**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:**
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**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](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/](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


**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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>1964 May – 1965 March; 1966-1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>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, testimonial dinners, player participation in other sports, and “Lefty” was made league Vice President.</td>
<td>1965 March – 1966 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scrapbook: Material on fans, player trades, and other league teams. League rule changes eliminating overtime play, player suspension, personality profiles on personnel.</td>
<td>1967 July – 1968 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Scrapbook</td>
<td>1968-1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Scrapbook</td>
<td>1969-1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Scrapbook: Larry Wilson won second IHL championship with GEMS. Proposed move to Cincinnati was foiled. Community involvement for school board levy, Christmas seals.</td>
<td>1970 May – 1971 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Scrapbook: Dayton team invited to join new WHA, new arena planned, and team name changes in IHL.</td>
<td>1971 April – 1972 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Scrapbook</td>
<td>1972-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Scrapbook: Tom McVie GEMS coach, one full issue of Hockey News, Columbus plays as Owls.</td>
<td>1973 July – 1974 April</td>
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