

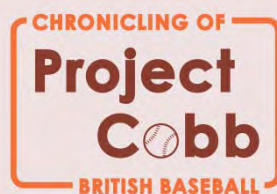
BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 37

<http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/mercury.html>

November 1984

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BASEBALL

Mercury.

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No.37. NOVEMBER 1984.

FRANCE.

The Peoples' Republic of China played Paris University Club on 11th. June at La Cipale, Bois de Vincennes. China beat P.U.C 15 - 11(10 innings), attendance 750.

The French Championship for 1984 was won by P.U.C., beating Nice University Club in the final with scores of 6 - 5, and 19 - 0. This was the third consecutive championship for P.U.C., and its tenth national championship in the past fifteen seasons. During the 1984 national competition P.U.C. played 22 games, winning 21, and losing 1.

In addition to the French competition P.U.C. also played in the Belgian competition, this was a move aimed at getting regular games of a higher standard than those provided by the French clubs. P.U.C. played in the First Division of the Belgian League, finishing in sixth place. Additionally, P.U.C. played in the B Pool of the European Cup, finishing second.

In all, P.U.C. played 66 games in 1984, a figure comparable with annual totals played by leading U.S. college teams. Championship of France 1984 - Final Classification.

1. P.U.C.:
2. Nice University Club:
3. Limeil- Brevannes:
4. Thiais:
5. Meyzieu:
6. Pineuilh:
7. Savigny- Bergerac:
9. Antony.

NORTH WEST BASEBALL-SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION by Norman Wells.

There were no new additions to our league in 1984; so we remained at the six teams we have had for the past four years, which is a rather disappointing situation.

Nevertheless, the league competition proved to be a very close run affair, the League winner being undecided until the very last game

However, there were great strides forward in our other sections. Pony Baseball developed overnight(almost). By the start of the season in mid-May, we had six teams playing in a competitive league; plus a couple of knock-out cup tournaments.

The Pony teams also showed the seniors how to become financially sound, by virtue of grants, sponsorships, and individual enterprise. So all Pony teams were able to obtain the minimum playing gear they required. Four of the teams were also able to obtain uniforms. The aim is to have all Pony teams uniformed next season.

The Pony League Committee will not rest on its laurels, but will be making strenuous efforts to develop even more teams, and it is hoped to get younger age groups involved.

As a result of this injection of young blood, we now know that Ince-Blundell will field a senior team next season, with a nucleus of Freebirds who have passed the Ponyball age limit..

Ladies' Softball made even greater advances. By mid-June a five team league had been formed; despite this late start the softball competition proved to be a hard fought one.

There is a sudden surge of interest in ladies' softball in the North West area. The teams we now have will give some idea of the game's geographical spread. Kirkby Bluecaps, Litherland Cubs, Sale Strikers(Manchester), Southport Squaws, Skelmersdale Jets.

We know of two other teams intraining for 1985, we also expect a ladies' team from the Burtonwood U.S. Army base. Our final standings are as follow.

N.W. Baseball League

1. Liverpool Trojans
2. Burtonwood Braves
3. Crawford Tigers
4. Skelmersdale Giants
5. Liverpool Monarchs
6. Bromsgrove Dodgers

Pony League

1. Ince-Blundell Freebirds
2. Tolona White Sox
3. Ashurst Aces
4. Skelmersdale Twins
5. Litherland Cubs
6. Rainford Rangers.

Ladies' Softball

1. Skelmersdale Jets
2. Southport Squaws
3. Kirkby Blue Caps.
4. Sale Strikers
5. Litherland Cubs

Dawnlight Knock-out

Tolona White Sox

Sefton Festival Cup

Ince-Blundell Freebirds.

B.A.B.S.F. National Cup

Skelmersdale Jets

Lancashire Cup Burtonwood Braves

Artco Trophy Liverpool Monarchs

Robertson Trophy L/pool Monarchs

Sefton Festival Senior Baseball

Cup Liverpool Monarchs.

Gordon Rimmer Shield

Skelmersdale Jets.

Individual Awards. Player of the Year - Rick Parker(Braves).
Home Run Award- Art Bolton(Trojans). Winning Pitcher- Jeff Jonnson (Trojans). Frank Beach Award for Pitcher with Lowest E.R.A. - Rick Parker(Braves). Most Improved Player - Bob Orme(Braves).
Rookie Award- Jon Lomas(Trojans). Merit Award - Gabriel Brito-coll.
Ponyball Player of the Year- Paul Howard(Tolona White Sox)

The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in March. Subscription for four issues is £1. Subscriptions should be made payable to William Morgan. Subscriptions and any items for publication should be sent to the editor.

MIDLANDS by Sheila Williams.

Southglade Eagles won both our Ponyball cup competitions, the Jimmy Goins Trophy - beating Newark Titans in the final, also the Lol Whelan Trophy - beating Southglade Kestrels in the final

The success in the Lol Whelan Trophy qualified Eagles for the BABSF National Junior Championship Final, in which they met Hull Rebels at Waltham Abbey

Both teams produced good baseball, the score standing at Eagles 3 - Rebels 4 at the end of the fourth inning. Rebels really got to grips with the game in the fifth inning, grabbing four runs, and with some very slick fielding, prevented Eagles from scoring in the fifth and sixth. Final result Eagles 4 - Rebels 9.

The Senior League was not finally decided until 30th. September, when Hornets and Pirates were involved in a thrilling play-off for the championship. Pirates put in a good solid team performance on the day to bring off a well deserved win, 6 - 4.

Southglade Hornets won the Nottingham Cup, beating Pirates in the final 5 - 2. Hornets thereby qualified for the BBSF Champion-ship semi-final, in which they lost to the eventual winners of the National Championship, Croydon Bluejays.

MIDLAND PONY LEAGUE 1984 FINAL STANDINGS

	W	L	%
NEWARK TITANS	6	0	1.000
Southglade Eagles	5	2	.714
Southglade Kestrels	3	4	.429
Boston Bullets	1	2	.333
Leicester Dodgers	0	7	.000

MIDLAND SENIOR LEAGUE 1984 FINAL STANDINGS

	W	L	%
SOUTHGLADE PIRATES	6	1	.857
Southglade Hornets	5	2	.714
Arnold Astros	1	5	.167
Newark Gladiators	1	5	.167.

Clifton Cougars, a club founded about ten years ago, disbanded this season. Another loss to our league has been the Birmingham Baseball Club.

OLYMPIC EXHIBITION TOURNAMENT

The competition was won by Japan, which together with Canada was only a last minute invitee to the tournament.

ROUND ROBIN STANDINGS

	W	L	F	A
White Div.				
U.S.A.	3	0	30	2
Taiwan	2	1	24	3
Italy	1	2	11	33
Dominican Republic	0	3	8	35
Blue Div.				
Japan	2	1	25	7
South Korea	2	1	10	9
Canada	1	2	10	11
Nicaragua	1	2	11	29

Game by Game Results.

Tuesday, 31 July

Italy 10 - Dominican Rep. 7 : U.S.A. 2 - Taiwan 1

Wednesday, 1 August

Nicaragua 4 - Canada 3 (12 Inns.) : Japan 2 - South Korea 0

Thursday, 2 August

Taiwan 13 - Dominican Rep. 1 : U.S.A. 16 - Italy 1

Friday, 3 August

South Korea 3 - Canada 1 : Japan 19 - Nicaragua 1

Saturday, 4 August

U.S.A. 12 - Dominican Rep. 0 : Taiwan 10 - Italy 0

Sunday, 5 August

Canada 6 - Japan 4 : South Korea 7 - Nicaragua 6

Monday, 6 August - Semi-finals

Japan 2 - Taiwan 1 (10 inns.) : U.S.A. 5 - South Korea 2

Tuesday, 7 August

Bronze Medal - Taiwan 3 - South Korea 0 (14 inns.)

Gold Medal - Japan 6 - U.S.A. 3.

The U.S.A., heavily favoured to win the gold medal once Cuba had withdrawn from the tournament, had to settle for silver.

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In the final game, U.S.A. scored in the third, to take a 1 - 0 lead. Japan scored 2 in the fourth, and 1 in the fifth. With a 3 - 1 lead in the seventh, Japan was faced with a bases loaded situation. Yukio Yoshida, who had pitched nine innings the day before, struck-out Shane Mack, so getting Japan out of peril. In the eighth inning Katsumi Hirose hit a three run homer. Pitcher John Hoover was booed, as was coach Rod Dedeaux, by the disappointed American crowd. The U.S.A. scored twice in the bottom of the ninth to make it 6 - 3.

The total attendance for the eight days was 385,290, most of the ticket sales were for a double-header programme. The final game drew 55,235; and the semi-final game U.S.A. v. South Korea drew 54,521.

HULL METS.

Hull Mets played in two Championship finals in the space of one month this year. The new British Knock-out Cup competition, designed to produce a club which is qualified to play in the European Cup competition, staged its final at the Harvey Hadden Stadium, Nottingham on 12th. August. Hull Mets beat Crawley Giants 16 - 5.

The MVP Award, donated by Majestic Trophies(Nottingham), was won by Wayne Parker(Mets) who fielded extremely well, got five hits, and scored four runs.

In the National Final, played to the format which has existed for some years, Hull Mets were beaten by Croydon Bluejays 10 - 9.

The Knock-out Cup requires entrants to have player membership as needed under C.E.B.A. rules.

1984 EUROPEAN BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (B) POOL.

This tournament was played at Anlaby Road Cricket Circle, Hull, from 16th. to 18th. August. Participants were Great Britain, West Germany, Finland, and San Marino.

Results - 16th. Aug. San Marino 16 - west Germany 4; Great Britain 10 - Finland 0; 17th. Aug. San Marino 18 - Finland 8; W. Germany 12 - Great Britain 2; 18th. Aug. Finland 15 - W. Germany 13 - this game saw W. Germany lose the lead to a hard hitting Finnish team, which went on with great jubilation to record its first ever international victory. Great Britain 7 - San Marino 15.

On 19th. Aug. San Marino beat a Selection from the other three teams 17 - 8; on 15th. Aug. the tournament was started with a game Humberston County v. US-Menwith Hill. U.S. won 5 - 4.

Majestic Trophies of Nottingham donated eight Man of the Match Trophies, one for each of the eight games in the programme. Best Player of the Tournament Awards, one for each country were donated by Finlandia Vodka for Finland, North Sea Ferries(Great Britain), TrustHouse Forte Hotels(San Marino), and Kaltenberg Diat Pils for West Germany.

Final Standings. 1. San Marino; 2. a three-way tie, Great Britain, Finland, W. Germany.

All games were recorded on video tape; the spacious Cricket Circle enabled the games to be played under much better conditions than is usual in Great Britain.

WORLD SOFTBALL TITLE.

The Sixth Men's World Softball Championship Tournament was staged at Midland, Michigan, U.S.A. in July. To the surprise of the North Americans, New Zealand triumphed; New Zealand are current World Champions in both Men's, and Women's Softball. N.Z. beat Canada 3 - 1 in the grand final; after having beaten the U.S.A. 5 - 3 in the preliminary final.