

CAN YOU PLAY FASTBALL? COME WORK IN THE MINES.

Imagine a time when a man could secure one of the scarce jobs available during the depression years by merit of his ability to play fastball or hockey. Sounds incredible? Well, it happened right here in the Red Lake District and it was the gold mines who actively recruited athletes from places such as Kenora, Thunder Bay, and Winnipeg to play on their mine teams. The promise of a job in the mines was enticement enough for these young athletes to pack up their baseball gloves and hockey sticks and head north.



Ball game at the Red Lake Public School Ball Field, 1933/34

Their competitive spirit was fierce, and they would go to great lengths to win a critical game or tournament.



T.S.C. BALL TEAM, 1940s

Back Row: Rudy Redisky, E. Young, A.B. Roden, John ___, T. Stone, *unknown* **Front Row:** Bruce Lemon, Leo Goldsmith, Earl Smith, Albert Kay, B. Loukman

Due to the deliberate and sharp eyed efforts of such 'scouts' as Bert Crawford, the Red Lake area quickly became a sports centre to be reckoned with.

There were baseball greats such as Bob McKim, who was considered along with Nick Libbett, Mike Rogers, George Jenkins and Jackie Drummond as one of the best fastball pitchers to come into the north. John Boden was a star catcher and caught

Bob McKim for years as well as being a goal keeper for the McKenzie Island hockey team. Baseball provided an opportunity for people to get together and enjoy the long summer nights.