball—not national champion. Heard radio announcers and even seen it in newspapers, the reference to the 1954 titleholders as "national" champs instead of "world" champs.

Elimination tournaments, leading to the World Series, were played in this country, Canada, Cuba, Korea and other foreign countries. That takes care of that.

Don't know how the score of Schenectady's quarter-final victory over Lakeland, Fla., became mixed up, last Tuesday. We had our gang winning by 14-0, several others in the press box had the same thing. Still others had us winning by 15-0 and 16-0. Schenectady won that game, that's for sure and it was 14-0.

Literally speaking, the work of people like Manager Mike Maietta, Coach Lou Masucci, Trainer Lindy Buonome, and Business Manager Frank Constantino is over. A job most certainly well done.

Now the work relegates itself to the hard-plugging Schenectady LL officials—guys like Bud Parker, the league president; Bill Fitzgerald, secretary, and Constantino, business manager and financial secretary.

That trio has a king-sized job to take care of making arrangements for the upcoming festivities, the many letters of thanks which must be sent out and financial reports to be returned to Williamsport.

* * *

EARLIER YESTERDAY morning, President Parker was already in conference with Lou DeLegge, who is the busiest man in town on the "homecoming" festivities.

An estimated 300 telegrams besieged the Williamsport Western Union office from start to finish from the very first wire from Allen Chapman, Mica Insulator Co. president, Chapman's wire reached Parker, who works at the Mica, last Monday.

Players alone received some 50 telegrams from their hometown buddies and parents and you can bet they were certainly proud of those telegrams.

Gotta note that one of the hardest working people down in Williamsport during the Series was Carl Stigberg, Official scorer for the Schenectady LL. Carl really sweated through those games and lost something like 22 pounds and at times actually was numb from the excitement. He helped us out tremendously and rates a "well done" and sincere thanks.

Our LL officials were particularly proud of a letter, received down in Williamsport, from Frank Gilbert, writing on behalf of the Carman LL....Gotta thank Mrs. Bud Parker for that fine dinner yesterday afternoon when we were talking business with her husband.

Any hoarse or raspy voices you hear around town are sure to belong to the gang of local people at the Series...City Officials Myles Burke and Tom Moynihan, who got down for the championship final, were so elated over the victory we saw them out playing ball with the kids at their Lycoming College quarters following the game.

* * *

IF THERE'S a strange clinking sound in that big trophy the boys won, here's why and it's an interesting anecdote. Williamsport host to the kids, Max Blair, found two pennies before the Series started. He held on to them throughout the games, just for luck. After Friday's win, he turned them over to Bud Parker who in turn, deposited them in the trophy.

Ray Piccolo will never get over "rubbing elbows" with Mel Allen, "voice of the Yankees" and was still talking about it down at the City Hall reception.

Frank Constantino, who was with the kids from start to finish, spent Saturday night in bed at home having nightmares—loudly disciplining some of his charges as he had done while staying at their Lycoming College quarters...

The new champs thought it was just wonderful to have last year's runner-up team down with them and we heard a lot of comments on it.

We saw two typical examples of the kind of kids who won the championship for Schenectady. After the big game we went up to the players' quarters. First youngster who greeted us was none other than Pitcher Billy Masucci, as fine and unaffected youngster as you could meet.

The blond-haired youngster didn't say a word about his pitching or his hitting in the final game—he preferred to kid Bill Wege, who was with us, about having "swindled" him out of a dime the day before. Then Outfielder Pete Fennicks' first words after the jubilation had calmed down to a mild college roar, were "when do we eat, I'm hungry!"

How can you beat kids like that!

Shortstop Joe Kazmar was the team wit. Asking a Williamsport cop directions, the policeman told him to go up to the next red light and turn left. Kazmar befuddled the cop by asking "what happens if the light isn't red?"... Kazmar, ribbing Trainer Lindy Buonome about his lack of hair, told Lindy "you have hair like gold, it's hard to find."

TWO KIDS with their voices practically gone are Jimmy Barbieri, team captain and outfielder, and Joey Loudis, second baseman. Those two little guys, demons on the base paths, were the "talk-it-up" players on the team when they were afield.

Might add a note to those who blame Schenectady Officer Red Barrett for doing his duty Saturday when he almost ticketed one of the cars in the motorcade on State and Church streets.

Barrett was miffed when the driver of the car, bearing some homecoming fans, apparently disobeyed his hand signal and went right on through. Barrett hauled the driver over to the side and the rest of the motorcade pulled right up behind—we were in the next car and former Schenectady LL president, Bill Fitzgerald right behind us and at least 20 more cars thereafter.

Actually the motorcade should have had their headlights lighted and should have been given a clear route to the City Hall and local policemen should have been alerted. That oversight on someone's part here would have cleared up most of the traffic congestion downtown Saturday. So don't blame Officer Barrett or anyone else involved—just part of the confusion in welcoming a world championship team.

Everyone's pretty well played out now but it's a good "tired feeling."

Schenectady's really on the map now—thanks to a fine group of little guys who just didn't want to call it quits and showed big league poise all the way to the top diadem in small-fry baseball.

Denmark's recent foreign trade growth is featured by a 50 per cent boost in sales to the United States.

Sch'dy LL Players To Report Today

Members of the eight teams in the Schenectady Little League are requested to report on the Michigan avenue diamond tonight at 5:30 o'clock.

The players from Hershey's, Mynderse, Englert's, Oldtimer's, GEAA, Western Gateway and Van Curler Motors and Mica Insulator are all to report to receive tickets for the Schenectady LL's annual banquet, Sept. 12 at the Hotel Van Curler.

Heard Aces 25th Hole on EC Links

T. C. Heard scored a hole-in-one on the Edison Club course yesterday.

Heard, using a No. 2 iron, aced the 25th hole, a par three 185-yard shot. He was golfing with Jack Robb, L. Jesse and G. Helmick.

GOODYEAR
SUPER CUSHION
TUBELESS TIRES
ARE HERE NOW . . . .
DON'T WAIT—SEE IT TODAY—The Safest — Strongest — Quietest Tire Ever on the Road — The Tubeless Tire With 3-T Nylon Cord.
BUDGET TERMS ARRANGED
COWELL'S
GOODYEAR STORE
165 Erie Blvd.
Phone 4-6200

Schenectady Little Leaguers have Brought Great Honor to Schenectady
To be acclaimed "World's Champions" . . . the one league out of 3,500 Little Leagues from Coast to Coast . . . is no small achievement . . . and it will be long remembered. Schenectady and all baseball-minded America is proud. So, our hearts go out with
Congratulations
To The
WORLD'S CHAMPION LITTLE LEAGUERS
Their manager, coach and trainer and everyone who, in even a small manner, made all this possible.
Dan A. Donahue
Too, Is Proud . . . . So Proud That There Is A
$10.00
GIFT CERTIFICATE
WAITING FOR EACH OF THE LITTLE LEAGUERS
Their Manager, Coach and Trainer
Jim Barbieri
Chuck Caputo
Bill Connors
Marty Dwore
Warren Fennicks
Joe Kazmar
Ernie Lotano
Joey Loudis
Bill Masucci
Chuck Neidel
Johnny Palmer
Mike Rakvicka
Freddy Riggi
Jackie Scirocco
Mike Maietta, Mgr.
Lou Masucci, Coach
Lindy Buonome, Trainer
Come in at Your Earliest Convenience for Your Gift Certificate
Dan A. Donahue
240 STATE ST. JUST BELOW ERIE BLVD.

© This entire service and/or content portions thereof are copyrighted by NewsBank and/or its content providers.