

GREATER OTTAWA FASTBALL LEAGUE COMES TO ORLEANS

The Greater Ottawa Fastball League (GOFL) is coming to Orleans this spring. The former 2006 Orleans Rebels Midget Boys' Fastball Team will join the league this year as the Orleans Gators. The league, formerly known as the Kemptville Area Men's Fastball League, has grown from four clubs in 2004 (when it became the GOFL) to six in 2005 and now to eight, including mainstays Fitzroy Harbour, Stittsville, Carp, four-time champion Ottawa Team Easton, Ottawa Blitz and Manotick.

The Gators will be a junior-aged team, with all players being under 23 years of age, while most of the other teams are comprised of intermediate level players (over 23 years of age). Joining the Gators in the league this year will be the Quyon Flyers, another junior-aged team.

For many of the players on the Gators roster, this will be the continuation of playing competitive fastball that started eleven years ago in the Orleans Amateur Fastball Association. At the national midget fastball championship tournament, held in Prince Albert, SK, last August, the team finished fifth in the twelve team competition.

Defending champions, Team Easton, will be the team to beat. The team is led by captain/infielder Kevin Chevrier, former Team Canada Pan Am games and International Softball Congress (ISC) world team player Randy Peck, and ace pitcher Dan Konkle. Team Easton competed at the Tournament of Champions in Wisconsin in 2005, finishing third in the 35-team competition.

The Gators will play their home games at the Pierre Rocque Park diamond (at the north end of St Pierre St (off St Joseph Blvd. at Kentucky Fried Chicken). Games start at 8:30 pm on Thursday evenings. The inaugural home game is scheduled for May 17, 2007 against the Stittsville 56ers.

The Gators roster includes Orleans stalwarts Eric Lafleur, Max Serre, Matt and Nick Bowman, Chad Hargrove, Brenden Werthner, Joel Langford, Brian Friesen, Jordan Adams, Derek Bergeron from Carlsbad Springs, and Kurtis Summers and Matt Alkerton from Spencerville.