

As Seen in The Mirror's

SPORTS REFLECTIONS

of Athletes and Events

Answering The Mail: Without trying to take anything away from Hank Aaron, there can be no doubt that Babe Ruth's homers would have reached a higher figure had he not been a pitcher for the first six years of his major league career.

Ruth played outfield regularly for only 16 years of his 22 years in the big leagues. As a starting pitcher in those other years, he normally saw action on the mound every fourth day.

Although he was used from time to time as a pinch hitter during his hurling seasons, he

had fewer chances at the plate than regulars for almost a third of his career.

Ironically, the Babe's ability as a pitcher delayed his climb to slugging stardom. Ed Barrow, who was managing the Boston Red Sox at the time, was very hesitant about converting his ace moundsman into an outfielder.

Ruth won 92 games and lost only 44 as a major league pitcher. Few recall that he pitched five victories for the New York Yankees, one of them as late as 1935, and never tasted defeat while hurling for that team.

In World Series play, he won three games while losing none. Two of the wins were registered without giving up a run, and his earned run average for World Series action was 0.87.

Aaron would readily admit to anyone that no one will ever remove George Herman Ruth from his special pedestal. Roger Maris didn't do it by clouting more homers in a season than the Babe had in a shorter season, and Hank won't do it if he eclipses Ruth's lifetime total.

Maris was never a .300 hitter, and fell well below that figure when he had his best year. Ruth, by contrast, had a lifetime average of .342. It's true the Bambino went down swinging now and then, but obviously not often.

Aaron, like Willie May, is one of the diamond greats, but you'd better believe it, the Sultan of Swat was in a class by himself. Oldsters remember that fact, and younger fans can learn it by consulting the record book.

Plan Child's Bedroom To 'Grow' with Child

RALEIGH -- Children seem to outgrow everything -- even their bedrooms.

Clothing can be replaced, but a room is something else, observes Mrs. Edith McGlamery, extension house furnishings specialist, North Carolina State University. Carefully planned, it can grow with the child and involve few major changes.

A youngster's bedroom is like a home within a home. It's a place for more than sleeping. Playing, studying, day dreaming, listening to records, munching on snacks and talking with friends are all a part of the bedroom scene during the growing years.

A major criterion for creative decorating is adjustability. At all ages and stages, a child's room should be sized for his needs with furnishings at the right height to develop good habits of neatness, cleanliness and grooming.

Properly chosen accessories -- toy and book shelves, rods and pegs for clothing, a mirror for those initial efforts at grooming -- can be placed low to serve the toddler and be adjusted upward as he adds inches. Be sure to include a good-sized bulletin board for showing off artistic efforts. And make them savable -- pictures and momentos become dear to an older child.

Stackable furniture is a good choice. Pieces can be added as the child and his collections grow. Brightly enamel-painted and top-coated with polyurethane, the furniture will be cheerful, scuff and stain resistant, and suds washable. There also are furniture lines that feature tough, washable, laminated, plastic surfaces.

Flooring should not be

overlooked in planning. Because children of all ages spend much time on the floor, playing, studying and visiting, floor coverings should be easy to care for, safe, warm and attractive.

Easy washing, no-iron fabrics are best for window treatments, bed coverings and pillows. While furniture and flooring are simple and suitable for years, fabrics can take on the decorative job of creating room personality at various age stages.

The newer durable and scrubbable carpetings are worth considering. Vinyl in combination with washable scatter rugs is a good choice. Whatever the final

scheme, some pre-thought with an eye to growth possibilities, easy upkeep, and activities the room will serve is likely to result in greater satisfaction for children and parents.

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