

OWEN DAVIS

Baseball: Game Of Characters

By OWEN DAVIS of The Daily Tar Heel Staff

Baseball players are a special breed.

Football has had its whiskey-toting Johnny Bloods and basketball its zany Hot Rod Hundleys, but they don't compare to the characters baseball has produced.

What other sport has had a player leave the team and go to Cuba because he was homesick for his family, as 17-year-old Zoilo Versalles did several years ago on the Minnesota Twins?

Even here at Carolina, no sport besides baseball can claim a tobacco-chewing student manager.

Maybe it is because the game has always been considered the national pastime and has a leisurely pace, but baseball seems to have the most distinctive individuals in sports.

And there are all kinds. There was Joe Nuxhall, who was so young (15) when he was given a professional contract that his parents had to

sign for him. Contrast him with aged Warren Spahn, who at 44 was trying to hang on in the majors because he still had the desire to snap off a sharp curve ball at the wealthy young hitters.

Fireballer Bob Feller developed his fast ball on an Iowa farm by throwing against a barn, while the immortal Babe Ruth grew up playing stickball in the streets of Baltimore.

Baseball has been filled with colorful players since its beginnings as a professional organization.

Rube Waddell, the old Philadelphia Athletics ace of the early 1900's, used to disappear weeks at a time during the season to go fishing, only to return when he became restless to pitch.

Ty Cobb, probably the greatest player of all time, took a sack of popcorn with him to center field in the minor leagues but was cured of the habit when he missed a fly ball.

Cobb was one of the best-loved and most-hated players in baseball. His life was threatened after he spiked the Athletics' Home Run Baker at

third base in Philadelphia, causing Baker to miss several crucial games.

Cobb intimidated pitchers. He often laid bunts down the first base line so he could run over the pitcher as he fielded the bunt.

His own teammates hated him so much that Cobb had to stay at a separate hotel from the team on road trips.

No coach in sports will ever compare with the Giants John J. McGraw. The fiery Irishman loved to fight, and he cared less whether he punched out one of his own players or an opponent as long as fists were involved.

New Yorkers feared him and his team, for he would just as soon start a brawl in a carriage en route to a game as on the field.

The 30's will best be remembered for the rambunctious Gas House Gang of the St. Louis Cardinals. Dizzy and brother Paul Dean, Pepper Martin, the Wild Horse of the Osage and Frankie Firsch teamed to form the best-known outfit in baseball.

Diz once pitched a one-hitter in the first game if a doubleheader and then Paul hurled a no-hitter in the second.

Diz approached his brother after the game and complained, "Paul, if you'd a told me you was gonna throw a no-hitter, I would've too."

Germany Schaeffer of the Detroit Tigers once stood on second base and decided to steal first. He did, and then stole second to regain his old position. A rule forbidding that method of adding stolen bases was passed the next year.

Minnie Minoso, the beloved Latin who played for several American League teams, cured a batting slump by taking a shower clad in his uniform. The shower washed off the evil spirits he said.

Owner Charlie Finley of the Oakland A's may be a little shaky, but Bill Veeck of St. Louis and Chicago was a genius. Veeck once inserted a midget in the St. Louis Browns' lineup. He also instituted the exploding scoreboard at Comiskey Park.

The list is too long to catalogue all the eccentrics in the game. Books have been written on the subject. But one thing is sure. As long as emotional characters such as Jimmy Piersall can play for a major league team or a crew like the Boston Red Sox win a pennant, baseball will remain the popular game it has been for decades.

Rain Causes Postponements

Carolina tennis and baseball games here were rained out Wednesday.

The baseball game with Maine was cancelled and will not be made up later in the season. Coach Walter Rabb's nine defeated the Black Bears Tuesday, 6-3.

There was no word whether the tennis match with Harvard will be replayed. The tennis team hosts Williams College here today at 2 p.m.

Duke-UNC Alumni Game Set Friday

Former North Carolina All-American Lee Schaffer has named his Tar Heel team which will battle Duke in the annual Duke-Carolina Alumni basketball game Friday night at the Duke Indoor Stadium.

Tip-off time is slated for 7:30 p.m.

The game is being played for the benefit of the Durham Academy. Proceeds will go to improve recreation facilities at the school.

Schaffer, who will coach the UNC squad, will have at his disposal: Bob Bennett, Yogi Poteet, Dickson Gribble, Ray Stanley, Tony Radovich, Jim Frye, Dick Kepley, Bill Brown, Pug Hassell, and Tom Gauntlett.

The Tar Heel Alumni have won all four games played in this series.

Duke's official club has not yet been announced, but Coach Doug Kistler hopes to have an outstanding array of former Blue Devil stars on hand for the contest.

Among those who will prob-

Parker Yanks Crush A's In 22-2 Intramural Rout

By BOB COLEMAN of The Daily Tar Heel Staff

One would think that April Fool's Day originated on the intramural softball fields here, judging by Monday's scores.

The Parker Yankees took a 9-run lead after the first frame and stretched it some in a 22-2 waltz over the Parker A's. B Zachery laced four singles and walked for the win-

ners. Tate gave it the old college try for the losers. The A's hurler, victim of 22 runs and trailing by 21 runs when he came to bat in the last inning, struck a mighty blow in his own behalf with a circuit clout. The rally, however, died.

The Lewis Mothers also rushed to a 9-0 lead after one inning and survived an Everett 69'ers rally in their last at-bats for a 17-4 win. Oddly, the vanquished got a last ditch homerun by Baker, 69'ers ace hurler.

The Manly Men led only 7-0 after one at-bat, but rallied to make it a 19-1 massacre. Smith homered and Autry added three singles for the victors.

DePriest knocked two round-trippers and went four-for-four in leading the Stacy Studs over the Stacy Stumblers, 12-2. The winners scored in each of the six innings played.

Stanaland and Cooper connected in the Morrison D Dryrot's 14-3 rout of the Morrison Hoes Squad, while the

Morrison B Boars bashed the F Falcons, 15-4. Twelve Boars were walked in only two innings and 10 of them came in to score.

The Morrison Good Guys slaughtered the B Bulls, 16-3, with Annas smacking a homer and three singles. The James F Troop knocked the James E Jokes silly with homers by Greg Walsh (2), Darrell Newton, and Bill Moore. Pitcher Bruce Wigo held the Jokes to Elies's triple in the 12-1 romp.

The James A Anacondas once more showed their knack of coming from behind as they were down 6-2 and rallied for 8 big runs in an 11-9 win over the James D Dixies. R. Burk (2), J. Neal and D. Wolfe of the losers homered.

The Grimes Gunners also rallied, scoring six runs in their last at-bat to overtake the Ruffin Sluggers, 7-4. The Granville B Rebels nipped the Granville E Vikings, 7-6, on two last inning runs, while Granville C needed only one last inning score to down the H Ghosts, 12-11.

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Personal

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