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EDITORIAL

1889 AND ALL THAT When the Americans invaded Britain

Often the question is asked when was Baseball first played in Britain?

And all too often the reply is that the actual date is not known, as records show that Baseball of a kind was played centuries ago, but any resemblance to the present game is hard to distinguish.

But this time we will answer the question. We will assume that by Baseball the questioner means the game as we know it today.

Then the answer is 1874.

That is the year when a young pitcher of the Boston Red Stockings, named A. G. Spalding, whose name is a household word when Sports gear is discussed, came to England and Ireland with Boston and the Athletics of Philadelphia. Spalding was the organiser, and Exhibition games were played that proved so successful, that in 1888 he was inspired to tour the world. This he arranged, taking with him two American professional teams, the Chicago team (as it was then) and the All-Americans.

The tour started and the first game was played at Auckland, New Zealand, on December 10th, 1888. The teams then played their way around the World, giving exhibitions at Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Ballarat, Colombo, Cairo, Naples, Rome, Florence, Paris, and in London on March 12th, 1889, the first professional ball game was played. The Score? Chicago 7, All-Americans 4.

Matches were played in England, Scot-

land and Ireland, and here are the results of that epic tour.

March 12th, London:

Chicago 7, All-America 4.

March 13th, London:

All-America 7, Chicago 6.

March 14th, London:

Chicago 9, All-America 5.

March 15th, Bristol:

Chicago 10, All-America 3.

March 16th, Leyton:

Chicago 12, All-America 6.

March 18th, Birmingham:

Chicago 4, All-America 4.

March 19th, Sheffield:

All-America 10, Chicago 0.

March 20th, Bradford:

Chicago 6, All-America 3.

March 21st, Glasgow:

All-America 8, Chicago 4.

March 22nd, Manchester:

All-America 7, Chicago 6.

March 23rd, Liverpool:

Chicago 2, All-America 2.

March 24th, Belfast:

All-America 9, Chicago 8.

March 27th, Dublin:

All-America 4, Chicago 3.

The tour was very well received, and one game was played before the Prince of Wales who later became King Edward VII.

This tour started many British people forming Clubs and Leagues, which had fluctuating fortunes, but more about this in a further issue.

EDITOR.

OUR COVER PHOTO:

Ron Honeyman (Paragon) slides back to third, as Ashwell (Thames Board Mills) leaps to take the peg.

(Photo by H. Haslem)

THE EDITOR invites original contributions from readers and will consider publication of same. If return of MSS. is required, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed. PLEASE NOTE that opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor.

THE NATIONAL CUP FINAL

FROM BARRY JAMES

BIRMINGHAM.

BURTONWOOD BEES 23, HORNSEY RED SOX 2. Any beliefs that ball fans may have had of an English side beating the Americans were well and truly dispelled when Burtonwood Bees, the American Air Force side, thrashed Hornsey Red Sox 23-2. The occasion was the Final of the All-England Cup on the Wolsley Athletic Ground, Ward End, Birmingham, on August 13th.

The Americans triumphed by virtue of their slick fielding which was made to look easy and, of course, another reason was Red Sox's woefully bad work in the field.

Catches nearing the spectacular were made by Burtonwood's men and even if Red Sox batters made a good hit the ball invariably was checked in one way or another. Notable catches were made by Rogers and Wills in the fourth and eighth innings respectively.

One of the features of the play was some lusty hitting in the eighth by Bees' third baseman, Herdman, who cracked three successive balls practically on to the rail track. Unfortunately all were in foul territory.

Bees made off to a good start when, off Marsh's second delivery of the game Wills made a three-base hit. Hornsey in their half of the first made no reply to their opponents' two runs.

At the end of the second innings the score still stood at 2-0 in Bees' favour. In the next session, however, following a misunderstanding between Red Sox catcher and short stop, an easy ball was dropped, and Bees made light of their "life" and promptly scored five.

By the end of the fourth Sox had still not settled down and did not look like doing so, whilst their fielding and pitching was so poor.

The fifth innings proved to be the most exciting, all the American team batting in their half. After much heated argument in the second part, Red Sox were awarded a solitary run.

By the end of the seventh, however, it became apparent that Hornsey were not going to repeat last season's Cup Final win, when they completely folded up at this stage.

Bees' left fielder Wolowicz, hit the only homer of the game, but this was only due to another Red Sox error.

Thus Burtonwood won a rather disappointing game.

Comments: I say disappointing, except for one item—the Americans' fielding. The good-sized crowd of 7,000 were treated to the best exhibition of field play I've seen for a long time.

Everything they did on and off the diamond was of the highest order.

Red Sox changed their pitcher late in the game, but to no avail. All I can say for Sox is that it just wasn't their day and they have definitely played better.

Take a bow: C. Bird, Hornsey's short stop, was the only London player to show confidence in his batting and fielding.

But special bouquets for Fred Biggs, player-secretary of Wolsley, and his colleagues for the hard work done in making the Final a success.

SCORE BOX

BURTONWOOD:

2 0 5 2 7 1 4 2 0 Total 23

HORNSEY:

0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 Total 2

MIDLAND AREA NEWS

By BARRY JAMES

BIRMINGHAM GOSSIP

Vic Lambrecht, Birmingham Cardinals ace American pitcher and generally regarded as one of Britain's leading players, has sprung a surprise in asking to be transferred to Wolsley.

Athletic's player-secretary, Fred Biggs, of course, would be more than willing to secure Vic's services, but I understand that Pete Pickering, Card's manager, is unwilling to part.

Mohawks' player-secretary, Al Collard, tells me that he has written to the celebrated American League side, Cleveland Indians, with a view to reproducing their badge for his club's use.

"Problem team" in the Major League has been Wolsley who caused a big surprise at the start of the season when they defeated classy Mohawks and followed up with three more meritorious victories. But since their defeat in the Semi-Final of the Midland Area Cup, Athletic have slipped right down the League table. I attribute this to the fact that their big-hearted pitcher, Ron Davies, has been overworked. He has pitched for two successive seasons without relief and the strain has taken its toll. So take a tip, Wolsley, and coach younger players with the accent on pitching.

Midland Area News—continued

Ross Kendrick, Canadian player-coach of Minor League side Beavers, deserves special praise for his giving youngsters a chance. His policy has borne rich fruits and they are now assured of the League Championship. Kendrick's best product is 17-year-old Jimmy Collard who has all the makings of a first-class ball player in pitching and batting.

Chipping Norton received their first home defeat when they were visited by Mohawks.

Joe Biddle, coach of the Aston Monarchs side, has received many tributes and has deserved them all. One wonders how long this catcher can keep on playing—he has now reached the age of 70 and is still turning out for the Monarchs. A feat to be wondered at.

MIDLAND LEAGUE TABLES

(Up to and including matches played Sunday, August 20th)

MAJOR LEAGUE:				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Cardinals	8	8	0	16
Allens Cross	8	6	2	12
Mohawks	8	4	4	8
Dunlop Tigers	9	4	5	8
Wolseley	9	2	7	4
Daytona	8	2	6	4
MINOR LEAGUE:				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Beavers	10	10	0	20
Giants	9	6	3	12
Valor	8	5	3	10
Pirates	9	5	4	10
Aston Monarchs	9	1	8	2
Dunlop Eagles	10	1	9	2

NOTTINGHAM BASEBALL LEAGUE

By K. D. COLEMAN

SEASON 1950

TEAMS:				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Seagulls	11	8	3	16
Wolves	8	5	3	10
Flyers	9	5	4	10
White Sox	8	4	4	8
Dodgers	8	0	8	0

(Standings up to and including August 20th)

RESULTS

Seagulls	14	Flyers	2	Dodgers	3	Seagulls	30
Wolves	10	White Sox	15	*Seagulls	9	White Sox	0
White Sox	7	Seagulls	18	Flyers	5	Seagulls	34
Flyers	13	Dodgers	9	*Seagulls	9	Dodgers	0
Seagulls	13	Dodgers	0				

* Seagulls claim these games by forfeiture.

As I predicted in last month's issue, there will be no walk-away with the Harvey Trophy this year. The Seagulls stand the best chance of winning it as they have only one more game to play (against the White Sox). The Wolves, who have four matches yet to play, can equal the maximum number of points the Seagulls can obtain, providing they win every match. The Wolves have to play the Dodgers twice and the Flyers twice. Should the Seagulls lose their remaining match, and the Wolves lose one

of their four games, then the Flyers and White Sox can also finish with sixteen points. However, the Dodgers are destined to "support" the rest of the League, although one must praise them for trying. They have improved 100% since their first game, and next season should be able to hold their own in the League providing they put in plenty of practice during the close season. The winner of the Trophy—well, wait until next month.

WESTERN LEAGUE REVIEW

By FRANK SMITH

So now it's September and one month to go before we put away our mitts and oil our bats ready for the 1931 season. Yet it only seems a few weeks ago that we were playing our first few friendly games to get our pitching arms into shape after a lazy winter. That is why Basket Ball seems such a good idea to keep players fit and "in touch" during the close season. What about it, Western?

W/London Pioneers still head the First Division with an unbroken record—no defeats. But the Pioneers nearly came to grief at the hands of the Pirates who lost 1-3 in one of the toughest games the Pioneers have had for many a day. Well

done Pirates. Pioneers hope to meet their old rivals, Hornsey Red Sox, in the Final for the S.C.B.A. Cup and, with the Semi-Finals to be played off, they are keeping their fingers crossed.

Kodak head Division II with a full quota of points, and still hugging the bottom of the League is Dulwich Blue-Jays who, though still without a win in their first season of Baseball, keep coming back for more.

Still, next season should give a bit more variety to the League. Four more applications from new teams have come in, and with "Pop" Sims troubles ironed out we should see his team making the grade.

WESTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS

(As at August 20th, 1930)

DIVISION I:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
W/London Pioneers	9	9	0	18	(1.000)
Tigers	9	5	4	10	(.555)
Pirates	9	4	5	8	(.444)
Mitcham Royals	9	0	9	0	(.000)
DIVISION II:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Kodak	9	9	0	18	(1.000)
Monarchs	9	6	3	12	(.667)
Standard Telephones	9	3	6	6	(.333)
Dulwich Blue-Jays	9	0	9	0	(.000)

STRIKE OUT!

There has been a great deal of interest lately in the number of strike-outs obtained by various pitchers, and it seems appropriate that some attempt should be made to get some of the records straightened out.

In the days of the London Major League several put up good records, but it was not until the redoubtable Lefty Wilson came on the scene that things began to warm up! Lefty played for Catford Saints, who until his arrival had been permanent inhabitants of the League "cellar," but in one of his early appearances Lefty pitched 17 strike-outs against West Ham at the Stadium, and that stood as a record for quite a time.

Then in July, 1930, Reg Sones of the Essex Nationals capped this performance by fanning 19 of High Wycombe All Stars in a London Senior Cup match. Reg is still pitching 'em for the Nationals, and his slow fadeaway curve is still his most potent ball, just as it was on that day in '30.

It was not until July of this year that Lee Ridenhour equalled Sones' performance by sending back 19 of the Mitcham Royals in a Western Amateur League game, and it seemed that the record would stand for some time yet.

About the same time Ron Marshall, of

Hull Royals was also fanning batters galore, and in a match with Alexandra, in the Hull Major League, he, too, obtained 19 strike-outs.

But now it has been beaten again. In the last days of July the record was again passed, this time by Peter Field, the 19-year-old Essex Cubs speed-ball moundman. To say that it was unexpected was an understatement, for although this rookie pitcher has showed very good control and speed this season, there never was any intention of him going out for records, for it has been the practice for the Cubs to use pitchers for a maximum of about five innings a game and then hand over the job to someone else with the intention of "saving their arm." But Peter got 21 strike-outs! On this particular afternoon Cubs were playing Hornsey Athletics.

Young Field has now joined the Army for National Service duty, though the Cubs hope he can get a week-end leave for one of their Final games, so it is up to somebody else at the moment to "have a go." But the prospects of this first-year pitcher are very bright, and the time may not be far distant when he will break his record of 21 himself. (See photo elsewhere in this issue.)

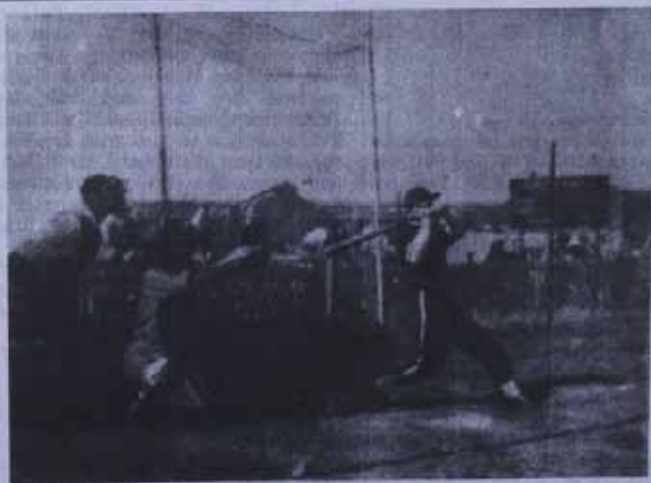


"—understanding is essential for good teamwork . . ."

Above: Jack Forbes, one of the Dodgers First Line Pitchers.
(Photo: John W. Crockett)

BASEBALL PICTORIAL

Below: Dick Hawkes, Briggs Tiger's Pitcher, strikes out a Paragon player in the Charity Cup Semi-final. But Paragon won a tight game to reach the Final.



NORTH-WEST AREA NEWS

Merseyside Premier League Tied Up.

At the time of going to press the big guns of the Premier Division of the Merseyside League are all level on games, and a deciding match has become necessary to determine the champion team. The two teams struggling for the honour are the LIVERPOOL ROBINS and the BURTONWOOD BEES (an all-American Army Air Force team) and just as if to keep the matter in suspense, Jupiter Pluvius has twice intervened to wash out two attempts at a play-off.

The decider, when played, will thus bring to a conclusion a very eventful season for the League. The Bees have by no means had things all their own way in competition with the British Clubs. The CALEDONIANS beat them in the first game of the season, the TROJANS also took a game at the BEES' expense, and Second Division SABRES went the whole nine innings before the Senior team notched the winning run in their Lancashire Cup game. The ROBINS have also held them in earlier games. But in spite of this the BEES have been a very welcome member of the League, and clubs have enjoyed their games with them to the full.

Here are the teams in the League:

Division I—

Burtonwood Bees
Robins
Halton Trojans
Caledonians
Liverpool Cubs
Wildcats

Division II—

Bootle Albion
West Postal
Napeao Sabres
Braves
Bidston Indians

BOOTLE ALBION are due for promotion next season, having won the Second Division Championship, while the WILDCATS are due for relegation.

BURTONWOOD BEES went on to win the all-England Championship, defeating CAVENTISH CARDINALS from Hull in the Semi-Final by 12 runs to 3, and the HORNSEY RED SOX in the Final by 23 runs to 2.

SEAGULLS WIN MANCHESTER LEAGUE

In the MANCHESTER LEAGUE the Championship has been won by ASHTON SEAGULLS, another all-American team, who also defeated the BURTONWOOD BEES in the Final of the Lancashire Cup by a score of 7-6.

* * *

LIVERPOOL CUBS.—The Cubs were first banded together in 1945, a bunch of enthusiastic youngsters, many of whom were only 14 or 15 years of age, and although they took some very heavy defeats at the start, their ardour did not diminish.

In 1947 they decided to become a Limited Liability Company and thus the Liverpool Cubs Baseball and Athletic Club Ltd. was born.

The Club has had quite a nomadic existence as far as grounds go, their present home is the fifth, but they now hope that they have found their home ground in their present ground loaned to them by Stoneycroft A.F.C., a good-class Soccer Club who have shown great co-operation.

1949 saw the Cubs in their best year to date, being runners-up for the League Championship, and also reaching the Final of the All-England Cup at the White City, in London.

The team is coached and managed by Jack Ritchie, veteran ball player of pre-war pro. ball. The American section comprises Tony Lopey (Bronx) and Bob Spinner (Brooklyn), Glen Ward (Ohio), Zacharias Hickey (Georgia) and the short stop, Eric Marsden, is net-tender for Liverpool Leopards Ice Hockey team. Other infield positions are ably held down by Gerry Bretherick, Dennis Randall and Ted Lamb. The outfield is roamed with great success by the brothers Sheppard, and Geoff Clare, and apart from the players already mentioned the Cubs have several talented youngsters coming along to make their presence felt.

The Cubs have had a tough season on the Diamond, but the boys are all the more determined to be in the honours next season.

NOTICE REGARDING BASEBALL FIXTURES

As fixtures are liable to late re-arrangement through Cup matches and other reasons, we have discontinued printing them for the time being. Fixtures are, however, published in the Saturday edition of the "Daily Express." They are also published in the "Sporting Chronicle," "Evening Standard," "Evening News," and "What's On." Many local papers likewise carry the fixtures for the current week-end.

SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE REVIEW

By JACK HELLIER

(Hon. Secretary of the League and Southern Counties Representative)

Well, here we are at the end of August, with one League Championship settled, but with everything else very much in the air, and September is going to bring a thrill every week as the last results come to hand.

The Division I Championship of the League still rests between Hornsey Red Sox, the Dodgers and Thames Board Mills, and the League Table shows how close the race still is, with any team likely to upset the title contenders.

In the Senior Cup Final, Hornsey Red Sox will meet Essex Nationals at Foudu Sports Ground on Sunday, 3rd September, and again we anticipate a close fight for the honour.

In Division II Essex Cubs have finally won the Championship with a 100% record, but only after some very even tussles with their opponents. These included two thrillers with Aveley Cubs, and when these two teams meet in the Intermediate Cup Final on September 24th at Thames Board Mills ground the outcome will probably be in doubt till the last ball.

Our other Final—the Essex Charity Cup—will be fought out between Paragon (last year's runners-up) and Thames Board Mills

on September 17th at a venue to be arranged.

Our League has, in addition, two representatives in the Southern Counties Senior Cup Semi-Final: Thames Board Mills meeting West London Pioneers, and Hornsey Red Sox meeting Pirates. Also, Essex Cubs will meet Wokingham Monarchs in the Southern Counties Intermediate Final, and we wish all our clubs success in their efforts.

In addition to the more spectacular work that is going on upon the field, there has been much hard work behind the scenes to organise these games and keep the affairs of the League in order. In this respect our League Executive has held its meetings on the average about once every three weeks and has transacted much business during those sessions. But for this activity on the part of a "live" Executive there would be much less enjoyment for the clubs, and I would personally take the opportunity of expressing appreciation from the Executive Officers to Messrs. Harry Knapp (Fords), Jock Campbell (T.B.M.), Len O'Hanrahan (Paragon), Don Fox (Collegians) and Geoff Manwaring (Essex). They have all been of great help, and the clubs can consider themselves fortunate in their choice.

SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Up to and including 27th August)

DIVISION I:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Dodgers	12	10	2	20	(.833)
Thames Board Mills	12	10	2	20	(.833)
Hornsey Red Sox	11	8	3	16	(.727)
Essex Nationals	12	8	4	16	(.666)
Briggs Brigands	8	4	4	8	(.500)
Enfield Cardinals	11	4	7	8	(.363)
Paragon	10	0	10	0	(.000)
Ford Sports	12	0	12	0	(.000)
DIVISION II:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Essex Cubs	12	12	0	24	(1.000)
Aveley Cubs	11	8	3	16	(.727)
Briggs Tigers	10	7	3	14	(.700)
Hornsey Athletics	10	4	6	8	(.400)
Foudu	12	4	8	8	(.333)
Hornsey Bruins	10	3	7	6	(.300)
Collegians	12	0	12	0	(.000)

A MANUAL ON BASKET BALL by W. BROWNING (National Secretary) and published by Pitman's, is now obtainable from all Booksellers. Price 10/-.

THE AMERICAN REVIEW

by "Guestplayer"

The high-light of the American scene has undoubtedly been the remarkable All-Star game played at Comiskey Park, Chicago. This game went to 14 innings, as the score was all tied-up at the end of the ninth at a score of 9 to 8.

The players of the All-Star match are chosen by public vote, and the match is between the elected side of the American League and the popular choice of the National League. The Managers of the teams that won the Leagues are given the honour of managing the representative teams. This year Casey Stengel of the Yankees managed the Americans, while Burt Shotton of the Dodgers managed the Nationals. Of the seventeen annual encounters, this was the first time that extra innings had ever been necessary. The American League held a 3 to 2 lead going into the ninth innings, but a home-run by Ralph Kiner (Pittsburgh) tied the game up. The extra innings went ding-dong until the 14th, when Red Schoendienst of the Cardinals slugged a memorable homer to win the game for the Nationals amidst unprece-

dent scenes of enthusiasm from the crowd. Larry Jansen, the Giants' pitcher, was considered to be the hero of the Nationals.

In the Leagues, the Brooklyn Dodgers continued their slump and have been overhauled by the Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis, and Boston, the Brooks now occupying fourth place. The Phillies (popularly called the "Whizz kids," being a young team), had been tipped as a coming team, but few expected their quick jump to the top. Positions at 17th July:

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia Phillies (.608), St. Louis Cardinals (.581), Boston Braves (.573), Brooklyn Dodgers (.542), Chicago Cubs (.466), New York Giants (.459), Cincinnati Reds (.400), Pittsburgh Pirates (.370).

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit Tigers (.558), New York Yankees (.610), Cleveland Indians (.500), Boston Red Sox (.557), Washington Senators (.455), Chicago White Sox (.420), Philadelphia Athletics (.355), St. Louis Browns (.355).

BASEBALL RESULTS

(From July 16th—August 27th)

South-Eastern League:				Tigers	19	Royals	7
Aveley Cubs	8	Fondus	6	Pirates	17	Royals	2
Essex Cubs	22	Aveley Cubs	11	Kodak	34	Blue Jays	5
Ford Sports	6	Briggs Brigands	7	Tigers	7	Royals	5
Hornsey Bruins	7	Collegians	6	Pirates	1	W/L Pioneers	9
Fondus	30	Collegians	12	Kodak	11	Monarchs	10
Collegians	4	Hornsey Athletics	17	S.T.C.	43	Blue Jays	16
Dodgers	4	Essex Nationals	10	Pirates	11	Royals	0
Dodgers	7	Enfield Cardinals	4	Southern Counties Senior Cup:			
Essex Nationals	2	Dodgers	10	First Round—			
Thames B.M.	19	Essex Nationals	7	Hornsey Red Sox	8	Ford Sports	1
Essex Cubs	11	Hornsey Athletics	4	Thames B.M.	16	Briggs Brigands	7
Fondus	7	Essex Cubs	14	Tigers	6	Dodgers	7
Hornsey Red Sox	12	Fonds	2	Second Round—			
Paragon	2	Hornsey Red Sox	4	Pirates	9	Enfield Cardinals	3
Hornsey Red Sox	8	Paragon	3	Dodgers	6	Hornsey Red Sox	7
Hornsey Athletics	15	Hornsey Bruins	16	Thames B.M.	10	Essex Nationals	5
Essex Cubs	15	Collegians	9	Southern Counties Intermediate Cup:			
Hornsey Red Sox	5	Thames B.M.	8	Semi-Final—			
Thames B.M.	7	Hornsey Red Sox	5	Monarchs	12	Briggs Tigers	4
Fondus	0	Hornsey Athletics	5	Essex Charity Cup:			
South-Eastern League Senior Cup:				Semi-Finals—			
Semi-Finals—				Thames B.M.	11	Briggs Brigands	7
Hornsey Red Sox	38	Enfield Cardinals	11	Briggs Tigers	1	Paragon	6
Briggs Brigands	6	Essex Nationals	7	Norser Cup:			
South-Eastern League Intermediate Cup:				Chipping Norton	3	Essex Nationals	7
Semi-Final—				(Essex won on aggregate, 23—11)			
Essex Cubs	12	Fondus	11	Friendly Matches:			
Western Amateur League:				Aveley Cubs	4	Essex Cubs	9
W/L Pioneers	14	Pirates	0	Hornsey Bruins	26	Albany Pirates	9
Blue Jays	5	Kodak	13	Collegians	31	Hornsey Bruins	9
Monarchs	23	S.T.C.	21	W/L Pioneers	14	Wellingboro	5

CLUB CHATTER

ALBANY PIRATES: A new club in the Enfield area of London; they are showing much enterprise. Their first game with Hornsey showed that they may mould a team to be reckoned with, given time.

MONARCHS.—It is safe to say that the Monarchs will finish the 1950 season without that "Three Eye" look that was the Wokingham fashion last year.

The boys in the "sticks" have progressed well since their all-time record of 26 consecutive defeats in 1949; and it is a credit to the Wokingham squad that they came back for more this year. Baseball must surely be a good game.

With but few exceptions it is the same old faces around the Barkham Road diamond, and with the boys settling down in their positions the Monarchs have managed to hold second place in the league; to reach the final of the SOBA Cup (Intermediate) and win five friendlies.

Ground duties have been handled by south-paw Wilbur Smith, who despite early season control trouble, has settled down with his damaging fast ball. Jeff Moffitt, still ailing from last year's sore arm, is filling in as relief with Den Sargeant.

On the receiving end, Norm Sherwood is handling most of the catching, with second-string Pat Flynn a good substitute; this despite a bout of broken fingers recently.

Sparked by Manager Den Sargeant, at the initial sack, the infield are recording a performance well above the 500 mark.

Despite Bud Higgins' vociferous outbursts from the "hot corner," he is playing a good game, and will be a sad loss to the team when the bugle sounds late this year.

The keystone positions have been well handled by newcomer Al Robinson (late Merseyside Wildcats) at 2nd, Smith or Moffitt alternating at short. Patrol men of the outfield are Evans, Sharp, Featherly and Page, the latter being recently released from the R.N. They may not be the best outfield in the League, but seem to drag down the flys when most needed.

Monarchs power at bat presents the team with its biggest worry and erratic hitting can contribute to many lost games this year.

Kodaks have provided Monarchs best opposition in the League, having beaten them earlier in the season 31-12 and 27-9; but the last fixture at home saw Kodaks hard pressed to edge out top at 11-10.

To date Monarchs will need a big hand-out from Lady Luck if they are to gain the pennant, but they are assured of a notch in 2nd place.

COLUMBIA BEAVERS are a new team on the Western League horizon, but severe teething troubles may delay their start for the 1951 season. A bunch of eager youngsters, some of whom have not played Baseball before are eager to "have a go!" But the introduction of a new game into a Works Sports Club that has heavy commitments with Football, Tennis and Cricket has the Sports Committee reluctant to finance Baseball. Still the lads practice with what mitts they can borrow or scrounge, and hope to be "in the swim" some time next season.

MITCHAM ROYALS BASEBALL CLUB—Since our last article the Royals have been to four more games and have come away with three losses and a rained-out game. Our travels have taken us to West Thurrock, Essex, and Rayners Lane.

Perhaps that game at West Thurrock would have been a well-earned and deserved victory had rain not cancelled play at the top of the fourth with a one-run edge over the Aveley Cubs.

The Royals have just started a Supporters' Club, an announcement many Royal's supporters will be very pleased to hear. Anyone who is interested may obtain details from C. A. H. Cole 2 Recreation Close, Mitcham.

[We regret that extreme pressure on our space has caused us to hold over much of Club Chatter until next issue.—Ed.]

**DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN HAVE
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BRITISH BASEBALL CLUBS

No. 6. NOTTINGHAM WOLVES

The Nottingham Wolves Baseball Club was formed in 1947 by members of the Nottingham Wolves Ice Hockey Club, an intermediate team of local players. Later that same year, they formed a second team, the Nottingham Flyers. These two teams, together with the All-American Latter Day Saints team, the Seagulls and the Nottingham White Sox, formed the start of the Nottingham Baseball League of 1948. The League standing that year were as follows:

1. Seagulls.
2. Wolves and Flyers.
4. White Sox.

The players for that season consisted of: Rod Brown (Pitcher), Jack Wanless (Catcher), Stew Clay (1st Base), Brian Beardsley (2nd Base), Harry Todd (3rd Base), Eric Danby (Short Stop), Alan Topham (Left Field), Paul Wheeler (Centre Field), and H. Tomlinson (Right Field). They were coached that season by Hank Putt, now playing for the Nottingham White Sox.

When the 1949 season started a lot of new faces appeared in the Wolves line-up, including that of Sach Foister, who was transferred from the Nottingham White Sox. However, the club had a very lean season and finished up in the "cellar" position. Team for that season was as follows: Sach Foister and Terry Shelton (Pitchers), Norman Gibson and Harry Todd (Catchers), Stew Clay (1st Base), Johnny Monk (2nd Base), Rod Brown (3rd Base), Jack Wanless (Short Stop), and the outfield was made up from the following: H. Collins, H. Tomlinson, B. Beardsley, Roger Goodman and Joe Zamick. The last two being members of the Nottingham Panthers Ice Hockey team.

The light of the present season saw a vastly-improved Wolves team under a new Coach and Manager, Mr. Herman Chandler, although he is 58 years old, to him must go all the honour for their improvement. No one in Nottingham has done so much for Baseball as "Pop" Chandler. Mr. Chandler is an American business man, and in his younger days was a star player for the New Bronx Baseball Club in New York. Mr. Chandler's brother-in-law, Mr. Dolly Stark, is also closely connected with Baseball, being acknowledged as the star umpire in the National League in America between the years of the war.

Their line-up for this season has been: Mr. Herman Chandler (Coach and Manager), Harry Todd (Captain and Left Field), George Boles (Asst. Captain and Catcher), Terry Shelton, Walt Bellamy and Sach Foister (Pitchers), Weston Smith (1st Base), Mike Withy (2nd Base), Jack Wanless (Short Stop), Bill West, Jack Turner, H. Collins (3rd Base), Pete King (Right Field), Herman Tomlinson (Centre Field).

H. Tomlinson has now given up playing and has become umpire instead.

When the Indians disbanded at the end of last season, six of their players joined up with the Wolves; they are: Jack Turner, Pete King, Weston Smith, Walt Bellamy, Mike Withy and George Boles.

Next season the Wolves will be fielding a second team, as they have over 35 players on their books. This team is to be known as the Nottingham Cubs.

The Wolves haven't yet gave up the hunt for the Harvey Trophy, as one slip in the vital games between the Wolves and the Flyers, giving the Wolves victory would put them in a very strong position by tying on points with the Seagulls, and a play-off would have to decide the Champions.

BEGINNERS' CORNER

BASE STEALING AND TEAM WORK

The bases are ninety feet apart. This does not look a great distance unless you are close to the diamond. Measure ninety feet on the ground. Stand at one end of it and look towards the other end. Then throw a ball so that it lands within a foot of the other end. You will then appreciate better the difficulties of both the base stealer and the infielder's throwing arm. From the catcher's position to 2nd base is approximately 151 feet. These distances make the ball appear to be travelling comparatively slow. Actually the balls travel across the diamond from 70 to 90 miles per hour,

which is considerably faster than most of us have travelled in motor cars and trains. Tests have been taken on this, and it has been shown that a baseball has been thrown at the rate of 120 miles per hour.

The catcher, perhaps more than any other member of the team, prevents a runner from stealing a base. Upon the accuracy of his aim and the speed of his thrown ball depends whether or not a base is stolen on a pitched ball. Just as important as these two factors, however, is the agility he displayed in getting the ball away once he has received it from the pitcher.

Once a runner is on base, the responsibility of the pitcher and catcher increases immensely. They must keep the runner "frozen" to the base. The pitcher knows that the ninety foot distance from 1st to 2nd is just right to make a race of it. The runner has an even chance of reaching that base on a pitched ball, for the ball must travel from the pitcher to the catcher, then to 2nd base. Should the runner get to 2nd he is in a scoring position in the event of a clean hit being made.

The pitcher tries to maintain this distance by sudden throws to 1st, keeping the runner near that base. A part of the art of baserunning is to diminish this distance by every inch possible, so a good base runner will take as large a "lead off" as possible.

DIAGRAMS SHOWING UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT AT A "DOUBLE STEAL"

There is a runner on 1st and 3rd. The captain of the fielding side signals his players that an attempt is apt to be made by the opponents to gain a run by a "double steal." The coach of the batting side signals the runners to attempt it. These signals are often not given by coaches or captains. They may emanate from one

He must also be fleet of foot, but more important still, know the exact moment when to make the dash to the next base.

Believe it or not, when there is a runner on base the efficiency of the pitcher deteriorates. He must divide his attention between the baserunner and the batsman. A part of his job is to know the batsman's weaknesses. He remembers these from seeing him bat before. High balls strike out some, low balls others, some "bite" at "outcurves," others at "drops." A runner on base gives a batsman an advantage. This will often account for some "freak" scores during an inning.

The accompanying sketches show teamwork on the part of both sides.

on the players' bench and may consist of a rub of the nose, holding the hands above the knees, crossed legs, or any understood methods.

As soon as the ball is pitched, the runner on 1st is "off" hoping that the catcher will make the throw to 2nd to put him out.



The short stop does not back up 2nd base, which is usual for a throw to 2nd from catcher, but comes in front of 2nd base. The centre fielder backs up 2nd base in case of there being an overthrow. The runner on 3rd confuses the issue by making a feeble attempt to run. The short stop is watching both runners.

The throw to 2nd is made. The short stop believes that the runner on 3rd will make the attempt to steal home, and decides not to let the ball go through to 2nd in order that he may save distance for the throw to catch runner going home. The 1st baseman, having anticipated the throw, is hastening to back up the catcher in case of an overthrow, which might allow the runner from 2nd to reach 3rd.

The throw to home enables the catcher to put out the runner from 3rd.

BEGINNERS' CORNER—continued

HOW TO FOLLOW THE GAME

(Baseball under American Rules)

A Game consists of nine innings for each team, but a game can count if terminated by the Umpire after five innings. An innings terminates when three men of the batting side are out.

The distribution of the fielding side is as follows:—

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Pitcher. | 6. Short Stop. |
| 2. Catcher. | 7. Left Fielder. |
| 3. 1st Base. | 8. Centre Fielder. |
| 4. 2nd Base. | 9. Right Fielder. |
| 5. 3rd Base. | |

It pitcher sends down four Balls before three Strikes batsman is allowed first base.

Batsman becomes a baserunner when a Fair Hit is made or when he gets first base on balls.

A Fair Hit is one which settles or flies over fair ground, that is inside the foul lines (see diagram).

A baserunner is out at first base if ball is held on bag before he reaches it. At second, third and home plate, baserunner must be touched by ball which is held by fielder before he reaches the bases, except when play is Forced, that is when baserunners are com-



"STRIKES"—Ball goes through the strike area, but batsman does not strike at it.

(If the batsman swings at a ball it counts a strike even if it misses the strike area).



"BALLS"—Various pitched balls are shown going outside the strike area. Four of these entitles batsman to a "walk".

Note: When pitcher is delivering the ball to bat he must keep one foot in contact with the Pitcher's Plate. Pitching distance is 60 feet 6 inches.

The Batsman is allowed three Strikes, or four Balls. A strike is a ball which passes over the home plate between the knee and shoulder of batter, or any ball struck at by batsman without touching the bat. A ball is called when the pitched ball is below the knee or above the shoulder, or which passes wide of the home plate.

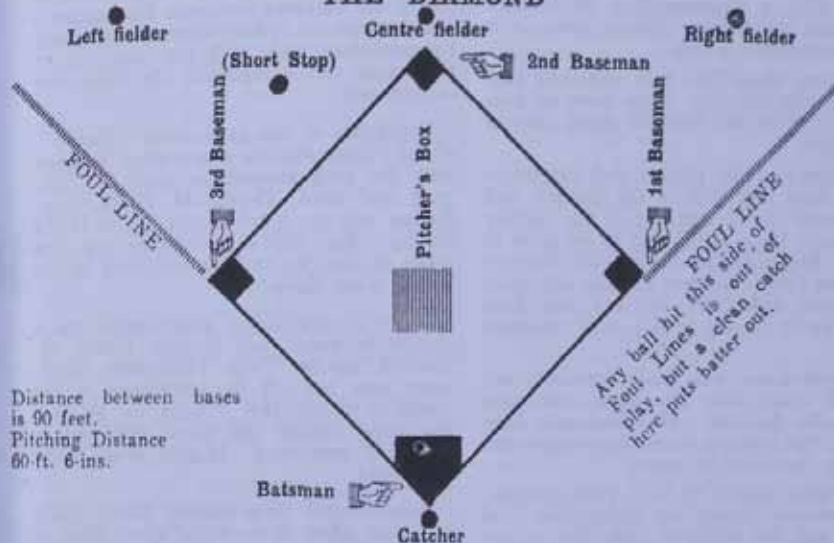
pelled to advance through batsman making a fair hit and becoming a runner, when all that is necessary is for a fielder to hold the ball and touch the base.

The Ball is dead and not in play if it goes foul, that is, outside the foul lines (see diagram), unless it is caught, batsman is then declared out.

A Run is scored, only when each individual batsman has made a complete circuit of the course touching each base in regular order before three men are out.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE GAME—continued from page 12.

THE DIAMOND



BASEBALL - HOT NEWS

At a meeting of Southern Counties' Baseball Clubs held in August, it was decided to re-form Southern Counties on a new basis.

The Clubs decided to elect a completely new Committee, which would be much smaller than the old Council, but which it is believed will be more active and less cumbersome. Leagues and Umpires will be represented on the new body, and independent members will not be insisted upon to form the entire Committee as in the past.

The new Committee is expected to make an early start in getting things on the move. Matters which will receive their attention will include: Baseball Development in the South, the availability of Pamphlets and Publicity to help new Clubs and newcomers to the game, Umpires, Finance, and it is hoped that the new members of the Committee will be instructed in procedure of Appeals Committees, so that small efficient Committees can be elected to conduct investigations, appeals and disputes among Clubs which may arise from time to time. The old method by which the whole Council sat to hear appeals was undoubtedly not good enough, which no doubt accounted for some of the strange decisions arrived at.

Bob Shearer of the Dodgers made the remark of the month when at the S.C.B.A. meeting, he remarked of the B.A.: "It's like Father Christmas and the Stork, it's something you believe in but never see!"

The early days of October will see the matches of the World Series in America, and readers are reminded that the games may be heard broadcast on the American Armed Forces Radio Service in the 16-metre and 19-metre bands on the short waves. The broadcasts usually start around 7.30 p.m. British time, but allowance should be made for differences between G.M.T. and other time systems which may become effective before then.

Hornsey Baseball Club announce that yet another Hornsey team—the BRAVES—is now being formed.

Hornsey Town Council are making plans to lay down a Baseball Diamond on the American pattern. The Hornsey Club consider that this will be the best Diamond in the country. Clubs in all other parts of the Country should see to it that their Town Council knows what is going on in HORNSEY!

HULL COMES TO LONDON

PIRATES JUNIORS 7, HULL JUNIORS 6

Travelling down from Hull on Sunday, August 13th, a Representative Junior Hull Team met the Pioneer Junior Team in a special invitation match.

Warriors, these Hull lads and their supporters, who left their home town on Saturday night for the 200-mile coach journey to London.

For many of the players and supporters it was their first visit to the Capital, and before making the final leg of the journey to Rayners Lane a visit had to be made to one of England's famous market places—Petticoat Lane. No, they did not take their equipment with them or they may have ended up by having to play with borrowed mitts!

Rayners Lane was finally reached, and without much delay the team were soon out on the diamond. Hull Manager, John Harris, was bustling round his charges and making them feel at home.

The game proved to be a great surprise. No runaway victory on either side, and praise and not criticism from the gallery of spectators including Messrs. Parnell and Faulkener, and the President of the Western Amateur Baseball League Mr. E. Brown, and "Butch" McKeever handling the umpire duties.

Hull were unlucky not to win and, from the ding-dong battle that raged up to the 9th innings, the result could have gone either way. Only shadow on the game

from the Hull stable was their version of one of the umpire's decisions. But umpire's decisions are not to be challenged, especially by spectators, and with the umpiring in the hands of the reputable Mr. McKeever—'nuff said.

Highlights of the game were "Kauffy" of the Pirates Juniors who pitched 'em, and with the stick showed he could hit 'em, good and hard; 19-year-old Pirate, Macfarlane was the thorn in the side of Hull's hitting. For Hull's outfield hitting was taken on the run by Mac, and back to the bench went three.

Hull's pitcher-catcher combination was a delight to watch, and Johnny Hurry, 17-year-old catcher from Holderness Road, must have had all the confidence in the world in pitcher Bob Wright, for he took his stand behind the home plate minus pads and protectors. Mighty tough these Hull boys.

Stout-hearted little catcher Hurry made a gallant effort to even the score when in the 9th he made 3rd, but with two out he "died" when relief pitcher for the home team Ray Means sent the last man back and so gave the victory to the Pirates Juniors.

Ken Brown, Manager of the winning team, wishes that Hull was not so far away as he would like to play a return match. Well, Hull came to London, so—.

WESTERN NEWS

A Cardiff Revival on the Way

At the outbreak of the war, Baseball in Cardiff was on the upgrade, the Cardiff League had a thriving organisation of about ten clubs. Now, after eleven years, an attempt to revive the League is being made, and already many enthusiastic players have come forward, and the chances of recovery seem very rosy.

The personality responsible for the revival is Mr. W. T. Morgan of 11 Heath Street, Riverside, Cardiff, who is a pre-war Baseball supporter who has shewn much initiative in getting the largest South Wales Newspaper to publish appeals for players and members to come forward, and in taking the first steps to get the game organised. Mr. Morgan has one complica-

tion which is not met with in many other areas, and that is the existence of the rival game of "Welsh" Baseball run by the W.B.U., which while being a very good game, is totally different from the scientific game of Baseball as we play it.

This latest effort to establish Baseball again in Cardiff is not going to be an easy thing, and anyone who can help, in any way, please be good enough to get in touch with Mr. Morgan at the address given above.

Coupled with the activity in not-too-far-off Bristol, there seems to be definite signs of the West Country becoming Baseball-minded once again.

BASKET BALL

BIG PLANS FOR THE COMING SEASON

We are now able to reveal that Basket Ball is to receive much more prominence as a result of new plans for making the game available to many more spectators.

The scheme that is being launched by the Mecca Dance Halls to provide Basket Ball at certain times in most of their string of Dance Halls, etc., has received the full approval of the Amateur Basket Ball Association of England and Wales, and provisionally approved by the A.B.B.A. of Scotland.

It is understood that certain Premier Division teams will be allocated to the halls by agreement of all parties, and no effort will be spared to present the game at its best, thereby enabling many newcomers to quickly get to understand the game that enjoys so much popularity all over the world.

The game has already been publicly played in one of the Scottish halls of the Mecca Company with great success, and then, of course, many people will remember the recent record-breaking tour of the famous Harlem Globe Trotters, the famous Coloured American Team who gave such splendid exhibitions of Basket Ball at Wembley earlier this year.

No one expects that our teams will be able to emulate the skilful performances that the Harlem Globe Trotters displayed to the amazed audiences at Wembley. After all, the teams in Britain will be comprised of amateurs, and even though they

will have the stimulating effect of Canadian, American and other overseas players to help out our boys, it will obviously take some time before such a high standard is reached. However, this will not be detrimental to the game, as many experts consider that the type of Basket Ball played by the Globe Trotters was so "slick" and made to look so exhibitional that it did not give a true picture of the skill, thrills and excitement of really competitive Basket Ball as played by two evenly-matched teams.

It would seem then that the new scheme, when it has been given a fair trial, will soon be producing the skilful and exciting Basket Ball that is enjoyed in so many other countries of the world.

Other benefits that will be derived will be the availability of expert coaching for novices, and more of the existing halls will become available for the many teams who are seeking to overcome the shortage of suitable halls and gymnasiums.

Among the halls provisionally chosen for the venture in London are:

THE ROYAL, Tottenham;
THE LOCARNO, Streatham;
THE LYCEUM, Strand, W.C.;
THE PALAIS, Ilford.

Of course, a lot remains to be arranged, but when the plans are finally approved, Basket Ball will certainly receive a tremendous fillip.

MORE BASEBALL LEAGUES TO BE FORMED!

CARDIFF: A Cardiff League is expected to be in operation by next season, if all goes well.

The following teams will take part:—

CARDIFF EAGLES

R.A.F. (ST. ATHANS) "A"

R.A.F. (ST. ATHANS) "B"

and a few other potential teams are interested.

NORTH ESSEX: Enthusiasm is growing here and a formation of a small League is under way. Possible teams:

BRAINTREE BRUINS

MALDON YANKEES

CRITTALLS

and at least two other teams are interested.



Above: Jimmy McGuire of Thames Board Mills one of the mainstays of Essex Baseball.

A RECORD HOLDER

Left: Peter Field (Essex Cubs) who in only his second season has registered 21 strikeouts against Hornsey Athletics.

(Photo: Bessie & Harris)



(Fig. 2) - The baseball in flight.



(Fig. 4) - How the ball is held for the knuckle delivery.

THE COLLEGE OF BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE



(Fig. 1) - The normal way of holding the ball.



(Fig. 3) - Outcurve leaving the hand.



(Fig. 4) - Drop ball leaving the hand.



(Fig. 5) - Position of ball in hand for slow ball.

No. 5 PITCHED BALLS AND CONTROL

THE COLLEGE OF BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE

One of the aims of "BASEBALL MONTHLY" will be to improve the Standard of play in British Baseball, and each month we will feature an article to coach players in the finer points of the game.

No. 5. PITCHED BALLS & CONTROL

The art of pitching is to deceive the batsman. There are scores of ways of doing this, but in this article only the various types of pitched balls are considered—all of which have for their purpose this deception. A good pitcher may be a wizard in the delivery of curves, "slow balls," etc., but it is of little use to him if he fails to conceal his intent from the batsman. If the batsman knows the type of curve about to be delivered, the pitcher is at a great disadvantage, as the batsman has time to set himself for that particular delivery. A game of bluff is carried out by the pitcher and the batsman.

The pitcher "winds up" for his delivery, the batsman meanwhile trying to discover what kind of ball the pitcher is about to throw by watching the hand holding the ball. The pitcher tries to conceal this by holding the ball in the same manner for each pitch—this being the normal way of throwing a ball (see Fig. 1). In throwing the ball, however, the efficient pitcher makes alteration or effects "spins" by unnatural twists of the arms, wrist and hand at the moment the ball actually leaves the hand.

Any ball held and thrown normally spins slightly whilst in flight, but not sufficient to change the direction of flight. For "curves" the pitcher increases that spin to such an extent that a greater air resistance (or friction) is created on one side of the ball than on the other. One side of the ball travels with intense speed against the air, and the surface of the opposite side meets with none at all, as it is travelling in the same direction as the air that goes past the ball. The momentum of the ball passing through space remains the same as though no spin were put on it, but the spin makes the ball slide off and away from the heavy air resistance much the same as though it were more solid matter than air (see Fig. 2).

THE UPSHOOT. This ball rises in the air, and is usually thrown overhand. The ball is held and delivered normally with the exception that the pressure of the thumb on the ball is lessened. The ball leaves the hand by rolling in the normal manner off the tips of the index and second finger. Great speed is necessary.

THE INSHOOT. This is generally delivered by right-hand pitchers in the same

manner as an upshoot with the exception that they will use a side arm delivery. Some right-hand pitchers are able, however, to deliver much more effective inshoots by an overhand delivery by contorting their hand, making control and speed more difficult but deception greater.

THE OUTCURVE. Opposite to an inshoot. The ball, as a rule, is held in the normal way, but some pitchers get more effective results by having the index and second finger grip the ball very tightly. The ball leaves the hand by rolling off the side of the index finger. This is the easiest curve to throw for a right-hand pitcher and it breaks the most. It may be thrown overhand or sidearm, but in both cases the index finger is vertical when the ball leaves the hand. Sometimes it is thrown with a sweeping side arm motion with no twist of the wrist, though much more effective results are obtained when the wrist snaps as the ball leaves the hand. Slow wide-breaking outcurves are called **ROUND-HOUSES** and are derided by good pitchers. Fast-breaking outcurves do not break until they get near the batsman; they are thrown so fast that the air resistance has no effect in changing their course until they have slowed down a bit, which is generally a few feet in front of the batsman (see Fig. 3).

THE DROP. Thrown overhand after the manner of the outcurve, but the index finger is in a horizontal position. Some pitchers get much more effect by an overhand motion in which their hands twist so much that the palm is facing upwards and the ball gets its spin by leaving the hand off the tips of the index and second fingers, and this is perhaps the most trying on the muscles of the hand, arm and elbow (see Fig. 4).

THE OUTDROP. A combination of the outcurve and drop ball.

THE SLOW BALL. The purpose of this is to put the batsman's timing out of order. The pitcher holds the ball in the normal way, goes through all the motions of throwing a fast ball, and in doing so, the ball drops to the palm of the hand, where it is pushed to the batsman. It does not spin at all, which adds to the batsman's difficulties because the lack of spin is apt to make the ball "float" even though the batsman is prepared for a fast ball. He

The College of Baseball Knowledge—continued

can count the stitches on the ball as it comes towards him, but he can't hit it (see Fig. 5).

KNUCKLE BALL. This is held between the thumb and third finger with the nails of the index and second fingers on top. Like the "slow ball" this is pushed towards the batsman without revolving, but at greater speed. It floats through the air in an uncanny way, bouncing off air spots of heavy density and making at least two breaks in its flight (see Fig. 6).

SPIT BALL. This delivery acts in the air the same as the knuckle ball, except at

high speed. It is held in the hand in the usual manner of throwing the ball, but instead of leaving the fingers last, it leaves the thumb last or at the same time that it leaves the fingers. This is made possible by wetting or greasing the fingers to make them slippery. The "spit" ball is forbidden in the United States as it is too effective against batsmen.

THE FADEAWAY. This ball travels slowly through the air and not only drops because of gravity, but the dropping is accentuated by intense top spin. It is a very difficult delivery and few pitchers ever master it.

Baseball Score Sheets in Books of 100 can be obtained from—
Service Printers, 31-31a Victoria Dock Road, London, E. 16.
Price—Stapled Manilla Cover 7/9, or Bound 10/- (inc.).

PIRATES (HULL) BASEBALL CLUB

During the close season of 1948, five former members of the Sizera Baseball Club held a meeting to consider the possibilities of strengthening the Hull League by forming a club of their own. This proved to be the birth of what is now considered to be one of the strongest teams in that League.

In its first season the Pirates club completely equipped its players—from personal subscriptions and the profits from various social functions.

The club has two sections of membership: associate-membership for the non-playing members who occupy the main administrative positions of the club; and playing membership from which the team is selected by captain, vice-captain and team manager, who constitute the selection committee.

There is also a very energetic supporters' club, which organises functions on behalf of the ball club and assists in the running of their dances and social activities. The close co-operation of the supporters and ball clubs on the one hand and the players and associates on the other has resulted in a really first-class organisation.

It is part of the policy of the Pirates Club to play at least one out-of-town match per year, as this is calculated to be a good method of stimulating the public interest in the game and strengthens the ties with other clubs. Last season Oldham was visited, Greyhounds acting as hosts to the Pirates; this season Nottingham White

Sox entertained them with royal hospitality. A project in mind for next season is a full week's tour by coach as a part of a "play ball holiday" campaign.

On the playing side the Pirates made a most successful first season debut. They won the Hull District Challenge Cup and were finalists in the British Legion Cup Competition. This season they carried off the British Legion Cup, were finalists in the Hull District Challenge Cup Competition and area finalists in the B.A. Cup Competition.

The playing staff of the club was increased to 19 this season by the acquisition of Ron Steels, centre fielder from Sizera, Maurice Robinson, third baseman from Priestman Panthers and Mal Revell, recently released from the Army.

The team has been moulded around Don Akers, pitcher and vice-captain, whose play is a reflection of his enthusiasm for the game. This season, with one match to be played, he has registered 183 strikeouts. Ken Hampton, the captain, by his firm handling of the players on the field, coupled with an intimate knowledge of the game, leads a team whose standard of ball is high. Recent batting performances have left much to be desired: Ron Steels leads with around the 480 mark, whereas this was the aggregate for the whole club last season. Nevertheless, every satisfaction can be felt for a successful second season and next season can be awaited in confidence.

BASKET BALL

A FEW HINTS ON HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED

For the benefit of newcomers to Basket Ball, a diagram of the court is set out below, together with an explanation of the markings and a brief description of the game.

Clubs wishing to start Basket Ball should not be deterred if their court is not of the maximum dimensions, as very few clubs in Britain can boast of being the proud possessors of a full-size court. To ensure good ball play, however, it is essential to have a high ceiling, good lighting and ample floor space.

The dimensions of the court are laid down by the International Amateur Basket Ball Federation and must be used in all International games.

The court, which is rectangular, is 85 feet in length and 46 feet in width, is divided into two equal halves by a "division line." The half of the court which a team is defending is known as that team's "back court," and the other half being called the team's "front court." A team in possession of the ball in its back court must move the ball into the front court within 10 seconds. This rule was introduced to prevent teams from stalling when ahead on points.

The "out-of-bounds" rule in Basket Ball differs from that of most ball games. A ball outside the playing area is deemed to be out of play if: (a) it touches the floor or any object outside the court; or (b) if a player who has any part of his body touching the floor or object outside the court, touches the ball, even though the ball is still on the court.

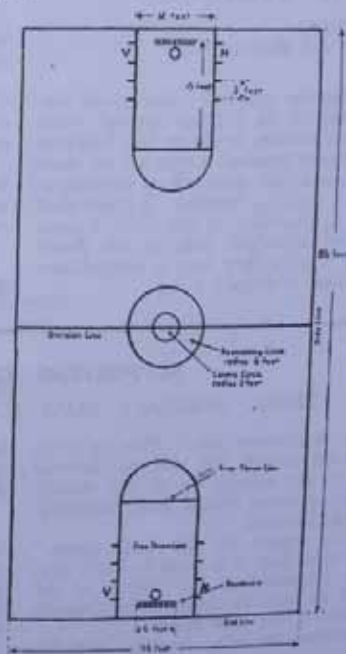
The "centre circle" is mainly used at the commencement of each period. The two opposing centres (forwards) face each other inside the circle, the ball is then tossed vertically between them by the referee and play commences when the centres have jumped and patted the ball to a team mate. Whilst this jump is taking place, the remaining players must stand outside the "restraining circle" until the ball is in play.

The "free throw lane" is, as its name implies, a lane along which free throws or penalties are taken. A player awarded a free throw must stand behind the free throw line and inside the semi-circle. No player is allowed in the lane during a free throw. Players who are to attempt to retrieve the ball, should the throw be unsuccessful, must stand in the 3-ft. divisions which are marked on the outside of the lane. One player is allowed in each division. The markings H (home) and V (visitor) in the divisions nearest the basket, denotes that

a home player must use a division marked H and vice versa. No two players of the same team are to occupy two adjoining divisions. Players may only cross into the free throw lane when the throw has been attempted and the ball has either entered the basket or touched the ring and rebounded into play.

The free throw lane has another very important use. To prevent a very tall player "loitering" beneath the basket to receive high passes from which he is easily able to score, a rule has been introduced whereby no player of an attacking team may remain in the free throw lane for more than three seconds. Prior to this rule being introduced, it was the policy of some teams to obtain the services of a "giant" who although not a good ball player, could dominate the area around the Basket.

Backboards are made of wood and are 6-feet horizontally and 4-feet vertically, with a smooth white surface, and are located in a position at each end of the court at right angles to the floor, parallel to and 2-feet from the end lines; the lower edge of the board being 9-feet from the floor.



Basket Ball—continued

Baskets consist of nets of white cord suspended from an iron ring 18 inches inside diameter. The position of the ring is 10 feet from the floor with the nearest inside edge 6 inches from the face of the back-board.

The ball consists of a rubber bladder covered with a leather case, the circumference being not less than 29½ inches and not more than 31½ inches, and weighing not less than 18½ ounces nor more than 20 ounces, with an air pressure of 11½ pounds.

Basket Ball is essentially a game of speed, therefore personal contact is not allowed. A player committing four "personal fouls" must leave the court and take no further part in the game. A personal foul is one where personal contact is involved. A few examples of this offence are "hacking" the arms of a player, charging, pushing, tripping or holding.

If a player is fouled whilst in the act of shooting for the basket, and is prevented

from scoring by such a foul, he is awarded two free throws. If, however, the foul does not prevent him from scoring, the two points for the goal are counted and only one free throw is awarded. Players fouled when not in the act of shooting are awarded one free throw, no matter where the foul was committed.

There are five players in a team with up to seven substitutes, making a total of twelve in all. All players must be numbered. Players may be changed as often as the coach or captain wishes. There are no off-sides in Basket Ball and any player may score from any position on the court.

A game consists of two twenty-minute periods of actual playing time with a ten-minute interval.

This article is not meant to be instructive, but is merely an explanation of the markings of the court and a few of the rules pertaining to them. Later articles will deal with the finer points of the game.

THE COLLEGIANS BASEBALL CLUB

AN APPRECIATION

To the Editor;
"Baseball and Basket Ball."

Dear Sir,

The Collegians Baseball Club would like the opportunity to express through your columns, its thanks, firstly to Mr. Blerkom and the Essex Baseball Club, for all their kind assistance and goodwill in helping us during our teething troubles. I know that at times, as Secretary of the Club, I must have seemed a perfect pest to the Essex Club, but always they lent a sympathetic ear. Thanks, it helped a lot.

Secondly, to Messrs. Jack Helliar and "Slim" Beckwith who were always at hand to give us good advice, which we gratefully took.

Last, but definitely not least, to all the Clubs in the S.E. League who, without exception, have offered to help us in many different ways during this season.

If this is the spirit of Baseball, long may it last, and it is indeed a pleasure to have come into contact with it. We say again —THANKS.

DON FOX, *Hon. Secretary*,
COLLEGIANS B.C.

23rd July, 1950.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Roll on September 6th! This is what members are saying, for they are looking forward to the resumption of our weekly club night at Manor School Hall, Sandringham Road, Barking.

With the season for the "ball game" drawing to a close it is good to know that all those interested in the welfare of the club will be able to meet in the friendly atmosphere of the club room.

Programmes are being arranged with the

idea of interesting everyone, and will include dances, whist drives, etc.; also tournaments in table tennis, darts, etc.

Come along and enjoy yourself.
Our first Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, October 30th, at 8 p.m., at Witney Chambers, over the Co-operative Stores, corner of Longbridge Road and Fanshawe Avenue, Barking, when it is hoped every member will be able to attend.

L. D. HENKE, *Hon. Sec.*

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We welcome all enquiries for club printing, L'heads, tickets, programmes, posters, etc., etc.—**SERVICE PRINTERS**, 31, Victoria Dock Road, London, E.16.

BASEBALL CAPS. American style; any colour — £6 8s. 0d. per doz. — Write, Douglas Cowling Allsports, 115 Amberley Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Mdx.

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB require a few additional players (or learners). Ground at Barking. Moderate subs.—Write, B. Blerkom, 624, Green Lane, Ilford, Essex.

Western Amateur Baseball League invites applications for membership from new clubs for next season (1951). Help gladly given on getting started.—Write, K. Brown, 103, Carlion Avenue West, North Wembley, Middlesex.

THE SOUTH EASTERN BASEBALL LEAGUE is now complete for 1950, but will accept applications for Season 1951. New clubs helped to form up if required.—Write or 'phone, J. F. Helliar, 43, Ranelagh Road, East Ham, E.6. Grangewood 2174.

CHIPPING NORTON (oldest club in England, 1920) **JUNIORS**. 14 to 18 yrs. or just out of services, will play home and away with any team same age. Sundays 2.30 p.m. Youth clubs write in.—Fred Lewis (Hon. Treasurer), Chipping Norton, Oxon. ('Phone: 73.)

BASKET BALL. New teams being formed in the Ilford, Barking, Dagenham, East and West Ham Areas. Players and learners invited to apply for membership.—Write, Box No. 102, **BASEBALL AND BASKET BALL MONTHLY**.

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The **EDITOR, "Baseball and Basket Ball"** who will forward enquiries to the nearest Area Association.

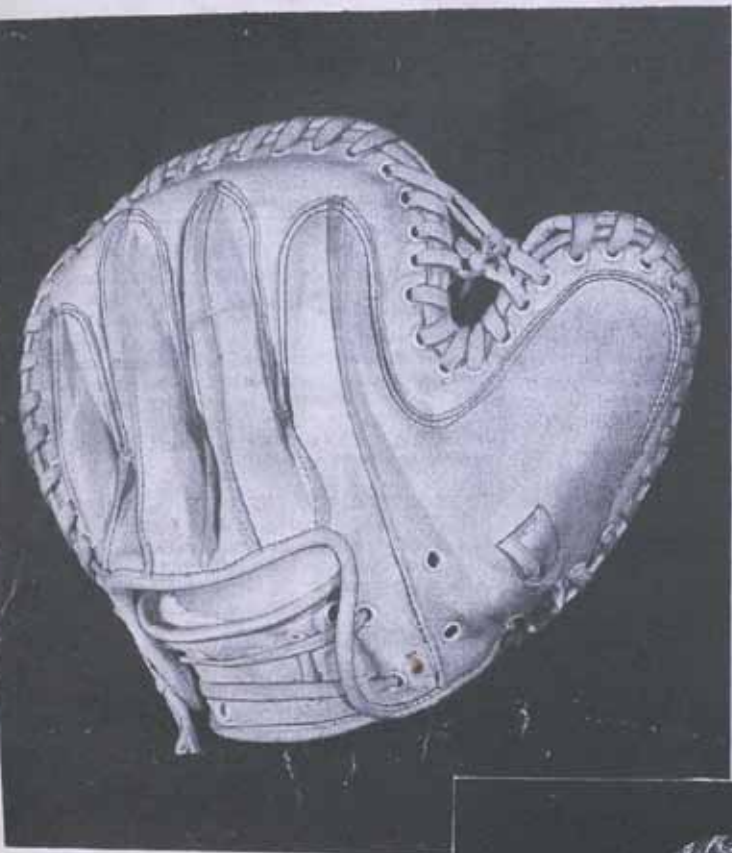
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PHOTOGRAPHS IN BASEBALL & BASKET BALL

Copies of nearly all photographs published in the columns of this Magazine can be supplied in halfplate size (approx. 8" x 6") price 1/6 each post free. State clearly photo required and send P.O. to "Baseball & Basket Ball" 193 Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex.

9d. must be added for postage of replies on Box No. adverts. The words "Box No. _____ Baseball & Basket Ball" counts as three words. Answers to Box adverts. to be addressed c/o Baseball & Basket Ball, 193, Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex.

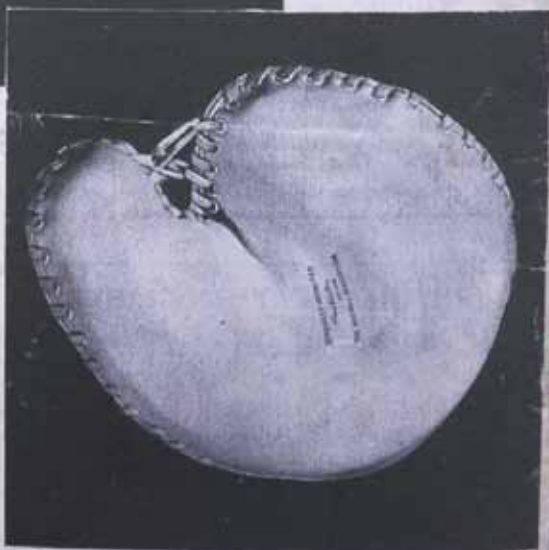
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