





GRand 0990

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See the New 1937 Plymouth "Six"
and - - Don't Forget the Fine De Soto Sixes - - at
GATEWAY MOTOR COMPANY

2001-2009 SOUTH SEVENTH BOULEVARD

H. B. HAFERTEPE, (League Sponsor), Pres.

COLOMBO'S

C. Fox
G. Lambert
Ed. Biskup
F. Holzer
C. Christanell
L. Knopf (absent)



Colombo's Buffet - 3132 S. Kings' way

NEUDECK'S

E. Kreigesman
J. Foerstel
W. Schanz
J. Leaf
F. Huch
W. Williams



F. Neudeck's Cafe - 5233 Gravois



GATEWAY MOTOR'S

L. Setchfield
J. Horan
T. Broughton
S. Salerno
L. Birkenmeier



J. Zervas
J. Glatt
Gateway Motor Co. - 2001-9 S. 7th

WILKE'S

W. Biskup
H. Douglas
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J. Mayes
M. Wilson
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Art Wilke's Tavern - 6830 Gravois



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E. Setchfield
A. Ulsas
L. Roark
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C. Moehl, Sr.
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Carondelet Brew. Co. - 2025 Gravois

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C. Holtman
J. Jermain
C. Moehl, Jr.
E. Cain
R. Wooldridge
L. Ward



J. Cizek's Cafe - 3026 Cherokee

National Corkball Association
United States Corkball Tournament
1938
Salient Facts

United States Corkball Champions...905 Liquor Store...St. Louis

Tournament Rules
Open Tournament...Independent teams as well as all League teams may participate.
Tournament Fee...Each entry shall be assessed \$¹⁰ to defray necessary expenses.
Protesting Fee...It is necessary to put up a \$2 fee when filing protest.
Tournament Procedure...Two (2) defeat an out-basis. Points and tie games disregarded.
Tournament Rules...All games shall be played under the official ball and strike rules.
Winning Team.....The Winning Team to receive the Championship Document. Each individual player to be awarded a medal; the sponsor to receive a Trophy.

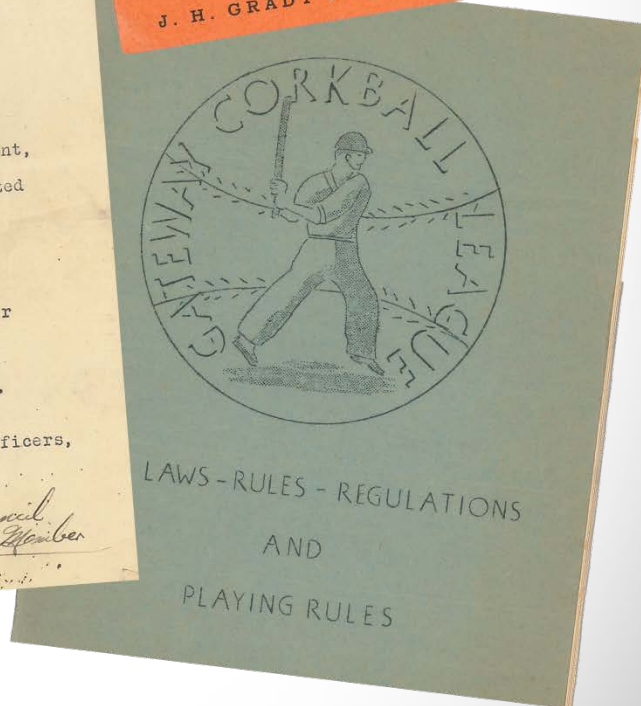
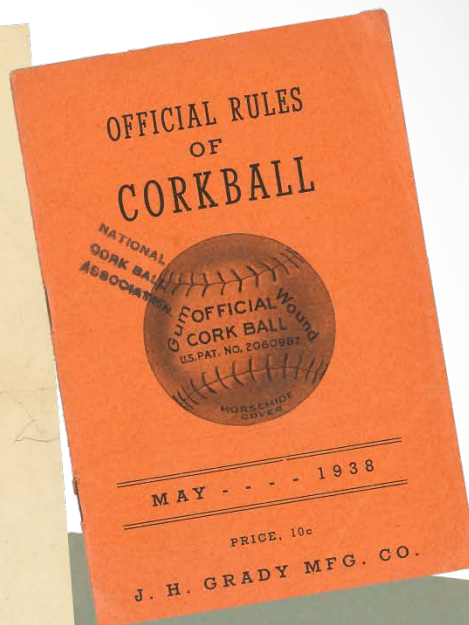
Team Privileges
Pennant winning team shall have the privilege to make the first draft of two (2) players from teams that have played in their respective league during that season; and may not have more than ten (10) players on roster; however team employing nine (9) players during league season may not draft more than (1) player; team employing but eight (8) players may draft the quota... (See Tournament Rule #19). Other league teams shall have the privilege to draft as their final team position in league shows. Second place team, second choice. Third place team, third choice, etc. League teams may not draft independent players. Independent teams may not draft league players...Player who has been released prior to the league signing shall be classed as an independent player.

Supreme Council Authority
They shall appoint all officers. Namely; President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms.
They shall purchase all equipment...They shall decide all protested games. They shall appoint umpires and field judges. They shall have the authority to eject any incompetent officer, umpire or field judge.

Officers Authority
They shall have the sole authority to conduct meetings. Select playing fields. They shall report all protests to the Supreme Council, who shall in turn act on the matter to the best of their knowledge and ability. All information and fee must be in the hands of the Supreme Council by Tuesday of the coming week, in event it is not; protest will be considered tourney fund. The officers shall determine whether a game shall be played or not.

Expenses
Ground necessities, Corkballs, Umpires, Fieldjudges, Scorer, Officers, Supreme Council....Publicity and Correspondence.

Wenent Stoltzhaus, Council Member



Big League Corkball Players Here



Pictured here are members of the Gateway Corkball League, one of the major organizations of its kind in the St. Louis area.

They are, top row, from left: Frank Palubiak, John Brante, R. Woolridge, Art Wilke, sponsor of the Wilke team; Al Ulsas and Lloyd Roark; third row: Christanell, L. Setchfield, Nick Tries, L. Jermain, Dezutter and Williams. Second row: Frank Huck, Phil Belpulsi, Gus Lambert, Joseph Leaf, Jack Laughney, Earl Cain, Joseph and John Glatt. (Staff Photo.)

The Gateway Corkball League, now in its eighth season, is an organization which does not confine its activities to the playing field,

part of the league's program for the summer.

Three members of the league, Clarence Moehl, Sr.; Alex Ulsas, Sr., and John Horan, have been playing the game together for twenty-five years and have been chiefly re-

making the league as all as an athletic, organization of equal strength are at the beginning of each season and are assigned to the various sponsors. Under this system, a member seldom plays on the same team and with the same men each year.

The teams are known as the Gateways, Wilkes, Columbos, Neu-

decks, Carondelets and Cizeks. Officers are: Joseph Leaf, president; Clarence Moehl, Sr., vice president; John Horan, treasurer; Clarence Moehl, Jr., recording secretary; Rolloe Woolridge, financial secretary and Joseph Foerstel, sergeant at arms.

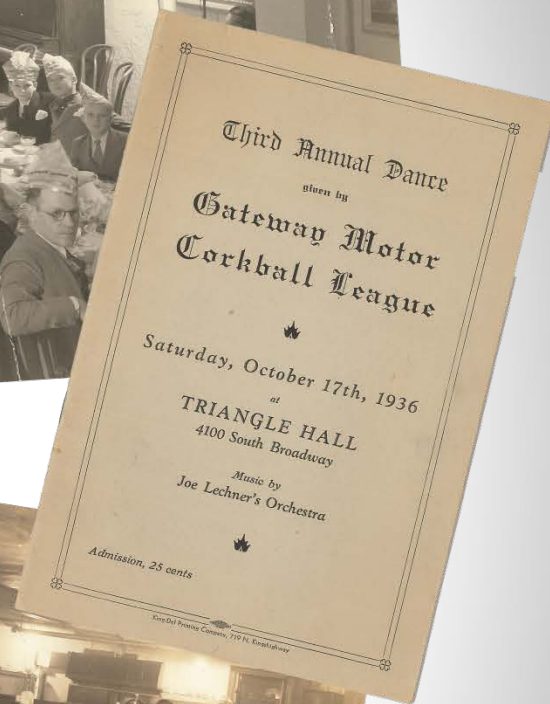
The 1936 schedule calls for twenty-five weeks of play at the National Softball Park, where each team plays three sets of two games each on Sunday mornings.







Gateway Motor
Cork Ball League - 1936



Second Annual Banquet
GATEWAY MOTORS
Cork Ball League 12-6-34.



E. Kriegesman
J. Foerstel
W. Schanz
J. Leaf
F. Huch
W. Williams

F. Neudeck's Cafe
5233 Gravois



E. Setchfield
A. Ulsas
L. Roark
J. Laughney
C. Moehl, Sr.
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Carondelet Brew. Co.
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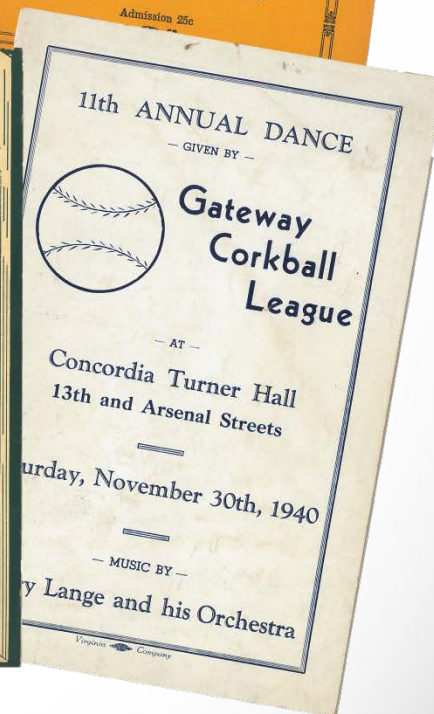
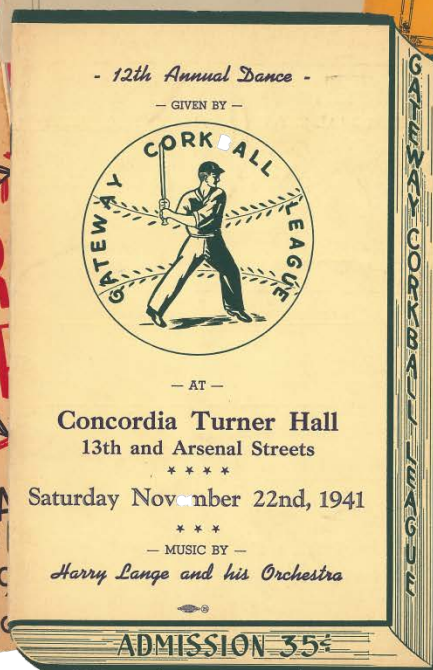
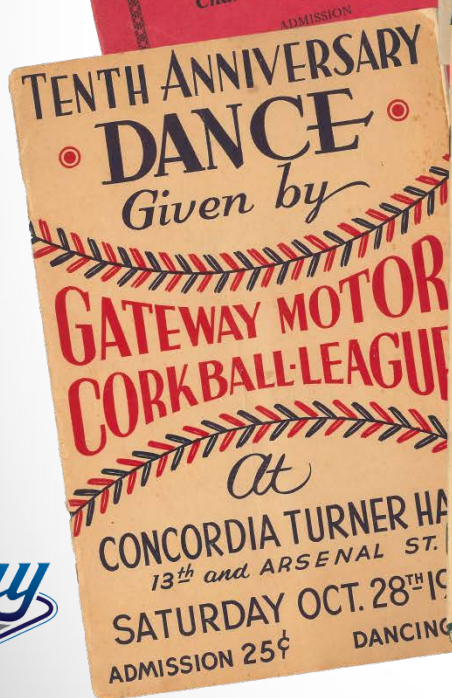
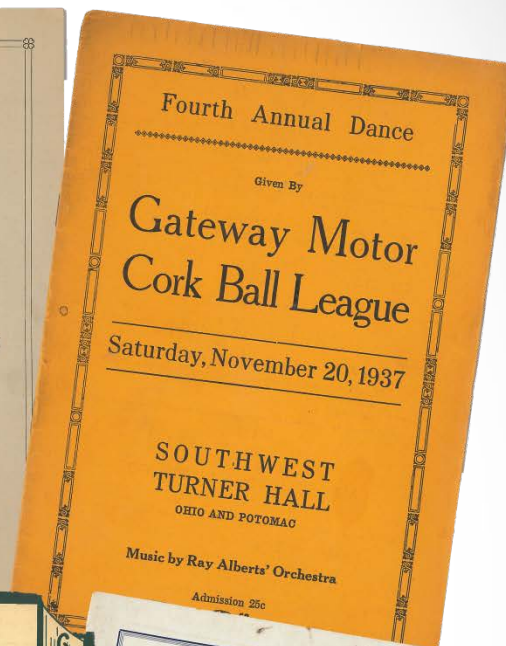
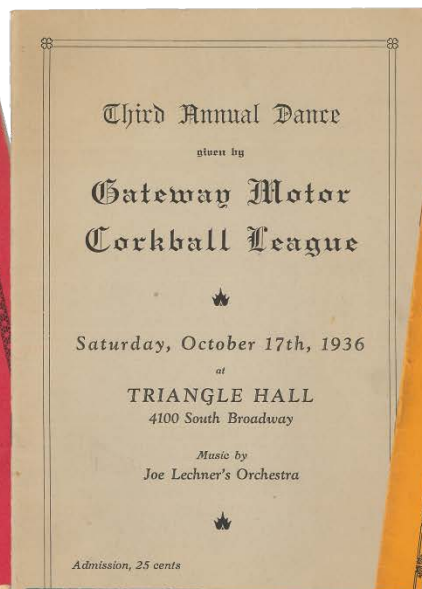
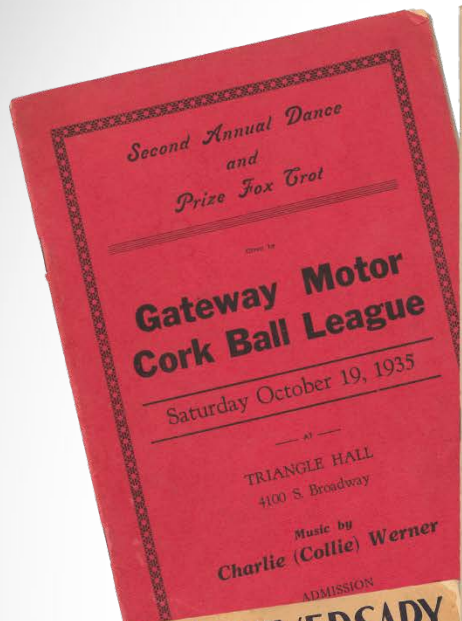


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J. Glatt (absent)

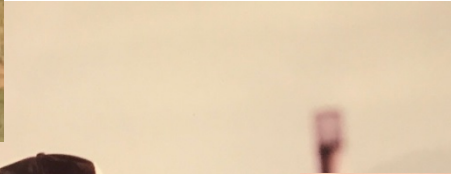
Gateway Motor Co.
2001-9 S. 7th















Sports

CORKBALL

Though you may not see it in television commercials, corkball is as American as apple pie.

by Bob Chura/photos by Jim Balmer

Baseball, as the Chevrolet commercial points out, is as much an American tradition as hot dogs and apple pie. In St. Louis, you could add to these traditions the game of corkball.

Although you could learn about the game by reading a rule book, the best way to learn about corkball is to watch it for yourself. To get a feel for the game, just watch the players, who are competitors but also friends. Players rib or tease other players throughout the game, but it's all taken in stride.

The teasing never brings any altercations; most players see it as an added humorous dimension to the game. Oh—and excuse me for forgetting—corkball players are beer drinkers. Especially after a doubleheader, they find that nothing tastes better than a cold beer.

Interestingly enough, part of corkball's mysterious origin dates back to the games played near the breweries. In the early 1900s, brewery workers used bungs

(the plugs in old beer barrels) as corkballs.

These balls were whittled and shaped until the ball was round.

Other stories



At first glance, it looks like baseball, but trying to hit the 1.25-inch-in-diameter corkball can give even accomplished baseball players fits.

concerning corkball's origin exist, but nobody can pinpoint a specific date on which corkball began. Don Young, honorary member and club historian for the South St. Louis Corkball League, said, "The mystery of corkball is exciting. You can have 20 guys in a bar discussing corkball and you might come up with 15 different stories on the origin."

For example, one circulating story puts the game's origin around 1763 when Pierre Laclede founded St. Louis. Supposedly, explorers used long, thin spears for hitting a round wooden ball. That historical tidbit notwithstanding, it is mostly agreed upon that corkball began between 1900 and 1910.

As corkball increased in popularity, numerous mischievous employees started sneaking in alleys on their lunchbreaks to play their favorite game. Word continued to spread. In 1927, the first

Gateway Corkball

League was founded by such pioneer names as John Horan, Al Ulsan Sr., Clarence Mohel Sr. and Johnnie Jansen. Gateway still thrives

League, also has games on Wednesdays and Sundays, at Jefferson Barracks Park. Founded in 1936, the original name was the Gropo Corkball League. Its principal founders were "Pop" Stege, Bill Young, John Stege Jr. and Bill Young Jr.

Many of the early corkballs weren't designed as well as some of the ones around today. In fact, the first ball used was a fishing cork covered with electrical tape.

Other balls consisted of BBs or nails inside of a cork. Today, the official corkball has a diameter of 1.25 inches and weighs anywhere from 1.125 to 1.25 ounces. Some of your top-notch corkballs are Po-Line and Muson. The quality of the ball is very important. The good ball is solid, long-lasting and has well-constructed seams. The cheap ball is somewhat flexible after being hit a couple of times and feels like a piece of pumice. Corkball bats are usually 34-38 inches long and an inch and a quarter wide. The shorter bats are perfect for a batter who wants to be able to get around on a pitcher. In contrast, the longer ones give the batter more reach across the plate.

Corkball gloves meet the same criteria as baseball gloves. If a glove chosen

is a difference in games and a 040 is a 22-year player of League, said,

new gloves aren't any good. A glove is one that

somebody is ready to discard—it's already broken in."

The corkball field has no definite dimensions. "That's the great part about corkball," Young said, "it's portable."

Corkball's basic rules are simple, but they can vary from league to league. All that's needed is a two player minimum

per team. I five tinning to the cat. There is a just like it hit into t awarded.

alowed, the players at making a hill swing. Double plays aren't a feature of corkball, either. If you're short-winded, there's no need to worry—base-running isn't included in corkball.

Ball and strike rules differ depending on the league. Four or five balls constitute a walk. Two strikes make an out, but the catcher must hold onto the second strike. On the other hand, if a catcher holds onto a swinging first strike, the batter is considered out. An addition to this rule was given a trial period by the Gateway Corkball League this year. Don Greco, Gateway historian and member states,

"We've introduced a maximum three strike rule. Each batter is allowed no more than three strikes. This was done to save the pitcher's arms."

Finally, corkball primarily is a singles game, although the addition of extra-base hits into several leagues has attempted to increase the scores and the

next page



Clubs Help Rejuvenate Interest In Game

Gateway Motors established the first organized corkball club. Today, more than 50 years later, the Gateway Corkball Club is still in operation.

There was a time, though, when balls and strikes meant nothing in the game. The umpires coming in was the biggest

the elder Nieme, but I think it's the greatest game in a special appeal. If you can't be a pitcher or a catcher, you can be an outfielder. Outfielders seldom have to run, much

type of game," says Nelson McClanahan of Gateway. "If you're a batter and you don't stand in there and hit, it's a challenge just

The number of corkball clubs has increased in St. Louis recently. As a result, such as the recently completed Southwest County Corkball Tourney at Jefferson Bar-

Twelve teams participated in the two-day event and, for the third year in a row, Gateway captured the tournament championship. A South Side tournament is set for Aug. 6-8 at Jefferson Barracks Park.

George Welker, tournament representative from Gateway, believes tournaments are the best exposure for the game. "It's the best thing that's happened to corkball in years," he says. "Tournaments allow the

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The Blue Monster



SUSAN WEICH • sweich@post-dispatch.com • 636-255-7207

Corkball heaven

As St. Louis tradition since 1900 combines competition, camaraderie and family.



PHOTOS BY J.B. FORBES • jforbes@post-dispatch.com
As the evening light fades, lights in a factory behind the field come on as Ray Arras pitches to Jared Haman on Wednesday at the Gateway Corkball Club in St. Louis. See more photos at stltoday.com/multimedia.



ABOVE: Tim Goedecker (left) and his teammates unwind Wednesday after the games in the 'team' clubhouse next to the fields at the Gateway Corkball Club in St. Louis. Here, they are watching replays of a Cardinals game on the television.
RIGHT: The club has a collection of balls used in memorable games over the years at the Gateway Corkball Club in St. Louis. The balls have changed over the years from corks, to taped balls, to the balls used today.



Some of the ballplayers who gathered on the grassy lot behind the metal products factory were barely past their teens; others were past their prime, but it didn't matter — they came to share in the competition and camaraderie.

The game is corkball, which locals say was invented here around 1900 by a group of brewery workers looking for something to do on their break. A beer barrel is used as the ball.

the oldest
Gateway Corkball Club at the
corner of Walsh Street and Ulenia
Avenue in south St. Louis.

The competition last Wednesday was at the oldest of these.

On this muggy day was at the oldest of these. Gateway Corkball C corner of Walsh Street Avenue in south St. three fields share an o rivaling the one at Fe Hitting the ball over t high Blue Monster is hitting the wall a doul On this muggy day was at the oldest of these. Gateway Corkball C corner of Walsh Street Avenue in south St. three fields share an o rivaling the one at Fe Hitting the ball over t high Blue Monster is hitting the wall a doul On this muggy day was at the oldest of these. Gateway Corkball C corner of Walsh Street Avenue in south St. three fields share an o rivaling the one at Fe Hitting the ball over t high Blue Monster is hitting the wall a doul

See WEICH • Page B3



Tom Minor pitches to Marty Kirner while Ron Goedecker catches Wednesday at the Gateway Corkball Club in St. Louis.



Ron Goedecker reacts after getting hit by the ball at the Gateway Corkball Club in St. Louis.

WEICH • FROM B1

One man has six relatives playing in the club; the oldest player is 75 and has a .428 batting average

season of new pas- place believe more people about it," he said. "It's a Field of Dreams in the city."

"It's a Field of Dreams in the city."

ing to row it off," he said. Like any other contest, the play can get pretty heated, but things rarely get out of hand at Gateway because no drinking is allowed on the field, and anyone who throws a punch at another member is shown the door. On this night, the chatter was all good-natured. Players razzed Tim Goedecker about his batting slump and his bats, one named Mr. 888 (to reflect his batting average for part of a season) and the other Mr. OBP (to tout his on-base percentage).

"I guess we'll let Tim make all the outs this inning too," chirped Kirner. Goedecker said when you're having a year like he is, you better be coming for more than just your batting average. Clearly many of the men were. After the game, the men retreated to their clubhouse, a no-frills place where players could rehab the game over a bottle of beer. The walls are lined with stats



PHOTOS BY J.B. FORBES • jforbes@post-dispatch.com
reboard on the wall of the clubhouse announces teams for ming games Wednesday at the Gateway Corkball Club in St. Louis.

dating back to the club's founding in 1920. They highlight Gateway legends like Tom Niemeier, who threw seven no-hitters in a row. Many of the members are second- or third-generation corkballers, who grew up watching their dads play and earned soda money by shagging foul balls. Joe "Pepe" Greco, 41, of south St. Louis, has fond memories of Christmas parties at the clubhouse and picnics that featured barbecue, games and a swimming

pool. "That was almost better than a week-long vacation," he said. At the end of every year, the club has an awards banquet that honors not only the top players, but those who made the gooi-est plays, like Mike Goedecker, 47, of Sunset Hills, who got hit by a pitch to win a game against his cousin and his nephew. "I got a booby prize for that because there was a big uproar," he said. "They gave me a plaque and poem that told the story of how it upset my cousin Bobby." When players retire from corkball, they become social members and still come up to the clubhouse to play cards or watch sports on TV. Gateway is hoping for a youth movement to beef up its membership, which now stands around 90, to keep the St. Louis classic going. "There's just not much known about corkball anymore," said Mike Goedecker. He said the Jefferson Barracks tournament a week or so ago, which used to have dozens of teams, was down to seven. "It would be nice to get the game revitalized a little bit," Goedecker said.







RAY GOEDEKER FIELD





Gateway Corkball League
 MILL TURNER LEAGUE WON LOST TIED PCT
CARDINALS
 FIRST HALF
TIGERS
ORIOLES
YANKEES

GATEWAY CORKBALL LEAGUE

ROSTER FOR 1938

WILKE'S

Belpulsi

AMSLER'S

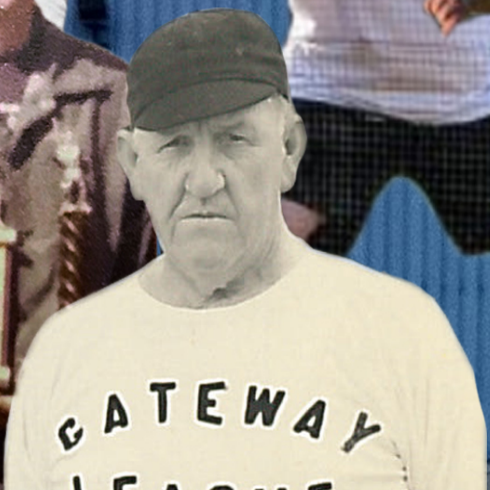
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 SINCE 1929

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