

The ACME Baseball Story

The ACME Baseball Congress is an organization which began in 1960 when Gene Steiner envisioned a need to provide, throughout the summer months, a meaningful and rewarding playing experience for baseball players who are scholastically eligible to play high school athletics during the upcoming school year. Encouraged and supported by his father, Henry, the two Rockford natives with the assistance of Andrew White, a long time Lincolnview baseball mentor; Lou Brunswick, experiencing his thirteenth year at the helm of the Coldwater ACME Cavaliers; and Harold Siedell, also a Rockford resident and ardent promoter of the cause initiated the first ACME season with twelve teams from Auglaize, Mercer, and Van Wert counties playing for the State Championship in Rockford, Ohio. Forty-nine years later, over two-hundred teams representing thirty-two counties started in this years coveted crown.

These five individuals along with some other unidentified baseball personalities traveled thousands of miles, putting countless hours, and spending personal dollars in their efforts to improve and expand the program. Schools from Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania showed an interest in joining the ACME phenomena, but only the Ohio High School Athletic Association endorsed the project. Although there were other (unknown) personalities, one of the most influential persons working diligently for expansion was Wally Post, the former Cincinnati Reds standout player and St. Henry product.

In the early '70's, the organization suffered through some hard times. An elderly gentleman by the name of Gene Heckler, a lifetime Celina resident, spear headed the movement which put the organization back on a solid foundation. Today, the ACME Baseball Congress is healthy and experiencing growth each year.

(Note: This story does not include all of the individuals who contributed to the success of this program. If you know of any person who made recognizable contributions, please forward the information on to the program.)