



**Veterans' Association
of the
Chicago & North Western
Railway**



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The C&NW 16-Inch Softball Team - 1983

Teams are Industrious

By MARY WHITE, Correspondent

THE SAME six teams have been battling in the Welles Park industrial league for years. As they wind down to the end of another season, Chicago North Western is on top of the league. Chicago Northwestern was undefeated in the first round of the season. They are 3-0 in the second round. "The industrial league has gotten more competitive in the last couple of years," said Welles Park Supervisor George Poulos. "It is super competitive skill-wise, but no one team dominates the league."

Chicago North Western won the league last summer. They lost in the second round of the city industrial tournament at Grant Park last year.

THE SAME teams have continued competing, out of tradition. "The teams like to get revenge," Poulos said.

The early game time, 5:30 pm keeps new teams from entering the league. Over the years some well known Chicagoans have taken the field during Welles Park's industrial league.

Chicago Cub's slugger Ernie Banks now pounds softballs for the Bank of Ravenswood team. "Ernie hasn't played as much this summer as he has before," Poulos said. "As good as you think Ernie Banks is, softball is a different game. He is a slightly above-average player."

Other famous Chicagoans playing are a little farther out of their realm on the softball field. The WGN team fields such names as newsman Don Harris.

But the famous have not drawn extra fans.

"A few years ago, Phil Donahue played for the WGN team and he drew some fans," Poulos said. "But now it is just friends and relatives that come to watch, like other leagues." (*From the July 20, 1983 issue of the Lincoln Square Booster.*)

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