

Baseball - the National Pastime - in Sublimity!

By Henry Strobel



Nicholas Lulay

For about 150 years, US newspapers have referred to baseball as the “national pastime.” This was surely true in Sublimity, as these local photos show. In the 1930s and 40s, citizens of Sublimity avidly engaged in healthy, competitive, baseball. The blight of Nascar and video games was still safely in the future. If you are from Sublimity, or even close, you will recognize some names of these players.

Baseball fever hit Sublimity early. “In the 1860s Sublimity College became especially known for two things - its outstanding Latin department, and its baseball team, which had beaten Willamette University on its home field.” *Sublimity, Story of an Oregon Countryside, 1850-1950* by Mark Schmid 1951.

East of town on the Zimmerman place a baseball field with bleachers was built by Wm. Lulay in 1932. Mr. Lulay organized and managed the team that you see in the following four photos, courtesy of Clara Neal.

Robert Beitel of Umatilla, Oregon provided the references for Len Neal on page 4. He wrote: “Len is Bill Lulay, sr.’s son-in-law. (Stella, Len’s wife, is Bill’s daughter). Bill is also my uncle. At one time I was a bat boy for one of Uncle Bill’s baseball teams. I was probably 10 or 12 (1947 or so).. . . one thing that I couldn’t find is if his record of “100 errorless games” still stands. We will assume it does until proven otherwise.”



Standing: Don Lulay, Orville Lulay, Ralph Lulay, Gene Heuberger, Bill Lulay, mgr

Kneeling: ?, Durrell Jordan, Todd Shelton, Clem Gentry, ?, ?

Sitting: Delmer Russell, Bill Lulay Jr



Standing: Stan Russell, Don Lulay, ? Gene Russell, ?, Leo Grosjacquez
 Kneeling: Leo Susbauer, Gene Heuberger, Billy Lulay, Orville Lulay, ?, Bill Lulay, mgr

Base Ball in the Countryside

Sublimity, June 11, 1876

Ed. Farmer: As base ball is the most prominent feature of summer sports, I will give you a brief description of a match game between **Turner Base Ball Club**, Captained by Mr. P. Y. Parker, and the **Professional Base Ball Club of Sublimity**, Captained by Mr. M. W. Hunt, Saturday, June 10, at Turner Station.. Although Turner Capt. Parker handled his men with skill, he was not a match for the Professionals; the rain did not improve the ground. The game was very close, the score being 11 to 13; two in favor of the Sublimity. Their brand new bat and ball were carried off by the Sublimity men as a trophy of victory. Mr. Parker, the umpire, and Mr. D. D. Coffey, the scorer, did excellent service as their decisions were rendered without partiality to either side. I hear there is to be another match game at the picnic at the Kein's school house next Saturday at one o'clock, between the **Amateur's of Stayton**, and the Sublimity club, and a lively time is anticipated, as they expect to have a large crowd out.

(bolding is mine)

Wayside. (?)

This article is from the *Willamette Farmer* newspaper, 1876. To read the original page click www.henrystobel.com/saintboniface/nat-pastime-1876.pdf

(main story continued on next page)



Standing: Bob Lucas, ?, Harold Gilbert, ?, Leonard Lulay,, Herb Lulay
 Kneeling: Bill Gentzkow, Stub Darcy, Bill Lulay Jr, Bob Dunn, Bill Lulay, mgr



Standing: ?, ?, Don Lulay, Bill Gentzkow, Gene Butler
 Kneeling: Bill Lulay Sr, ?, ?, Bill Lulay Jr (bat boy), Herbert Lulay, ?



The fans are restless: Adam Susbauer and Roman Kintz, Adam Susbauer

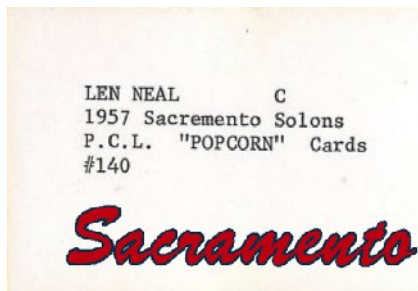
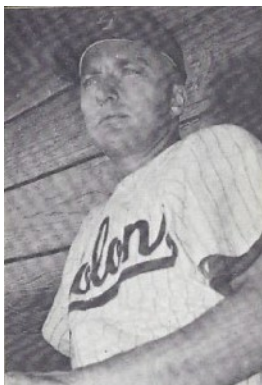
Len Neal



Len Neal
Oaks' Catcher

In 1953, Len Neal caught 130 consecutive games for the Oakland Oaks, including 27 double headers. By the end of the season, he played in a total of 174 of the Oaks' 180 games and set the Pacific Coast League record of 100 consecutive games catching without an error. He will remain on the team until it moves to Vancouver in 1956.

<http://oaklandoaks.tripod.com/53neal.html>



Minor League Pro 17 yrs, 1942-1961

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=neal--001leo>



Sublimity baseball was part of the Sunday scene in Joe and Clara Lulay's family.
 Standing: Vincent, Agnes, Ralph, Marie, Herbert. Sitting: Sister Rose, Clara, Joe, Dorothy

Dr. Raymond Heuberger wrote: "Herbert (Lulay) died in Ipswich, Australia, serving in the Army. He is still listed on the cemetery roll in the American cemetery there, although my grandfather had his remains brought back and they are now in our cemetery (St. Boniface, Sublimity)."

At 102 years old, Tony Beitel still has a vivid memory and often entertains us with stories about the past. . . He was the pitcher for St. Boniface School from 1918 to 1920. Tony did not go to high school because it was too far away. However, he did play baseball for Stayton High. The good people in Stayton hated to lose baseball games especially to Aumsville and when Tony was brought in to pitch "Stayton was always the winning team."



When Tony was in the Army during WWII at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he pitched on the baseball team. On the same team was a shortstop with the New York Giants. After watching Tony pitch, he said that Tony's curve ball was the widest (wickedest?) and best he had ever seen.

Earlier, Tony recalls he went to St. Boniface School and when he was 10 or 11 the whole school walked about four miles to Aumsville so the St. Boniface team could play the Aumsville grade school team. Leading the way were the teachers who of course were the Sisters of St. Mary's. It took all day and must have been quite a sight.

If we were to expand this article to modern times we would surely include (Wikipedia):

Gregory "Greg" Allen Brock (born June 14, 1957) is a retired baseball player who played for 10 seasons in Major League Baseball. A first baseman for his entire major league career, he split his big league career evenly with the Los Angeles Dodgers and Milwaukee Brewers. Brock was born in McMinnville, Oregon, the son of Joe Brock who coached baseball at Stayton High School. Greg played for his father at the high school, and in 1995 had his jersey retired at the school. For college, Brock attended the University of Wyoming.

Travis Lulay (born September 27, 1983 in Aumsville, Oregon) is a professional American and Canadian football quarterback for the BC Lions of the Canadian Football League. He was signed by the Seahawks as an undrafted free agent in 2006. He played college football at Montana State. Lulay has also been a member of the Seattle Seahawks and New Orleans Saints.

Nov. 27, 2011, CTV Montreal:

Lulay leads B.C. Lions to Grey Cup victory over Bombers

The Canadian Press , VANCOUVER — They opened the season with a whimper, but Travis Lulay and the B.C. Lions ended it with a bang.

Game MVP Travis Lulay threw two second-half touchdown passes to lead B.C. to an exciting 34-23 Grey Cup win over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers on Sunday. The victory, before an ear-splitting B.C. Place sellout of 54,313, capped a stunning turnaround for the Lions, who opened the season 0-5. B.C. became the first team in CFL history to win the Grey Cup after losing its first five regular-season games.