

# History of local hockey

## RESUME - HERMAN GUNDLACH

In 1947 Milt Joffee and Herman Gundlach, together with a number of other interested hockey fans, revived the Portage Lake Hockey Club. Joffee and Gundlach were elected President and Vice President respectively and retained those positions for many years. The group purchased the contract of Tony Bukovich from the Cleveland Barons in 1948 and Tony returned to Houghton to Coach and play for the new Portage Lake Hockey Team. Tony was joined by his brothers Mike and Joe and many other fine local hockey players including Bernie Ruelle, Jack Ruelle, Fran Lowney, Jim Taddeucci, Ike Klingbeil and Shetney. This group formed the nucleus of the team that stayed together for nearly 10 years and won championships a number of those years. This was a major step in reviving professional hockey in the Copper Country as Calumet-Laurium and the Portage Lake games drew record crowds of 3,000 to 4,000 fans at almost every game. Other teams in the League included the Soo, Marquette, as well as Calumet-Laurium and Portage Lake. This group attempted to reinstate High School Hockey but it was a number of years later before the Program was actually adopted, after considerable work by many other people of all communities.

Herman Gundlach sponsored two hockey teams from the inception in the Junior League in 1947 - the Bantam and Pee Wee Teams were fully equipped and played full season schedules. Later such great All-American Players as Bruce Riutta, Paul Coppo and many others were members of these boys teams. Today - 30 years later - Gundlach continues to sponsor a Junior Hockey Team and several Gundlach

Company officers and staff are coaches and managers of others teams in the Junior Hockey Program. The Chief Engineer was past President of the Junior Hockey League.