



By Tom Forney -- Pinch Hitting for Fred Beam

I've been called in to pinch hit so often in this column that if I don't get a hit this time, I'll probably be farmed out to the minors.

This is a rather quiet time in the sports world, both locally and on a national scale. Here at home Piedmont High School basketball teams are completing a highly successful season. County Basket ball Tournament, both boys and girls, now is going on at Belwood. At the present time both Piedmont boys and Piedmont girls have reached the semi-finals, and tonight Piedmont boys are playing Polkville, their old rivals. Piedmont boys previously defeated Casar boys. Piedmont girls who earlier won the invitational tournament at Valdese, have reached the semi-finals with a win over Grover.

Recently the sectional basket ball tournament of the Western Conference was staged in Shelby. Kings Mountain girls and Rutherfordton boys won out over keen competition. Kings Mountain had both their boys and girls to reach the finals, but their boys were turned back by Rutherfordton. Kings Mountain's girls won their tourney title by defeating Tri-Hi of Caroleen.

In college basketball, Duke University won the Southern Conference basket ball tournament in Raleigh, defeating the University of North Carolina in the finals in what the season's record would show to be an upset. Carolina's won and lost record for regular season games was the best in the conference. But something happened in the Tournament and Duke won by a healthy margin 44-27. Carolina placed two, Mock and Box on the all conference team; Duke placed two, Carver and Wright; and Va. Tech placed the other, Frederick. Duke reached the finals by wins over William and Mary in the first round and N. C. State in the second. Carolina reached the finals by victories over Richmond and Virginia Tech.

Well, it is time to take up baseball. Spring training is just beginning for Major League teams. No one seems to know what the Major League teams will be like. The armed forces have taken the cream of the crop. The Yankees have lost such stand-outs of last year as Keller, Bill Johnson, Russ, Sears, Weatherly, Dickey, Joe Gordon and others. The Cardinals have lost many of their best players; so have all the other teams. It would be unwise to try now to predict the outcome of the season's play. However, it is likely that all teams will be nearer equal than usual, due to the fact that all have lost many of their best players, and those left behind will be more nearly equal on all teams.

The Brooklyn Dodgers will have new uniforms for night games. They will be of satin, white piped with blue for home games, and blue piped with white for out of town games(I may have this reversed). This should be quite a spectacle. The explanation is that it is to get the fan's minds off the quality of the baseball, which will be played by an aggregation of over age and underage players piped with 4-F's.

Many of the players who had thought they had retired for good from baseball will this year probably be regulars unless 17 years olds beat them out.

It is our sincere wish that very shortly all of you will again be with us, participating in our local athletic contests or being again with us as spectators in these events. We'll try to do our part, and we know you are doing more than yours to speed up that day.