

## Chatham Plays On | Hero Film

*We open on a black screen.*

**SUPER:** OLG IS COMMITTED TO ONTARIO COMMUNITIES. TO HONOUR AN HISTORIC ONTARIO BASEBALL TEAM, OLG PARTNERED WITH MLB TO RECOGNIZE THESE ATHLETES IN A SPECIAL WAY.

**SUPER:** OLG | MLB PRESENTS: CHATHAM PLAYS ON

*We see memorabilia – a Chatham Coloured All-Stars jersey, baseball glove and team photo.*

**BLAKE HARDING:** In the early 30s, baseball culture was almost dead in Chatham and in '34 when the Coloured All-Stars got into the league, it brought excitement back to the city.

**SUPER:** The 1934 Chatham Coloured All-Stars were the first all-Black team to win an Ontario Baseball Association Championship.

*We cut to Dorothy Wright, speaking to camera.*

**SUPER:** DOROTHY WRIGHT  
President, Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society

**DOROTHY WRIGHT:** They were just a group of young men, wanting to show people that this is everybody's game.

*We see a series of re-enactment shots of young men playing baseball.*

*We cut to Blake Harding, speaking to camera.*

**SUPER:** BLAKE HARDING  
Son of Wilfred "Boomer" Harding

**BLAKE HARDING:** Not everybody in the city liked them, not everybody in the city cheered for them, but almost everybody in the city would come out to see them. People were mean, they were cruel. Kids were spitting at them, and throwing rocks at them and encouraged by their parents.

*We see baseball cards of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars, projected against a building.*

**DOROTHY WRIGHT:** They may not have had the money and the houses and everything else, but they were our heroes.

*We see a compilation of modern day and archival footage of Fergie Jenkins Jr. playing baseball.*

**BLAKE HARDING:** The doors that opened, opened slowly and it made things easier for my generation.

**ANNCR:** Only 117 of the 10,000 major league ball players in the history of the game had come from Canada, and none of them had ever made it as big as Fergie Jenkins.

*We see Fergie Jenkins Jr. standing beside a building in Chatham, archival footage of his CBHOF induction speech is being projected against a brick wall.*

**SUPER:** FERGIE JENKINS JR.

Son of Fergie Jenkins Sr.

Member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame

**FERGIE JENKINS:** My dad played with the Chatham Coloured All-Stars. Generational impact is very important. If it wasn't for my father, I never would have signed that pro contract in 1962.

**FERGIE JENKINS (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE):** This day belongs, also to my father. His opportunity to play professional ball was limited by the history of that era. Fortunately, he outlived history and witnessed his change. His sacrifice in baseball has been my reward by my achievements.

**BLAKE HARDING:** And that's how I want them remembered. I want that pride to continue.

*We see a baseball field at night. The lights go out and the field is shrouded in darkness.*

**SUPER:** Despite their achievements, memory of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars is fading.

*We see the field light up again, this time in a digital form.*

**SUPER:** To honour this historic team and keep their memory alive, we brought them back in baseball's most popular video game.

*We see the opening sequence of MLB The Show 22 and the players being built one by one in the game. We see an old photograph of the team. We then transition to the team hitting the field in the digital world of MLB the Show.*

**ANNCR:** Hello baseball fans and welcome. And Chris we've got an opportunity to watch one of the true superstars of the sport, Jenkins. He of course leads their team in home runs. Yeah, he's been such a force at the plate and it seems like every time he connects the ball is travelling out of the ballpark and so when you have such a threat like that... (trails off)

*We see a highlight reel of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars, playing once again and the families reacting to this game footage.*

**FERGIE JENKINS:** Haha, my dad. They said he was a decent left hand hitter!

**BLAKE HARDING:** It's emotional, to see them at that age. My dad was 19, he was the youngest player on the team.

**FERGIE JENKINS:** I think that's outstanding, to see a team from the past play.

**PAT HARDING:** You know it's been such a journey, I never believed it would be anything like this. It's history in motion.

*We see the Chatham Coloured All-Stars, celebrating after a big win.*

**SUPER:** Keep their memory alive. Search "Chatham All-Stars" in MLB The Show 22 to build and play as this historic team.

**SUPER:** CHATHAM PLAYS ON

**SUPER:** OLG | MLB

**SUPER:** OLG is committed to Ontario communities and their stories. Thank you to the people of Chatham for helping to tell this one.