



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

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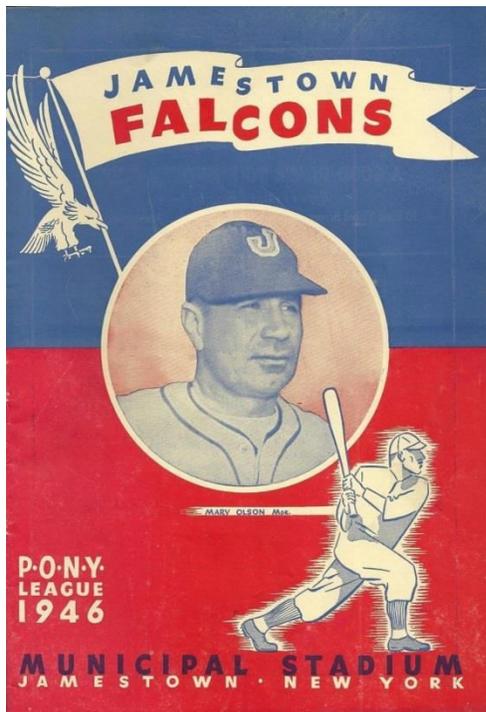
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On July 8, 1946, the 1945 World Series champions, Detroit Tigers, visited Municipal Stadium in Jamestown to take on their Class D minor league affiliate the Jamestown Falcons.

Sports editor Frank Hyde set the stage for the highly anticipated game in the July 8, 1946 Post-Journal:

World Champion Tigers Play Falcons At Stadium Tonight

The world champion Detroit Tigers take the Western New York baseball spotlight tonight as they invade Municipal Stadium for a nine-inning exhibition with the Jamestown Falcons, No. 2 club in the PONY League...



The grandstand is completely sold out for the game and the only remaining seats available are in the bleachers...

It is likely standing room will be sold with the spectators having the privilege of ringing the outfield against the wall one deep.

Judging by the early interest manifested and the fact reserve grandstand tickets were gobbled up within a matter of hours after they were put on sale at the Humidor, there is a good chance an all-time attendance record for a baseball game at the Stadium will be set by the time the teams take the field.

Falcons owner John Jachym said yesterday that the full Detroit roster will very likely be here except Hal Newhouser, who was the only Tiger named to the all-star game at Boston tomorrow, and manager Steve O'Neill, who will master-mind the American League stars in the 1946 classic.

Jamestown Manager Marvin Olson will start the regular Falcon lineup of Doc Alexopoulos on first; Al Federoff, second; Clem Koshorek, short; Oval Cott, third; Ken Humphrey, left; Lou Percy, center; Ted Bartz, right; and either John Pollock or Ron Snyder behind the plate.

Skipper Olson has nominated Danny Lincoln, Falcon right-hander, who is currently on the inactive list, to start tonight. He will also use Burwin (“Swat Jr.”) Erickson, the home-grown righty. If possible, these two will go the nine-inning route.

Detroit will also likely open with its regular starting lineup and juggle the order as the game progresses. The Tigers have been using Hank Greenberg at first, Bloodworth at second, Kell at third, Lake at short, Cullenbine in left, Evers in center, Mullins in right and Tebbets catching.

This pudgy one has taken a few verbal chops at the Falcon head office from time to time, and will likely take a few more, but we’d like to add a bouquet to the thorns for any part Prexy John Jachym may have had in bringing the Detroit Tigers to our doorstep...

Such promotions are good for baseball, good for thousands of fans who seldom get a chance to see a major league team in action, and are a boon to hundreds of area youngsters who have worshipped from afar...

Both the Falcon and Detroit head offices are to be congratulated, the latter for condescending to make the Jamestown trek to play a club in the low minors when there is little doubt the Tigers could have had a much more lucrative contact against a club of higher classification for their day off had they wished.

Well, how did it go? Frank Hyde filed this post-game report in the July 9th Post-Journal:

Detroit Tigers Top Falcons, 15-3

The Detroit Tigers, champs of the baseball world, hit and clowned their way to a 15-3 decision over the Jamestown Falcons at the Stadium last night before 5,600 fans, who jammed the stands and ringed the outfield wall three deep, crouched along first and third base lines and formed in groups in every other vantage point.

Virgil “Fire” Trucks, Freddy Hutchinson and Dizzy Trout each hurled three innings for Detroit, while Danny Lincoln, Burwin “Swat” Erickson and Tom Pascoe worked for the Flock, the former holding the Bengals scoreless until they raked him for a six-run fifth inning. Erickson came in to pitch the next three and Pascoe tossed the ninth.



Virgil Trucks

Anse Moore

Fred Hutchinson

Anse Moore hammered a homer over the right-field wall to spark the fifth inning uprising And Hutchinson came through with another four-master in the sixth as the Tigers combed Erickson for four runs. Moore led the American League club's assault with a homer, double and single in three trips with three RBIs. Hutchinson got two-for-two, a homer and single, and also chased in three runs with his willow.

Jamestown scored its three runs and seven of its nine hits off Trout, who started the seventh. Dizzy, who kept the crowd in an uproar before the game with his wandering antics, was still in a happy mood when he took the hill and his mates helped put on a good show that gave the Flock a chance to push across three runs.

George Lerchen collected the one hit Trucks gave up, a solid single to center. The Falcons outfielder raced to third when Roy Collenbine let Trucks' pickoff attempt go through for an error. Hutchinson also gave up one safety, a well-hit single by Orval Cott. Lerchen, Bartz and Alexopoulos singled across a run off Trout in the seventh and both Koshorek and Bartz were credited with triples in the ninth as the Tigers devoted their efforts to giving the customers a laugh.

The July 10th Post-Journal featured post-game reflections by Hyde:

The appearance of the Detroit Tigers in Municipal Stadium was a big success in every way, although there were a few grumbles over two shortcomings – the failure of Hank Greenberg to put in an appearance or the oversight or lack of planning locally that didn't provide transportation for the Bengals from (the train station in) Westfield to Jamestown.



The former was certainly no fault of the Jamestown Baseball Club, which had been promised the services of **Hank Greenberg** (left) along with the Tigers' other stars. Greenberg, it must be understood, is the highest paid star in the game and being such can do a little dictating himself, even to the Tiger head office. If **Hankus Pankus** didn't feel like coming to Jamestown that's all there is to it. Coach Frank Shellenback did his best to make up for that absence by using his top three chuckers available – Trucks, Hutchinson and Trout – which seems to us to balance well for the exit of Big Hank.

The Tiger agreement was to furnish their own transportation (to Jamestown) with the local club (responsible for) carrying them to Warren where the club caught a train to Williamsport for another exhibition game. These guys aren't peanuts, though. They are the world champs and it appears a little fanfare could have been lent to their arrival had a group of cars met them in Westfield to serve as transportation to Jamestown. I'm sure many Jamestown fans would have jumped at the chance to meet the boys had an announcement been made.

Post-Journal sportswriter Waite Forsyth directed some pointed remarks at City of Jamestown officials in the same July 10th edition:

The absence of extra bleachers in the far left and right corners at the Stadium was regrettable, making it necessary for many of the spectators to sit and stand against the fence all around the outfield. We understand the management of the Jamestown club was not at fault, having made arrangements to procure extra seats from Lakewood, only to have some of the city fathers thumbs down a proposition to defray the cost of transporting the pews to the Stadium. These Gloomy Gusses based their refusal on the grounds the extra seats would not be needed.

It begins to look as though our runners of all things municipal, having come to life once and having put forth one effort on behalf of the sports enthusiasts of Jamestown (building Municipal Stadium in 1941), are going to sit back and rest on their laurels for the remainder of their days on this earth. It is true that they provided the public with one of the finest minor league parks in the country, but they should not lose sight of the fact that they had to be pushed into the move by an irresistible upsurge in popular support for the action. And since then they have dropped back to their ways of inertia. If you do not believe it, take a squint at the condition – or lack of it at the other playsteads in the city. And even the Stadium grandstand could stand a few dabs of paint.

CSHOF inductee Russ Diethrick was at the Detroit v. Jamestown game with his father in '46 and tells this amusing story:



“When the game ended my dad and I got in our car in the parking lot and started up the street. Boom, the backdoor to our car opened and some guy jumped into the backseat yelling, ‘I’ve got to get uptown. I’ve got to get uptown.’

“Here it was **Dizzy Trout** (left), who we had just watched pitch. He introduced himself and said he needed a ride. Pretty soon my dad had to slow down for traffic. The backdoor opened and Trout jumped out. He’d seen a car with somebody he knew in it, ran over, and got in. It was crazy.”

51 years later, the boy who went to the game with his father and gave Dizzy Trout a ride received the ultimate honor. On August 9, 1997, the name of Municipal Stadium was officially changed to Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park in honor of his life-long love, commitment and service to the sport of baseball in Jamestown, New York.

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