



ArchivesSpace

Finding aid for the Grand Rapids baseball research collection Collection 271

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Department

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	Grand Rapids baseball research collection
ID:	Collection 271
Date [inclusive]:	1906-
Physical Description:	1.9 Linear Feet Two boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Grand Rapids Baseball Collection is a small devised collection created to bring together by topic various accessions of primarily research materials related to men's baseball in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Many items are copies, while other items are original ephemera related to the sport in Grand Rapids and Kent County, Michigan.

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Scope and Contents

Area general league teams are included, but some occasional examples of teams formed of the workers of area businesses may also be found. Such items as a photocopy of a Wally Pipp scrapbook document that Grand Rapids boy who made it to the major leagues. Score books and play bills from the 1950s era Grand Rapids Jets are included. A copy photo of the Grand Rapids Base Ball Team, Central League from 1906 is included. Other items are added as received. A number of other GRPL archival collections document the early base ball league rules, African American baseball in the Kent Co. area, and several collections are found related to the Grand Rapids Chicks women's baseball team.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Various gifts and purchases, accession numbers 1991.031, 1994.00004, P1999.029, P2000.081 and 2001.104.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

For early news clippings of baseball in Grand Rapids, with many teams from area businesses and communities, see the Bajema Baseball clippings notebook in the Local History collections.

Collection 58, Grand Rapids Chicks

Collection 160, Helen Earlene Risinger

Collection 213, Kent Base Ball Club

Collection 251, African American Baseball

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

- Baseball -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

Collection Inventory

Series I. Graphics

Scope and Contents

Most of the images currently included in the collection are copy photos of Grand Rapids associated players and teams. Also on original photo postcard and a broadside are found.

Subseries A. Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
New York Americans, catcher. Albert (Lou) DeVormer [copy photo] n.d. 1994.004	Box 1
Unidentified team with "G.R" on shirts of 4 + "Chicago" on shirt of 1. [1894] [Copy photo] 1994.004 Includes: Spies / Wright / Carroll / Jones / Eagan / Parker / Ellis, Manager / Phines / George / Wheelock / Callopy / Caruthers, Captain	Box 1
GR Base Ball Team, Central League. 1905. / Photo by Staples, South Bend. From the 1906 Spalding Guide. "Big John" Ganzel, owner and manager of team.[b/w laser copy] 2001.119 Includes: Morrissey / Butler / Arnold / Bliss / Carey / Miller / Barber / Perry Geyer / Navel / Backof / Reading / Cooley / Warner / Ganzel, Mgr.	Box 1
Central League Season 1906 Team. Photo postcard, to Mr. M. Ackerman, Ravenna, Mich. P2000.081	Box 1
Copy photo of above image. 1994.004	Box 1
Copy photo. GR Base Ball Club of the Central league, 1907. Sporting Life, Philadelphia.1994.004 Includes: Bliss, P / Miller, P / Summers, P / Vananda, P / Warner, P / Graham, P / Howley, C / Hawkins, C / Smith, 2d B. / Groschow, S.S. / Francis, 3d B. / Backof, O.F. / Custis, O.F. / Geyer, O.F.	Box 1
New York, 4 team players in uniform, Wally Pipp first left, n.d. [Copy photo] 1994.004	Box 1
Wally Pipp, 1925 00.[4004].1 7/25/2005	Box 1
1950 Grand Rapids Black Sox Added 12/17/2003	Box 1
Chicky Candy Bar Giants African American Baseball Team, n.d. 00.[2326].1; 12/17/2003	Box 1

Subseries B. Posters.

Title/Description	Instances
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Jets, 1949 [Broadside] [1994.004.3]

Box 2

folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II. Ephemera.****Scope and Contents**

Collected in this series are score books, playbills, and individual news clippings.

Programs

Title/Description	Instances
The Clippers. Official Daily Scorebook, n.d. [b/w photocopy of 1 sheet only] 1994.004	Box 1
Rogell's All Stars vs. Dutch Kraft Paints, Oct. 11[n.d.] [b/w photocopy] 1994.004	Box 1 folder OVE
Grand Rapids Base Ball Club. Official Score Card. Michigan-Ontario League. Season 1923. [b/w photocopies, 2 sheets only] 1994.004	Box 1
Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Western Michigan All Stars, Aug. 9, 1937 [b/w photocopy] 1994.004	Box 1 folder OVE

“Play Ball”

Title/Description	Instances
Dodger Colts, 1941 Season, unused with lucky score card #23053. 2001.104	Box 1
Dodger Colts. Flint 1941 Season, used, with lucky score card #78968 [b/w photocopy] 1994.004	Box 1 folder OVE

“Score Book”

Title/Description	Instances
GR Jets. [Color Laser copy. Cover only] n.d. 1994.004	Box 1
GR Jets. Fort Wayne [n.d.] Original. 1994.004	Box 1
GR Jets. Fort Wayne [n.d.] [b/w photocopy] 1994.004	Box 1
GR Jets. Fort Wayne, [1948?] Original. 1994.004	Box 1
GR Jets. Bigelow Field. Central Baseball League 1949. 1994.004 [b/w photocopy]	Box 1

“Play Ball”

Title/Description	Instances
GR Jets 1950. [Color Laser copy. Cover only] 1994.004	

	Box 1
GR Jets 1950. Muskegon [b/w photocopy] 1994.004	Box 1
Grand Rapids Jets, 1950. Original. P1999.0291	Box 1
Base Ball ... See New York vs. Grand Rapids, Wed. June 14th [n.d.] Island Park. Walter (Lefty) Pipp, the only Grand Rapids boy in the major leagues ... [2 unidentified b/w photocopies, perhaps from a program] 1994.004	Box 1

Clippings

Title/Description	Instances
4 unidentified GR Press graphic clippings, RE GR Jets Includes: Conrad Scherzer / Donald Elston / Bob Hartig / Andy Varga / Bill Ley / Ed Sterger / Bob Coates / Marty Sebastian / Johnny Sebastian	Box 1
“Base Hits, Black Eyes and Barrel Staves : Diamond Game in Old Days wasn’t for Sissies, Hopkins Start Recalls” / by Don Wood. Special to the Grand Rapids Herald. March 7, 1954. [photocopy]	Box 1

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Series III. Scrapbooks

Scope and Contents

Two scrapbooks are current found in the collection, created either by a fan to document a particular team or with a specific player as the subject focus. These may contain items similar to those in Series II, but in an “authored” context.

Title/Description	Instances
Wally Pipp Scrapbook [Photocopy]	Box 2 folder 2
Housed in Coll. 239	
Josephine Semeyn Baseball Scrapbooks, 1906-1908; 00.[388].103	Box 239 folder 40

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Series IV. Research materials

Scope and Contents

Added here are articles and other documents explaining the history of area baseball teams.

Title/Description	Instances
"Baseball in Muskegon" by Marc Okkonen (photocopy), 1993	Box 2 Folder Folder 4

Date [inclusive]: 1993

Documents and Articles by Dick Harms, former GRPL Archivist and baseball fan

Title/Description	Instances
List. "Grand Rapids professional Baseball Team Nicknames and League Affiliations, 1883-1997"	Box 1
Baseball Research by Richard H. Harms. [Bibliography]	Box 1
Grand Rapids Magazine articles / Richard Harms. Includes: "Dave Hoskins, a National Star", Feb. 1997; "Grand Rapids: Baseball World Champions" Feb. 1994	Box 1

Photocopies of images in GRPL Collections, believed used in the Baseball Exhibit

Title/Description	Instances
Team images	Box 1
African American	Box 1
Women	Box 1

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