

Local Sports



At left photo of Olive Greys baseball team.

Only identification for photo at right is back row first person - Fritz Windisch.



At left is photo of the Livingston Greys baseball team taken about 1920. Pictured from left to right:
Back row: Bill Windisch, Jack Alfeld, Adolph Scanzoni, Tom Beynon, manager, John Zorzi, and Fritz Windisch.
Middle row: Alvin Heinz, Bob Windisch, Paul (Sam) Hochmuth, Gus Gockel, and Louis Oettel.
Front row: Bill Mecosky, Carl Windisch, mascot, and "Smoky Joe" Zorzi.

Livingston Blue Seals

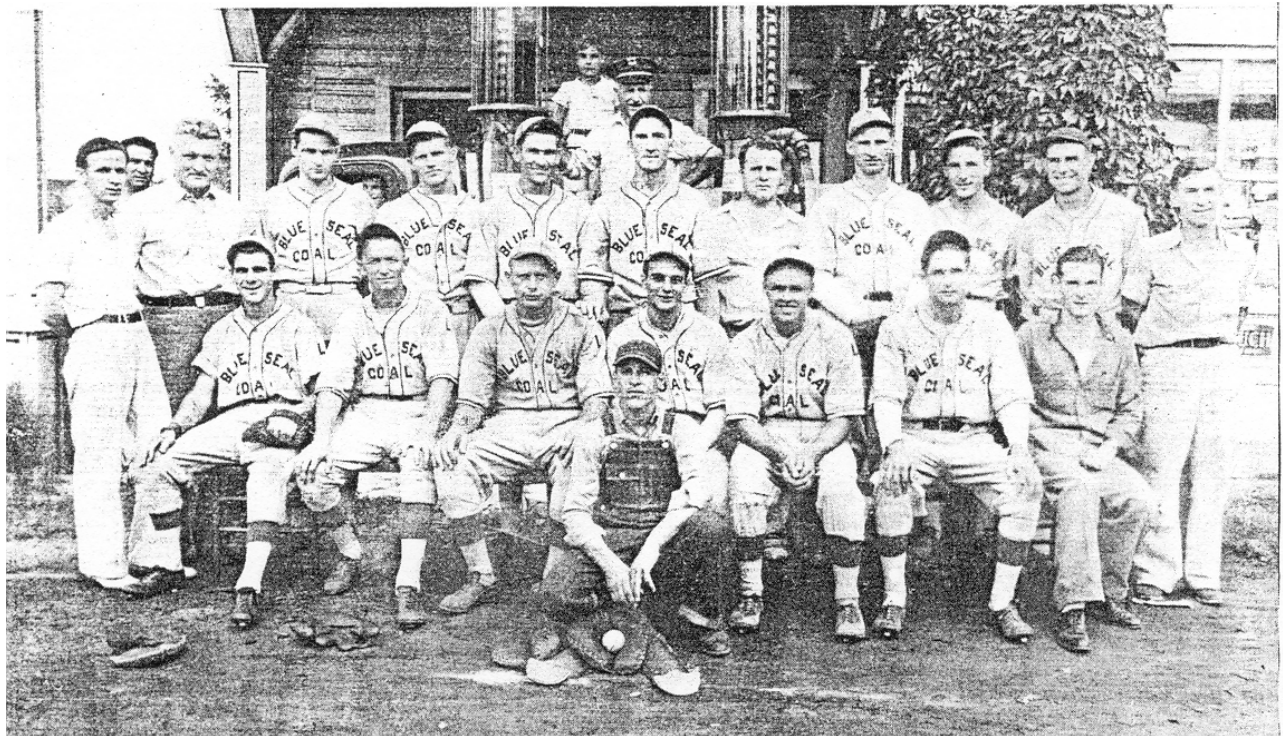
3M Amateur Baseball League

The 3M Amateur Baseball League was organized in 1925. The 3M name comes from the three counties included in the league – Madison, Macoupin and Montgomery. Livingston was a charter member of the original organization. The nickname “Blue Seals” comes from the Blue Seals Coal Company at the Livingston coal mine where many of the early team members were employed.

The following served as commissioners of the 3M Amateur Baseball League: F.G. (Pop) Dieteker, Andy (Bonz) Semanek; J.H. (Jim) Augustine, and Jerome (Rook) Lesicko. Lesicko and Augustine were players as well as managers of the team.

The Blue Seals story is one of the oldest amateur sports franchise in the State of Illinois; a story that spans some eighty years.

Coal miners and farm boys made up most of the early Blue Seals teams that participated in a sixteen-team, two-division league. Livingston played in the original sixteen-team league and also played when only four teams represented the 3M League. Blue Seal’s rivals within the league were Williamson, Worden and White City. Attendance at the games between these three rivals usually drew a large crowd. It was during these crowds that the “hat” was passed to help defray the cost of umpires as well as baseballs and bats. All 3M games were nine innings long; often games were played as doubleheaders. The designated hitter rule was never adopted in 3M play.



Blues Seals of 1937

Above are the members of the “Blue Seal” baseball team, along with some of their “rooters”. In the extreme back row are, left to right: Walter Gvozdo, Bob Bononi (in truck), Freddy Bononi and Dave Bononi; Second row: Gus Krek, John Kopuster, George Martz, Andy Rehlek, Victor Krek, Henry Augustine, Mayor Walter Benardin, George Augustine, Gene Sandrin, Frank Fech and John Minkanic; Front row: Seated; Johnson Spudich, John Hribernik, Pete Matesa, Raymond Moggio, John Lipolsky, Ted Koenig and John Bacca; in front, Albino Callovini, bat boy.

The Blue Seals sent several players to the collegiate and major league play such as Albino Callovini, John Carach, Don Coalson, John Goldasich, Mike Hribernik, Tony Keonig, Ray Komanecy, Armando Rami, Frank Renner, Lou Rochelli, and John “Little Red” Urban.

Unforgettable Blue Seal highlights include a triple play executed by three brothers on the team, playing a prison team at Menard State Penitentiary, several no-hitters, snapping an opponents twenty-five game winning streak, North vs. South All Star Games and defeating a team of Lewis and Clark Community College players.

The Livingston 3M Blue Seals hosted the 80th Anniversary Reunion on July 9th, 2005 at the Livingston Centennial Celebration with former commissioners Jerome Lesicko and Jim Augustine as chairmen.



Livingston Blue Seals Baseball Club 1984

Pictured left to right. Back row: Jerome Lesicko, Kevin Robertson, Cliff Homeier, John Pakovich, Jerry Case, Jim Tipler, Tony Bagaglio, and Tom Salter.

Front row: Brian Pogue, Larry Probst, Jerry King, Rich Henry, Mike Baugher, Troy Kasson, and Phil Boston

Tennis Club

In 1916 sixteen young men of Livingston organized a tennis club. The tennis courts were located across from the Company Store on the northeast corner of Main and South First Streets next to the railroad tracks.

In April 1917 the men worked to get the tennis court in shape and enjoyed playing when time and weather permitted. This season arrangements were made to give the ladies an opportunity to play.

In 1921 new backstops were erected. The new backstops had iron posts set in concrete.



1953 Livingston
Little League
Coached by
Anton Karnosky and
Armando Rami

The team played under the
lights in Staunton.

Pictured from left to right
Back row: Ken Karnosky,
Richard Vallow, Anton
Karnosky, Armando Rami,
Umpire Busch, unidentified
spectator.

Front row: Dave Gasper,
Jim Gasper, Norman Torry,
Paul Dean Leyden, George
Robertson, Gene Libbra,
Larry Adams and Richard
Maleri.



Softball 1935 - 1936

Back row from left: Unknown, Unknown, Olin Kreuter, Unknown, Unknown, Francis Scanzoni, Unknown
Front row: Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Steve Boston, Aldo Bacca, Unknown, Jim Tsupros, Unknown

The Livingston Co-op's Girls' Softball

In 1949 the Village of Livingston produced its first girls' softball team. At that time there were no girls' sports in the high school. The State of Illinois had an Amateur Softball Association and a group of girls from Livingston joined this association and competed around the state and in neighboring states in many softball games. The team was sponsored by the Livingston Co-op.

When the team was formed in 1949 its players were: Catherine Spudich, Anne Perne, Nanette Perne, Lillian Karnosky, Carol Puto, Alice Augustine, Patty Meyer, Jeanette Heinz, Velia Pedrotti, Esther Graiff, Florence Brun and Catherine Bellovich. Darlene Wenner, Ella Harms, Pat Kucinick and Marjorie Robertson joined the team later. The team was coached by John Lipolsky. Eddie Evans served as the official scorekeeper and Sylvio Graiff, Anton Perne and Armando Rami served as assistant coaches.

In 1950, the team entered the Amateur Softball tourney for the first time and although they didn't win they made quite a name for themselves for the coming years. Going into the tourney, the team was 11-0. They won the first two games of the tourney but lost to the Belleville Southsiders in the final game by the score of 8-4.

The 1951 season was a great season for the team. One of many highlights was a double-header win in which the team defeated Peoria and the Belleville Southsiders by identical scores of 1-0. This season their schedule included teams from Missouri and Kentucky. Probably one of the most exciting games was the game played in the Illinois State Amateur Softball Tournament held at Pekin, Illinois. Their foe was the Peoria Dieselettes, who finished third in the world in 1950. The Peoria paper had this to say about the Co-op girls. "A surprisingly young and spunky Livingston squad threw a scare into the defending champion Dieselettes, even pulling off a triple play, before submitting, 4-0." The Dieselettes went on to win their twelfth state title. These young Livingston players furnished many evening's entertainment for its residents in the 1950's.



Back from left to right: Coach John Lipolsky, Helen Bellovich, Alice (Augustine) Oliphant, Nanette Perne, Pat (Meyer) Isaacs, Lillian Karnosky, Carol (Puto) Dhermy, Edward Evans.
Front row: Catherine Spudich, Anne (Perne) Gregor, Esther Graiff, Florence Brun and Jeanette (Heinz) Harms.

Livingston Golddiggers Girls Little League Fast Pitch Softball



1975 Division and Central Illinois Sport League Champs

Top Row: Shelly Banovaz, Nancy Tsupros, Ann Augustine, Richard Philippe, Manager, Connie Wesbrook, Lisa Rizzi. Second Row: Kathy Mertz, Tina Lesicko, Lynette Philippe, Lesley Oliphant, Rick Philippe, Bottom Row: Terri Crally, Denise Philippe, Mary Oliphant, Suzanne McCalla, and Diana Bond.



1977 Division and Central Illinois Sport League Champs

Top Row: Lisa Rizzi, Ann Augustine, Nancy Tsupros, Shelly Banovaz, Richard Philippe, Manager
Second Row: Lesley Oliphant, Tari Brooke, Lynette Philippe, Myra Baugher, Connie Wesbrook
Bottom Row: Mary Oliphant, Diana Bond, Suzanne McCalla, Denise Philippe, and Kathy Mertz

Year	Wins	Loss	Place
1974	8	3	<u>1st Place Division and 3rd Place Central Illinois League</u>
1975	14	0	<u>1st Place Division and 1st Place Central Illinois League</u>
1976	11	4	<u>1st Place Division and 2nd Place Central Illinois League</u>
1977	14	0	<u>1st Place Division and 1st Place Central Illinois League</u>
1978	13	1	<u>1st Place Division and 1st Place Central Illinois League</u>
1979	14	2	<u>1st Place Division and 2nd Place Central Illinois League</u>