

Martin County League Officially Opens Play Here Sunday

Eight Teams Ready To Take The Field

Washington And Jamesville Join Loop This Year

Roosters, Cubs, Bears and Rams Open At Home This Season

There's not likely to be too much ceremony about it, but all signs point to some really keen competition when the Martin County Baseball league starts the 1950 championship season this Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock as the umpires in Robersonville, Bear Grass, Oak City and Everetts call out the old tune, "Play Ball."

The only team which had announced its starting pitcher late in the week was Robersonville which listed its old reliable left hander, Ben Scott, to get the season open against the Williamston Martins. As for the Martins, it appeared that either Ed Rowland or Billy Peele might get the nod although there are one or two others who could be picked for the opener since Manager J. P. Hedspeith has said he would not name his starting lineup until the opening date.

There is nothing official from any of the other teams but it is likely that Garland Wynne, a left hander who worked with Williamston last season, would start

for the Bears at Bear Grass. He played with Bear Grass before coming to Williamston last season. The Farm Life team will furnish the opening game opposition for Bear Grass.

Washington, one of the new teams to the league, will open in Everetts while Jamesville, a team which came very near opening with the league when it was first organized but only got in this year, will travel to Oak City for their first game.

The teams will reverse the order on Wednesday afternoon for three games as Robersonville moves over to Williamston, Oak City goes to Jamesville, Bear Grass plays at Farm Life while Everetts meets Washington in Washington under the lights for the first after dark game of the season. Washington is promoting the opening game for all they can since they hope to get some funds to give the team a boost for the rest of the year. It is reported that the Boy Scouts and possibly some other organizations in Washington are sponsoring the sale of tickets to the opening contest, reported to be the first time that Washington has played in an organized league in a score of years. It will be the first night game in the league for 1950.

Most of the teams in the league will be watching the attendance at the games in Washington and Jamesville as it will help to give

some indication as to the success of the venture into organized ball in those two towns. Local fans content that Washington has not proved too good a supporter of baseball in years past so considerable interest will be focused on the turnout for the first home game in the Beefheart County capital.

With local talent being used more exclusively this year than ever before in the league it is expected that interest from a hometown standpoint will be high. Since the league is extended over a wider territory now there is more talent available to the teams in the loop than had been the case in the early years of the league when teams tried to get their players from the same sections and in some cases from the very same townships.

For a while it is likely that the matter of umpires will prove a problem. Most of the teams felt that the system used last year cost more than it was worth and a new approach to the problem is being tried this season. If out of town umpires can be had reasonably and the fans turn out in large enough numbers to make it possible to pay them, the officials of the league will likely try the improved service. For the most part it is felt that there is competent umpiring available in the counties affected if the fans and players will give the arbiters a break. At the recent league meeting it was pointed out that protesting a decision and arguing mildly about it was one thing and getting fighting mad and using abusive and indecent language was something else again since this rough and rowdy attitude is disgusting to the aver-

age fan and puts an unnecessary strain on the officials. Whereas, baseball fans were once limited to members of the male sex, it is pointed out now that an increasing number of women are attending ball games and their presence should be taken into account.

President Howard Gaylord has declared that the league intends to see that the officials at the ball games are protected and has warned the managers and players that they will be held responsible for any untoward incidents occurring in their parks or caused by their players at home or away.

One other thing the president has touched upon is the matter of showing proper spirit or pep of the field and at bat. He reminded that the fans get tired of seeing the managers and the players players go about their tasks in a listless fashion regardless of what brand of ball they might be playing. He wants the teams to take the field when they should and promptly and to be ready to go to bat when the umpire calls "batter up." A little more enthusiasm on the part of the players will do a lot to whet the interest of the fans at the various parks, he declared.

CIGARET DEATH

Baltimore.—Mrs. Agnes Huber, 53 died of burns received when she fell asleep in an overstuffed chair while smoking a cigarette. Completely enveloped in flames, Mrs. Huber ran into the street. A passerby extinguished the flames, but she was so badly burned, she later died in a local hospital.

Mocks Steel Custom



DRESSED in a costume of 25 years ago, Mrs. Wilma Soss, president of the Federation of Women Shareholders in American Business, appears at the annual stockholders' meeting of the U. S. Steel Corp. in Hoboken, N. J. Declaring her outfit reflected the thinking of the corporation, Mrs. Soss derided holding the important meeting outside of New York City. (International)

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DID NOT LAST LONG

London.—In asking for an annulment of her marriage, Mrs. "Waste-A-Matic," a new style

husband, Patrick, deserted her just 30 minutes after their marriage in October, 1946, following an eight months' engagement. "A case of a man marrying at leisure and repenting in haste," the judge commented. Under the Moors, Cordoba, Spain, was the largest city in Europe, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

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Things To Watch For In the Future

For years motorists have wanted a dashboard indicator that would warn them when their oil supply was getting low. A new gauge does just that. An amber light flashes when one quart of oil is needed; a red light means two . . . Doll makers are going in for realism in a big way these days: the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company has just introduced one that's almost human. It puckers its lips, moves its tongue, sucks its thumb, and even has an audible "heart beat." Winding a disguised key and operating a plunger mechanism at the back of the neck puts the doll through its repertoire.

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