

McLean County Museum of History

CornBelters Collection

Processed by
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Summer 2017

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	2009 - present
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Past Perfect #2023.0006

Brief History

The Normal CornBelters debuted in 2010 as a member of the independent professional Frontier League. The team marked the return of professional baseball to the Twin Cities since 1939 and the last season of the Bloomington Bloomers, who played in the Illinois-Indiana-Iowa League.

On March 30, 2009, ground was broken for a \$12 million multipurpose stadium adjacent to Heartland Community College in Normal. On October 20, 2009, it was announced that the stadium would be known as “The Corn Crib.”

In 2019, the CornBelters joined the Prospect League, an amateur collegiate summer league.

Scope

The collection includes Minor League Baseball Committee papers, a presentation and public remarks by Alan Sender, schedules, scorecards, programs, ticket vouchers and stubs, newspaper clippings, rosters, and advertising.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Initial Season

- 1.1 Lineup card signed by manager Hal Lanier, first game in CornBelters history, 21 May 2010. Plus gift agreement for this item.
- 1.2 Handwritten note from Alan Sender acknowledging materials donated, undated.
- 1.3 Letter from Nora Herron, ticket sales representative, describing ticket plans, February 1, 2010.
- 1.4 Letter from Steve Malliet, CornBelters president, advertising initial season and describing season ticket plans, 10 August 2009.
- 1.5 Season ticket order form, 2010 season.
- 1.6 Postcard, advertising initial season, April 2010.
- 1.7 Brochure, 2010 ticket information.
- 1.8 Team photo with players identified, 2010 inaugural season.

Folder 2: Schedules

- 2.1 2010 season.
- 2.2 2010 season, magnet.
- 2.3 2011 season.
- 2.4 2011 season, magnet.
- 2.5 2012 season.
- 2.6 2013 season.
- 2.7 2015 season (3 copies).
- 2.8 2016 season (3 copies).
- 2.9 2018 season (2 copies)
- 2.10 June-August 2022. Summer collegiate Prospect League.

2.11 2025 season.

Folder 3: Scorecards

- 3.1 2015 season.
- 3.2 Undated.

Folder 4: Programs

- 4.1 2010 season.
- 4.2 2011 season.

Folder 5: Tickets, Ticket Stubs, and Ticket Vouchers

- 5.1 Ticket, Normal CornBelts vs. Windy City ThunderBolts, 1 June 2010.
- 5.2 Ticket, Normal CornBelts vs Florence Freedom, 16 June 2010.
- 5.3 Voucher, Family Four pack, valid for 2010 season (with schedule).
- 5.4 Ticket, food voucher, and beer wristband, 16 August 2013.
- 5.5 Voucher, good for two complimentary box seats, 2015 season.
- 5.6 Voucher, good for four half-price box seats, 2015 playoffs.
- 5.7 Ticket stub, Normal CornBelts vs Windy City Thunderbolts, 23 July 2017.
- 5.8 Ticket envelope, to William Kemp, 23 July 2017.
- 5.9 Free ticket for selected games, 2024 season, courtesy of Carlock Public Library Reading Program (2 tickets).
- 5.10 Free ticket for selected games, 2025 season, courtesy of Carlock Public Library Reading Program (2 tickets).

Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 6.1 "If Normal builds it ..." March 31, 2009.
- 6.2 "Ground broken for athletic park," Heartland Happenings by Don Cavallini, *Normalite*, April 16, 2009.
- 6.3 "Team behind the team," May 31, 2010.
- 6.4 "Normal CornBelts Professional Baseball Team officially opens The Corn Crib," *Normalite*, June 3, 2010.
- 6.5 "Corn Kernals[,] New column about our pro baseball team," by Steve Robinson, *Normalite*, June 10, 2010.
- 6.6 "Ryne Sandberg Had Many Fans at the Corn Crib," *Normalite*, June 1, 2017.
- 6.7 "Professional baseball comes to Normal," *Normalite*, no date.

Folder 7: Rosters

- 7.1 Normal CornBelts roster, 8 July 2016.
- 7.2 Normal CornBelts roster, 18 July 2017.
- 7.3 Florence Freedom roster, undated.
- 7.4 Normal CornBelts handwritten roster, undated.

Folder 8: Advertising

- 8.1 Clipping, 31 July 2010 to 14 August 2010 events.
- 8.2 MCO Legends Game, 29 July 2017.
- 8.3 Friday Fireworks, post-game fireworks every Friday home game, undated.

- 8.4 MercyMe with special guest Jeremy Camp at The Corn Crib, 23 July 2016.
- 8.5 Hank Williams Jr. at The Corn Crib, 17 July 2017.
- 8.6 Scan of Welcome to the Kernels Collegiate League!, June 4, 2020.

Folder 9: Alan Sender

- 9.1 Email, Sender to Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, regarding donation of CornBelters papers, May 19, 2025.
- 9.2 Gift Agreement, May 29, 2025.
- 9.3 Presentation to the Norma Town Council, May 2008, 8 pp.
- 9.4 Remarks on the Corn Crib groundbreaking, March 30, 2009, 6 pp.
- 9.5 Remarks, opening day, June 1, 2010, 6 pp.

Folder 10: Press Releases

- 10.1 “HCC, Town of Normal, Normal baseball group to break ground March 30 for new stadium,” 2 pp., incl. groundbreaking ceremony agenda, 1 p., with business card, Jon Young, community relations manager.
- 10.2 “Major League Player, Manager Takes CornBelters Reins” (Hal Lanier), 3 pp., October 7, 2009.
- 10.3 “Normal CornBelters Name Director of Player Development” (Nick Belmonte), 4 pp., October 7, 2009.

Folder 11: Minor League Baseball Committee

- 11.1 Email, “Baseball Committee History,” Geoff Fruin to Alan Sender, May 25, 2010, 1 p., with 4 pp. supplemental material, including September 2007 ad hoc Baseball Committee roster.
- 11.2 Notes from July 26, 2007, Baseball Committee meeting, 2 pp., with accompanying email.
- 11.3 Baseball Meeting, July 26, 2007, Miscellaneous Reference Materials, 1 p., with 2 pp. supplemental material.
- 11.4 The Madison Group, LTD., Normal-Heartland Baseball Overview, 6 pp., February 2008.