

DID YOU KNOW.....

A look back at early area history as found in the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum by Susan Schlecht

Following is an excerpt from a newspaper article in *The Fargo Forum*, Saturday Evening edition, August 16, 1930, page 5, concerning the Enderlin Junior Legion baseball team.

Enderlin Downs Minneapolis to Win Regional Championship
WILL COMPETE FOR WESTERN U.S. HONORS
Leroy Hendrickson, Pitching Ace, Given Most Credit for Triumph
By James D. Ashley
Sports Editor, Sioux Falls Argus-Leader

“Sioux Falls, S.D. Aug. 16 (1930) – Leroy Hendrickson, skillful young twirler of Enderlin, and his plucky band of little teammates, are still undefeated at the completion of the regional junior baseball eliminations of the American Legion and hold the right to compete for the western championship of the United States.

With Hendrickson pitching his second full nine inning game of successive days, the North Dakota champions Friday defeated the Northside post nine of Minneapolis, the titleholders of Minnesota, 9 to 7, for the championship of the fifth region. Enderlin, a town of less than 2,000, is the smallest to ever have a winner in this region and the first from the two Dakotas to take the honors.

These boys will have only a few days rest before they leave their southeastern North Dakota home to travel to Colorado Springs for the western sectional event. This six team tournament is to be held next Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The winner will play the eastern champions for the United States title at Memphis on Aug. 28, 29 and 30.

Hendrickson Gets Credit

Hendrickson is given most of the credit for Enderlin’s unexpected triumph, but, handicapped by soreness of his pitching arm which developed toward the end of the Thursday game with Neenah, Wis., he wasn’t good enough Friday to turn back the Minneapolis boys without considerable help. His teammates did not play as smart baseball as the Minnesotans but they did some nice hitting, were charged with only two errors and refused to be discouraged when the breaks went against them.

The collapse of the usually strong Minneapolis infield gave Enderlin its chance to stage a winning rally in the ninth inning after an opportunity to tie the score had been tossed away with an unsuccessful squeeze play attempt in the eighth. Three errors placed runners on third and first with none out. The tying run came home when another grounder was bobbled and there was not time for any play except at first base. Jorgenson then singled sharply over second base to drive in the winning run and Hendrickson made the victory more certain with a long hit to the fence which accounted for the third tally of the inning.”

Sue’s comments: The names of the players for Enderlin and their positions were Bergstrom – short stop, Johanneson - catcher, Jorgenson – 3rd base, Knadle – 2nd base, Hendrickson - pitcher, Petrich – center field, Haddican – 1st base, Roessler – right field, and Sly – left field. I enjoy the colorful writing techniques used by the earlier reporters!

There are a couple more paragraphs to the article and if anyone is interested in those, please contact me and I will get them to you.

Watch for more history next week!