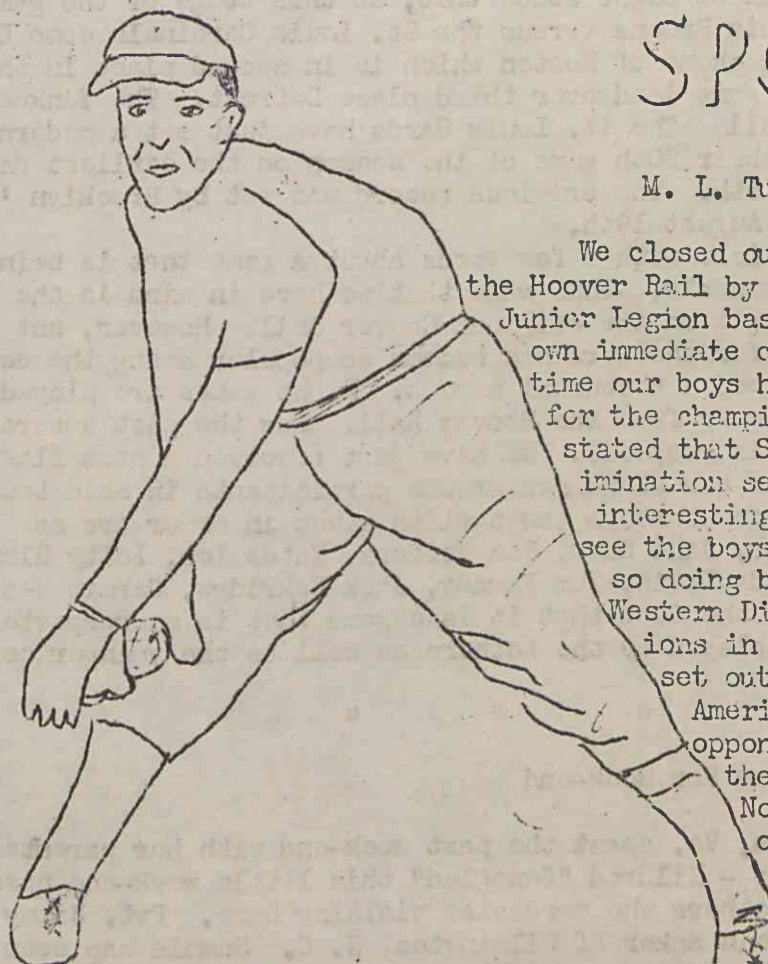


SPORTS

By

M. L. Turner & Fred Beam



We closed our little piece in the July copy of the Hoover Rail by giving a brief account of American Junior Legion baseball, especially as it concerned our own immediate community. As you remember at that time our boys had just put Cherryville out of the race for the championship of Western North Carolina. We stated that Shelby and Charlotte would begin an elimination series on Monday, July 17th. It was an interesting series. Mammoth crowds poured out to see the boys play. Shelby won this series and by so doing became once again the champions of the Western District of North Carolina. Being champions in our own district our next move was to set out in quest of the state gonfalon in American Legion Junior baseball. First opponent in this state race was Whiteville, the champions of the Eastern District of North Carolina. This was to be a four-out-of-seven series. The first two games were played in Whiteville, Shelby winning the first and Whiteville the second. Then the teams returned to Shelby where the home boys chalked up three straight wins. Having disposed of Whiteville only Albemarle stood between the Shelby lads and the state championship. In the Shelby-Albemarle series the local boys were able to win only one game. All the games were well played and were fairly close but for some reason or other Lady Luck didn't treat the Shelby players just right. Albemarle won the last game, a heart-breaker for Shelby to lose, by the score of 7 to 6. So Albemarle became the 1944 state champions. Right here we would like to state that Albemarle did not stop after winning the state flag. A regional tournament has just been concluded at Albemarle. The following states were represented in this tournament: Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina. In the first day's play Albemarle lost to Norfolk by the score 6 to 0. According to the set up it was now necessary for the Albemarle boys to win four straights in order to emerge victorious at the end of this tournament. On the second day of play the Stanly County team easily defeated Memphis, Tennessee. The next day they defeated West Virginia's team with a minimum of effort. Then came the last day of the tournament. Only Albemarle and Norfolk were left in the running. Since Norfolk had already administered a white-washing to the Albemarle team it was necessary for Albemarle to take a doubleheader from Norfolk or be through with baseball for the rest of 1944. Well the Albemarle boys won the first game by the score of 4 to 0. Then came the last and deciding game of the tournament. Again, Albemarle won. This too, was another white-washing affair. The score in this final game was 1 to 0. Thanks to a couple of mound masterpieces by pitchers Eddie Gibson and Tommy Andrew the Norfolk boys were able to garner a total of only three hits in the entire eighteen innings of the double-header. We are led to believe that the Albemarle team is just about the most famous team in captivity for comebacks like this. Fans from these parts are wishing the best of luck for the boys from Albemarle in the Southeastern sectional tournament which begins right away in Charleston, South Carolina. For the survivor of this tournament will represent twelve Southern states in the battle for the national championship.

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