



# In good standing

Junior College World Series has been hosted and embraced by Grand Junction for past 48 years

10 SPORTS  
50 YEARS OF JUNIOR COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

## High praise for base of operations

Grand Junction has been embraced for showing team spirit

By Ben Stanton

They're come from Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, Texas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana and Texas. From here Missouri and Nevada.

Whoever the teams in the 10th-30th Junior College World Series (JCWS) are, they're in for a memorable experience in Grand Junction during tournament week.

"It's one of the great experiences in sports," said Joe Smith, "and it's really a unique atmosphere of the 10th-30th Junior College World Series." Grand Junction has hosted the JCWS tournament for 48 consecutive years at scenic Sugiplus Field, complete with bleachers, concessions, which have the Junior College World Series.

"They're such incredible exciting and wonderful game," said Tommie Smith, "and it's a great experience for everyone." Grand Junction has hosted the JCWS tournament for 48 consecutive years at scenic Sugiplus Field, complete with bleachers, concessions, which have the Junior College World Series.

### On the cover

Young baseball fans climb the fence at Sugiplus Field in Grand Junction for a better view of a game at the Junior College World Series.

Photo by Ben Stanton

### OWN A SUGIPLUS TICKET TO THE JCWS?

baseball," tournament chairman James Hamilton said. "It's the best time of the year. Little League teams don't play baseball (that works so the parents don't have conflicts and possibly miss a Junior College World Series game."

Local service clubs serve up treats to the players, tournament officials and visiting trips and baseball support.

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"JCWS really grips the community," said Paul Birt of the Southern Club. "The Southern boys are here every year. Most of them when they get here have never seen one. When they have a free day, we like to take them up to Grand Junction. Those boys like to have something attached to them, something and something like to find a home to live in."

Projet also like to watch baseball and aluminum bats. The tournament has been over since 1950 (some people say it was the first three years, but it's not generally admitted) and a season game purchase advance notes that which averages out to \$1.21 a year or \$1.19 a year.

"People know that Memorial Day is a big event, not necessarily the one we're promoting or fishing off," said Tommie Smith, "and it's a great experience for everyone."

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Fans have been attending the Junior College World Series at Sugiplus Field in Grand Junction since 1950, one year after its inception. The first series was played in 1950 in Miami, Okla., but because of poor weather and attendance, the tournament was moved and has been part of Grand Junction's fabric ever since.

### Some players who have left their mark on tournament



**Kirby Puckett, Tiffin College (Ill.)** The third of seven and a 19-time American League All-Star for the Minnesota Twins who died last year while playing for the Twins in the 1982 series.



**Craig Mackenroth, Madison Community College (Tenn.)** Named the Outstanding Pitcher of the 1960 tournament and went on to play for the Pittsburgh Pirates.



**Paul LeMay, Oklahoma City** First Junior College World Series MVP in 1950. Played in the 1950 and 1951 series.



**Mike Schmidt, Southern Miss** The Southern Miss MVP of 1960. Played in the 1960 and 1961 series.



**Curt Schilling, Vermont College (Vt.)** Pitcher of the year in the 1960 series. Played in the 1960 and 1961 series.



**Tommie Smith, Oklahoma City** MVP of 1960. Played in the 1960 and 1961 series.

### Grand tradition in Grand Junction

**Sugiplus Field**  
A Whiskey Field construction in 1948, named in 1950 after the late Sam Sugiplus. Being built during the major expansion program to Grand Junction and served as the home stadium for more than 37 years.

**Let's make a deal**  
6 ball batters... 6 ball batters... 6 ball batters...

**Something's burning**  
The first Junior College World Series was played in 1950 in Miami, Okla., but because of poor weather and attendance, the tournament was moved and has been part of Grand Junction's fabric ever since.

**Road warriors**  
In 1950, Pacific Junior College was the first Junior College World Series played in Grand Junction, but the road to the championship was tough. The grounds crew worked for two days and three nights to get the field ready for the first game.

**Small change**  
The first tournament in Grand Junction had a budget of \$137.33.

**Hazardous duty**  
Four years ago, the first base line was an adventure for outfielders.

**Short porch 302**  
The JCWS World Series tournament committee president's report.

**What they're saying**  
A look at what you feel like you were in the big leagues.

**Adrian Lutschko, Pittsburgh Pirates** First baseman who played for Southern State Community College in Grand Junction.

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### Striking figure

In 1985, local artist Mark Lawrence sculpted a 7-foot, 600-pound Mighty Casey statue to commemorate the Junior College World Series.

**Mighty Gators**  
The 1960s championship of the Junior College World Series was played in Grand Junction, Okla., at Sugiplus Field.

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### Day in, day out she has shown her loyalty

**Lauretta Macomber** has become a familiar sight at the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction. She has been there for 10 years.

"I know you, I don't care the team that's playing," she said. "I've seen them every year. I don't care who they are, I just want to see them play. I've seen them every year. I don't care who they are, I just want to see them play. I've seen them every year. I don't care who they are, I just want to see them play."

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