



ONE OF THE fondest dreams of Joe Hawk, Bridgetown sand-lot impresario came true on Friday, Sept. 1, 1944, when the Robert E. Bentley Post American Legion baseball team won its first National Junior Legion championship at the Minneapolis American League Association Park, beating Albermarle, N.C., 3-2. It was the beginning of a long line of Legion titles to be won by Hawk's charges during his 25 years as manager of the club. The 1944 champion roster is shown in the above photo. They were, front row, left to right: Richard Hauck, now manager of the champion Western Hills High School baseball team; Larry Keller, Dean Barbour, Jim Hirth, Chuck Brentlinger, and Duke Lienesch. Second row: Don Chambers, Dick Halstegge, now in charge of the Cincinnati Police Department's Canine Corps; Lou Klein and Ralph Krause, who hurled the championship game. Back row: Manager Joe Hawk, Norb Ranz, now a Monfort Heights dentist; Herm Wehmeier, who later played with the Cincinnati Reds, St. Louis and Detroit major league Clubs; Frank Brossart, Dick Holmes, now athletic director of the Country Day School, Jim Beiersdorfer, and Leonard Luebbers.



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