

They Weren't Just Hockey Players:
The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies
in the 1940s and '50s

Bentley Boys Put Home Town Of Delisle On Map With Baseball



They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

Max and Doug at the Bentley farm in Delisle, Saskatchewan



BILL AND GEORGE ORCHARD, from Oshawa, were discoverers of Bentleys back in 1919 and started Delisle hockey tradition which now sees village of \$50 with 2,000-seat rink. Here the Orchards pose with four of the ball-playing Bentleys.



AS GROWING BOYS, Doug (left) and Max ran horse-drawn binders, stooked and pitched sheaves. Now they sit on combine and let it do the work. Besides it

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s



Reg, Doug and Max with
the Black Hawks



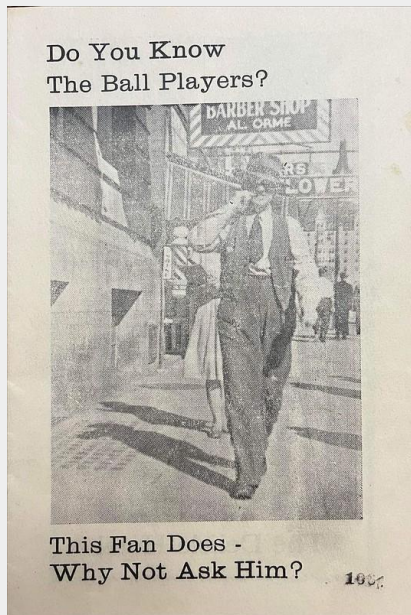
Drumheller Miners 1938-39

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

- Max Bentley
- Doug Bentley
- Reg Bentley
- Roy Bentley
- Nephew Bev Bentley

and

- Jack
- Scoop



Any club playing against Delisle just can't afford to make errors and get away with it. The Bentleys and their mates are too swift and smart on the base paths. Much to their sorrow the Cubs fully realize this.

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

Some of the pro Hockey Players who played baseball on the Canadian Prairies

- Terry Sawchuk
- Nick and Don Metz
- Bill Gadsby
- Emile Francis
- Hank Bassen
- Guy Kyle
- Gordie Howe
- Bert Olmstead
- Dick Butler
- Glenn Hall
- Dick Butler
- Jack McLeod
- Metro Prystai
- And many others



[Hockey Stars' Summer 1951](#)
[on YouTube](#) (bentleys at
5:54)

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

Bill Gadsby, Calgary Buffaloes



Gus Kyle

"Gus matches his hitting with his catching. He's the most impressive receiver in the Southern League and a few days ago Johnny Johnson, the little colored pitcher with Ligon's Stars, rank him 'the best catcher I ever worked with.'

"Quite a man is Gus Kyle on the ball diamond, and if you'll recall he wasn't any passenger on the Cap hockey lineup last winter either."

All of which is quite a tribute to Mr. Kyle, as an athlete.

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

LIONS WIN PROVINCIAL BASEBALL TITLE



Max Bentley, CF

Trounce Weyburn 9-3 in Third Game of Series

Saskatoon Club Makes Clean Sweep of Games
By Taking Six-Inning Decision; Teams
Meet in Double-header Today

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

It's a Habit



MAX BENTLEY

of Quaker hockey fame, had a habit last winter of breaking up games with opportune goals, and he started right where he left off in the baseball wars last night by cracking out a double to score the winning run for the Hilltops against the N-D's.

Max Bentley's Double Breaks Up Ball Game

Drives in Winning Run in Last of Seventh
As N-D's Go Down to 5-4 Defeat in City
League Contest at Cairns Field

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s



NEW HOLDERS OF MEMORIAL TROPHY—Presenting a well balanced heavy hitting club and a strong pitching staff, Delisle captured the premier honors and J. F. Cairns Memorial Trophy in the annual Exhibition Week baseball tournament. Delisle outscored Shackleton, Wiseton and Tech Aeronauts in the early rounds and whipped Hughton in the abbreviated final Saturday night. The members of the Delisle team pictured above are, back row, left to right: Roy Bentley, Lefty Skarban, French, H. Sibbald, Hughie Crooks, Ed Sibbald, Archie Reynolds, manager, and Hudson. Front row, left to right: Reg Bentley, Max Bentley, Coughlin, Mitchell, Kembel, Maronuk and Doug Bentley. Seated in front are two second-generation Bentley's, who were the club's mascots. —Star-Phoenix Photo

July 28, 1942

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

Playing for Viscount, Saskatchewan—120 km from Delisle

Wiseton Blanks Viscount 4-0 in Final; Kimbel Stars for Winning Club

Wiseton, behind Rainey Kimbel's four-hit pitching, captured the J. F. Cairns Memorial Trophy, emblematic of the Saskatoon Exhibition baseball tournament championship, with a 4-0 victory over Viscount at Exhibition Park diamond Saturday night.

A crowd, estimated conservatively at 6,500, saw the Goose Lake club score a comparatively easy victory over Viscount after the latter had advanced to the final with a 7-1 triumph over Kindersley Saturday morning.

FINAL							
Wiseton	AB	R	H	PO	A	E	
Hudson cf	5	0	2	0	0	0	
A. Piper lf	4	1	1	1	1	0	
R. Piper ss	4	1	0	1	3	2	
Fisher 2b	5	0	2	1	1	0	
Currie 1b	5	0	1	16	0	0	
Brown rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	
Derdall c	2	0	0	6	1	0	
Orth 3b	4	0	0	2	1	0	
Kimbel p	4	1	1	0	9	0	
Totals	37	4	9	27	15	2	
Viscount	AB	R	H	PO	A	E	
Roy Bentley 2b	3	0	1	5	3	0	
Marcoux 3b	3	0	0	2	2	0	
D. Bentley lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	
M. Bentley cf	4	0	2	1	0	0	
Olmstead p	2	0	0	0	3	1	
Madden p	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Reg Bentley c	3	0	0	4	1	0	
Thone rf	4	0	0	1	0	0	
Clouston ss	3	0	0	3	3	1	
B. Bentley 1b	3	0	1	11	0	0	
z-Pendleton	1	0	0	0	0	0	
zz-Butler	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	30	0	4	27	13	2	
z—Batted for Madden in 9th.							
zz—Batted for Reg Bentley in 9th.							
SCORE BY INNINGS							
Wiseton	001	030	000	—4			
Viscount	000	000	000	—0			

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

Delisle Dandy Has Fine Mark of .459

Max Bentley, who toils for Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League during the winter and plays almost any position on the Delisle ball club in the summer, is the 1948 batting champion of the Saskatoon and District Baseball League. The Delisle dandy manufactured the amazing average of .459 to win the individual batting crown by a wide margin. Delisle won the league championship.

September 7, 1948

	AB	H	Ave.
M. Bentley, Delisle	74	34	.459
Roy Dean, N. Battleford	62	24	.387
J. Turner, Viscount	44	17	.386
Matt Meredith, N. Batt.	71	27	.380
Les Dean, N. Batt.	39	14	.359
Don Leask, N. Batt.	71	25	.352
Elt. Dean, N. Batt.	60	21	.350
R. Hamilton, Cubs	55	19	.345
Reg. Pendleton, Colonsay ..	63	21	.333
Farraga, Viscount	46	15	.326
J. Maroniuk, Delisle	34	11	.324
Paul Hrynkiw, Colonsay	41	13	.317
G. Marcoux, Viscount	61	19	.311
Bob Sasseeville, Legion	70	21	.300
E. Nalywako, Colonsay	73	21	.288
D. Bentley, Delisle	59	17	.288
J. Folk, Colonsay	67	19	.284
C. Mills, Legion	72	20	.278
D. Butler, Delisle	54	15	.278
D. Grant, N. Batt.	65	18	.277
M. Dubyk, Cubs	44	12	.273
A. Johnston, Cubs	63	17	.270
D. MacKay, Cubs	60	16	.267
J. Matchett, Legion	68	18	.265
T. Folk, Colonsay	55	14	.255
Al. Zarchekoff, Cubs	59	15	.254
Rosher, Colonsay	72	18	.250
J. Moldenhauer, Colonsay ..	74	18	.243
L. Coffin, Colonsay	66	16	.242
B. Olmstead, Delisle	38	9	.237
L. Hanson, Colonsay	52	12	.231
Alex Sirota, Viscount	36	8	.222
Reg. Bentley, Delisle	61	13	.213
Bill Novak, Legion	60	12	.200
T. Senko, Viscount	42	8	.190
Al. Swick, Legion	37	7	.189
A. Reider, Viscount	27	5	.185
Myhr, Viscount	27	5	.185
K. Francis, Delisle	76	14	.184
Elliott, Viscount	55	10	.182
McGourlick, Viscount	28	5	.179
J. Webster, Cubs	57	10	.175
B. Bentley, Delisle	63	11	.175
Wood, Delisle	41	7	.171
M. Clouston, Legion	55	9	.164
Leo. Keisey, Cubs	67	11	.164
D. Oliphant, N. Batt.	40	6	.150
Bob Ferry, N. Batt.	49	7	.143
H. O'Brien, Legion	59	8	.136
Roy Bentley, Delisle	39	4	.103

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The Ligon's All-Stars toured the Canadian west from 1946 to 1953

BASEBALL
(DOUBLE HEADER)
FRIDAY, JULY 9
AT
OUTLOOK FAIR GROUNDS
LIGON'S ALL-STARS
(Colored Baseball Club)
VS
DELISLE
With Doug, Max, Reg, Roy and Bev Bentley,
Olmstead, Maroniuk, Francis, Butler
and other outstanding players.



Afternoon Game at 2:00 o'clock — Evening Game at 6:00 o'clock.
Adults 50c. (Admission Each Game) Students 25c.

Dance to the Music of Bounty Blue Birds
In The Legion Hall Following The Evening Match.

Sponsored by Outlook Branch of The Canadian Legion. A Cordial Welcome Awaits You.

**Colored Boys
Play Delisle**

The Ligon colored All-Stars ball club will be in action again tonight at Cairns Field. The colored boys will take on the Delisle club. These teams have already put on three good attractions here, each club having won a game, with one game a tie. The battle will get under way at 6.30 o'clock.

BASEBALL
LIGON All-Stars
(COLORED)
FROM LOS ANGELES
VS.
SASKATOON All-Stars
Saturday, June 21
At 2.30 and 6.30 p.m.
CAIRNS FIELD
Admission: Grandstand, 75c; Bleachers, 50c.

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Delisle versus Ligon All-Stars



They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

COMING!
 NEXT WEEK
 TO
Cairns Field
LIGON
ALL-STARS
 OF LOS ANGELES
Colored Baseball Team
 vs.
SASKATOON
 (Selected from City League)
2 GAMES ONLY
 Fri. at 6.30 p.m.
 Sat. at 3.00 p.m.
 GRANDSTAND, 75c
 BLEACHERS 50c

**Colored All-Stars
 Defeat Delisle**

DELISLE, July 28.—The Ligon colored All-Stars defeated Delisle by a 6-3 count here Saturday in a lively baseball game witnessed by a large crowd. The teams had recently played a tie game in Saskatoon.

Rainey Kimbel and Johnny Maroniuk were on the mound for Delisle and Woodson did the hurling for the colored boys. Delisle scored all their runs in the first frame and held the lead until the sixth when the Ligon boys scored two runs. They had scored one in the fifth. The eighth was the deciding frame when Ligon batted in three runs. Woodson held Delisle to four hits while the colored boys got nine safeties off Delisle hurlers. Max Bentley's three-base-hit, was the only extra base hit of the game.

Delisle	300 000 000—3	4	3
Ligon	000 012 030—6	9	1

Kimbel, Maroniuk and Reg Bentley; Woodson and Underwood.

**Delisle, Ligon
 Play to Tie**

Ehrle's boys tumble
NEGROES TOO SHARP

—THE LEADER-POST, REGINA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1950—
LIGONS POUND LONG BALL

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s



A baseball team by another
cafe May 10, 1950

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Bentleys Of Delisle Are Baseball Inseparables



REG BENTLEY



MAX BENTLEY



BEV BENTLEY

When the Delisle baseball squad goes into action it's a regular gathering of the Bentley clan. The hockey-playing family, its scions scattered to the far winds each winter, believe in unity when the baseball season rolls around. The three Bentleys pictured above were prominent Wednesday as the Delisle club won its first-round game in the annual Lloydminster baseball tourney. The club won the tourney last year and are heavily favored to repeat in the play now in progress.

First Anniversary
THE WEST'S GREATEST SPORTING EVENT!

**GIGANTIC TWO-DAY
BASEBALL
TOURNAMENT**

"In the Heart of the Largest Black Oil Field in America"

LLOYDMINSTER

Mid-way between Edmonton and Saskatoon, on the Sask-Alberta Border, on Highways 5, 16 and 17

TUESDAY & WED. JUNE 6-7

\$4600

1st \$2000; 2nd \$750
3rd \$325; 4th \$325; Twelve Teams \$100 Each

Daily Admission to Grounds: Adults \$1.00; Children under 16, 25c; Cars 25c
DANCE EACH NIGHT IN LEGION MEMORIAL HALL

DRAW for 1950 FORD on WED., JUNE 7th

L. BARR, Secretary; J. GIESBRECHT, President; J. SCHWITZ, Treasurer

JUNE 5 - 6 - 7 CARNIVAL IN BASEMENT OF LEGION MEMORIAL HALL

Lloydminster
ROKISO
June 20 - 21

Max Bentley ready to quit?

LLOYDMINSTER, Sask., June 9 —(CP). — Max Bentley, Toronto Maple Leafs centre, said Thursday that "I think I'll retire after this next season" as a player in the National Hockey league.

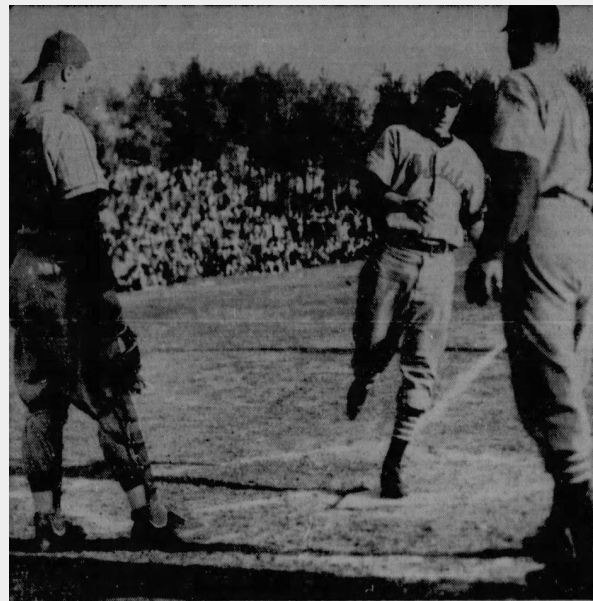
"I would have quit last year but Conny Smythe talked me out of it. So I'll be back and if we win the Stanley cup I'll call it quits for sure.

"I'm 30 now and can see the handwriting on the wall. I'd like to coach an amateur club out here. Calgary has talked to me and if the offer still is open when I quit, I might take them up on it."

Max is here with some more baseball-playing Bentleys from Delisle, Sask., competing in the \$4,600 Lloydminster baseball tourney. He will leave Friday by plane for Toronto take to part in the Toronto Maple Leaf-Montreal Canadiens baseball benefit game for Manitoba flood victims.

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Delisle Takes 1st Money At 'Lloyd Ball Tourney



CROSSING THE PLATE after hitting home run in Lloydminster baseball tournament is Max Bentley of Delisle Gems. His nephew Bev, right, congratulates him while Eston catcher Stevenson, left, waits for festivities on the Delisle bench to subside. Delisle won game 6-1 and won the title yesterday with a 10-0 conquest of Edmonton Texaco Oilers.

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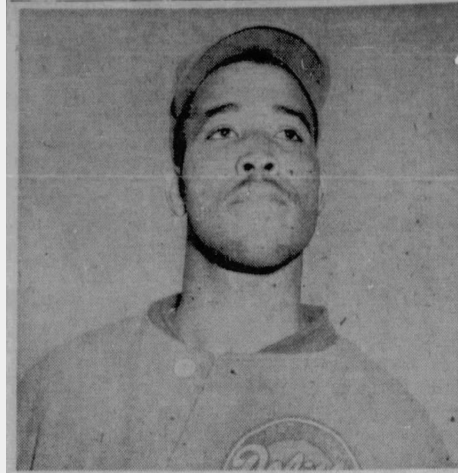
By DICK BEDDOES
Bulletin Staff Writer

LLOYDMINSTER, June 9
—Delisle Gems hit the jackpot in the Lloydminster baseball tournament's slot machine yesterday, winning the \$2,000 first prize for the second straight year.

They trounced Edmonton Texaco Oilers 10-0 in an abbreviated seven-inning finale with nearly 6,500 customers looking on.

But the Gems were fortunate to be in the final, at all. For in the semi-final against St. Paul Bears, Delisle was forced to prove that old baseball axiom: "The game ain't over until the last out in the ninth inning."

They almost didn't prove it, though. St. Paul having built up a 7-2 lead by the time the ninth inning came round.



DELISLE PITCHER Bunny Gregg was responsible for the win over Eston in first round of Lloydminster tournament. Negro righthander allowed six hits as Delisle registered 6-1 triumph.



The Bentleys, who could smell that big prize like bird dogs on a pheasant hunt, bounced ahead 11-7 with four runs in the top of the 10th.

Delisle had easy pickings in the wind-up. They scored 10 runs in the first four frames against a tired Texaco crew, which lacked pitching strength.

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They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s



Left to right:

Mrs. Roy Bentley
(Bev's father)

Eddie Brown's
girlfriend

Joe Hollin

Doug Bentley and
Eddie Brown.

1950 Delisle Gems

Following last night's victory Delisle general manager George Orchard said he wasn't sure if the club would defend its provincial championship. The southern playoffs are still in progress and due to the lateness of the season the Delisle team may be forced to disband due to harvest operations and the fact that several of the boys will soon be reporting for hockey.

Delisle couldn't meet the southern champions as hockey and the harvest took priority *August 25, 1950*

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Raddison Saskatchewan
cafe with the Delisle Gems

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s

(BASEBALL)

Gordie Howe Closes Gap In W.C.L. Batting Race

Big Don Hinchberger of Moose Jaw, hitting an even .400, is the leading batter in the Western Canada Baseball League for the third straight week, but Saskatoon's Gordie Howe has closed ground on the Maples' infield.

Howe has lifted his average to .393 and Curtis Tate of North Battleford has moved into third place with .358, three percentage points better than Regina's Gus Kyle.

Hinchberger continues to lead in total bases with 41.

Tate is the new leader in hits with 29. He also is one of four tied, at three apiece, for the lead in triples. Others with three triples are: Chuck Selph, Estevan; Len Breckner and Jim Shields, Saskatoon.

Shields again leads in runs with 21 and in stolen bases with eight.

Bob Herron, North Battleford, still leads in home runs with five and Gus Kyle, Regina, in runs batted in with 18.

Ray Patterson, Estevan, has taken the sole lead in doubles with eight.

Bob Singleton, Saskatoon, has moved in on Les Dean, North Battleford, for the lead among the league's pitchers. Both have won three and lost none.

Saskatoon's Jim Morrow struck out 17 Moose Jaw batters in 11 innings, before he was relieved by Lambert Lauer in the 12th. Lauer received credit for the victory as Saskatoon defeated Moose Jaw, 6-5, in 12.

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

	Pos.	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	SH	SB	R	B1	Pct
R. Bentley, Sas	c	8	7	0	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	429	
Hinchberger, MJ	ss	17	85	16	26	41	6	0	3	0	5	17	400	
Holdaway, Sas	p	9	15	2	6	9	1	1	0	0	0	7	400	
Howe, Sas	1b	14	56	14	22	28	4	1	0	2	4	6	393	
Tate, NB	3b	20	81	12	29	39	4	3	0	0	2	13	358	
Kyle, Reg	c	19	80	14	26	39	5	1	2	1	2	18	325	

Gordie playing with the Bentleys.
Saskatoon Gems
June 2, 1952

Box Score

ESTEVAN					
	AB	R	H	PO	A
Shea, 2b	3	2	1	2	3
Mesa, rf and lf	3	0	0	0	0
Patterson, lf and c	4	2	1	4	0
Montz, cf	4	1	0	0	0
Munroe, c	3	0	0	5	0
Skjerdal, rf	0	0	0	0	0
Selph, ss	3	0	1	3	2
Lillie, 3b	3	0	0	1	0
Torgenrud, p	2	1	0	1	3
McLeod, p	1	0	1	0	1
McKechney, 1b	3	1	0	8	0
x-Stephenson	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	30	7	5	24	9
x-Singled for Mesa in 9th.					
SASKATOON					
	AB	R	H	PO	A
Max Bentley, 2b	4	2	3	3	4
Shields, ss	4	1	1	1	3
Howe, 3b	4	2	1	1	2
Breckner, rf	5	1	1	1	0
Bev Bentley, 1b	5	1	2	15	0
Doug Bentley, lf	4	1	1	0	0
Shirley, c	5	3	3	5	3
Pendleton, cf	4	0	3	0	0
Dodd, p	1	0	0	0	1
Coben, p	3	1	1	1	1
Totals	39	12	16	27	14
Score by Innings					
Estevan	100	200	301	—	7
Saskatoon	010	010	82x	—	12

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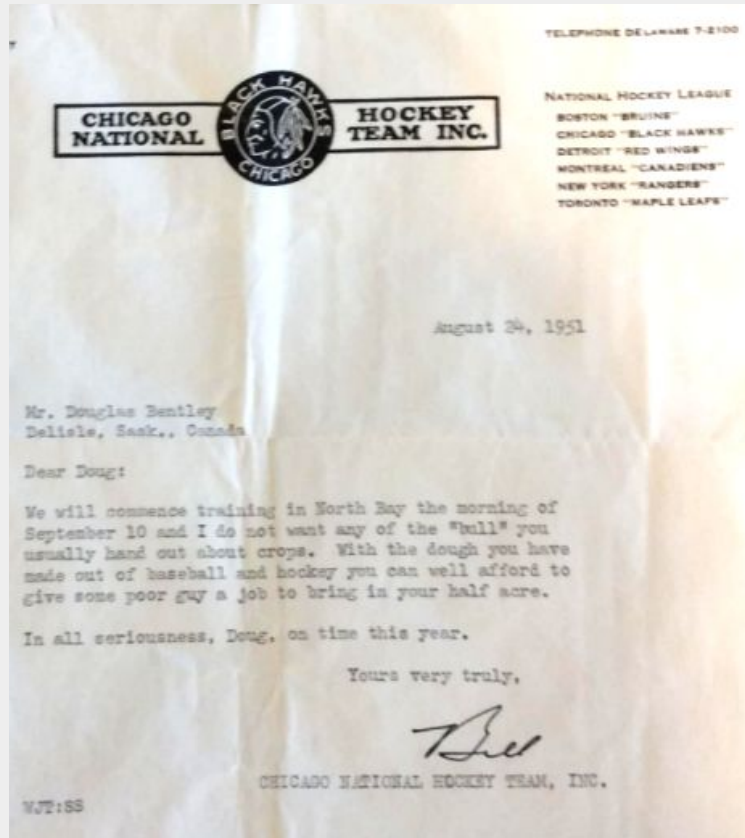


Jack Adams told Gordie to stop playing ball. May 29, 1953

INTERESTED spectators at the Saskatoon-Moose Jaw contest were Gordie Howe, the famed Detroit Red Wing hockey star and his pretty bride, Colleen, who will be spending the summer here in Saskatoon with Gordie's parents. . . Howe was a member of the Gems last summer—until Jack Adams caught up with him. . . He didn't say whether or not he would try baseball again, but intimated he might be confining his summer sports to golf and fishing. . . . However, he visited the dressing room after the game and began swinging a bat.

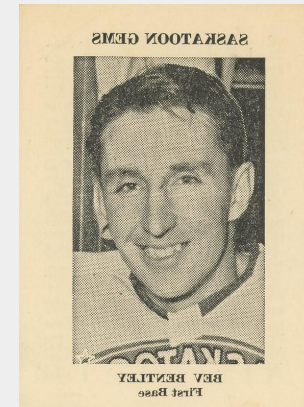
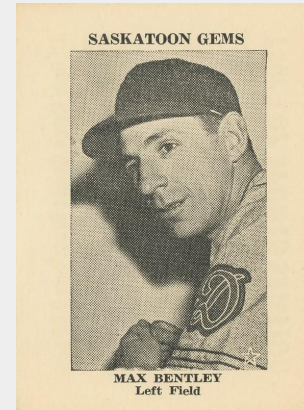
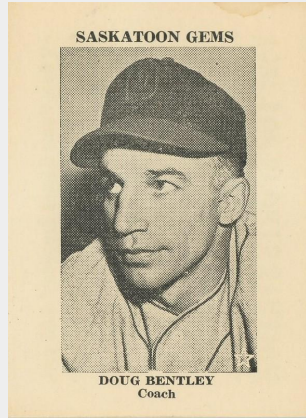


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Doug Bentley didn't listen to the Black Hawks when they asked in 1951

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1952 Saskatoon Gems
CKOM baseball cards

They Weren't Just Hockey Players: The Bentleys and Baseball on the Canadian Prairies in the 1940s and '50s



Delisle:	AB	R	H	PO
Bentley, D., ss	3	1	1	0
Orchard, 1b	1	0	0	2
Bentley, M., cf	6	1	6	1
Bentley, Bev., 3b	6	1	1	1
Coben, rf	3	2	2	0
Bentley, Bob, rf	1	0	0	0
Cosgrove, lf	5	1	1	0
Worth, 1b-2b	6	0	0	6
Bodman, 2b-3b	4	0	1	3
Goodwin, J., c	4	2	1	14
Campbell, p	3	3	2	0
Totals	42	11	15	27

Malvern

Max goes six for six at the age of 38 (1958)



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[Bev Bentley talks on YouTube about his baseball career](#) November 2022



*"Who was the best player?"
Bev says Max; spouse Betty
says "Reg. And Bev".*



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Links:

[The Bentleys at baseballart on Flickr.com](#)

[The Famous Bentleys on Facebook](#)

And special thanks to

[J.D. Mah and his site on Western Canada Baseball!](#)

