

Galt Sles

Four-time Provincial Champions



**Back L-R: Gerry Pullin, Bill Peterman, Larry Ford, Colin Knowles, Roger Hubbard.
Centre L-R: Bob Cunningham (coach), Dave Baird, Bob Schnare, Bob Eccles, Bob Kitman, Bob Foot, Bas Ramsay (manager).
Front L-R: John Fox, Bill Doerfling, Gary Hedges, Bob Walker, John Hussey, Ab Baker.
Batboy: George Baker. Missing: Jack Woods, Pete Swan.**

The Galt Sles softball team grew out of the Galt Minor Softball Association in the early 1960s and before they were done, at the end of the decade, they had won four Ontario championships – an Ontario record – and a host of other honours.

The Sles name became almost legendary in Ontario fastball circles during the 1960s, which was a decade where they captured numerous tournament titles.

The Sles won provincial titles in four different categories: Bantam, Midget A, Juvenile A and Junior A, in addition to a number of league championships and tournaments.

They were so talented that as they progressed, they played in stronger competitive leagues above their age bracket. These leagues included the Inter-County Fastball League, the North York Major Fastball League and the Inter-City Fastball League.

The Sles were coached by Bob Cunningham and managed by Bas Ramsey. Under their guidance, the Sles were only the second Galt team to bring an OASA championship to the city. The first team to do so were the Galt Dubby's Teeners, coached by Bob's father, Jack Cunningham, in 1952. That, too, was an exceptional team, winning 37 straight games without a loss through league and playoff competition.

In 1963 the Sles became the only Juvenile team – some players were till of

Midget age – to ever win the Ontario Junior A Tournament championship. They won four straight games with four different pitchers.

Although the Sles were four-time provincial champions, only five members of the squad were involved with every championship. Those included Cunningham, Ramsey, pitcher Bob Eccles, shortstop Bill Doerfling, and outfielder Rod Hubbard.

In 1969 the team remained in the Inter-City League but changed sponsorships from the Galt Sles to the Galt Lincolns, sponsored by Babcock & Wilcox. In 1970 they were the Ontario Senior B Southern Ontario finalists, but it the end of a tremendous run. This was the team's final year.

The Sles list of accomplishments is a long one, and includes:

- 1960 Ontario Bantam champions
- 1960 Inter-County Bantam champions
- 1961 Ontario Bantam semi-finalists
- 1961 Inter-County Bantam champions
- 1962 Ontario Midget A champions
- 1962 Lorne Ford Memorial Midget A Tournament champions
- 1962 North York Major Softball League champions (Sles were Midget team in Juvenile league)
- 1963 Ontario Juvenile A champions

Inducted 2002