

Lambton's top 10 sports countdown

Dan McCaffery - January 2026

Which were the greatest sports teams in Sarnia-Lambton history?

I'm very familiar with the records of our finest clubs in every sport, having served for a decade on the board of directors of the local Sports Hall of Fame. And I've attended countless athletic events, both as a reporter and fan, for the best part of 60 years. So I thought I'd give it a whirl and produce a top-ten list. Here goes:

Pride of place belongs to the 1934 Grey Cup champion Sarnia Imperials. This remarkable football squad posted a perfect 10-0 won-lost record, winning every exhibition, regular season and playoff match it played. More impressive still, it never trailed in a single contest. If all that wasn't enough, it didn't allow the opposition to score a single touchdown in seven of its wins.

Second spot goes to the 1979 Petrolia Squires who won the Allan Cup, emblematic of the senior hockey championship of Canada. The trophy, which was first handed out in 1909, is the highest prize a Canadian amateur club can win.

The Squires, who were made up mostly of local players, had people lining up throughout the night to buy tickets when the box office opened on game days.

In third place I have to go with the 1936 Imperials Grey Cup champs. These guys weren't as dominant as the '34 club but they managed to win all the marbles despite having lost superstar Norm Perry to a broken leg that had ended his career the year before.

Number Four has to be the only Sarnia junior hockey team ever to go undefeated. That would be the 1951 Sarnia Sailors who won all their regular season contests before winning four playoff rounds to capture the Sutherland Cup as Ontario Jr. 'B' champions.

In fifth place I have the 2024 Lambton Lions women's basketball outfit that won an Ontario championship. Our college had a long and largely forgettable history in athletics until these ladies came along and knocked out the highly favoured Algonquin College team that had been ranked No. 1 all season in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association.

Sixth spot goes to the 1978 Point Edward Pacers Jr. 'B' lacrosse team that won a Canadian title. Seventh has to be the 1968 Sarnia Drawbridge Inn group that won the Canadian Junior Baseball crown.

In eighth I'm going with the 1959 Sarnia Legionnaires hockey team that lost only three regular season games before taking the Sutherland Cup.

Ninth rank belongs to the completely forgotten Sarnia Collegiate gymnastics club that won the 1932 high school championship of Canada.

Rounding out the list are the 2025 Sarnia Imperials who were a perfect 8-0 on their way to an Ontario semi-professional football league championship.