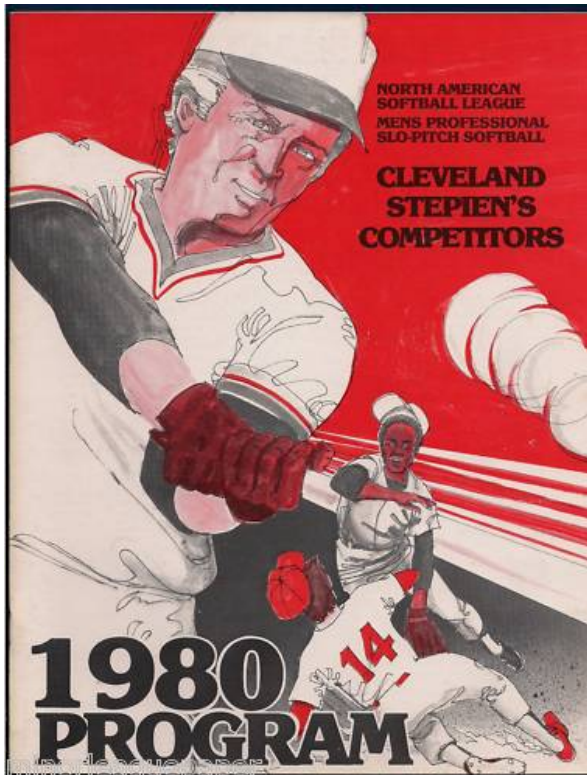


Written by {ga=googleph2}

Thursday, February 14 2013 11:00 AM - Last Updated Thursday, February 14 2013 5:07 PM



Men's amateur slow-pitch softball exploded in the 1970s. On any day of the week, teams could be found slugging it out on baseball fields all over the country.

Softball had been played in northeast Ohio for fifty years, and was part of the evolution of baseball in Cleveland. Part of its popularity was that like hardball, it could be played at a highly skilled level. Or, it could be played at a more relaxed pace.

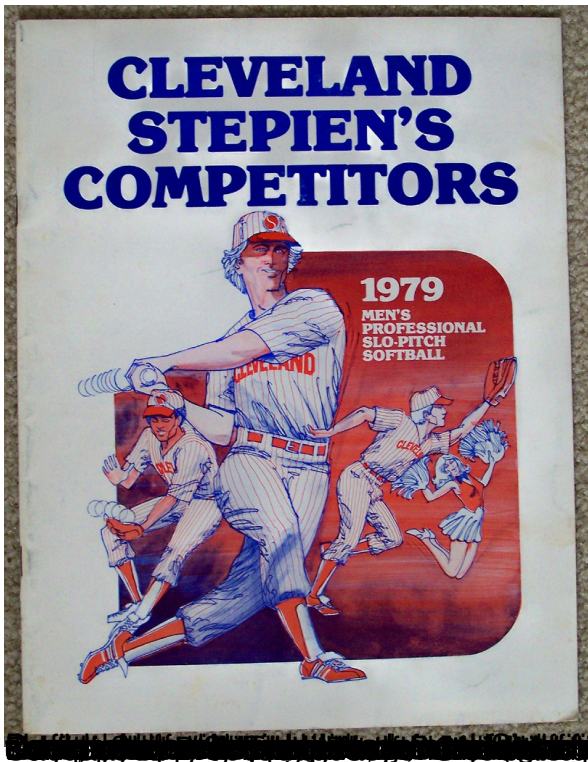
Throughout the middle part of the century, Cleveland's sandlots had been an important breeding ground of major league ballplayers. Teams represented factories, unions and various businesses.

[By the '70s, those sandlot fields had now become meccas for softball](#) . Businesses and local taverns sponsored teams, both within the city limits and throughout the suburbs.

One such sandlot was Morgana Park, near the zoo. Nestled into the corner of 65th and Broadway, that park was

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Cleveland Sports Vault: 1977-1980. Ted Stepien, Mike Zarefoss and Cleveland Softball

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