

Sports

LOCAL SPORTS

Mets win Twin City title

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Last year it was the year of the Mets in major league baseball and still is -- only they're in the Twin City Little League.

The Twin City's youthful version of the Mets finished their regular season at 13-1 and were undefeated through the first half of league play.

Coached by Willie Ashford, the Mets beat the Twins 9 to 4 Saturday, and won a 8-6 rainout game over the Reds on Monday to clinch the regular-season championship.

Coach William Westbrook Sr.'s Giants team beat the Braves 7-3 in their final game of the season to finish in sole possession of second place in the league standings at 10-4.

Three other teams all finished identically in the eight-team league that calls Rupert Bell Park home on Saturdays.

The Reds, Twins and Yankees all finished at 9-5 to lock up in a three-way tie for third.

The Reds' finale, was a 1-0 defensive battle they won over the Cubs. They are coached by Sam McIlwaine.

Meanwhile the Twins, coached by John Stewart and Yankees, under the direction of James Johnson, both lost Saturday. The Twins fell to the Mets, and the Dodgers outlasted the Yankees 10-9.

Sam Davis' Braves team slightly resembled their parent club in Atlanta, finishing at 7-7 after a Saturday loss to the Giants.

The Dodgers avoided a chance of tying for last place by beating the Yankees and finishing the season at 5-9 for Coach Charles Rice.

Derrick Green's Cubs have been victims of several close losses, and fell to the Reds 1-0 Saturday to finish at 3-11 in the league.

All-Stars To Play

League representative Al Mitchell said that the team is currently evaluating a number of players in preparation for upcoming All-Star games with outside leagues.

"We will have three All-Star teams coming from the Twin City organization," Mitchell said. Please see page B2

Down And Out



The Cardinal's Eusi Jordan casts a disagreeing glance at the umpire after being tagged out by Astro catcher Melvin Bankhead. The Cardinals won that game 3-1 to force a tie in the league standings. The Cards then defeated the Astros 3-2 in a game for the Pony League championship (photo by James Parker).

Explosive!

Lady Bombers qualify for world softball tourney

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

In the world of weekend sports heroes, there's one good softball team for every bad one -- and the Lady Bombers make up for about a half-dozen rotten eggs.

While a number of teams rely on a couple of wily veterans and a cast of eager weekend warriors, the Lady Bombers come closer to resembling an All-Star team.

With a host of veteran players and just one high school player, coach Scotty Ballard has finally assembled the kind of team he's been looking for in all his 12 years of coaching.

"I was seriously thinking about giving up the coaching business before these ladies came along," said Ballard, the head coach of the Lady Bombers softball team.

"After all this talent came together all at once, then I just couldn't help but stick it out another year," he said.

The way the Lady Bombers have performed lately, Ballard may postpone his thoughts of retiring indefinitely. The Bombers are 18-5 and 8-2 in the Comet League, and have

earned automatic berths to the United States Softball Society of America Class C State and World Championship Tournaments.

Ballard says the key to the team's success rests on a number of factors.

"We are experienced, we can hit and we can play defense," said Ballard, whose team is sponsored by Silvers Lounge. "You can hit it anywhere to us, and you won't find any weak links."

"We capitalize on what the other team gives us. If they make a mistake, then 9 times out of 10, we take advantage of it.

"Having more than one person who can pitch helps as well. A lot of teams are lucky to have two good pitchers, but we have four people who can get in there and get the job done for us," he said.

We Are Family

"Some of us have been playing together for years, and we're like a family. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses, so we can cover for each other when needed."



Denise Thompson of the Lady Bombers uncorks a throw to first base in a recent practice session. The Lady Bombers are headed to the USSSA Class C World Championships (photo by James Parker).

Four members of the current edition of the Lady Bombers played for the original Bombers team formed 12 years ago. Debra Edwards, a catcher and outfielder; Nancy Bratton, a left-centerfielder; Gladys Turner, a shortstop and pitcher and player-coach Pat Green.

While those four have been

playing softball for 12 years or more, the Lady Bombers are well-stocked with other veteran players.

Cookie Thompson, a left-fielder, has 15 years under her belt. Teammate Shirese Adams is another 15-year softball veteran as well. She is a second baseman and outfielder

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THE SPORTS COLUMN

The wrestling craze: Is it for real or fake?

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

All is fair in love and war -- and professional wrestling.

But for god's sake, don't try reasoning with a wrestling fan. Arguing with a brick wall is more practical than matching wits with a wrestling nut.

Don't tell them it seems rather unlikely for 250-pound men to beat each other to a pulp for a solid hour and walk out of the ring -- uninjured and able to shake hands and kiss babies.

Do not enlighten them that Nikita Koloff, the NWA's "Russian Nightmare", used to be a young Texas farmhand or the "Ugandan Headhunter" Kamala, is really a former hotel cook from Austin Texas named William Harris.

Above all, though, don't tell them it's fake.

The mere mention of the word fake near a wrestling arena is an invitation for trouble.

"Let me put you in the figure-four leg lock and we'll see if you change your mind," threatened a burly man in the third row of Memorial Coliseum.

He was among the five-thousand or so who came to watch the World Wrestling Federation's return to the Twin City last Friday night.

"Hey buddy, come see if this is fake," quipped a man, while flexing his bulging arms.

I quickly discovered that ringside was not the best place in the world to be questioning the

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Jim Thorpe Classic set for July 4th weekend

The Jim Thorpe Golf Classic will be coming to the Winston Lake Golf Course the weekend of July 4 and 5.

The Tournament will feature a free golf clinic by PGA veteran Jim Thorpe and will include a number of celebrities. Thorpe, one of only two African-American regulars on the Professional Golf Association tour, is

coming off a fifth place finish in the United States Open held last weekend.

The Roxboro native shot a 70, 68, and a pair of 73's to finish tied for fifth place in the San Francisco tournament with a four-day total of 284.

It was his best finish in months after he had taken time off the

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CHRONICLE SPORTS CAMERA

L.A.'s Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: Should he stay or call it quits?

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar shaved his head for game six of the NBA finals. The aging 40-year old center has slowed a bit, but the skyhook is still unstoppable.

Coach Pat Riley's decision to abandon the wide bodies for the fast break, ultimately led to an NBA championship ring around his finger.

But for Kareem, the skyhook was often not a factor sitting on the bench watching the train go by.

The Chronicle Sports Camera asks: Should Kareem Abdul-Jabbar call it quits or try to keep his weary legs in step with the Laker express?



"I think they need Kareem in L.A. It just wouldn't be L.A. without him. He might be 40 years old, but he still has the hook shot and you just can't stop that shot. They ought to sign him to a two-year contract and then get David Robinson."

-- Joseph Wilson



"As good as he's playing, he shouldn't give it up yet. He gets down the court fast enough for a guy his age. Really you don't need all five guys back on the break. Kareem can get the rebounds for you and start the 4 on 3 break with a long pass. I say stick with it."

-- Vernon Hart



"My boy still has that spunk in him. He's still a valuable part of the Laker offense. That hook shot is awesome. Kareem's really a big part of the team, and without him, they'd be hurting. He doesn't need to retire yet."

-- O'Brien Reid



"Unless it gets to the point where he's really slowing down the team a whole lot, then he should just keep on playing. He's still busting them young boys almost everytime. He still has got somethign in him. I'll give him two more years."

-- Robert Smith