

The “Grudge Series”

The Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Gazette in April 1963 commemorated the 10th anniversary of the “Grudge Series” between the Haney Seniors and Whalley Chiefs. Close to 3,000 Fans Saw Final Game.

Local baseball fans will always remember grudge series between Haney and Whalley: Whenever the “good old times” of baseball in Haney come to the lips of local baseball enthusiasts in Maple Ridge, the series between the Whalley Chiefs and the Haney Seniors will always take first bow.

The series in question was a “grudge series” in August 1953, when Whalley and Haney played a best of seven affair. It all started when Haney and Whalley were battling it out in the semi-finals of the Lower Mainland baseball playoffs. Haney had won the first game 11-9, but Whalley bounced back

Publicity photograph to promote the grudge series games: Bob Johnson, Bob Stinson and Neil Kelly. The players are holding cash, a bottle of milk and a chicken to represent the bets on the game.



to take the next two games 14-4 and 6-5, before Haney tied the series with a 13-3 score. This was when the fun began.

Haney’s manager, Pete Telosky, stated after the fourth game that the deciding game should be played at Haney, as Haney had finished higher in the standing than Whalley.

However, the president of the League, Johnson, phoned Pete and told him that the final game was to be played in Whalley. Pete protested this decision, but still took his team to Whalley for the deciding game.

When Haney arrived at Whalley, they found the Whalley Park deserted of both players and umpires. Johnson later forfeited the game to Whalley on grounds that were never found out.

Pete Telosky then challenged Whalley to a best four-of-seven “grudge series”. In this series, Haddon Bolivar posted 100 chickens, while Fred Stinson Sr. posted a cow, with the winner of the series to take all plus a \$1000 jackpot.

Haney took the first game with a ten-inning 5-4 thriller and then also took the second game, as the local nine scored six runs in the bottom of the ninth inning for a 7-6 win.

Haney took a three game lead, as Merv Minty pitched Haney to a 4-1 victory. Whalley bounced back to take the next two games by 2-1 scores, despite two hits by the late Bill Minty, and 12-10 in a game was feature by constant rhubarbs.

The next game was to be played in Haney with the seventh, if necessary, to go in Whalley.

With close to 3,000 fans bulging Telosky Stadium, Merv Minty toed off against giant Ron Curby.

By the third inning, Whalley had romped to a 5-0 lead, and it looked as though a seventh game was going to be necessary. In the bottom of the third, however, Bob Stinson boomed a grand slammer over the right field wall to narrow the score to 5-4.

Whalley went ahead 6-4 in the top of the fourth before Haney tied it in the fifth as Whalley went



**Lower Mainland League Baseball Championship winners, 1953.
Back Row: George Stinson, Andy Telosky, Gordy Stevens, Tenho Katainen, John Struthers, and Bob Stinson.
Front Row: George Davies, Jack Cameron, Jack Brown, Merv Currie, and Fred Stinson Jr.**

ahead 10-6, only to have Haney come back with two runs in the same inning to make the score read 10-8 in Whalley’s favor. In the eighth, Whalley scored again to make three runs up, 11-8.

Lefty Bob Johnson put Haney back in the game in the bottom of the eighth, as he homered, and as the ninth inning started, Whalley was up front 11-9.

Fisk blanketed Whalley in the top of the ninth, and as Curby took the mound in the bottom of the ninth, a hush fell over Telosky Stadium. Fred Stinson told his son Bob as the final half inning started, “You know, I just might lose that cow.” Bob answered, “You’re darned right you might.”

Hopes rose, as first baseman Al Dahl rifled a single to open the inning. Pete Telosky, “Mr. Baseball” of Haney, kept the fever going, as he spanked a single to send Curby to the showers.

Whalley’s ace pitcher, Jack Connell, then took over the mound duties for Whalley. Connell failed to find the plate as he issued a walk to Fisk to load the sacks.

Fans began to rock the Stadium, as Neil Kelley, not noted as a long ball hitter, took to the plate. Kelley, however, had the distinction of hitting the first homerun of the series.

The first ball by Connell was outside. His next pitch was a high, inside fastball. The pitch was to Kelly’s liking. In fact, Kelly liked it so much that he smacked it over the left field wall to drive home four runs and give Haney the game, 13-11, and the series four games to two.

Later during the ’53 season, Haney withdrew from the Lower Mainland league and re-entered the Dewdney league. It was the one and only year that Haney was in the LML.