



BASEBALL

Courier

No.10 August 1964

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS by George Livsley.

League Standings on 14th July.

	P.	W.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts.
Stretford Saints	7	6	1	91	34	12
Hull Aces	8	5	3	86	41	10
Garringtons (Bromsgrove)	7	5	2	50	30	10
Austin B.L. (Birmingham)	6	2	4	43	49	4
Nottingham Athletics	6	2	4	38	50	4
U.S. Navy (London)	3	1	2	12	12	2
Nottingham Saints	7	1	6	23	115	2

At the time of writing, the National League All-Star game to be played at Stretford on August 3rd. on a North v. South basis will have Hank Putt (Nottingham Saints) managing the North team, the South team will be managed by Rip Collins. The North team will be selected from the playing strength of Hull, Stretford, and the two Nottingham clubs. The South will be chosen from Bromsgrove, Austin, and U.S. Navy.

Following the game, presentation certificates will be awarded to players of the winning team, this ceremony will be held in conjunction with an evening concert and dance at a Stretford night-club.

Two more players have sustained injuries during recent games; Don Akers (Hull Aces) and Alan Frost (Stretford) received leg injuries which required hospital treatment. Don Akers' leg needing to be encased in plaster. Is National League ball played harder?

The series of National League games played at Craven Park Stadium, Hull, by Hull Aces proved that baseball can be staged in a more ambitious fashion, and made to pay. Big crowds were thrilled by the close finishes in all three games.

The league will stage a one-day tournament at Garringtons, Bromsgrove, on September 20th, teams will compete for the Oxford Trophy. On September 13th at the Austin British Legion ground, Longbridge, Birmingham, the three clubs finishing in the lowest places in the league will play a series for the N.L. Consolation Cup.

The league is still working on a project for the formation of an Umpires Association. Applications will be welcomed from anyone who is already acting as either chief or base umpire, or from anyone who wishes to commence umpiring.

All clubs in the league are still actively supporting the management committee in its endeavours, this friendly co-operation is doing nothing but good in furthering the game, and in sustaining goodwill between the various areas represented in the National League.

THE HULL SCENE by Don Smallwood.

Hull Aces experiment of staging National League games at Craven Park Stadium has had a tonic effect on baseball in the city. The games have created renewed interest in the sport and the experiment can certainly be considered successful. While attendance figures have not created any records, the average has been about 800. This figure, in addition to enabling the Aces to break even financially, proves that there is still a following for baseball on Humberside. If better weather had prevailed we should have topped the thousand mark at two of the games.

The staging of these games is considered in baseball circles as the beginning of the long haul back to the position existing in 1939, when baseball was making a serious threat to cricket as Britain's number one summer team sport. There have been several side effects produced by this series of games, the local press is devoting much more space to reporting baseball, there has been a marked increase in the interest shown by schoolchildren. Another feature is the return of former umpires and former players to the baseball scene; the most

noticeable effect is the growth in interest of the general public in the results of baseball games.

One of the finest compliments paid to present day British baseball was the comment of an elderly supporter who was witnessing his first game since 1937. He considered that the standard of play compared very well with the level reached at that time. This is a tribute to the efforts of such stalwarts as Ross Kendrick, Red Holmes and Cliff Court, who have passed on their knowledge to the present generation of ballplayers, thus maintaining this standard.

The three games could not have been planned better, the first, Hull Aces v. Garringtons, was I believe the best, with big hits the order of the day. However for excitement the visit of U.S. Navy (London) will long be remembered. In the latter half of the ninth innings with the score tied at 7-7, Aces had two men down with nobody on base, and it looked odds-on to go into extrainnings. At this point Wally Scopes, who learnt his baseball in South Africa and who is in his first full season with Aces, walked as pinch-hitter. While the following batter collected a full house, 3 balls and 2 strikes, Wally stole second and third. On the all important pitch he broke for home, and amid a great roar he slid across the plate with the winning run.

As a result of the success of the Craven Park venture further games will be staged there this season, among which will be the inter-county game Yorkshire v. Lancashire. This game should draw quite a crowd and may possibly surpass the thousand mark.

My comments in the last issue of the "Courier" on the subject of umpire-baiting have involved me in many discussions concerning this matter. I have never been an umpire and have no desire to become one. I am still of the opinion that umpire baiting is very much a part of the ball-game, and without it the game would lose much of its "colour". My opponents declare that with umpire-baiting the game has lost many umpires, and I must admit that this is true.

The question of umpires and grading is one that we must tackle very soon. All our hopes of expanding the game depend on the supply of capable umpires. The Hull and Yorkshire Association has just completed a training course for umpires which resulted in two gradings, Mr. E. Jacklin, Grade "A" theory, and T. O'Brien, Grade "B" theory, Mr. L. Fisher was

the examiner. The Hull area will have to tackle the umpire question, and the revival of schools' baseball in the coming close season.

There is a very interesting situation in the Hull League at present, Hull Braves after a poor start could now finish as league champions. Hull Royals, reigning champions, slipped when meeting the Braves but have since displayed good form. Blackburn Buccaneers are not having a good season, at the time of writing they have still to secure their first league points. The Buccaneers are the best dressed team in the Hull League, and their spirit has to be seen to be believed. Peter Shorten, manager of Hull Aces National League team, must be very pleased with the performances of the young players of Kingston Aces. They are gaining in confidence and ability with every game they play. Already this scheme of splitting the Aces playing strength into two is considered a success by club members. Kingston are not heading for league honours, but on a number of occasions have been defeated by slender margins.

The Proposed rules for the new national association have been circularised to the various areas by Peter Ash. They are a fine effort by Peter, and must have given him many hours of work. The Hull and Yorkshire Association are devoting the whole of the August meeting to discussing Peter's proposals.

I shall attend this meeting if only to express my disapproval of the name "The Baseball Association of Great Britain". We must have a title that rolls off the tongue when abbreviated. B.A.O.G.B. is enough to choke anyone. Perhaps readers of the "Courier" could suggest an alternative title.

One of my workmates saw his first baseball game during the Craven Park series. The following morning he met me with a breezy, "I saw you in The Pyjama Game yesterday."

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The next issue will appear late in October, copy for the October number must be received by 7th October.

This August number is rather late in appearing due to postal difficulties, and to illness suffered by the editor.

A reader of the "Courier" came across the following poem in an American newspaper. The poem was written to commemorate the tremendous performances of Sandy Koufax in the National League, and in the World Series last year.

SANDY KOUFAX 1963.

Say, do my eyes deceive me?
That lefty out on the hill -
Look how he picks those spikes up;
Lord, how he fires that pill!
Say don't tell me it's Hubbell -
Not in the Dodger blue
No, it's that handy guy named Sandy
Foggin' the hard one through.
Look what he does to Mantle!
Maris ain't fouled one off yet.
Richardson, - Tresh - Tony Kubek -
Add 'em up. whaddya get?
Impostors parading as Yankees.
In pin-stripes to hoodwink the eye,
Marks for that handy guy named Sandy
Bustin' the curve ball by.
Old Moses Grove was a southpaw
The greatest they said, since Waddell
Gomez - El Goofy was murder;
Newhouser gave 'em plain hell
Ford? Sure and Spahn's a wonder
But when there's that big one to win
Gimme a handy guy named Sandy
Pourin' the poison in.

Koufax's 1963 Record.

Most Valuable Player National League. - Cy Young Award Winner.
Ten thousand dollar Hickock Belt Winner. Pro' Athlete of the Year!

25 wins - 5 defeats. 1 no hitter (versus Giants 1 - 0)

11 shut outs. 1.88 ERA (Lowest in the majors)

NL strikeout record for season 306.

2 victories in World Series v. Yankees, with record 15 strikeouts in one and 8 in the other. 23 strikeouts in 18 innings.

EUROPEAN NEWS

Sparta of Rotterdam defeated the Belgian champions Luchtbal Greys 8 - 3 in the first stage of the European Cup, the game was staged at Rotterdam on Sunday, July 5th.

On Saturday, August 29th, a Netherlands B. team will meet the Venezuelan team Doctores of Caracas at the baseball stadium at Haarlem.

In preparation for the European championships the Netherlands national team has played a number of games against strong U.S. service teams, some results are given below.

At Bussum, The Netherlands 3 - Wiesbaden Flyers 1.

At Haarlem, The Netherlands 10 - SHAPE (France) 6.

At Amsterdam, SHAPE 2 - The Netherlands 0.

The Arce Knickerbockers, a team formed from American college players defeated The Netherlands 9 - 8. These college players, twenty in number, have been selected from many applicants by Bill Arce, the American who is acting as the national coach to the Royal Dutch Baseball Association this year.

These students are staying in the Netherlands for about three months, enabling clubs which may never have had the opportunity of receiving coaching by an American to benefit from the experience. Clubs desiring one of the students as a coach had to arrange free accommodation for the student concerned.

The European Baseball Federation decided earlier in the year that the competition for the European championships should be played during the odd-numbered years instead of the even numbered years. In 1965, Spain will be the host country and Madrid has been named as the venue. In 1967 the championships will be staged by Belgium.

Belgium will play The Netherlands on Saturday, 19th September on the General Motors field at Antwerp.

Archie Allen, the Netherlands' national coach since September 1963, will be succeeded by Glenn Gostick in September of this year. Gostick is the assistant coach at Minneapolis University, from 1952 to 1954 he played as catcher in the Giants farm system.

The European Baseball Federation made the following plans for the European Cup competition. First stage - Sparta v. Luchtbal (result given above), Piratas (Spain) v. Paris University Club, Mannheimer T.B. (Germany) v. Simmenthal Nettuno (Italy). Picadero Jockey Club (Spain), the 1963 Cup winners, received a bye.

The second stage was to consist of games played between the victors of the Sparta - Luchtbal, and the Piratas - Paris contests. Picadero J.C. were to meet the winners of the Mannheimer - Simmenthal game. The second stage was to be completed by July 31st, and the final should be played before 23rd August.

The baseball stadium constructed by the city of Milan to stage the European championships this season, is part of Campo Kennedy, a municipal sports complex named in honour of the late U.S. President. The stadium seats 5,000 spectators, and has a much bigger outfield than the Amsterdam stadium in which the 1962 championships were held. At Milan the distance from the plate to the centre-field fence is 396 feet, and to right and left field 318 feet.

MERSEYSIDE REPORT by Hal Cohen.

League standings on 25th July.

	Pl.	W.	L.	Pts.
Stretford Saints	8	7	1	14
Mormon Yankees	8	6	2	12
Tigers	6	3	3	6
Aces	8	2	6	4
Cubs	7	0	7	0

Stretford Saints are league champions being defeated in only one game, their conquerors being Mormon Yankees. The Mormon boys dropped two games, one to Saints, the other to the lowly placed Aces early in the season. The Aces nearly secured a double over Yankees, for in their second meeting Aces were leading 1 - 0, but the Yankees rallied late in the game to gain the points.

The Saints took their one defeat at the hands of the Yankees rather hard, and a very skilful game was marred by a number of disputed decisions.

On Sunday, 19th July, the Yorkshire v. Lancashire game was played at Craven Park Stadium, Hull. The Red Rose boys took the game 8 - 3 after trailing 0 - 2 until the Yorkshire side slipped allowing 8 runs in the final innings. The Lancashire side was drawn from all teams in the Merseyside League except the Yankees who because of their calling cannot play on Sundays. A return game on Merseyside in August may give the Yorkists a chance of revenge.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Positions up to 25th July.

SENIOR DIVISION	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
Ford Sports	9	7	2	14
Thames Board Mills	9	6	3	12
U.S. Navy Lions	7	4	3	8
Middlesex Athletics	8	3	5	6
Richmond Red Sox	6	2	4	4
Richmond Knights	7	1	6	2
DIVISION ONE				
Northern Section				
Enfield Dodgers	9	9	0	18
Essex Tigers	7	5	2	10
Southend Aces	7	5	2	10
Venturers Boys Club	7	2	5	4
Harlow Hustlers	6	1	5	2
Middlesex Athletics II	8	0	8	0
Southern Section				
Beckenham Bluejays	5	5	0	10
Crawley Giants	5	4	1	8
Sutton Pearly Kings	7	4	3	8
Crawley Beavers	5	1	4	2
Brighton Jets	6	0	6	0

Venturers Boys Club has shown considerable promise, these boys have played their way through Little League and Babe Ruth League competition at the U.S.A.F. bases at South and West Ruislip, many of them are still young enough to be playing in Babe Ruth League this season. They find that the transition from playing in BRL with games scheduled for seven innings, and playing in the Southern League in nine inning games against men is fairly tough. They have a tendency to hold their own for a few innings and then to weaken, allowing one or two big innings to their opponents.

Ken Graham, Venturers' 15 year old catcher recently took part in a week long try-out for the United Kingdom All-Star BRL squad, to compete for the U.S. Services European BRL championships. Ken survived daily cuts in the squad for a week, being in the last twenty before being cut. However, as he admits, his hitting this season has let him down, his average being about .195, compared to last season's .700.