

BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 38

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BASEBALL

Mercury.

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SOUTH OF ENGLAND BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

1984 Standings

| | W | L | % | GB |
|-------------------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| <u>Group 1</u> | | | | |
| CROYDON BLUEJAYS | 9 | 1 | .900 | -- |
| Cobham Yankees | 6 | 3 | .667 | 2½ |
| Crawley Giants | 6 | 4 | .600 | 3 |
| Sutton Braves | 4 | 6 | .400 | 5 |
| London Warriors | 3 | 6 | .333 | 5½ |
| Regents Park Eagles | 0 | 8 | .000 | 8 |
| <u>Group 2 (west)</u> | | | | |
| U.S. NAVY | 14 | 0 | 1000 | - |
| Ashford Merlins | 5 | 5 | .500 | 7 |
| Wokingham Monarchs | 5 | 5 | .500 | 7 |
| Southampton Shooters | 5 | 8 | .385 | 8½ |
| Esher Rangers | 2 | 10 | .167 | 11 |
| <u>Group 2 (West Central)</u> | | | | |
| BARNES BARNSTORMERS | 11 | 3 | .786 | - |
| Ashford Condors | 10 | 4 | .714 | 1 |
| Golders Green Sox | 5 | 5 | .500 | 4 |
| Oxshott Orioles | 4 | 7 | .364 | 5½ |
| Ashford Mets | 0 | 15 | .000 | 11½ |
| <u>Group 2 (East)</u> | | | | |
| xROCHESTER CITY DODGERS | 14 | 2 | .875 | - |
| xEssex Raiders | 13 | 3 | .813 | 1 |
| Middlesex Trojans | 5 | 7 | .417 | 7 |
| Waltham Abbey Arrows | 4 | 9 | .308 | 8½ |
| Shoreditch Eagles | 2 | 11 | .154 | 10½ |
| x After play-off. | | | | |
| <u>Group 2 (East Central)</u> | | | | |
| BRIGHTON JETS | 12 | 3 | .800 | - |
| Crawley Giants II | 11 | 4 | .733 | 1 |
| Enfield Spartans | 7 | 6 | .538 | 4 |
| Croydon Borough Pirates | 4 | 9 | .308 | 7 |
| Gants Hill Stingrays | 0 | 15 | .000 | 12 |

I learn from a S.E.B.A. officer that Regents Park Eagles, originally a team of Japanese, and Shoreditch Eagles, have folded. A number of new teams have entered S.E.B.A. so that numbers should be greater than in 1984. Among the new entrants is a team from Taunton, Somerset, this is about 140 miles from Central London.

Outside of the structure of S.E.B.A., but lying within its area, some six schools in the Essex region, have been organised for base-ball by William Beckwith.

Independently of S.E.B.A., but covering part of its area, 1984 saw the functioning of the South of England Softball Association. In October 1983 a meeting of all groups playing softball in the South of England was called by William Beckwith at the headquarters of the Central Council of Physical Recreation. A great deal of detection was needed to track these groups down. Eventually, 28 groups were located many of them not known to other groups. They were playing mainly slow-pitch softball, some were mens teams, others were womens teams, while some groups played mixed teams of both men and women.

As a result of this initiative by William Beckwith, S.E.S.A. emerged, and 20 softball teams were affiliated to the British Amateur Baseball & Softball Federation by S.E.S.A. I gather that most of the softball played was slow-pitch. The B.A.B.S.F. has asked clubs to play fast-pitch to come into line with the rest of Europe. The B.A.B.S.F. would also like a unified administration for both baseball and softball to emerge in the South of England.

Women's softball is included in World Games II, Great Britain, as host country, could take part in the softball tournament; as we had very little women's softball, a difficult problem was faced. The International Softball Federation is very keen to have Great Britain participating. The rules for the World Games differ from those of the Olympic Games, it has been agreed that persons having lived in the United Kingdom for twelve months prior to July 1985 would be eligible to represent Great Britain.

A fair amount of publicity was given to an appeal for volunteers wishing to try-out for the G.B. team. About 100 volunteers emerged. Try-outs have been held, the final squad will play versus a Dutch premier division team; if it shows that it could give a creditable display in the World Games it will be admitted.

The other countries playing in the softball section will probably be U.S.A., Japan, Taiwan, the Netherlands, and Belgium. New Zealand, the World Champions, appear not to have been able to raise sufficient finance to participate.

SWEDEN.

For the first time in 18 years, a club other than Leksand or Bagarmossen, won the baseball championship. In 1984, Sundbyberg, under the guidance of national coach Ron Gaines, did not lose a game during the normal season. In the final round, contested by Sundbyberg, Bagarmossen, Leksand, and Skarpnack, Sundbyberg and Leksand achieved the same number of points. As Sundbyberg beat Leksand three times in this round, Sundbyberg won the title. Leksand, were second, Bagarmossen - third, and Skarpnack - fourth.

In women's softball, Leksand won its first national title, beating Bagarmossen in three straight games of a best of five series. Leksand also won the junior baseball championship beating Ijusdal in the final.

The Swedish women's team took part in the Northern Championships, this is a multi-sport competition for the Nordic countries. Sweden won in softball, beating Denmark 11 - 0, and Finland 6 - 2.

The Skarpnack Club organised a softball tournament for clubs from the Nordic countries. It was won by Sunbyberg (Stockholm), Munkene (Copenhagen) was second, Skarpnack - third, Esbo (Helsinki) - fourth, and Skelleftea - fifth. The last club is the most northern baseball and softball club in the world.

HK '71 (Uppsala) have mounted a campaign to raise funds for the legal defence of a former member, Jose Sanchez. A Venezuelan, holding left wing political opinions, he fled to Sweden in 1970, and sought political asylum.

While in Sweden he played a leading role in the success of HK '71. Sanchez returned to Venezuela some years later after an amnesty was declared for their political refugees living in other countries.

Things went well until December 1983, when following the hijacking of a freight plane on an internal flight, fifty persons alleged to be involved in a plot were arrested. Among them was Jose Sanchez. HK '71 are raising money to hire lawyers. A sum of about £7,000 is needed.

BASEBALL CANADA

1984 National Championships

Senior - venue, St. John, New Brunswick

Gold - Ontario (Windsor Chiefs): Silver - New Brunswick (Marysville Dodgers): Bronze - Host Team (St. John Dodgers)

Junior - venue, Trois-Rivieres, Quebec.

Gold - Host Team (Les Aigles de Trois Rivieres): Silver - Quebec (Montreal All Stars) and British Columbia, Tied.

Bison - venue, LaSalle, Quebec.

Gold - Ontario (Windsor All Stars): Silver - Quebec (Quebec All Stars): Bronze - New Brunswick (Phase Electric)

Midget - venue, Moncton, New Brunswick.

Gold - Host Team (Moncton Tim Hortons): Silver - Alberta (St. Albert Legionnaires): Bronze - Nova Scotia (Dartmouth).

Baseball Canada held its AGM in Quebec City, 25 - 28th. October. Cas Pielak continues as President. Ron Hayter reported on the 1985 Intercontinental Cup to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, 8 - 18th. August, he stated that five countries had already committed themselves to take part, namely - Canada, U.S.A., Japan, Taiwan, and Nicaragua. There are places for another three countries.

At the closing banquet, the following awards were made.

Player of the Year - Tom Nelson: Coach of the Year - Eric MacKenzie: Province of the Year - New Brunswick: Life Member Award - Cas Pielak.

The sixth annual Pearson Cup game was held on 24th. May at the Exhibition Stadium, Toronto. The 13 inning game saw Toronto Blue Jays beat the Montreal Expos 6 - 5, watched by a Pearson Cup record attendance of 24,768.

Five more people were elected to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in July. In the builders category were: Charles Bronfman, largely responsible for establishing major league ball in Montreal, and Andrew Bilesky, noted Little League Coach in British Columbia. In the players category were: Claude Raymond, the Expos' lone local hero, Goody Rosen, who starred with the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1930s and 1940s, and Jack Graney, who played with the Cleveland Indians in the early years of the century.

The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in July. 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.

BELGIUM

Antwerp Eagles retain the national championship which they had won for the first time in 1983. They lost just two games, one to runners-up Luchtbal, and one to Mortsel Stars. Runners-up Luchtbal lost five games.

In youth baseball, Luchtbal won the cadet championship, and Bell were miniball champions.

Women's softball champions were Brasschaatse, second Luchtbal, third - General Motors, the 1983 champions. Men's softball title winners were Mortsel Stars.

Individual awards - Most Valuable Player, Marcel de Saedeleer, (Mortsel Stars), he also won the bronze medal for hitting. Batting champion was Frank Hardies (General Motors), son of the former international umpire, Sim Hardies. Hardie had an average of .583; runner-up was Oswald Boermans (Borgerhout Squirrels) .547. Best Rookie - Ivo van Loo (Luchtbal).

In women's softball, Connie van den Bosch (Luchtbal) was voted most valuable player, and best pitcher (E.R.A. 0.36), she also led in base-stealing with 28. Best hitter - Nora Vermander (Brasschaatse) with .500. Homerun leader - Monique Slegers (Brasschaatse). The Annie and Jacques Reinenbergh Award for the best international was awarded to Vera van de Ven.

XXVIIIth. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

This tournament was played in a number of Cuban cities between 14th. and 28th. October. A preliminary series of games was played to determine the top eight, this group then played a round-robin at Havana. The five lower teams played a round-robin at Holguin.

FINAL PLACINGS.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|--------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. CUBA | 7 | 6 | 1 | 9. Venezuela | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 2. Taiwan | 7 | 5 | 2 | 10. Neth. Antilles | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 3. U.S.A. | 7 | 4 | 3 | 11. Italy | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 4. Japan | 7 | 3 | 4 | 12. Dominican Rep. | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 5. South Korea | 7 | 3 | 4 | 13. Netherlands | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 6. Panama | 7 | 3 | 4 | | | | |
| 7. Nicaragua | 7 | 2 | 5 | | | | |
| 8. Puerto Rico | 7 | 2 | 5 | | | | |

In the round-robin play-off Cuba was beaten by Taiwan 4 - 7. The two losses sustained by Taiwan were inflicted by Japan, and the U.S.A. The U.S.A. defeats were at the hands of Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Panama.

In the section played at Holguin, Italy beat the Netherlands, and the Dominican Republic.

ITALY

In the records of the Italian national champions, which date from 1948, Nettuno is the leader with 11 titles, followed by Milan with 8. The last year in which either of these clubs won a title was 1973. In the past 10 years the Italian title has been won by Bologna ('78 and '84), Rimini ('75, '79, '80 and '83) and Parma ('76, '77, '81 and '82).

In 1984 these three clubs occupied the first three positions. Bologna won 30 out of 42 games. Parma 26, and Rimini 23.

World Vision Parma won the European Cup. The Italian Cup won in 1983 by Telemontecarlo Novara, was won in 1984 by Nuova Stampa Florence.