

already happening, all clubs having numbers of interested youngsters. The local press has given plenty of space to the game, and we find greatly increased interest in our results. I must mention again that games with an inter-city label create additional interest.

The 1963 season has certainly been full of shocks and excitement. Glancing into the future, it seems that Hull Braves will be in contention for honours, that Blackburn Buccaneers will become a competent team, and that Hull Royals, having won the championship this year will be inspired to recapture their former glory. As for Aces, they at last realised their ambition of winning the British Baseball Federation National Challenge Cup, but lost many of last season's trophies. 1964 is a year of challenge to the club, we will be all out for both National League and Hull League titles, and we certainly will do our utmost to retain the B.B.F. Cup. 1963 has certainly been a most interesting season, we have checked the decline in baseball and I believe even made a little progress.

MERSEYSIDE NOTES by P. Hemmings.

Mormon Yankees won the league championship without losing a game. Aces were second, Stretford Saints third, Tigers fourth, and NAIGO Cubs last. The Mormons won the Lancashire Cup, and the National Baseball Congress Commissioner's Trophy was won by Stretford. Stretford met the Mormon Yankees twice in the semi-final of the N.B.C. Trophy, beating them on both occasions, the second meeting was caused by the Mormons protesting the first game, on the grounds that Australian pitcher Ian Glover was ineligible, Glover had beaten them on a no-hit shut-out.

We had a fair season, weather played havoc with our fixtures, and the dropping-out of Burtonwood Comets was a blow to us. The season ended with a game between Aces' juniors and Tigers' juniors. It was a grand game, and we hope that it could be the forerunner to a junior league next season, particularly as two other boys' clubs have displayed great keenness in being coached in the game ready for next season.

The British Baseball Federation Cup Final was played at the Garringtons' Sports Ground, Bromsgrove on Sunday, August 18th. East Hull Aces won an exciting game from Garringtons B.C. 8 - 6.

The National League One-Day Consolation Tournament, played at Austin British Legion ground on 22nd September, saw East Hull beat Austin in the final 10 - 9.



BASEBALL

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NATIONAL LEAGUE FINAL TABLE.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Stretford Saints (Manchester)	10	10	0	242	51	20
Garringtons B.C. (Bromsgrove)	10	7	3	96	58	14
East Hull Aces	10	6	4	134	57	12
Austin British Legion (Birmingham)	10	4	6	76	77	8
Nottingham Athletics	10	3	7	62	219	6
Coventry Blue Sox	10	0	10	36	193	0

Leading homerun hitter Wally O'Neil (Stretford) 4.
Pitcher leading in strike-outs Frank Parker (East Hull) 91.

NATIONAL LEAGUE POSTSCRIPT by Don Smallwood.

The National League having completed its first season let us assess the lessons learned, and discuss the points put forward by the critics of the proposal that a National League should be organised.

The big question was the burden of travelling expenses, each of the six clubs which took part proved that by hard work the necessary funds could be raised. It was also declared that we would be unable to obtain publicity; we have found that newspapers, yes, even the Fleet Street giants, are interested when the flavour of the fixture is "National". It was also alleged that the National League was excluding certain areas from participating. This is untrue, and if anyone cares to learn more about the National League, its ambitions, and present rules, I would welcome the opportunity of replying to them.

The launching of the National League has been a wonderful adventure, we have laid the foundations and now we hope to build a little higher each year, until the day when baseball can take its place as Britain's major summer sport. Whilst having a measure of success in the first season, we of the National League realise that we have a long way to go, but we are confident that with an all-out effort we'll make it. The factor which was most important in the success of our first season was "trust". Now, if every player, official and supporter will only remember that they can trust the National League executive to deal with administration, and to adjudicate fairly whenever any dispute arises, then success must surely follow. To our advantage we are a new organisation, we have no history of past scores which must be avenged. Also if a suggestion for advancing the game is made we don't trot out the old cry "We tried that in nineteen-dot and it didn't work".

Summing up, the success of the National League has surpassed all my hopes. The League has definitely arrived; while we've had our difficulties, and I am sure will encounter more; as long as we maintain our present enthusiasm, the league will go from strength to strength.

All enquiries concerning the National League should be sent to: D.Smallwood, 88, Westerdale Grove, Southcoates Lane, Hull.

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Original articles and letters are invited for publication. If return of MSS. is required, a stamped, self-addressed envelope must be enclosed.

S.B.A. v. N.L. ALL-STAR GAME by Andy Parkes

As will be seen from the box-score, this game, played at the Thames Board Mills ground, Aveley, Essex, on Sunday, 29th September, was a tight contest.

Losing pitcher John Barrass, of Bromsgrove, went all the

way and pitched a good game, but he got no support from the NL hitters. One must exclude Wally O'Neil of Stretford from this criticism, he provided the high-light of the game, when in the first innings with the bases loaded, and two out, he hit a 350 feet homer off the first pitch. Unfortunately he made two costly errors later in the game. D.Tinton, pinch-hitting for M.Simoni, drove in the winning run for the S.B.A. in the 7th.

An interesting aspect of the game was that while the Southern team was loaded with U.S. servicemen, the Nationals were homegrown with the exception of Canadian Wally O'Neil. T. Mcoy was the winning pitcher, he replaced J. Booth in a critical spot when the N.L. were leading 7 - 6 in the 5th. For the S.B.A. R. McElwaney had a good day at 2b. collecting three hits in five trips, two being for extra bases. Centre-fielder J. Mahoney with three for four also hit well. For the Nationals a feature of the game was the promise shown by the catcher, 21 years old John Collins of Stretford, whose rifle arm earned the respect of Southern base-runners, one of whom he caught stealing second with a magnificent low trajectory throw after he had conceded a passed ball.

S.B.A.					NLL.						
	AB	R	H	RBI		AB	R	H	RBI		
R.McElwaney	2b	5	1	3	3	W.Casey	ss	5	1	2	0
L.Banks	rf	4	1	2	0	B.Dawson	2b	2	1	0	0
P.Staples	c	4	0	1	1	J.Collins	c	5	1	1	0
J.Berry	lf	3	2	2	1	C.Court	lf	4	2	1	1
M.Sumner	ss	4	0	1	0	F.Parker	rf	3	1	1	2
J.Mahoney	cf	4	2	3	1	W.O'Neil	3b	3	1	1	4
P.Crook	1b	4	1	1	1	J.Gower	cf	3	0	1	0
M.Simoni	3b	3	1	0	0	B.Court	1b	5	0	0	0
J.Booth	p	1	0	0	0	J.Barrass	p	3	0	0	0
a) P.Gammon	c	1	0	0	0	e) J.Read	ph	1	0	0	0
b) D.Tinton	ph	1	0	1	1	Totals		34	7	7	7
c) R.Nease	ph	1	0	0	0						
d) T.Mcoy	p	2	0	0	0						
		37	8	14	8						

National League	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	= 7
Southern Baseball Association	2	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	x	= 8
Team Managers N.L.	R.Collins	(Bromsgrove)	S.B.A.	T. Warner							
		(Thames Board Mills)									

Pitching Summary.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Barrass (loser)	8 $\frac{1}{3}$	14	8	8	1	4
Booth	4 $\frac{2}{3}$	5	7	5	3	6
Mooy (winner)	3 $\frac{2}{3}$	2	0	0	4	3
Nease	1	0	0	0	1	1

a) replaced Staples in 7th. b) replaced Sironi in 7th. c) replaced Mooy in 8th. d) replaced Booth in 5th. e) pinch-hit for Gower in 9th. HR O'Neil, 3B Parker, McElwaney, Crook, 2B Mahoney, McElwaney, Errors Collins 3, O'Neil 2, Mahoney, DP Sumner-McElwaney-Crook. LOB Southern 6, National 10. Time 2 hrs. 10 min. Plate Umpire F.P. Adey, Base Umpire M. Askey.

YOUTH BASEBALL by Lionel Blandford.

The London Area Anglo-American Youth Baseball Association had a very mixed 1963 season with the Little League stealing most of the limelight. Shortage of officials in the Babe Ruth League caused a very late start to the season and consequently the programme was only half completed. Ruislip All-British Dodgers finished their season with a two-week holiday in Holland where they played both Little League and BRL games against the strong H.C. Schoten club at Haarlem.

The British Little Leaguers won a cracking game by 6 - 3 with Rob Ellis pitching soundly in spite of the wet ball. The BRL game was another thriller with internationals in both line-ups. Roger Applebee, Dave Baird and Rob Baird (1962 internationals) strengthened the British team and it was unfortunate that after trailing 5 - 2, and hitting back to tie the score at 5 - 5, the game had to be stopped on a pre-arranged time-limit.

To complete a grand day, the same teams played soccer resulting in a 7 - 1 win for our senior boys and a 2 - 3 loss for the juniors. As a result of the great friendship struck up between the British and Dutch boys and officials during the two visits of the Dodgers to Holland it now looks like being an annual event. Schoten have accepted an invitation to visit England next year as guests of the Dodgers and will doubtless play several games during their stay.

In view of the increasing interest and strength of baseball amongst the youngsters it may well be possible to organise an All-British programme for the age groups 9 - 12, and 13 - 16 years (Little League and Babe Ruth League). The writer will be

pleased to receive letters with comments from any interested persons particularly in the South of England, although letters from any part of Britain regarding youth baseball will be welcome. My address is 27 Queens Walk, South Ruislip, Middlesex.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Netherlands defeated Belgium 12 - 0 in the second game between the two countries this year. On the same day the Dutch youth team beat the Belgian youth team 8 - 4.

On Sunday, 8th September the Netherlands played its 78th. international contest, this game played at Grosseto, Italy resulted in a Netherlands' win over Italy by 6 - 3.

Sparta of Rotterdam won the 1963 Netherlands' championship.

The Babe Ruth League European Regional Tournament held at Karlsruhe, West Germany, was won by Frankfurt, a U.S. services entry. The European Native section was won by Italy who defeated the Netherlands twice, 6 - 1 and 10 - 8. Italy lost the final to the Frankfurt American team 7 - 2.

The Spanish Baseball Federation published a special number of its official newspaper in August to commemorate the opening of its new La Elipa Stadium at Madrid. The inaugural ceremonies included a tournament featuring Madrid All-Stars, Barcelona All-Stars, and two U.S.A.F. teams, the Torrejon Raiders and the Saragossa Matadors. The tournament resulted in an unexpected victory for Madrid. The pre-tournament favourites, Torrejon, finished in third place, Saragossa in second.

STATESIDE DIAMOND NEWS by Norman Sutherland.

The Los Angeles Dodgers crushed the New York Yankees in four straight games to win the 1963 World Series. The Yanks had previously won 20 World Series while losing 7, and were 7 to 5 pre-Series favourites. Sandy Koufax started the first game for the Dodgers, the southpaw strike-out artist who had set a new N.L. record this season with 306 strike-outs, overpowered the mighty Yankees, striking out 15 to set a new World Series record. Whitey Ford was the loser of the 5 - 2 game. In the second game John Podres gave a great display of control pitching to beat the Yanks 4 - 1. The third game was pitched for LA by Don Drysdale who shut-out the Yanks, winning 1 - 0. Sandy Koufax pitched the fourth game of this remarkable series winning 2 - 1, Ford was also charged with the loss of this game. The Yanks solitary tally in the fourth game was a homerun by Mantle, who thereby equalled Ruth's record of 15 World Series' homers.

Defensive lapses and puny hitting were responsible for the calamity which overtook the Yankees, their pitching was good, but the Dodgers pitching was superlative, and the Dodgers' hitters were providing the long-ball when needed.

Tommy Davis of the Dodgers repeated as NL batting champ, his average was .326. the AL hitting leader was Carl Yastrzemski of the Red Sox with .321. Homerun leaders were, in the AL Harmon Killebrew with 45, NL Hank Aaron of Milwaukee with 44. Pitchers leading their leagues in the ERA department were, AL, Dick Radatz of Boston, 2.03, NL Ron Perranoski of the Dodgers 1.67.

For the American League this has been a bad year at the gate, attendance is down in most cities, as the Yankees, despite being without their home-run duo, Mantle and Maris for long stretches of the season, dominated the league from the opening weeks. The Minnesota Twins led the AL in attendance with 1,406,652, the Los Angeles Dodgers led the NL attendance table with 2,538,602, the NL once more showed a gain in total attendance. The National League was a three team struggle for most of the season until the Giants fell by the wayside. The St. Louis Cardinals kept the race interesting until mid-September when they lost a golden opportunity of clinching the pennant with a three game series against the Dodgers at St. Louis, however they dropped three straight to LA, and that was the clincher for the West Coast side. For some months the Chicago Cubs were within striking distance of the leaders, and this created an upsurge of attendance at Wrigley Field the last stronghold of daylight ball. The hapless Mets drew in excess of one million at home.

Final Major League Standings.

National League.			American League				
W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.		
Los Angeles	99	63	.611	New York	104	57	.646
St. Louis	93	69	.574	Chicago	91	68	.580
San Francisco	88	74	.543	Minnesota	91	70	.565
Philadelphia	87	75	.537	Baltimore	86	76	.531
Cincinnati	86	76	.531	Cleveland	79	83	.488
Milwaukee	84	78	.519	Detroit	79	83	.488
Chicago	82	80	.506	Boston	76	85	.472
Pittsburgh	74	88	.457	Kansas City	73	89	.451
Houston	66	96	.407	Los Angeles	70	91	.435
New York	51	111	.315	Washington	56	106	.346

HULL LEAGUE FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	Pts.
Hull Royals	6	5	1	10
East Hull Aces	6	4	2	8
Hull Braves	6	3	3	6
Blackburn Buccaneers	6	0	6	0

Yorkshire Cup - Hull Royals, British Legion Cup - Hull Braves, Consolation Cup - Hull Braves.

THE HULL BASEBALL SCENE by Don Smallwood

Once again, it's all over, bats are going in oil, cleats, gloves, and uniforms being put away until May, which seems a long way off. The married players now tackle the jobs around the house that should have been done last May. It's always sad to close a season, but in Hull each of the clubs has something to talk about during the winter months. New Hull champions, Royals, breaking the Aces' eight year monopoly in the league. Braves can muse over the feat of beating every other team in the Hull League, and of wresting the British Legion Cup from Aces. Buccaneers can take satisfaction from their great improvement this year, their highlight being a near defeat of Aces. Everybody knows of my connection with Aces, so that when I say "The breaking of Aces' dominance in the Hull area will benefit baseball in general", they will realise how much it hurts. Seriously though, the Aces offer no excuses, I think that there has been an all round improvement in the standard of play this season, and with the young players gaining experience the trend will be towards higher standards still.

An explanation of Aces apparent slump is that the club is in a transitional period, with well-known players retiring, it's hard to fill the gaps. However, with a little more experience Aces' teen-agers will be all-out to regain lost honours next year. Another factor was the enormous task facing Aces this year, they have played 32 games, while champions Hull Royals only had 10 fixtures. Towards the end of the season, Aces travelled away from Hull for eight consecutive Sundays, and began to look very jaded, but it was all very worthwhile, with crowds of 700 to 800 for National League games at home. The National League has captured the interest of Hull fans, next season we feel that this interest can be strengthened, and as a result of this increasing interest, youngsters will wish to enter the game. This is