MS-107, Dayton Gems Hockey Team Scrapbooks

Collection Number: MS-107

Title: Dayton Gems Hockey Team Scrapbooks

Dates: 1964-1977

Creator: Dayton Gems Hockey Team

Summary/Abstract: Eleven volumes of scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, follow the history of the Dayton GEMS professional hockey organization in Dayton, Ohio as a new team in the IHL (International Hockey League) in 1964. Edgar "Lefty" McFadden was instrumental in starting the team, and served as general manager.

Quantity/Physical Description: 7 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:
Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:
Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:
[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-107, Dayton Gems Hockey Team Scrapbooks, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The Dayton GEMS records were accessioned into the Archives and Special Collections by a deed of gift agreement. The papers were donated to Wright State University by Mr. Edgar McFadden in January 1981.

Other Finding Aid: The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms107.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/ .

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Glue used to adhere newsclippings to scrapbook pages is staining and darkening the clippings, making it difficult to read some of the articles.

Related Material: MS-458 Dayton Daily News Archive

Publication Note: Chuck Gabringer researched the scrapbooks in preparation to write his book Hockey in Dayton, published in 2015. The book is available in the reading room (GV846.5 .G32 2015).

Processed by: Timothy J. Syzek, June 11, 1981. Scrapbooks boxed and finding aid revised according to DACS in 2015 Nov by Toni Vanden Bos.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Historical Note:
The Dayton GEMS organization began as a new team in the already formed IHL (International Hockey League) in 1964. "Lefty" McFadden began the financial base for the team, acquiring the franchise for Dayton in 1964. With the selection of Warren Back as player-coach and the acquisition of other players, the new team was formed. "Lefty" McFadden also served as the general manager for the hockey team. He was often instrumental in getting support for his team by sponsoring special activities for games and even writing newspaper articles. Among Dayton's great individual players was Pat Rupp, a former Olympian and others who had played at various levels of professional and amateur hockey during their sports careers.

Although scheduled to play during 1964-65 at the new Wampler's Arena, the GEMS began their regular season at Hara Arena due to a gas explosion which wrecked Wampler's on October 9, 1964. IHL teams included Fort Wayne Komets, Muskegon Zephyrs, Toledo Blades, Des Moines Oakleafs, Port Huron Flags, and Dayton GEMS. Games were televised in 1965-66 and Muskegon changed their name from Zephyrs to Mohawks. The league expanded to include the Columbus Checkers for 1966-67. That year was said to be a good one for rookies on the Dayton team. Dayton played teams outside the league in 1967-68. The Port Huron Flags became the Wings and the Columbus team was called the Golden Seals in 1971-72.

Big plans were in the offering for the new ten-team WHA (World Hockey Association) for the 1972-73 season. This prompted a proposal for a new 14,000 seat arena to replace the old one. According to one study, 70 to 80% of those surveyed favored a new ice arena in Dayton. Although the plans did not materialize, there was a new team added to the league that year, the Saginaw Gears.

Toledo Blades became the Goldiggers for the 1974-75 season. By then the league had been reorganized into two divisions. Kalamazoo put a new team on ice in 1975-76 (Wings). The Dayton GEMS hockey team played their last season in 1976-77. After a slow finish, Dayton GEMS made the Turner Cup finals time and again. With personnel changes among players and coaches over the years, the Dayton Club consistently finished near the top in the IHL.

Scope and Content:
The Dayton GEMS collection documents the colorful and exciting history of a professional sport which thrived in the Miami Valley region during the 1960s and 1970s. The earliest record of the

hockey club begins May 14, 1964 and the most recent is dates March 29, 1977. The records give good coverage of hockey in hockey in Dayton, except for the years 1968-1969 and 1969-1970.

Various local and regional sportswriters contributed material on the GEMS, including Si Burick, Ritter Collett, D.L. Stewart, and John Albers. Other news correspondents from the cities if Beavercreek, Troy, Des Moines, Detroit, Cincinnati, Muskegon, Toledo, Port Huron and Buffalo, helped publicize the GEMS and other hockey teams in their league. High school papers in the local Dayton area also contributed articles for the collection.

The records provide substantial source material for sports journalists and sports buffs interested in tracing the development of hockey in the Midwest. One volume contains material on the black athletes in hockey.

Subject Terms:

Persons
McFadden, Edgar (Lefty)

Subjects (General)
Hockey – Ohio – Troy – History
Hockey – Ohio – Dayton – History
Professional sports – Ohio -- Dayton

Material Types
Scrapbooks
Clippings (Books; newspapers, etc.)

Collection Inventory

Box	Description	Date
1	Scrapbook: Includes win-loss records, arena rental and player salary figures, contest for team name, articles on black hockey players Norbert Clarke, Willie Mastin, and Irving Campbell. There is also Information on Pat Rupp- 1964 United States Olympic team goaltender and Guy Trottier – IHL All-Star.	1964 May – 1965 March; 1966-1967
2	Scrapbook: Dayton GEMS place three on IHL All-Stars: Moe Benoit, Guy Trottier, and Warren Back. Information on loss of Turner Cup to Toledo. Book two also describes television coverage of IHL games, testimonials dinners, player participation in other sports, and “Lefty” was made league Vice President.	1965 March – 1966 April

Box	Description	Date
3	Scrapbook: Material on fans, player trades, and other league teams. League rule changes eliminating overtime play, player suspension, personality profiles on personnel.	1967 July – 1968 May
4	Scrapbook	1968-1969
5	Scrapbook	1969-1970
6	Scrapbook: Larry Wilson won second IHL championship with GEMS. Proposed move to Cincinnati was foiled. Community involvement for school board levy, Christmas seals.	1970 May – 1971 May
7	Scrapbook: Dayton team invited to join new WHA, new arena planned, and team name changes in IHL.	1971 April – 1972 May
8	Scrapbook	1972-1973
9	Scrapbook: Tom McVie GEMS coach, one full issue of Hockey News, Columbus plays as Owls.	1973 July – 1974 April
10	Scrapbook: John "Bucky" Albers named general manager, heavy turnover year, Toledo club plays as Goldiggers. August 2, 1974 to April 23, 1975. Ivan Predigger new coach, new IHL team: Kalamazoo Wings	1974 August– 1975 April; 1975 August – 1976 February
11	Scrapbook: League standings, final individual statistics, Ken Wilson general manager, Larry Mickey coach.	1976 June – 1977 March