

BROCKTON, 1951
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IRVING and SIDNEY FRANKLIN

Founders of Franklin Sports
Accomplished Entrepreneurs

In 1946, Irving and Sidney Franklin, sons of Russian immigrants, began a small leather goods company in Brockton. Their company, later known as Franklin Sports, has become one of the most recognized sporting goods suppliers in the world.

The Franklin brothers, whose father was a Brockton shoe worker, started a scrap leather business with their grandfather. They later operated a factory in the section of Brockton known as the Lithuanian Village. Their first product were footballs made during the rationing of rubber during World War II. They later provided gloves and trigger-finger mittens to the United States military during the Korean War. As the company grew, they secured endorsements from sports stars including Joe Namath, Terry Bradshaw, Sugar Ray Leonard and Cal Ripken, among others, for many different sports supplies.

Franklin Sports have been widely known for the manufacturing of batting gloves. The company teamed up with baseball's Hall of Famer, Mike Schmidt, of the Philadelphia Phillies in 1982. At spring training in 1983, Irving Franklin, with his knowledge of making sporting goods from leather, and Schmidt, with a players view, worked to design a better batting glove. It has been the official batting glove of Major League Baseball since the late 1980's. At one point, Franklin Sports controlled 80% of the league's batting glove market.

Franklin Sports remains a major international sporting goods supplier. Although Irving and Sidney Franklin have passed away, members of the Franklin family, particularly Irving's son, Larry, who is the current president, remain active in the management of the company.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.
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