

Sandhills 'Junebugs' Look Good; Some Real Stars in Making

Boys From All Over Moore County Among Candidates for Legion Junior Team

By BEN BOWDEN

It has been a little over a month since the idea of a Sandhills Junior American Legion baseball team was born and during the interim it has developed through the progressive stages of a fond hope, a somewhat uncertain eventuality and, finally, a downright certainty.

Boys from all over the Sandhills—Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Vass, Cameron, Aberdeen, Hemp, Lakeview, West End and Jackson Springs—have tried out for the team and, under the tutelage of Coach Joe DeBerry and Manager Vance McMillan, have developed into as formidable an aggregation of youngsters as ever graced any ball field anywhere.

Some few of the candidates for the "Junebugs" are real stars; some are far above the average ability of boys of their age, some are future greats with nothing but their youth and inexperience against them and a few are such recent newcomers to the ranks of the hopeful that no definite line has been available on their ability.

But from observations gleaned from the games that the "Junebugs" have played to date, and from expressions of opinion piled loose from the coaching staff, here's about the way they stack up as we go to press.

Bob Richardson, third base—A fine fielder on defense. Already knows a lot about covering the "hot corner" and is learning all the time. A dependable and timely hitter. Has the highest batting average on the club. Looks like a fixture in the line-up.

Billy White, outfielder—Billy has played both left and center field in the practice games to date and there's no question but what he has clinched a post in the outer garden. Fleet-footed and an accurate judge of fly balls, he covers his territory like a veteran and his throwing arm to the infield is strong and accurate. One of the best hitters on the team—frequently for extra bases.

Leon Melvin, second base—The best of the candidates for the post. Hasn't quite got the hang of the position but learns fast and is improving every day. Goes after anything and with a little more seasoning will be a dependable guardian of the keystone sack. Hasn't shown much yet as a hitter but has come through with a bingle when it was most needed. Walks frequently and generally has to be thrown out. When he learns to place the ball he'll get his share of the hits.

Neil Melvin, outfielder—Covers a lot of territory in the outfield and is a fair hitter. Appears to be set as a regular.

Curtis Wall, catcher—As fine a young catcher as ever came along. In spite of his youth he works behind the plate like a veteran. Hand-

les his pitcher's surely and competently and can sense a batter's weakness almost immediately. Possesses a rifle-like peg to second base and is the spark plug of the team. One of the most timely hitters on the club, he frequently connects for extra bases and when he doesn't hit he manages to get on base in one manner or another. The answer to any coach's prayer.

Clyde Dunn, second base—There's no question as to his eligibility. The baby of the squad, both as to age and stature, he'll be eligible for several years to come. A hard worker with a lot of natural ability and an all-consuming desire to be a ball player, he needs more size and strength before he can break into the regular line-up. But at that, we wouldn't be surprised to see him make the squad. He'll come in handy as a pinch hitter when they need to get a man on base. His size makes him hard to pitch to, and then, too, he could fill in at second in an emergency.

Frank Buchan, shortstop—A brilliant fielder and a dependable hitter, particularly in the clinches. Frank is already an infield fixture. Nothing gets by him and when he fields a play he throws strikes to first base.

Ed Newton, first base—Tall and rangy. Ed is the perfect first base type and it takes a mighty wild throw to get away from him. One of the best hitters on the team. He is set at first.

Arthur Pate, utility—Fast and a good judge of fly balls, he can also fill in in the infield if the need arises. Hits well and will be a valuable utility man even if he doesn't get a regular assignment.

Junior Dees, catcher—Stockily and squarely built. Junior offers the finest possible target for his pitchers. With an excellent mechanical knowledge of the requirements of his job, a fine arm to second and average ability as a hitter, he would have the regular assignment on any club except one with a catcher of the calibre of Curtis Wall. If anything happens to Wall, Dees will step into the spot.

Alec Cameron, outfielder—A hard worker and with a natural ability for the game. Alec needs more seasoning before he breaks into the regular line-up. A good hitter in the pinches, he'll be a valuable utility man to have around.

Tony Huntley, second base—He's running Leon Melvin a close race for the regular assignment at the keystone sack, and if Leon should start to slip Tony will step right in. Tony hasn't shown much as a hitter yet and he isn't as sure of himself on ground balls as Leon, but he's learning fast.

Buss Thomas, pitcher—While he is on the records primarily as a pitcher with a tremendously effective fast ball, Thomas is also a powerful hitter and an excellent outfielder. Considering his youth, Thomas has a fast ball that is the wonder of Coach Joe DeBerry, who used to be a fast ball pitcher himself and Joe has worked out a plan to save Buss from the same fate that befell him when he went to the majors. He wants Buss to save his strength and not try to throw that fast ball for a full nine innings until he is a little older, so, with a few possible exceptions, most of Thomas' pitching will be done in relief roles. In the meantime he will play the outfield where his hitting ability can be utilized to a greater extent.

Howard Auman, pitcher—The ace of the pitching corps on his performance to date. Has a good fast ball, a sharp breaking curve, a fine change of pace and excellent control. Unusually strong for his age, he thrives on work and it doesn't seem to weaken him. An unusually good hitter for a pitcher.

Jimmie Wicker, short stop—A recent addition to the ranks of the candidates. He's young and not as experienced as some of the other boys but he has definite possibilities. Loves the game and should make himself a place in another year.

William Bruton, outfielder—Another new candidate with future possibilities. There's tough competition for a place in the "Junebug" outfield and

Pre-Natal Clinics Now Held at M. C. Hospital

Dr. Mudgett Congratulates Organizers After Evidence of Great Need in County

Last week the pre-natal clinic was held for the first time at the Moore County Hospital. This clinic, whose patients come from Pinebluff, Addor, Aberdeen, Southern Pines, Manly and Pinehurst, was until now held at the Community House in Aberdeen. Though this building was centrally located and exceedingly well-arranged it has for some time been felt that it should be reserved for the purposes for which it was designed. This was generally recognized and the generosity of those who were responsible for allowing the clinic to be held there was greatly appreciated. At the same time it has been realized that the hospital was the logical place for the clinics, offering to the doctors, as no other place could, facilities to deal with whatever problem might arise. During the winter the hospital was unable to take over the clinics but with the addition of the new wing the situation is changed and the clinic held there on Wednesday, May 26th, was one of the best run and well attended of the year.

It was conducted by Dr. W. C. Mudgett of the hospital staff, dean of the Moore County Medical Association. Miss McQueen, the county maternity nurse, was in charge and was assisted by the volunteer committee: Mrs. A. P. Thompson, Mrs. McNeill, Mrs. Edwin McKeithen, Mrs. Talbot Johnson, with Mrs. Hugh Betterley as chairman. Ten patients were examined. Of these one was found to be in poor health with possible danger of complications. The nurse and the chairman received special directions regarding this patient which will insure careful following-up of her case and it is earnestly hoped, a successful outcome of the condition.

Dr. Mudgett, in his remarks to the chairman at the end of the clinic, congratulated her on the manner in which the clinic was run and said: "If so much as one out of ten mothers is found to be in such poor condition and, through the clinics, is helped to better health it is clear evidence of the great need of these clinics in the county and the splendid work they are doing."

COMMUNITY MEALS

Mrs. Sallie Brooks, extension nutritionist of State College, will give a lesson on "Community Meals" in the office of the county home demonstration agent at 10:30 a. m. Tuesday, May 26th, and all ladies who are interested are invited to attend.

Bruton will need more seasoning before he can break into the picture.

Clyde Alexander, outfielder—Another youngster who needs to learn a little more before he can break into this line-up. A left-handed hitter with a nice stance at the plate, he has prospects of developing into a slugging outfielder. Time alone will tell.

C. A. (Molly) Cox, pitcher—A recent addition to the try-out roster who hasn't had much of a chance to show what he has. Advance reports indicate that he will fit into the picture nicely.

Bill McNeill, 1st base—Another recent addition to the field of candidates and not much is known about him.

George Vest, 1st base—Ditto. Ralph Horner, outfielder—Has played two or three innings in relief roles and handles himself nicely but hasn't yet shown his ability at the plate.

Donald Currie, outfield—A brand new candidate. Tell me more about him later.

Meek Barnett, catcher—has worked out in practice with the team but hasn't shown his stuff in competition. Seems to know what the job is all about and whips the ball nicely around the infield in batting practice. More about Meek, too, later.

And just before we went to press Dr. E. Levis Prizer, treasurer of the "Junebugs," informed us that he had received approximately \$550.00 into the treasury and had made disbursements totaling in the neighborhood of \$200.00. Of the \$550.00, Southern Pines has contributed \$395.00, Pinehurst \$125.00 and Aberdeen \$30.00. And there is a small additional sum as yet unreported.

By practicing the strictest economy the "Junebugs" can go through the season with an additional \$200.00 and the committee is making every effort to make this additional sum available in order that the team may start the campaign secure in the knowledge that nothing of a financial nature will crop up to interfere with its season's operation.

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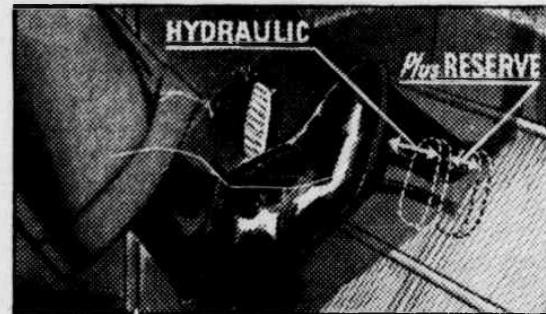
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