

BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 20

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BASEBALL

Mercury.

No. 20. DECEMBER 1978.

B.A.B.S.F. FINAL.

The B.A.B.S.F. Championship Final was played on Sunday, 24th. September at the Alderman Kneeshaw Baseball Ground, Barham Park, Hull; the finalists were Liverpool Trojans, Merseyside champions, and Crawley Giants, champions of the Southern League. Crawley Giants had beaten Hull Aces in an extra inning semi-final game, while due to some difficulty in the Nottingham League, Liverpool Trojans had had a walk-over to the final.

Due to the walk-over, Liverpool Trojans started the game without having played for just on four weeks. This was evident in the first inning when Crawley went into bat first, they took full advantage of the Trojans unsteadiness - Rick Soan driving home Crook, Vanstone, and Jewer, and then he finally scored himself to give Crawley a four run start. Trojans failed to register in their half.

The Second Inning. A fine double play by Trojans was eclipsed by another run from Crawley as a result of this play; P. Crook batting home N. Laing. Liverpool again failed to score.

Third Inning. Almost a repeat of the second, with another double play by Trojans, which was overshadowed by yet another run for Crawley. This time Neil Vanstone was the scorer. Once again Trojans failed to score, and at the end of three complete innings Crawley held a six to nil lead.

In the fourth, Trojans finally held Crawley and also broke their own shut-out - Art Bolton's solid hit scoring B. Bretherton.

An error by the Liverpool catcher gave Crawley a further run in the fifth inning, this time Rick Soan, who was having a fine game, scored. Trojans failed to add to their single run.

Going into the sixth inning Crawley led 7 - 1. In the sixth, Crawley opened with another run, Marty Jewer batting in C. Rowley. Then the Trojans exploded in their half, and appeared to get the measure of pitcher Jewer - Franceschini, Windross, Bretherton, and Wells all scoring, with N. Wells registering two RBIs. on a three bagger; score now, Crawley 8 - Trojans 5.

Now it was all nail-biting stuff, with Liverpool obviously becoming stronger, and pitcher Art Bolton at last producing his true form.

In the seventh inning Giants went three up, three down, no further score, whereas Trojans went berserk. Franceschini and Windross scored, then catcher J. Kelly batted home Norman Wells to tie the game. Four more runs were added this inning, with Bolton, Kelly, Bob Kitts, and T. Breen being the scorers. During the inning, Neil Vanstone replaced Jewer as pitcher for Crawley. Now it was a totally different ball game, Trojans 12 - Crawley 8. going into the eighth inning.

But Crawley were not to be beaten that easily. Lusty hitting by Neil Vanstone, Marty Jewer, and Rick Soan reduced their arrears; C. Rowley, N. Vanstone, and Marty Jewer scoring, with 2 RBIs. from Marty Jewer. Trojans entered the bottom of the eighth inning only one run ahead. B. Bretherton hit a double, and Art Bolton singled. Carl Moody, Trojans' 1st. baseman, without a hit up until now, drove a very hard ball, down the first base line, scoring Bretherton and Bolton for what proved to be two vital runs.

Going into the ninth inning, Trojans led 14 to 11.

Giants came to bat determined to retrieve the game, that they had for so long dominated. N. Parker flied out to Art Bolton, one down! Norman Laing doubled. H. Duff struck-out, two down! C. Rowley made first base on an infield error, scoring Norman Laing. Peter Crook came up to bat knowing that he could

be the tying run, a heavy hitter who had already hit a double, and been caught twice at centrefield. Trojans pitcher, Art Bolton, struck-out Crook, to win what was a most exciting baseball game.

The Man of the Match Award went to Rick Soan, Crawley outfielder.

Final result Liverpool Trojans 14 - Crawley Giants 12. The Championship Trophy was presented by M. Harrold, chairman of the B.A.B.S.F.

Umpires were, plate Terry O'Brien, 1b. M. Harrold, 2b. E. Jacklin, 3b. H. Clutterbuck. Public address work done by D. Smallwood.

The senior final had been preceded by the junior final, the first junior final since 1939. In this game Hull Danes (founded 1977) defeated Isleworth Tigers (founded 1978) by 6 - 3. This was a good game, and the very fact that a junior championship was operated in 1978 after such a long lapse of time would seem to indicate that at long last we are going to make steady progress.

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The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in April. Letters and articles for publication should be sent to William Morgan, 6B, Stevenage Road, London, S.W.6. Subscription for three issues is 30p.

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SOUTHERN BASEBALL LEAGUE.

Final standings 1978.

	Won	Lost	%	GB.
Crawley Giants	12	3	.800	-
T.B.M. Raiders	9	6	.600	3
Golders Green Sox	7	8	.467	5
Sutton Braves	6	9	.400	6
Wokingham Monarchs	6	9	.400	6
Croydon Bluejays	5	10	.333	7

Leading Batters

(41 or more plate appearances)

Player, Club.	G.	AB.	R.	H.	2B.	3B.	HR.	SB.	SO.	RBI.	BA.	BB.	SAC.	TAB.
Neffendorf, GGS.	11	49	11	24	1	1	0	5	2	20	.490	2	0	51
Parker, CG.	10	42	16	19	3	0	0	2	7	3	.452	8	0	50
Harrington, CB	10	41	10	18	1	2	0	6	4	6	.439	3	1	45
Jewer, CG.	9	41	19	18	1	0	2	5	7	18	.439	10	0	51
B.Moffitt, WM.	15	76	23	33	5	0	2	13	10	6	.434	7	0	83

Leading Pitchers

(45 or more innings pitched)

Player, Club.	G.	W.	L.	SA.	IP.	BB.	H.	SO.	R.	ER.	ERA.
Jewer, Crawley	6	4	2	0	50	12	37	57	21	16	2.88
Marcelino, TEM.	8	4	3	0	62	21	61	84	54	26	3.77
Simeone, Sutton	8	4	2	0	56	27	53	52	54	28	4.50
Iso, Golders GS.	7	4	2	0	47	18	50	47	40	30	5.74
T.Warner, TEM.	6	4	2	0	45	16	56	50	48	29	5.80
King, Wokingham	12	4	2	0	74	26	122	72	77	59	7.18

Leading Home Run Hitters

There was no clear leader, the following players had two home runs each: Lopera, (Golders Green), B. Moffitt, (Wokingham), Marty Jewer and Rick Soan, (Crawley), Art Bloomfield, (Sutton Braves)

B.A.B.S.F. AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS.

	Won	Lost	Pts.
Merseyside	5	1	9
South	3	3	7
Humberside	1	3	7
Midlands	1	3	7

Points awarded in this competition were for placings in tournaments.

Leading Batter. Franceschini (Merseyside) .471

Leading Pitcher. A. Bolton (Merseyside) 3.32.

Leading Home Run Hitters. Reynolds and Marcelino (South), Bretherton (Mersey side), each had one home run.

THE BASEBALL HANDBOOK.

The book of this title is an abridged version of The Complete Baseball Handbook, sub-titled Strategies and Techniques for Winning by Walter Alston and Don Weiskopf. The publishers are Allyn & Bacon, whose European Manager is Charles Gibbes, 4 Perrin's Lane, London, N.W.3. Tel. (01) 794 0774. The complete version was published in 1972 and runs to 567 pages with more than 500 photographs, price is £11.95. The abridged edition had 1974 as publication date, contains 494 pages, and has more than 460 photographs.; price is £7.95.

The Complete Baseball Handbook contains as comprehensive a treatment of all aspects of baseball as I have ever read, I consider any player, coach, or manager could benefit by reading those chapters relevant to his special needs. Chapter headings are as follow:- Batting, Bunting, Base Running, Pitching, Catching, The First Baseman, The Second Baseman, The Shortstop, The Third Baseman, The Outfielder, Psychology of Coaching, Team Offense, Team Defense, Conditioning, Professional Organisation, College and High School Organisation, Youth League Organisation, Epilogue.

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MERSEYSIDE 1978. by Norman Wells.

Almost every year we have disappointments, but we always seem to "press on" regardless. But this year, we seem to have hit an all time low, worse than anything I can remember in all of the years I have been associated with the game.

We started the season with six clubs, one of which, was Bromsgrove. The first heavy blow fell, when the powerful and competitive Liverpool Tigers were compelled to withdraw from the Northern Major League, as a result of eight of their best players deciding to retire from baseball. To lose players such as Hugh, Dennis, and Vic King, Brian Lawler, two Americans from Burtonwood, and pitchers Dave Taylor and Ken Williams, was too much for any team to cope with. However, manager Al Foster was able to put together a team of young men able to compete in the Merseyside League.

Unfortunately this crisis in the Tigers left opposition to the Trojans at about nil; and the Trojans actually added to their strength, by signing Canadian ice hockey star Jim Franceschini. With opposition to the Trojans being so poor, due mainly to inexperience, a certain amount of boredom overtook the Trojans; it has been difficult to maintain any interest. Added to this, the general standard and presentation of the game dropped dramatically this past season.

Lack of uniforms and equipment, even though all clubs had purchased such items over the last few seasons, did nothing to enhance the game in the eyes of the press, which displayed quite an interest in our affairs this season. To enforce the constitution, and to have insisted upon correct standards, would probably have depleted the league still further. Final standings: - 1. Liverpool Trojans, 18 pts; 2. Aintree Indians, and Garrishton Dodgers, 10 pts; 4. Liverpool Tigers and Southport Bootleggers, 4 pts; 6. Lucas Royals, 2 pts.

The Artco Trophy, Lancashire Cup, and Robertson Trophy were all won by Trojans. The Merseyside Minor League ended as follows:- 1. Aintree Indians, 14 pts; 2. Lucas Royals, 10 pts; 3. Litherland Cubs, 6pts; 4. Southport Bootleggers, 4 pts; 5. Thomas More Saints, 0 pts. Northern Major League:- 1. Liverpool Trojans, 10 pts; 2. Hull Aces and Hull Royals, 4 pts; 4. Hull Giants, 0 pts.

Liverpool Trojans also represented Merseyside in the Area Championship, and won the tournaments at Merseyside, Humberside, and at the Orford Trophy, to win the championship for Merseyside. In fact Liverpool Trojans solitary loss of the season was to the Seattle(U.S.A.) High School All-Stars by 16 - 1.

The Merseyside League Individual Awards were:- Pitching - Art Bolton, Trojans. Player of the Year - Art Bolton, Trojans. Most Improved Player - Vic Wilkes, Trojans. Home Run Award - Carl Moody and Brian Bretherton, both of Trojans. Rookie Award - Steve Williams, Indians.

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XXVth. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

Italy was the host country, and the Italian Federation allocated the games to three cities, Parma, Bologna, and Rimini. The Italian Baseball and Soft-ball Federation spent about £300,000 on promotion of the tournament, and the three host cities also spent considerable sums. Each of them increased the capacity of its baseball stadium, Parma to 15,000, Bologna to 9,000, and

Rimini to 5,000.

The teams, with the exception of Italy, were housed in the Giovanni Pascoli College at Ponticella(Bologna). The tournament was played from 26th. August to 6th. September, and resulted in tremendous coverage in the Italian media, together with good attendances at the most important games. The largest crowd, more than 15,000 watching the clash of the giants, Cuba v. U.S.A. at Parma. 6,000 saw the opener at Bologna; 12,000 saw Italy v. Cuba at Parma; 8,000 were at Rimini for Japan v. U.S.A.; 10,000 at Bologna for Japan v. Cuba; and 8,000 at Rimini for Italy v. U.S.A. About 200,000 people paid for admission to the 55 games.

Results.

Italy 3 - Australia 0: Australia 4 - Netherlands 1: Cuba 6 - Italy 0;
 Nicaragua 6 - Mexico 2: South Korea 7 - Belgium 1: U.S.A. 5 - Japan 3:
 Nicaragua 2 - Australia 1: Netherlands 6 - Canada 5: U.S.A. 2 - South Korea 0:
 Cuba 3 - Japan 2: Italy 4 - Mexico 2: Nicaragua 19 - Belgium 0:
 Japan 7 - Netherlands 0: Cuba 10 - Australia 3: U.S.A. 9 - Italy 3:
 South Korea 7 - Canada 4: Mexico 3 - Canada 2: South Korea 5 - Japan 4:
 U.S.A. 15 - Belgium 0: Cuba 7 - Nicaragua 2: U.S.A. 10 - Netherlands 5:
 Mexico 3 - Australia 0: U.S.A. 8 - Mexico 1: Japan 5 - Nicaragua 3:
 South Korea 3 - Italy 2: Cuba 5 - Canada 2: Mexico 7 - Belgium 1:
 South Korea 7 - Australia 3: Japan 8 - Italy 4: Cuba 12 - Netherlands 1:
 U.S.A. 10 - Canada 0: Canada 6 - Belgium 2: Japan 10 - Australia 0:
 Cuba 5 - U.S.A. 3: Nicaragua 1 - Italy 0: South Korea 5 - Mexico 2:
 Netherlands 6 - Mexico 5: Italy 2 - Canada 1: Japan 24 - Belgium 0:
 South Korea 6 - Nicaragua 3: Japan 8 - Canada 0: Netherlands 18 - Belgium 0:
 U.S.A. 7 - Australia 0: Italy 11 - Belgium 1: Cuba 11 - Mexico 0:
 Netherlands 7 - Nicaragua 2: Cuba 16 - Belgium 0: Canada 11 - Australia 2:
 Japan 6 - Mexico 0: South Korea 12 - Netherlands 2: U.S.A. 8 - Nicaragua 3:
 Nicaragua 7 - Canada 2: Cuba 11 - South Korea 0: Australia 10 - Belgium 0:
 Italy 6 - Netherlands 5:

Final Standings.

	Played	Won.	Lost	For	Against	%	Points.
1. CUBA	10	10	0	86	13	1.000	20
2. U.S.A.	10	9	1	77	20	.900	18
3. South Korea	10	8	2	52	34	.800	16
4. Japan	10	7	3	77	20	.700	14
5. Nicaragua	10	5	5	48	38	.500	10
5. Italy	10	5	5	35	36	.500	10
7. Netherlands	10	4	6	51	63	.400	8
8. Mexico	10	3	7	25	49	.300	6
9. Canada	10	2	8	33	52	.200	4
9. Australia	10	2	8	23	54	.200	4
11. Belgium	10	0	10	5	133	.000	0

World Champions.

1938 England	1953 Cuba
1939 Cuba	1961 Cuba
1940 Cuba	1965 Colombia
1941 Venezuela	1969 Cuba
1942 Cuba	1970 Cuba
1943 Cuba	1971 Cuba
1944 Mexico	1972 Cuba
1945 Venezuela	1973 (F.I.B.A.) Cuba
1947 Colombia	1973 (F.E.M.B.A.) U.S.A.
1948 Puerto Rico	1974 U.S.A.
1950 Cuba	1976 Cuba
1951 Cuba	1978 Cuba
1952 Cuba	

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EUROPEAN CUP, WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

The first ever European Cup for softball was decided by a tournament played at Haarlem, Netherlands from Friday, 22nd. September to Sunday, 24th. September. The organisers had great problems concerning the plans of clubs in other countries, but eventually two Belgium, one Italian, and two Dutch clubs took part

Final Standings.

	Played	Won	Lost	For	Against	Points
1. TERRASVOGELS (Netherlands)	4	4	0	36	0	8
2. Nelissen-DSS (Netherlands)	4	3	1	35	3	6
3. Kerodex Milan (Italy)	4	2	2	23	7	4
4. General Motors (Belgium)	4	1	3	6	55	2
5. BSC Brasschaat (Belgium)	4	0	4	6	41	0