## Over 1000 attend playoffs

# Richmound wins Saskalta League championship

A crowd of over 1000 people watched the Richmound Rockets win the SaskAlta League trophy in the final league play offs last Sunday. This was probably a record attendance for final playoffs in the nine year history of the league, and again proves how worthwhile a baseball league can be, both for the betterment of baseball locally and entertainment for the public.

There were several outstanding performances by individual players during the day, especially on the part of the pitchers for all four teams. Morris Burkhart of the Fox Valley Lions turned in a superb job by pitching 18 innings for his team, allowing only 14 hits and getting 15 strikeouts in the two games. Elmer Shaw for the Walsh Hotshots and Arnold Surina for the Hilda Cubs both pitched well for their clubs and errors were the main causes for their losses. Ivor Solie and Bill Stodalka both turned in 5 hit performances for Richmound.

**Fox Valley vs Walsh**

In the first game of the day the second place Walsh Hotshots met the third place Fox Valley Lions and until the late innings the score and the play was very close. In the top of the third inning Fox Valley took a 4 to 0 lead on 3 hits and two Walsh errors. In the bottom of the fourth, power hitting Wilf Dietrich slammed a two run homer for the Hotshots to put the score at 4 to 2 for the Lions. Fox Valley added two more runs in the sixth, 3 in the eighth and 1 in the nineth, while Walsh was only able to get two more runs in the eighth. Doubles by Morris Burkhart, John Preboy, Harry Bonogofsky and George Tholl were the Fox Valley extra base blows, while Peterson doubled for Walsh. Shaw on the mound for Walsh gave up only one walk and got 10 strikeouts, while Burkhart also only walked one and struck out eight.

For Fox Valley, 10 runs on 10 hits and 1 error; Walsh, 4 runs on 8 hits and 5 errors. Burkhart the winning pitcher, Shaw charged with the loss.

**Richmound vs Hilda**

The second game between Hilda Cubs and Richmound Rockets, was a thriller until the fifth inning, with Hilda holding a 4 to 3 lead. Richmound scored three runs in the first and Hilda replied with one run in the second and 3 in the third inning. Richmound came to life half way through the game and scored in each of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th innings adding 9 more runs to give them a 12 to 4 lead which held up for the winning score. After giving up 4 runs in the second and third innings, Ivor Solie shut out the Cubs for the remaining six innings, getting strikeouts when he needed them and being very stingy with the base hits. In throwing his five hitter, Solie allowed only one walk and struck out 11. Arnold Surina pitched the first seven innings for Hilda and gave way to Elroy Fischer in relief in the top of the eight.

For Richmound 12 runs on 12 hits and 2 errors; Hilda 4 runs on 5 hits and 5 errors. Solie the winning pitcher and Surina the loser.

**Fox Valley vs Richmound**

The final game for the trophy was the closest of the day and the best played. With Bill Stodalka for Richmound and Morris Burkhart for Fox Valley doing the mound work niether team got too many hits.

In the third inning Richmound scored 3 runs on 2 bunts and 1 Fox Valley error. Fox Valley replied in the bottom of the third with one run on a 380 foot home run by Jerome Preboy. The Lions got another run in the fourth and the score held at 3 to 2 for Richmound until the 7th inning. Richmound scored one more in the seventh and 1 in the eighth. The eighth inning run came on a triple play by Harry Koch and he scored on an infield ground out. Burkhart the iron man of the day drew applause from the crowd for his six hit performance in which he struck out 6 and walked 4. Bill Stodalka duplicated teammate Ivor Solies effort and threw another neat 5 hitter, struck out 9 and walked 3. For Richmound 5 runs on 6 hits and 2 errors; Fox Valley 2 runs on 5 hits and 2 errors.

Slim Cooke from CHAT-TV and Radio was a guest of the League for the day, and presented the League Trophy to Manager Les Benjamin of the Richmound Club. He also made recordings and films were taken for broadcast later on radio and TV.

The season will close for 1959 on Sunday, Sept. 13th when the SaskAlta League All Star Team, will play the Trophy winning Richmound Rockets in a double header at Walsh. Game times will be 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

This was the fifth time in nine years that the Richmound Club has won the SaskAlta League Trophy. Their previous wins were in 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955. Schuler won the Trophy in 1951, Walsh in 1956, Medicine Hat in 1957 and Fox Valley in 1958.