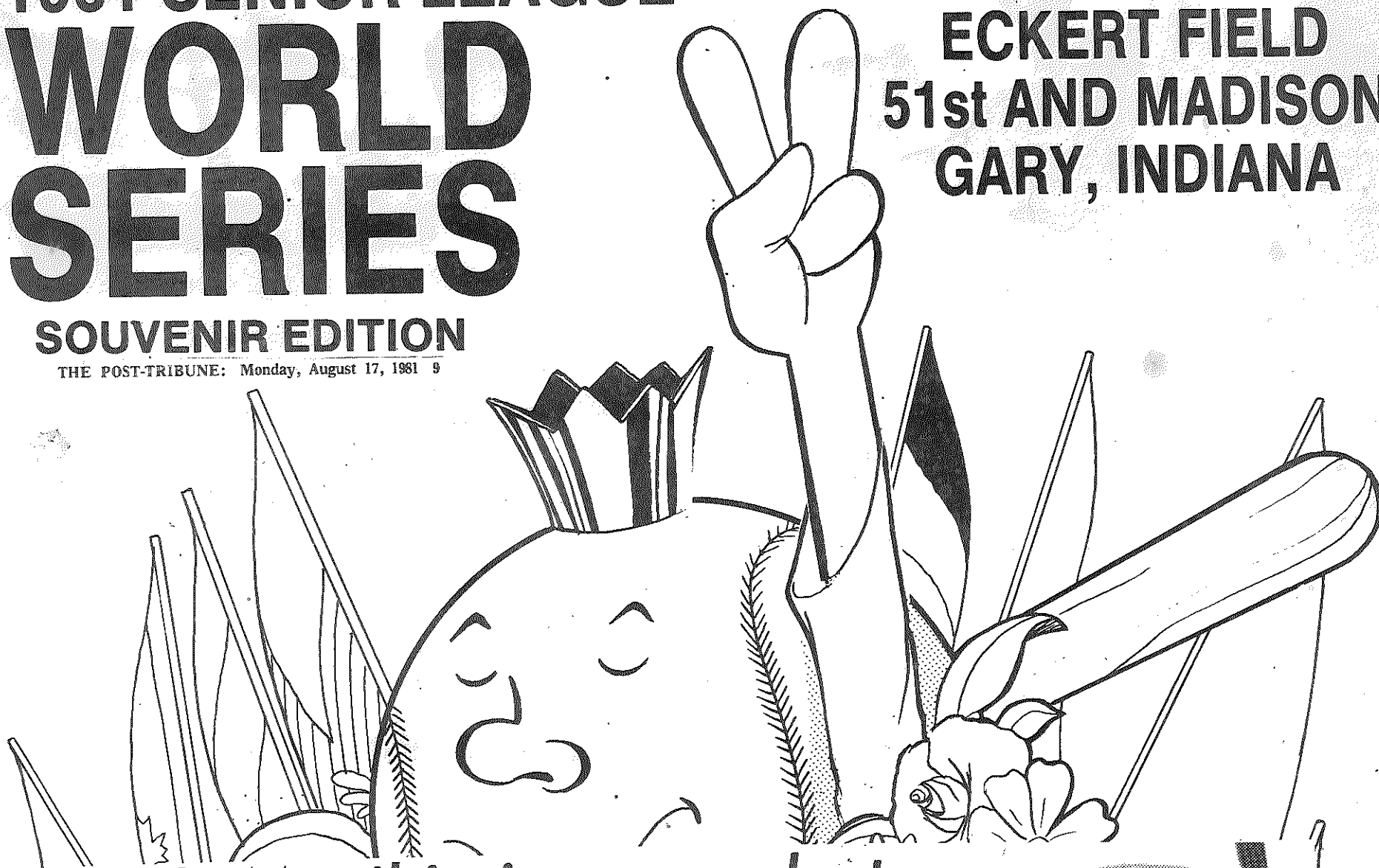


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Nick Morikis is gone, but he'll never be forgotten

By **MARTY SHAHBAZ**
Post-Tribune Sports Writer

LAKE STATION — There's an old proverb that goes, "A joke never gains an enemy, but often loses a friend."

The proverb certainly did not fit the character of the late Nick Morikis, who died July 16, at age 47.

"He had no enemies. He was loved by all." Those kind words of expression were by District 1 Administrator Jack Vensel.

Morikis' death was a very tragic and traumatic blow for his wife Ethel and five children. The night of July 15, Morikis' dined out celebrating Ethel's birthday. The next morning she found her husband collapsed on the bathroom floor, dead of an apparent heart attack.

Morikis was a very active and warm hearted, a people-loving person. He loved sports. He was elected president of the East Gary Babe Ruth League at the age of 19 (28 years ago).

His term of office was interrupted when he was drafted during World War II.

Morikis devoted thousands of hours to his community and hundreds of children benefited from his dedication.

Morikis' activities included:

- Served as president of the Lake Station Babe Ruth and Little League.
- President of the Edison Jr. High School PTA.
- Director of Youth Basketball.
- President of the Lake Station Community School Holding Corp.
- Assistant District Administrator of District 1 Little League.

Mayor Carl Miller of Lake Station said, "The city of Lake Station has lost one of its

finest citizens. He was devoted to many civic activities, especially those involving children."

The mayor added, "I have lost a good friend."

Morikis managed a Little League team with each of his sons. He also managed an East Gary Youth Basketball team for each of his boys, and was director of that league for many years. He also worked for a while in the Pop Warner Football League and was a Den Leader in Boy Scouts.

Morikis later was re-elected president of the Lake Station Little League and served as president of the Board of Directors. He also served for many years as an assistant to former District 1 Administrator Joe Eckert and was in charge of Girls Softball.

Morikis was elated when his 12-year old girls softball team from Lake Station won the State title in 1977. Morikis served for many years on the Senior League World Series Committee.

Morikis worked for the EJ&E Railroad for 30 years, as a Division Engineer.

The past two years he was assigned to Joliet, Ill., which curtailed his sports activities.

During the Bicentennial celebration in 1977, Morikis and his wife were awarded the Outstanding Citizen of Lake Station Award, known as the George Award.

Morikis lived a short but active life. His family's hearts are sad and empty as are those who knew him in youth activities.

Morikis had planned to become an Uncle (formerly known as Counselor) with the Senior League World Series this year. He was to be



The late Lake Station
Little League President, Nick Morikis

Assistant District Administrator for Girls Softball next year.

"There is a void in our lives that is very painful," his wife Ethel said. "I often wonder why? But I can't question God. Maybe He needed a coach or manager up there in heaven."

Duty is a power which rises with us in the morning, and goes to rest with us in the evening. That's the way it was with Nick Morikis.

He is severely missed.
Rest in peace, Nick.

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