

* * * NUMBER 5 - July 10, 1987 * * *

GRAND SLAM

The Magazine of THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION SOUTH



INSIDE:

Results, BBFS Standings up to date.
Game Reports, Book Reviews.
Paul McGuinness' Major League Review.

30p

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The phoning in to me of results, which was pretty good over the early weeks of the season, has gotten PRETTY PATHETIC recently. Every Monday morning I have to make six or seven calls to dredge up the missing scores, which delays the time when the Sports Wires get them, and delays Grand Slam, because I can't do the standings page until I have all the results, and I try to get GS to the printers on Monday afternoon every other week. Even if your game hasn't been played for some reason, you STILL HAVE TO CALL AND TELL ME - I'm not telepathic. So PLEASE call in the results on Sunday evenings - it only takes two minutes....If you disagree with an opinion voiced in 'Grand Slam', you can do 1 of 2 things; take it out in BP, or write a FLUENT REBUTTAL AND SEND IT TO ME FOR THE NEXT ISSUE - 350 words is half a page....Congratulations to to the Arrows player/manager Phil Chesterton & wife Carrie on the birth of their new 1st baseman....Welcome to Paul McGuinness, who will be tirelessly (and sleeplessly) monitoring AFN and USA TODAY for GS....If you have any gossip, scandal, or nuggets of pure trivia suitable for the editorial (as I quaintly call it), give me a call....Milestones In Publishing Dept; We inaugurate a Lost & Found section on page 10 (whoops, no page numbers....)so send in your sob stories - funny, I could have sworn somebody stole some bases at our place last week....Amongst the theories flying about in the States to explain the so-called lively ball (homers up by about 20% on last year) are Synchronicity - "baseballs are telling each other to fly over the fence" - Zombie Juice - voodoo night shift workers at the Rawlings factory in Haiti are slipping the Longball Liquid into the balls - and Alien Intervention - benevolent little green men (and I don't mean the Oakland pitching staff) are helping the ball over the fence out of the goodness of their hearts..er, whatever did happen to Bill Lee ?....

Muir Mackean.

book review

'IT'S WHAT YOU LEARN AFTER YOU KNOW IT ALL THAT REALLY COUNTS' by Earl Weaver.

(Fireside. £7.95 at Sportspages)

Quick, which major league team has won more games than any other since 1968? No, it's not the Yankees. You shouldn't believe everything you read in the newspapers. Next, which recent manager has the highest winning percentage? No, it's not the one-name answer to the Trivial Pursuit question, 'Name four managers of the New York Yankees' - answer, Billy Martin. The winningest team in baseball since '68 is the Baltimore Orioles led by their win-at-any-cost manager, Earl Weaver.

This book is the autobiography of Earl Weaver, a player who never made it to the big leagues. But the fiery Weaver was able to do one thing consistently - that is, WIN. At the beginning of his career, Earl decided that to properly evaluate baseball talent, he could either befriend his 'employees', or be separate and objective. He knew that the player who helped him today would eventually lose his skills either to age or injury, and that the compassionate manager would retain the former superstar to long (and lose) while the winner would trade him before the decline was noticeable. Earl chose to win.

Earl was popular with the press, particularly for his arguments with umpires, for which he was frequently ejected. Earl's thinking was that he was distracting the umpire's attention from emotional players who he wanted to keep in the game. To Weaver, strategy was everything. In looking at an Oriole boxscore, you'll quickly notice that Weaver made use of all his players. He also wrote the famous Oriole play book, used throughout the Baltimore organisation, which enables players to move from team to team as they progress without having to learn completely new plays.

Assessment: This book is for the astute fan, or the one who wants to be. Highly recommended for the person who wants to know more of what goes on between the foul lines.

Jim Lukas (Sutton).

- GAME REPORTS -

GILLINGHAM DODGERS 5 SUTTON BRAVES 9 Watling Street Fields, June 21

The Dodgers took an early lead when Bruce Gilmore hammered a triple down the third base line to drive in Viv Upshon. The Braves went into the bottom of the seventh leading 6-1, at which point Hugh Neffendorf relieved starter Marty Jewer, who had pitched six innings, giving up only one run. Neffendorf proceeded to walk four while giving up three runs, and the Dodgers were back in it at 6-4. Dodger pitcher John Harrington walked the first two Sutton hitters in the eighth, and Rick D'Alesandro slapped one of his gently damaging singles for two RBI's, and gave the Braves some breathing space. Gillingham came right back in the ninth, scoring through Tim Robinson, but the threat was averted when Steve Neale was thrown out trying to steal home to end the game.

	R H E	
BRAVES	003 200 130-9 9 4	
DODGERS	100 000 301-5 2 4	Rick D'Alesandro.

OXSHOTT ORIOLES 13 SOUTHAMPTON SHOOTERS 8 American School, June 14

Joz Santos pitched another fine game for the Orioles, going all the way for the victory. After being tagged for four runs on five Shooters hits (3 singles and 2 doubles) in the first two innings, Santos bore down, mixing his curve with hard fastballs, to hold the Shooters to only 3 more hits, with 8 strikeouts in the remaining 7 innings. After a slow start, the Orioles exploded in the third and seventh innings with critical hits by Nobu Shimizu, who went three for five with six RBI on the day. Drammis pitched the whole game for Southampton, helping his cause by going two for five at the plate with three RBI. The Shooters one, two, and three hitters were six for fourteen in the game. The big difference in the game was the Orioles clutch hitting, and the seven walks that they received as opposed to the Shooters' two.

	R H E	
SHOOTERS	220 010 210-8 8 8	
ORIOLES	014 021 50x-13 9 6	

ENFIELD SPARTANS 2 GOLDERS GREEN SOX 1 George V Fields, June 21

The rejuvenated Green Sox travelled to Enfield to face the in-form Spartans, and the result was a tremendous, nerve-tingling game. British baseball improves by the minute and this match was a shining example. Oscar Marcellino started for Enfield but manager Jack Akers decided to take him out in the 4th for Ian Pont, though Marcellino had struck out three and given up only one hit. Pont went the rest of the way, collecting five strikeouts en route, with Marcellino moving to 1st base. Smilin' Ralph Papendorf went the distance for the Sox and amassed 11 K's including striking out the side in the 7th. The game was dominated by pitching, supported by good fielding in every department, and it was inevitable that runs would be scarce. The nearest anybody got to scoring in the first four innings was when Rob Lanario was thrown out at the plate by a great throw from Sox 1st baseman Kevin Murphy to catcher Dennis Holland. Eventually, errors crept in and two by the Sox led to Enfield's first run. Rookie Dave Russ' fly ball to right was dropped and he stole second, and when he tried to steal third Holland threw wildly and Russ scored. The Sox responded immediately; Papendorf singled and was soon on third following an error, and Holland was hit by a pitch. With one out and runners at first and third, Dave Singer grounded to Marcellino at 1st who stepped on the bag and threw to Lanario at 2nd for the DP as Papendorf crossed the plate. After some delay, Umpire Bill Beckwith judged that the run counted (see Rule 4.09(a) - the runner who made the third out was not forced, so it was a time play. Had Papendorf touched home plate after Lanario had put on the tag, the run would not have counted). Pont made it 3-3 third after another outfield error in the 8th but was later tagged out at home on a squeeze play. Trying hard to win his game, Papendorf tripled with 2 out in the ninth but Pont got a strikeout to end the threat. Gary Bedingfield led off the Spartans' ninth with a single, Marcellino walked, and Horobin loaded the bases with an infield hit just past the pitcher, and Bedingfield scored the winning run on a passed ball.

	R H E	
GREEN SOX	000 000 100-1 5 4	
SPARTANS	000 001 001-2 6 4	

STANDINGS

FIRST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB.
Enfield	9	1	.900	-
Cobham	7	3	.700	2
Sutton	6	3	.667	2½
Croydon	5	4	.555	3½
Crawley	3	5	.375	5
Barnes	3	6	.333	5½
Golders Gn.	3	6	.333	5½
Gillingham	1	9	.100	8

28 June

Enfield	13	Croydon BJs	9
Gillingham	1	Crawley	5
Golders Green	14	Barnes	3
Sutton Braves	7	Cobham	17

July 5

Barnes	0	Enfield	15
Croydon BJs	11	Golders Green	10
Gillingham	4	Cobham	51

SECOND DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB.
Waltham Arrows	7	1	.875	-
Oxshott	7	2	.778	½
Hounslow Hlrs	6	6	.667	1½
Southampton	4	3	.571	2½
Tonbridge	2	5	.286	4½
Croydon BP	2	6	.250	5
Hounslow Hens	0	8	.000	7

28 June

Hounslow Hlrs	14	Croydon BP	13
Oxshott	21	Hounslow Hens	3
Waltham Arrows	9	Tonbridge	4

5 July

Oxshott	9	Hounslow Hlrs	19
Southampton	8	Waltham Arrows	14

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

	W	L	Pct.	GB.
Innervisions				
Hemel Red Sox	9	0	1.000	-
Basildon	7	1	.875	1½
City Slick	5	3	.625	3½
Totteridge	3	4	.429	5
Waltham Saxons	2	4	.333	5½
Waltham FRR	2	7	.222	7
Hemel Rebels	0	9	.000	9

28 June

Hemel Rebels 3 & 9	City Slick 30 & 39	(doubleheader)	
Totteridge	12	Basildon	15
Waltham FRR	10	Hemel Red Sox	33

5 July

City Slick	30	Waltham FRR	25
Hemel Rebels	9	Hemel Red Sox	45
Waltham Saxons	16	Totteridge	17

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

	W	L	Pct.	GB.
Reading	8	1	.889	-
Crawley Comets	7	2	.778	1
Ashford	6	2	.775	1½
Brighton	5	3	.625	2½
Arun	4	4	.500	3½
Bournemouth	2	8	.200	6½
Burgess Hill	1	6	.142	6½
Croydon BJs II	1	7	.125	6½

28 June

Ashford	24	Brighton	9
Bournemouth	11	Crawley	28
Reading	16	Croydon BJs II	5

5 July

Ashford	27	Bournemouth	11
Reading	17	Crawley	16

YOUTH INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB.
Chelmsford	2	0	1.000	-
Red Hat Colts	2	2	1.000	-
Hemel Red Sox	2	2	.500	1
Hoddesdon	2	2	.500	1
Hounslow	1	2	.333	1½
Weybridge	1	2	.333	1½
Sutton	0	2	.000	2

27 June

Red Hat Colts	14	Hoddesdon	6
Chelmsford	11	Hemel Red Sox	10
Sutton Braves	10	Weybridge	16

4 July

Hoddesdon	17	Hounslow	11
Weybridge	15	Hemel Red Sox	24

(up to and including 5th July)

- GAME REPORTS -

CROYDON BOROUGH PIRATES 6 OXSHOTT ORIOLES 14 Wandle Park, June 21.

The Pirates went down in a flurry of throwing errors and Oriole hits. With both teams under strength, the Bucs' defense literally threw away a golden opportunity to repeat their opening day win over the high flying Orioles. Business calls deprived the O's of their manager and two pitchers, but they buckled down to overpower a Croydon side missing two of their regular starters. Oxshott starter Nobu Shimizu striking out six in his seven innings, and cleanup hitter Rich Coope taking the batting honours - he went four for six with a homer and three singles. Croydon's only consolation was the hitting of Albert Rapacioli, late of the London Ravens, whose first ever base hit was a 370ft homer clubbed over the left field fence in the first inning!

	R	H	E
ORIOLES	111	312	320 - 14 14 1
PIRATES	100	102	110 - 6 6 10

ARUN PANTHERS 15 READING ROYALS 21 Bracklesham Bay, June 21.

The Panthers, trying to forget their home ground problems, took the high-flying Royals to ten innings thanks to a dramatic recovery in the eighth. Up until then, the Royals were always in command with shortstop Peter Edward making some spectacular catches, and 1st baseman Clinton Giles holding on to everything. 2nd baseman Ian Appleby was the Royals' star slugger. Arun pitcher Marc Bourne and catcher Adrian Marsh worked well for the whole game, and left fielder Tim Poll made some good plays. Edward moved from ss to the mound in the seventh and settled down well after the 8th to take the win. Arun's luck on their temporary and makeshift diamond ran out in the top of the tenth. Fortunately, no double-glazing was broken this time.

	R
ROYALS	241 201 401 - 21
PANTHERS	001 032 180 - 15

BRIGHTON JETS 25 TOTTERIDGE TRAILBLAZERS 3 Waterhall Fields, June 21.
(Division 3 Knock-out Shield, First Round)

After a shaky start, the experienced Jets ran out comfortable winners against the Trailblazers. Ian Martin drove in Matt Cook for the 'Blazers first run in the first. Cook then took the mound and sent the Jets back with a 1-2-3 inning. However the 'Blazers lead didn't last long as the Jets went to town in the 2nd and 3rd and never looked back. Meanwhile, Brighton pitcher Andy Laroque had an outstanding game, going the distance, striking out 17 and conceding only 7 hits. Laroque and teammate Rick Larter also provided most of the power hitting. The Trailblazers' other two runs came from Steve Mall and Alan Routledge. The good atmosphere of the game continued in the pub afterwards....

	R	H	E
TRAILBLAZERS	102	000	000 - 3 7 8
JETS	0500	141	22x -25 26 5

CROYDON BOROUGH PIRATES 16 INNERVISIONS HEMEL RED SOX 15 Friendly.

The Pirates, down by 14-15 going into the ninth, had to dig deep into their experience to overcome a spirited Red Sox side, so far unbeaten in the Third Division North. In the ninth, leadoff man Tony Griffiths grounded out to the pitcher, and Scott Helms and Simon Price then walked. Graham Wood singled home Helms to tie it up and set the stage for Pirates hurler Nick Black to ignore (miss ? - Ed.) the bunt sign and crack a double to right centre to win the game. Black had pitched steadily through nine innings, giving up only three hits in the final five. Offensively, Griffiths and Helms accounted for nearly half of the Pirates hits and runs. Defensively, Dave Ward claimed five assists at second, while new man Albert Rapacioli had a quiet debut, taking an excellent catch in right field.

	R	H	E
RED SOX	301	510	131 - 15 7 9
PIRATES	104	202	142 - 16 8 9



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- GAME REPORTS -

TONBRIDGE BOBCATS 13 CROYDON BOROUGH PIRATES 10

Tonbridge, June 14.

A much improved Tonbridge side scored a morale-boosting win over a lack-lustre Pirates outfit on a rare sunny afternoon. The Bobcats' winning pitcher Dick Gofton used the recently installed mound to good effect, striking out nine batters in all, six of these in the middle innings. The 'Cats ran the bases relentlessly (including a steal of home) in building up a 10-5 lead by the sixth. Croydon's five run rally was too little too late. Batting heroes for the Bobcats were pitcher Gofton with two doubles in his three for five, and Mark Jenner who hit a massive triple in the third. The Pirates rearranged their defense in the third after a thumb injury to catcher Graham Wood, but committed too many basic errors. This, together with weak hitting, cost them the game.

	R	H	E
PIRATES	130	100	212 - 10 9 7
BOBCATS	113	221	21x - 13 9 4

WALTHAM ABBEY ARROWS 9 TONBRIDGE BOBCATS 4

Town Mead, June 28.

After a tight start, the Arrows ran out comfortable winners over the Bobcats to continue their surge for Division 1. Jay Hindle made his first start of the season for Waltham Abbey, and in five innings gave up 2 hits, 1 run, and struck out 9. The strikeouts came consecutively in three torrid innings of pitching. Simon Bowden came out of the bullpen and also only conceded 2 hits while striking out seven. Meanwhile the 'Cats Dick Gofton went the distance (some of it with a sore foot) and whiffed six but it was the twelve walks he granted that really hurt him. Arrows catcher Steve Hicks walked four times before slamming a double in the eighth. Waltham Abbey started five rookies and both Phil Jones and Tark Baldwin collected hits, Tark grabbing an RBI. The Arrows just got more men on base and their timely hitting made the difference.

	R	H	E
BOBCATS	001	001	002 - 4 4 3
ARROWS	100	105	02x - 9 8 3

TOTTERIDGE TRAILBLAZERS 12 BASILDON MARINERS 15

Grange Fields, June 28.

The 2nd placed Basildon Mariners rolled into Totteridge to face the Trailblazers, and after six and a half innings had their eyes set on an easy victory as everything seemed to be going according to plan. Veteran Mariners pitcher George Simmons had pitched shutout ball, giving up only 3 hits, whilst the Mariners offense, though not spectacular, had scored 13 runs on 14 hits against starting pitcher Michael Dundon. Julian Richards relieved Simmons on the mound, and this proved to be the spur that the previously docile Totteridge batters needed, as they took advantage of some erratic pitching to pull themselves back into the game with 7 runs in the inning. In their half of the eighth the amazing Trailblazer comeback continued as the Mariner defense buckled in the face of some determined hitting. In the top of the ninth, with the Mariners ahead by three, two towering drives from Mariners Phil Lock and Kevin Simmons seemed destined for the next field, but instead found their way into the glove of 'Blazers' left fielder Jeff Mehan, and when the Mariners next hitter popped out to first base, manager George Simmons decided to bring himself back on for the decisive Totteridge ninth. He coolly got the final three outs to give the Basildon club a hard fought victory.

	R	H	E
MARINERS	250	301	220 - 15 16 6
TRAILBLAZERS	000	000	750 - 12 13 5

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- GAME REPORTS -

ENFIELD SPARTANS 13 CROYDON BLUEJAYS 9 George V Fields, June 28.

On a hot and humid afternoon, the Spartans faced the only team to have beaten them this season. It proved to be another tight and exciting game with Croydon scoring one run in the top of the first on a double by Keith Wilesmith. The run ended starting pitcher Oscar Marcellino's streak of consecutive innings without an earned run at 25½. The Spartans replied in the bottom of the first with three runs including a 2 run homer by Gary Bedingfield. They added another four runs in the fourth, highlighted by a 2 run double by Dave Russ. In the top of the eighth the Bluejays, down 12-5, rallied for four runs, but Marcellino retired the side in order in the top of the ninth for his fourth victory of the season.

	R	H	E
BLUEJAYS	100	102	140 - 9 11 5
SPARTANS	304	200	31x -13 13 6

COBHAM YANKEES 17 SUTTON BRAVES 7 American School, June 28.

The Yankees did Enfield a big favour by winning this game - with the Spartans beating Croydon, they went two games ahead of Sutton and Cobham. The Yankees relied on lefty starter Tony Kuramitsu, recently promoted from the Oxshott club, and he came through with a sparkling nine inning performance that effectively prevented the Braves from keeping pace with Enfield. It was Kuramitsu's first win in the First Division, after compiling a 3-0 record in the Second. An eleven run second inning by the Yankees pretty much put the game out of reach. Matt Sakai led the Cobham attack with two singles and a double and two RBI's, while Kyle Koloja singled and tripled to frive in three. Dave Jensen, Derek Bufkin, Ken Kocher and Kuramitsu all had two hits each. Julian Dodwell (who started) and Marty Jewer gave up 16 runs in the first two innings for Sutton, but were not helped by six fielding errors in Cobham's big second inning. Andy Evans, the third Sutton pitcher, conceded only one run in the remaining seven innings, indicating that the game could have been a lot closer had the Sutton defense not gone out to lunch in the second inning.

BRAVES
YANKEES

OXSHOTT ORIOLES 21 HOUNSLOW HURRICANES 3 American School, June 28.

Oxshott ran its victory streak to seven with this confident win over the Hurricanes at Cobham. Andy Rink pitched the first five innings for Oxshott, and was credited with the win. Nobu Shimizu finished up, striking out all six batters he faced in the last two innings. Every batter in the Orioles line-up got at least one hit. The game was terminated after seven innings under the slaughter rule.

LOST & FOUND

Dave Brown, of the Cobham Yankees, reports that he has the following items waiting to be reclaimed. All have been left at the Cobham diamond on various occasions;

- One pair of ZETT brand baseball cleats (almost new) and one pair of black shorts.
- One pair football-type cleats with 'Bryan Robson' on side - small.

If you own any of these items, please call Dave on; h. 0372 62203, wk. 01 409 1482.



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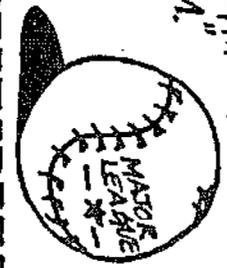
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PAUL McGUINNESS takes a look at the Major Leagues.

While the British baseball season continues on its merry way, the real pros have been hard at it in the States, trying to achieve that pinnacle of success reached by the New York Mets last season. The 1987 Major League campaign is now almost three months old, and already it has become clear that things have changed a great deal since the heady days of October in both Shea Stadium and Fenway Park.

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST:- In 1986, the toast of the AL East, was fireballing Roger Clemens and his 24 wins that led the Red Sox to the World Series. After a lengthy battle with the Red Sox hierarchy over his salary, Clemens re-joined the club two weeks into the season, apparently ready to shake off the apparent jinx that affects all winners of the Cy Young Award. Clemens is still striking them out (103 in 118 IP), but his 6-6 record reflects that he is not the same pitcher that we saw fan 20 Seattle men in one game last year. Boston are currently 10 games back of the Toronto Blue Jays and the New York Yankees, and look beaten already. The Bronx Bombers have maintained good form recently, despite the temporary loss through injury of let baseman Don Mattingly and All-Star center fielder, Rickey Henderson. The Blue Jays have home run leader & perennial power-house, George Bell leading their charge on the title, and with relief corps of the calibre of Messrs. Henke, Musselman and Eichhorn, the Canadians could end up repeating their 1985 division winning season.

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST:- The AL West is being dominated by one pitcher-Bret Saberhagen. The 22 year-old Kansas City Royal leads the major leagues with a 12-2 record and must be the odds-on favourite to start for the AL in the All-Star Game in Oakland later in the month. 1986 was a bad season for the right-hander who won the MVP Award of the 85 World Series, but Saberhagen is back to top form this year. Despite his form, and the winning record of Charlie Leibrandt (8-4), the Royals are three games back of the odd ball of the division, the Minnesota Twins. The latter play in a domed stadium, known around the league as the 'Homerdome', due to its propensity to give up the long ball. Twins pitcher Bert Blyleven described the players' sentiment toward playing in the HR park: " If any of my kids want baseballs, they just sit in the outfield bleachers and let me do the rest when I'm on the mound ! ". The 1987 Twins are still hitting homers but now they have enough pitching to stop the opposition outslugging them. Jeff Reardon spent years pitching brilliantly for the Montreal Expos, but now he's brought his powerful right arm to the AL, and his 14 saves are the difference between the Twins & the rest of the division.

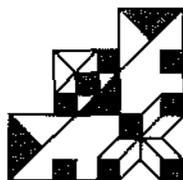
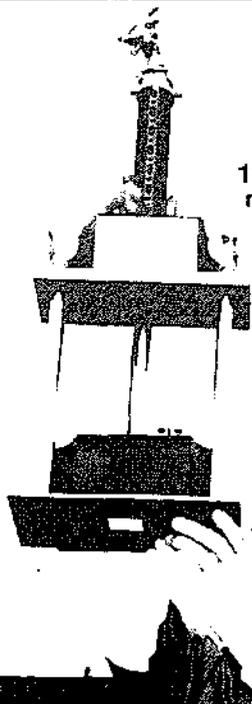
NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST:- Remember the old nursery rhyme- " When she was good, she was very good, but when she was bad, she was horrid " ? The 1987 Mets are a fair example of this. Last year they were unbeatable for much of the season, mainly thanks to the best pitching staff in the league. One look at their injury list will show you in no uncertain terms why they are six games back of the Cardinals and Cuba. Bob Ojeda (out for the season-elbow), David Cone (broken fingers-out for six weeks), Roger McDowell (missed the first two months after a hernia operation), Dwight Gooden (the drug scandal that kept Dr.K out for two months). Gooden seems to be back on the winning trail but the myriad of problems that seem to follow the reigning World Champs may well be the death of Davey Johnson's boys. The Cardinals managed to lose ace pitcher, lefty John Tudor, when Mets catcher Barry Lyons charged into their dugout chasing a foul pop and broke Tudor's left leg, yet they are still up at the top. First baseman Jack " I lost the World Series" Clark is hitting .335 with 18 homers, and Whitey Herzog could be leading his side back to the Series. The Cubs are a real surprise, with former Cy Young Winner, Rick Sutcliffe and his 10 wins taking the limelight. If the Cubs get to the Series, I'll eat my hat, as they always manage to blow it somehow.

NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST:- This division is a battle between the two nicest guys in baseball today. Pete Rose, manager of the Cincinnati Reds, and holder of the All-time Pro record for basehits; Roger Craig, the inventor of the split-finger fastball, and the man who has led the Giants from the baseball basement to the heady heights of the AL West division race. Eric Davis and Dava Parker have been powering the Reds into the lead through much of the season, but Cincy's lack of starting pitching could prove to be the key issue. The 1986 division winning Astros have been picking up recently, and are close to making it a three-horse race in the West. Needless to say, Mike Scott is overpowering every batter in the league, and leads the NL in wins, E.R.A. and K's. In the basement are the San Diego Padres; they had just 15 wins in their first 60 games yet still have kept Larry Bowa as manager. The ace of their staff, Eric Show, owns a 2-9 record, and currently, the team is the epitomy of losing in the States.

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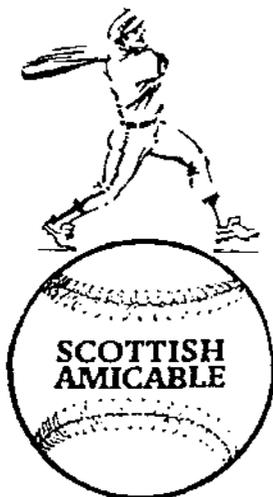
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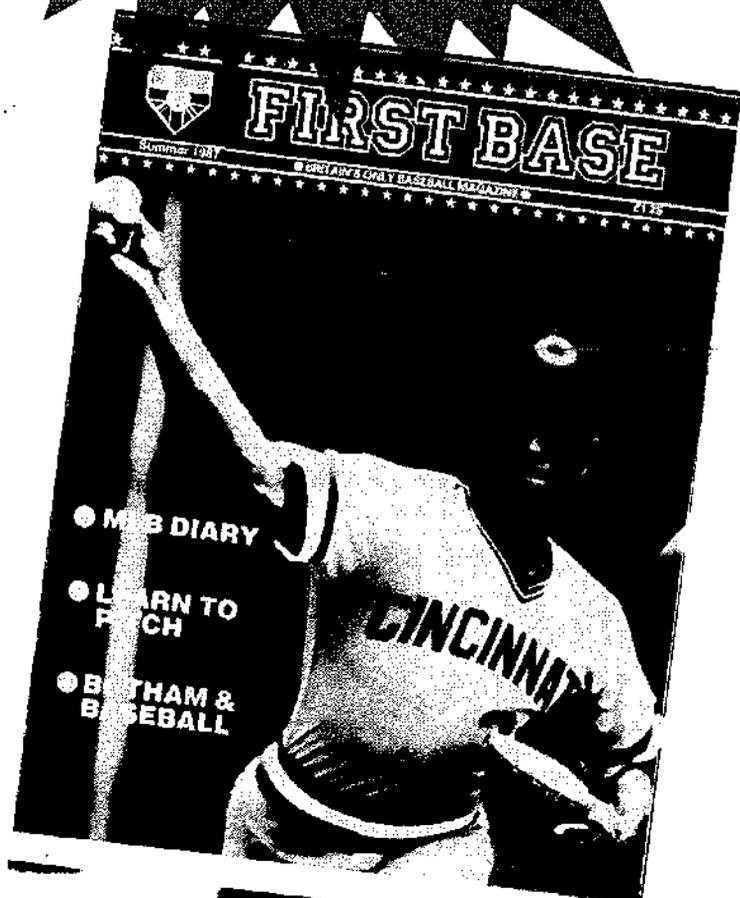
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