



Brooklyn vs Canada: International Junior Competitions in the 1940s and 1950s

By Christian Trudeau



Preview



- After the war, Branch Rickey teams up with the Brooklyn Eagle to organize a competition of the best juniors in the world
- 1946-47: Brooklyn vs the World
 - Toronto, Montreal send representatives
- 1948: Brooklyn team tours Canada
- 1949-1950: Brooklyn vs Montreal
- Late 1950s: revival of Brooklyn Junior All-Stars, visits to Montreal.



Previous works



- SABR member Alan Cohen:
- *Brooklyn Against the World: Ebbets Field Welcomes Young Stars in 1946* in Ebbets Field: Great, Historic, and Memorable Games in Brooklyn's Lost Ballpark (SABR, 2023)
- *Bats, Balls, Boys, Dreams and Unforgettable Experiences: Youth All-Star Games in New York, 1944–65* in The National Pastime: Baseball in the Big Apple (New York, 2017)





1946-1947: *Brooklyn vs the World*



- 3 games in Brooklyn in August
- Local newspapers organize tryouts to find their representative
- Montreal and Toronto among the cities sending players
- Toronto: obscure process
- Montreal: English vs French game to choose the representative. (French win 6-5)



1946: Brooklyn vs the World

WORLD STARS GET BREARD

**Quebec Picks Infielder
From 200 in Trials
—Has Baseball Brains**

Breard—does the name sound familiar to you?

Dodger fans who have been following the doings of the boys down on the farm will readily recall that monicker. It's the handle of a former shortstop of the Montreal Royals. Stan was his first name and he's now with San Diego on the West Coast.

Now another Breard is coming up. He's Roger, a younger brother of Stan, and he has broken into the headlines most auspiciously. Named as Quebec's representative on the World All-Star team that will battle the Brooklyn Eagle All Stars Aug. 7, 8 and 9 at Ebbets Field, Breard will carry the family name and its tradition into the classic of amateur baseball in America.

The Baseball Writers Association in Canada selected this youngster, like Stan a shortstop, too, after a most critical inspection of 200 youngsters from the dominions. He earned a total of 16 votes, twice as many as that polled by his



Roger Breard

**Sukeforth, Thormalhen
Of Flock Staff Rave
About 17-Year-Old**

infielder, a sandlot product of Point St. Charles: "Young Breard has been the best-looking prospect on the field all through the trials, I thought he was the best, not because his brother was a former Royal player, but because he has baseball brains. He knows what to do with the ball and he plays that infield in fine style."

Concurring in this judgment was Herbie Thormalhen, former Royal hurler, who is also a Dodger field man and who assisted Sukeforth in staging the trials.

The writers then voted and their selections ran in the same channels as the baseball men.

The announcement was made in the ninth inning of the All-Star game pitting French youngsters against English-speaking youths. Breard modestly said, in broken English, "I never expected to be picked for the Brooklyn trip."

The French edged the English out by a single tally, 6 to 5, staying off a last-inning rally by the losers. Breard received only one chance at bat and was retired but he played flawlessly afield.

nearest competitor, following a series of games in Montreal.

No less an authority than Clyde Sukeforth of the Dodger staff has this to say about the 17-year-old

1946: Brooklyn vs the World

Year	Age	AgeDif	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	T
1948	19	-8.7	Drummondville	PROV	Ind		86		350		97	21	0	1						.277		.346		1
1949	20	-9.0	Drummondville	PROV	Ind																			
1950	21	-6.6	St. Hyacinthe	PROV	C		107		428		129	25	3	3						.301		.395		1
1951	22	-6.4	St. Hyacinthe	PROV	C		110	491	454	67	147	30	8	2	58	8		29	29	.324	.367	.438	.805	1
1952	23	-2.7	Columbia	SALL	A	CIN	13	48	44	7	10	2	0	0	5	0		4	5	.227	.292	.273	.564	
1953	24	0.8	Trois-Rivieres	PROV	C		25	100	82	13	18	1	0	0	8	0		17	12	.220	.354	.232	.585	

1946: Brooklyn vs the World



Eagle Sports picture
POSSIBLE WORLD BATTERY—Bill Huntley, Toronto, Canada, one of the catchers of the World All-Stars, gets acquainted with Pitcher William Beverly of Charleston, W. Va. They may be battery mates in one of the three games the World All-Stars will play with the Brooklyn Eagle All-Stars at Ebbets Field on Aug. 7, 8 and 9.

**1946:
Brooklyn
vs the
World**



Year Inducted: **1996**



PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT

SPORTS

HALL OF FAME

1946: Brooklyn vs the World



GET GOOD ADVICE—Rex Barney, Dodger right-hander gives members of visiting team instructions on how to pitch at dinner which climaxed Brooklyn Against the World Series at Hotel St. George Saturday night. Seated, left to right—Rod Clifford, Bill Pfaff, Roger Breard, Rex Barney, Vic Marasca and Frank Turcy. Standing, left to right—Bob McDonald, Philadelphia Record reporter; Alex Romanchuk, Henry Tominaga; Dan Branson and Vernon Frantz.

Eagle Sports picture



1946: Brooklyn vs the World



Eagle Sports picture

SCHOOL STARTS EARLY—George Sisler, all-time major league baseball great who will manage the World All-Stars against the Brooklyn Eagle All-Stars in their three-game arc light series Aug. 7, 8 and 9, loses no time in giving some of his early arrivals some pointers. Left to right, Roger Breard from Montreal, Fresco Thompson, one of Sisler's assistants; Lou Damman of Spokane, Wash.; Sisler, Vernon Frantz, Wichita, Kan., and Danny Branson, Mobile, Ala.



1946: *Brooklyn vs the World*



- Managers: Leo Durocher and George Sisler
- Brooklyn won two games to one
- Most famous alumni:
 - Brooklyn outfielder Ed Ford



1947: *Brooklyn vs the World*

Same format

Montreal: English win
15-6



Dickie Moore on English
team

Selected player is
Danny Caduc



1947: *Danny Caduc*

Mostly local baseball

One season of hockey
in UK



1947: Brooklyn vs the world

Toronto selects Ralph
"Bud" Ware

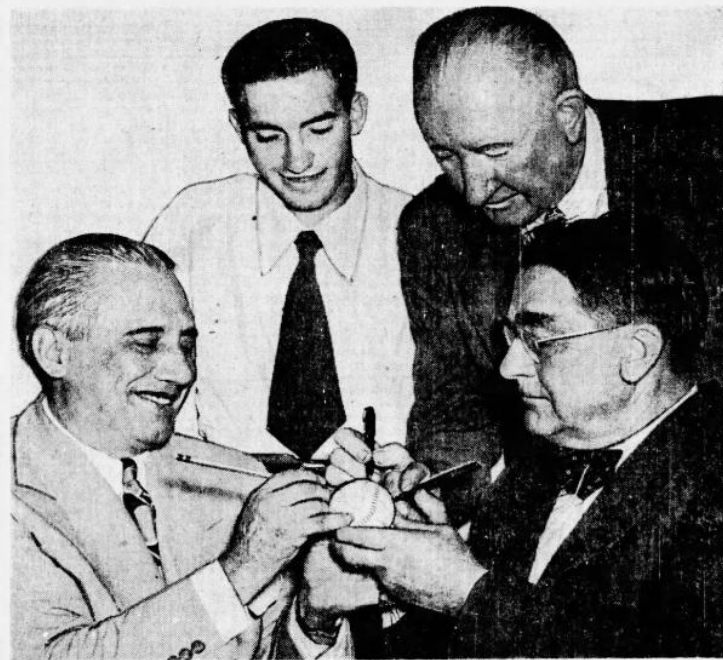


Highest average during
the tournament

Signs with Yankees

1948-49 in D leagues

BROOKLYN IS WONDERFUL ACCORDING TO BUD WARE



Starry-eyed and still glowing with that thrill-of-a-lifetime feeling Bud Ware is back from Brooklyn and the sandlot series between the World Stars and Brooklyn Selects. According to the North Toronto Lions' first baseman it was something out of this world. His biggest thrill came when Branch Rickey called him to the head table at the after-series banquet, congratulated him on leading both teams at the bat and presented him with an autographed baseball. In the above shot, Ware, sans coat, waits in the background, while Ole Olsen, of the Olsen and Johnson comedy team; Rickey, the head of the Dodgers, and Dazzy Vance, one of baseball's all-time greats, put their John Hancocks on the "apple." Bert Shotton, not in the picture, added his signature and gave Bud a few words of advice. Ware says playing at Ebbets Field was like playing on a carpet. That the boys who took part in the Brooklyn Eagle-Brooklyn Dodgers sponsored series field better than our kids, but our pitchers are just as fast and every bit as effective as the ones he faced at Ebbets Field. Bud plans to attend a Yankee baseball school in Yankee Stadium next month.

1947: Brooklyn vs the world

Toronto selects Ralph
"Bud" Ware

★ Highest average during
the tournament

Signs with Yankees.

1948-49 in D leagues

Baseball Star Admits Theft

Toronto's Buddy Ware Snatches Girl's Purse

TORONTO (CP)—Ralph (Buddy) Ware, 21, Toronto baseball player who had tryouts with major league teams, pleaded guilty to a charge of robbery with violence arising from a purse-snatching. He will be sentenced February 8.

Police followed footprints in snow-covered west-end lanes and streets after Minnie DeJoseph, 21, said that as she alighted from a street-car at a west-end intersection a man struck her in the face and chest and robbed her of her purse containing \$26 and a cigaret lighter. After following the footprint trail, police saw Ware waiting for a street-car at another intersection and the girl pointed him out as her attacker. Ware fled, but police arrested him after firing a warning shot.

1947: Brooklyn vs the world

Managers:
Dazzy Vance and
Pepper Martin

★ World wins 2-1

Famous alumni:
Gus Triandos (World)



ENTRIES FROM OUTSIDE the continental limits of the United States have a chat with their manager, John (Pepper) Martin, right, during one of the pre-game practices in preparation for the Brooklyn Against the World series held at Ebbets field, which started Friday. From left: Andrew Vidinha, Kekaha, Kauai, The Star-Bulletin's representative; Danny Caduc, outfielder from Montreal; Bud Ware, first baseman from Toronto, and Porfirio Espinosa Jr., shortstop fom Havana, Cuba. Vidinha, a catcher, is the farthest entry, 5,000 miles.—Picture through courtesy of Brooklyn Eagle.



1948: *new format*



- Brooklyn team on tour
- 2 games in D.C., one in R.I.
- 3 in Canada
 - July 30, Win 4-2 in Toronto
 - August 1, Win 15-6 in Montreal
 - August 3, Lose 5-3 in Halifax
- Famous alumni: Billy Loes



Brooklyn Juniors Beat NTBA Stars

Coach Jack Robinson gave all his players a chance at Maple Leaf Stadium last night, when he sent 21 North Toronto players into the fray, against the Brooklyn Eagles, baseball all-stars. The final score of the junior game was Brooklyn Eagles 4, Toronto All-Stars 2.

Chuck Montgomery, Harold Weston and Don Spler were the standouts for the homesters. Chuck came up with two hits and drove in a run as did Harold Weston. Don Spler chipped in with two bingles. Pete Gentile and Don Zagardon were the best the visitors had to offer in the hitting department, with both boys having two for three, all singles. Pitcher Al DiPippo hurled good ball for the winners, allowing seven hits and fanning ten batters.

Brooklyn	201	010	000	—4	9	4
Toronto	000	011	000	—2	7	3

DiGregorio and Dewhurst; Gostlin, Acheson, Cimko, Murphy and Fitzhenry, Weston.

Junior Dodgers Rout Stars 15-6

In a wild-scoring, free-hitting ball game, marred by fourteen errors, seven a side, the touring Brooklyn Junior Dodgers trounced the Montreal Royals Junior Baseball League All-Stars 15 to 6 yesterday afternoon at Royals Stadium before a sparse gathering of 3,100 spectators. The Montrealers strangely enough outhit the visitors, 11-10, but seven miscues, seven walks and four wild pitches, turned the two-and-a-half-hour holocaust into a scorekeeper's nightmare with 31 players in uniform throughout the nine-inning game.

For the Brooklyn All-Stars, the pick of 500 sandlot players in and around the New York area, it was their third win in three games. The junior Bums topped all-star nine's in Washington and Toronto prior to coming here and left last night for Halifax and Providence, on the last leg of a five-game road trip.

The citizens of Halifax had nothing but praise for the play of the All-Stars in their 5-3 defeat Tuesday. In recounting the game, Halifax sports writers pointed out that the Halifax team was composed mostly of "imports" from the States, only six Canadian boys participating. Also, a higher age limit gave the Nova Scotian players a jump on the Brooklyn boys in both experience and general physique.





1949: Brooklyn vs Montreal



- Home and home series
- July 26, 10,000 spectators at Ebbets Field
- Montreal surprises Brooklyn 9-7 in 11 innings
- Fernand Thibeault strikes out 19
- Fernand Bourdeau hits a grand slam
- Jacques Monette has go-ahead RBI





1949: *Brooklyn vs Montreal*



- Game in Montreal is two weeks later, August 7, at DeLorimier Stadium
- 5,500 spectators
- Brooklyn comes out swinging, chases Thibeault out of the game after 4 innings and take a 9-2 lead
- Montreal comes back to take a 11-9 lead, but Brooklyn ties it in the 9th
- Denis Brodeur drives home the winning run in the 10th



1949 Montreal Jrs: Fernand Thibeault



- Even with subpar 2nd game, lots of interest
- Pitches a few games with Sherbrooke in the Provincial League
- Dodgers, Yankees, Royals interested
- Eventually signs with Giants, spends 1951 in D ball (13-9, 4.83)
- Injured his shoulder



1949 Montreal Jrs: Denis Brodeur



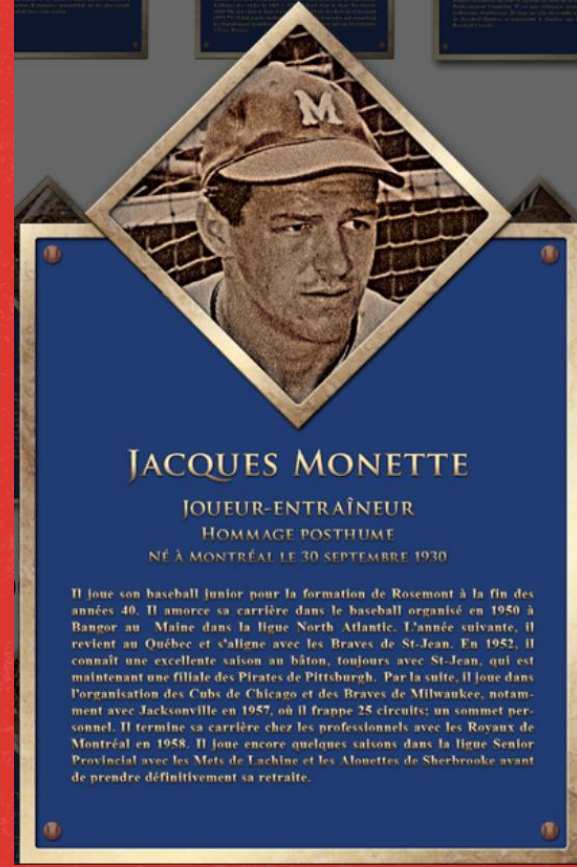
- Better known as goaltender
- His son played 1980-1981 in Expos organization
- Other son had a decent NHL career
- Denis was the Montreal Canadiens photographer



1949 Montreal Jrs: Jacques Monette



- Also a pro goaltender
- Long MiLB career
- International League, PCL
- In Quebec baseball HOF



Year	Age	AgeDif	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS
1950	19	-3.3	Bangor	NATL	D		100		352		98	22	7	6						.278	.432		
1951	20	-8.4	St. Jean	PROV	C		94	459	408	50	83	17	1	11	54	8		48	52	.203	.287	.331	.618
1952	21		2 Teams	2 Lgs	C-B	PIT	139	590	507	86	150	23	7	21	99	13		77	82	.296	.393	.493	.886
1952	21	-4.6	Burlington-Graham	CARL	B	PIT	23	78	67	14	18	2	1	2	14	2		11	13	.269	.372	.418	.790
1952	21	-2.6	St. Jean	PROV	C	PIT	116	512	440	72	132	21	6	19	85	11		66	69	.300	.396	.505	.901
1953	22	-4.8	Waco/Longview	BSTL	B	PIT	133	576	510	108	160	25	14	20	95	13		61	73	.314	.388	.535	.923
1954	23		2 Teams	2 Lgs	C-Opn	CHC	138	485	400	71	119	15	8	16	80	10		69	78	.298	.397	.495	.892
1954	23	-6.7	Los Angeles	PCL	Opn	CHC	51	106	96	12	24	4	1	4	10	1		9	25	.250	.311	.438	.749
1954	23	-0.4	Stockton	CALL	C	CHC	87	379	304	59	95	11	7	12	70	9		60	53	.313	.421	.513	.934
1955	24	-0.4	Macon	SALL	A	CHC	122	475	400	61	115	13	7	11	65	6		60	70	.288	.375	.438	.812
1956	25		2 Teams	2 Lgs	A	CHC	122	<u>495</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>56</u>	<u>82</u>	.254			
1956	25	0.8	Montgomery/Knoxville	SALL	A		119	488	426	66	110	19	6	17	63	7		56	82	.258	.348	.451	.798
1956	25	0.3	Des Moines	WL	A	CHC	3		7		0									.000			
1957	26		2 Teams	SALL	A	MLN-BAL	147	<u>570</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>71</u>	<u>98</u>				
1957	26	1.7	Jacksonville	SALL	A	MLN	133																
1957	26	1.7	Knoxville	SALL	A	BAL	14																
1958	27		2 Teams	2 Lgs	A-AAA	MLN	36	<u>109</u>	98	<u>9</u>	25	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>	.255			
1958	27	-1.3	Montreal	IL	AAA	LAD	9		14		0									.000			
1958	27	2.7	Jacksonville	SALL	A	MLN	27	95	84	9	25	10	0	1	8	0		9	18	.298	.372	.452	.825
Year	Age	AgeDif	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS
All Levels (9 Seasons)							1031	3541	3108	451	860	144	50	103	464	57		380	455				



1950: *Brooklyn vs Montreal*



- Same format
- Brooklyn takes their revenge
- They win 10-4 in Brooklyn on August 14
- In Montreal, August 18, they thrash the locals 11-1
- Famous alumni: Don Marshall (Montreal), 1000+ NHL games, 500+ points.





1950: Brooklyn vs Montreal

Some controversies



- Two Junior Leagues in Montreal
 - Atwater League (English) and Montreal Royal Junior League (French)
- 1949 team was primarily French, 1950 primarily English
- French press has a field day





1951: End of the line?



- Branch Rickey leaves the Dodgers and moves to the Pirates
- *Brooklyn Against the World* program put on hiatus
- Internal disputes in Montreal prevents any kind of substitution





1957-58: a revival



- Dodgers back supporting an all-star junior teams, organizes tour
- Montreal Royal Junior League organizes for Brooklyn to visit; it becomes their all-star game.
- No visits to Brooklyn this time





1957: a tough loss



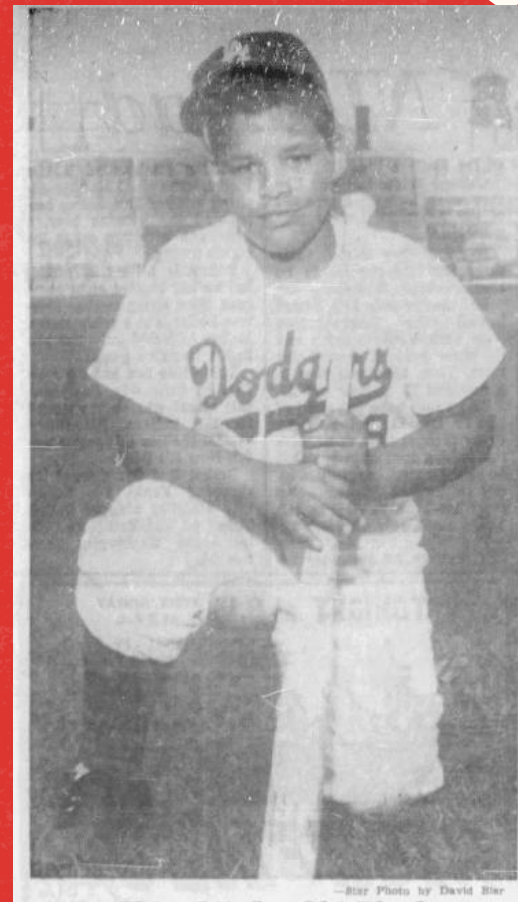
- 2,500 fans see a 2-1 Montreal loss in 10 innings
- HOFer Charlie Culvert manages the Montreal team
- Some controversy when star pitcher André Bessette is removed in 7th inning, under pressure from Phillies scout. (4 seasons in MiLB, reached B level)
- Famous alumni: LHP Pete Richert (Brooklyn)



1958: *one more win*



- 3,000 fans see a 6-4 win by Montreal
- Jean-Pierre Gauthier and Marcel Guilbault star in the win, both signed by Dodgers
- Gauthier: 3 seasons in MiLB – D level
- Guilbault: 6 seasons, tops at AAA
 - Quebec HOFer





Legacy



- Early international competition
- 1945-1955 is golden age for Quebec (senior) baseball
- Also great period for junior baseball
 - 5 Quebec-born players in MLB in 1960s
- The 1949 win was also remembered for a long time
 - Manager Oscar Major also a columnist
 - Big boost in terms of confidence and experience





lesfantomesdustade.ca
ojs.uwindsor.ca/index.php/jcb