

We walk in the Footsteps of Generations Past

Les German: The Aberdeen Baseball Celebrity Forgotten in Time



Lester Stanley German, better known as "Les" German was born in Baltimore on June 2, 1869. German was almost 21 years old when he was recruited by the Major League's Brooklyn-Baltimore baseball team as a pitcher.

Three years later he went over to the National League to play for the New York Giants. Finally, in 1896 Les went on to play for the Washington Senators. That year the team finished 9th in the National League and his first team, now called the Baltimore Orioles, finished first and won the Pennant. German's major league career came to an end following the 1897 season due to many issues with his pitching arm and a final trade to a team in San Francisco.

German then decided to switch careers - albeit still in the athletic field - to trap-shooting. Starting with local competitions, German made his way to become the national trapshooting champion in both singles and doubles in 1911. He was then hired by the DuPont Powder Company to do trapshooting in exhibition matches, often performing with the famous Annie Oakley.

By the age of 30, German had settled down and built a house on Broadway (now Rt. 40) in Aberdeen. There he lived with his wife and two children.



The large, green-gray Victorian house still stands and may be seen on the right-hand side of Rt. 40 as one travels north beyond the light at the W. Bel Air Avenue intersection.

In Aberdeen, German worked as a clerk, selling guns and ammunition to the community. However, his celebrity status as both a ball player and trap-shooter never left him, as local sportsman depended upon him to choose their firearms. With age, German spent much of his time in Florida, but he always considered Aberdeen to be his home. Lester German passed away in 1934 at the age of 65.

Lestor German's Baseball Career

Les German pitched in a total of 129 major league games, winning 34 and 63. He was the starting pitcher in 92 games and a reliever in 37. His earned-run-average for six years was 5.49. His best season was 1894 when he won nine games and lost eight for the Giants. His worst season was in 1886 when he only won two and lost 20. German was not exclusively a pitcher, for he appeared in 14 games as a third baseman, two as an outfielder, and two as a second baseman. His lifetime batting average was a .260, with 408 at bats, 106 hits, including eight doubles, three triples, and three home runs, and 48 runs-batted-in. In all, German played in 147 ball games at the major league level.



In the 1893 season, German was the most successful pitcher against his old club, the Baltimore Orioles in the east and the St. Louis Browns in the west. Three eastern teams and two western teams never won a game against him.

In fact, German and Wilson (*the New York Baseball Club's primary catcher*) were the best working team of the New York Batteries in 1893, according to the 1894 edition of Spalding's Official Guide to baseball.

Artifact of The Month

Rudy Jacob's Uniform



Pictured above is the uniform of Aberdeen baseball player, LaRue ("Rudy") Jacobs.

At that time the pants of the uniforms cut off partway down the calf. The players rolled the bottoms of their pants under at their knees and tucked in their socks to protect their knees when they slid into a base. Rudy Jacobs' socks are displayed on the shoulders of the uniform.

Rudy Jacobs hailed from the bygone era when local sports were played for the sheer love of the game - the 1940s and 1950s. During WWII, the Aberdeen Cannery's team was suspended because so many of its players had gone off to war. However, the team was reformed in 1945 as simply the Aberdeen Team, but the name Aberdeen Cannery stuck with fans.

Jacobs played a crucial role on the Aberdeen Cannery team and was known for his exceptional skills on the baseball field. Jacobs participated in intense Sunday matches against Havre de Grace, Elkton, and Hickory teams, earning a modest payment of 65 cents per game. Despite the limited compensation, his unwavering dedication and passion for the sport made him a revered figure in the community. Jacobs' legacy as one of the original players of the Town continues to inspire aspiring athletes, leaving an enduring impact on Aberdeen's sports history.



Ask Mr. History

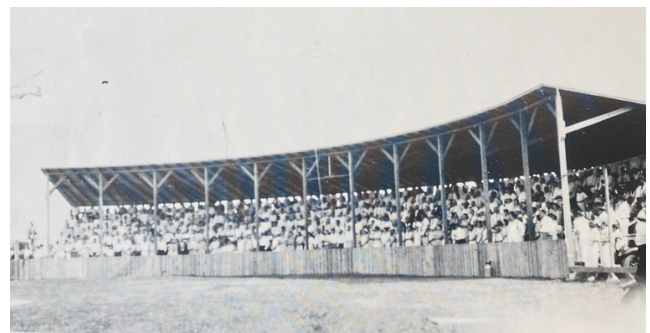
Q I know that community Aberdeen baseball teams have been in existence for well over a century, but where did they play before Ripken Stadium?

A &

Before Ripken Stadium, the adult community Aberdeen baseball teams played at two main fields. The first field was located at Festival Park and home plate was located in the corner where the pavilion now stands. Although we don't have an exact date as to when it was built, we know that players used this field in 1921.



Joe Lee Field was where Lidl stands today. Remnants of the bleachers are said to be hidden in the woods. Aberdeen never had large baseball fields, but Joe Lee Field was the primary baseball venue in Aberdeen in the 1950s and 60s and served as the home "stadium" for various community baseball teams, mostly the Aberdeen Cannons.



In the early 1960s, the Cannon's ceased to exist as a team. Thereafter, the community then began to use the public-school fields for youth baseball and have ever since.

If you have a question for Mr. History, please email it to info@aberdeenmuseum.org and perhaps you'll see it answered in a future newsletter!

Golden Ager's Visit

This past month we welcomed a visit by Aberdeen's Golden Ager. If your organization or event is interesting in scheduling a tour of the Museum, please contact us at info@aberdeenmuseum.org



This guest is reminiscing over vintage photographs of Aberdeen



These ladies are browsing through some of Aberdeen High School's yearbooks



These guests are enjoying the Aberdeen Museum's scavenger hunt.

Corn Dogs

What's more American than "Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie, and Chevrolet"? According to clickondetroit.com, "Hot dogs and baseball have been an iconic duo since the 1860s, when they were introduced by German immigrant and owner of the St. Louis Browns baseball team, Chris von der Ahe. They were first served bunless -- instead, vendors who sold hot dogs from carts would hand out white gloves."

This issue's Aberdeen recipe comes from Evangel Assembly of God's 1983 church cookbook, when they were still located on the corner of W. Bel Air Avenue and Law Street. The recipe was submitted by the late Ethel Kammerer of Aberdeen.

Ingredients

- 1 lb. hot dogs
- 1 c. flour
- 2 tbsp. cornmeal
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 tsp. oil
- 3/4 c. milk
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 medium onion, gated
- cooking oil



Instructions

1. Pat the hot dogs dry with a paper towel and set them aside.
2. In a mixing bowl, combine the remaining ingredients to make the batter.
3. Heat the oil in a deep frying pan or pot to a depth of about 3-4 inches.
4. Dip the dry hot dogs into the batter, allowing excess batter to drip back into the bowl.
5. Fry the battered hot dogs in the hot oil until they turn golden brown.
6. Remove the fried hot dogs from the oil and drain them on a paper towel to remove any excess oil.
7. Insert a wood skewer into one end of the dog
8. Serve the deep-fried hot dogs with mustard or ketchup for dipping.

Enjoy!

Authors Note:

Several Museum volunteers favor Nathan's brand of dogs.

You can find this recipe and many other delicious ones in the Aberdeen Museum Library.



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Volunteer Kenny Wilson answers a guest's question with information and photos from the Museum's archival files

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