



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Legion Baseball Born In S. Dakota

While ye sports editor takes a sojourn from his work this week, we present some information on Legion junior baseball as supplied by Commissioner Lou Brissie's office and turned over to us locally by Area Four Commissioner Charlie Carpenter of iKngs Mountain.

The American Legion junior baseball program was established in Milbank, South Dakota, in 1925, and a marble monument in that community stands as a dedication to the initiation of this fine Americanism program. The inscription reads:

"In this city on July 7, 1925, the American Legion of the wide organization of Legion posed as a program of service."

Junior baseball became a convention action in 1925, and was held in 1926. Only 15 states were represented in the first year of national operation was prevented because the national convention held in state competition was strong. The National American Legion Baseball Association was formed before the executive committee which agreed to underwrite \$50,000. With the exception of a few states, the program has continuously supported ball program. They present program up to \$60,000.

During the 1929 season competition.

The year of 1931 marked the championship play of a player league great. Kirby Higbe, for Columbia, S. C., lost to game of the national tournament was a top pitcher in the National League.

Higbe was followed to greats as Phil Cavaretta of Crash Davis of Gastonia, Jim Hegan of East Lynn, Cincinnati, and J. W. Porter players was a member of with the exception of Pollock.

1,500 Graduates To Big Leagues

Since the inception of the Legion program more than 1,500 graduates have gone into the major leagues. In 1957 there were 262 Legion graduates participating on major league teams. Among these were Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Billy Pierce, Jim Hegan, Lew Burdette, Herb Score, Roy Campanella, Vic Wertz, Sal Maglie, Johnny Temple, Roy Sievers, Al Kaline, Warren Spahn, Eddie Matthew, Harvey Kuenn, Yogi Berra, Del Rice, Whitey Lockman, Gil McDougald, Ted Abernathy, Pete Whisenant and many others.

In 1949, the selection of an "American Legion Player of the Year" was originated. The player is selected at the national finals tournament by a special committee, which includes the director of the Baseball Hall of Fame. The boy is selected on the basis of playing ability, integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship and general good conduct. The boy's picture is placed in the Legion plaque at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N. Y., and he attends the annual Hall of Fame game where he is presented a scroll attesting to his selection.

Player of the Year selections in order since 1949 have been:

Ray Herrera, Oakland, Calif.; J. W. Porter, Oakland, Calif.; Grover Jones, White Plains, N. Y.; Russell Nixon, Cincinnati; Charles Linstrom, Winnetka, Ill.; Billy Capps, San Diego; Frank Birri, Cincinnati; James Harwell, New Orleans; and Fred Fox, Cincinnati. (Porter and Nixon now are in the major leagues.)

Gastonian Shared U. S. Bat Title

A national batting title award is presented each year to the player on a national tournament team compiling the highest batting average in national competition through regional, sectional and Little World Series play.

Winners of the batting award have been: (1945 through 1957)

Lee Carey, Tucson, Ariz.; Victor Kauffman, Cincinnati; George Moeller, Cincinnati; Don Hunter, Omaha, Neb.; J. W. Porter, Oakland, Calif., two years '49-'50; Grover Jones, White Plains, N. Y.; Horace Tucker, San Diego; Charles Selinger, Winnetka, Ill.; Jack Hopper, Gastonia, and Jim Gelasso, San Diego (tied in '54) Richard Hergener, Lincoln, Neb.; Larry Goudy, St. Louis; Fred Fox, Cincinnati.

This year, the American Legion is establishing an American Legion Graduate of the Year award which will be presented to the junior baseball graduate who best exemplifies the principles of the American Legion program while competing in professional baseball. This award will be presented during the winter.

The American Legion program is designed to aid youth in attaining a higher degree of overall fitness, to teach the principles of sportsmanship and citizenship and to combat delinquency in a positive manner.

Nearly a million boys play under Legion supervision in all age groups each year. Of these, approximately one-third compete in the Junior Baseball age bracket with more than 17,000 teams competing.

The program is governed by the National Americanism Commission and all administrative details are handled by the Commissioner of Junior Baseball, Lou Brissie, a former major leaguer and war hero.

Linc's Shuford Only SWC Player In Star Contest

Kings Mountain will not be represented in the 10th annual North Carolina High School football game in Greensboro on Friday night, August 8, but a couple of neighboring schools will send highly-touted backs to the contest.

Gene Shuford, the hard-running Lincolnton back, is the only representative from the Southwest Conference in the grid game and he is one of the prize picks for the western team to be coached by Boyd Allen of Canton and Lee Stone of Asheboro.

The other back from this neighborhood is Jimmy Smith off of Coach Shu Carlton's Gastonia Ashley High team.

Entries Slow For City Net Tourny

Deadline Friday For Entering Annual Event

A last minute rush of entries is expected Thursday and Friday for the annual men's city-wide tennis tournament.

With entry deadline Friday, City Recreation Director Jake Early reported yesterday that the entry list is small. "But they always wait until the last minute," he commented.

As of Wednesday, only five entries were listed for men's singles competition, and only three pairs of racketmen had signed for men's doubles play.

Singles entries were Joe Austin, R. G. Plonk, Bill Harmon, Jimmy White, and Ken Baity.

Doubles pairs were John Warlick and Fred Plonk, Joe Austin and R. G. Plonk, Jimmy White and Ken Baity.

Rudy Frazier, last year's singles champion and former High Point college star, was expected to defend his 1957 title.

Elimination play is scheduled to get underway this week end.

Burlington Takes Kiwanis By 6-3

Burlington defeated Kiwanis 6-3 Tuesday in a close, well-played game in Kings Mountain's Little League action to enforce more strongly their position as top team.

Jimmy Leigh handled the mound duties well, copping the game for the hustling Burlington club.

Jackie Hughes hupled for Park Grace as they contested the Jaycees club Tuesday and came away with a 10-1 victory.

In Monday's Little League contest the Raiders trounced North by a score of 17-2.

STANDINGS

Team	W	L
Burlington	11	1
Park Grace	10	1
Raiders	6	3
Kiwanis	5	7
Jaycees	5	7
North	0	12



BABE RUTH LEAGUE CHAMPIONS—The Margrace team copped the title in the Kings Mountain Babe Ruth League for 13-15 year old boys this summer, posting a season's record of 11 wins and one defeat. The team, left to right: FRONT ROW—Coach Don Sellers, Sonny Jackson, Frankie Sprouse and Bill Mullinax, batboys; MIDDLE ROW — Tommy Barrett, C. B. Green, Buddy Kircus, and Jim White; BACK ROW — Bobby Smith, Dean Green, Dink Smith, and Bill Sellers. (Photo by Pennington Studio).

Minette Mills Downs Valdese; Goes To Finals

Unbeaten Minette Mills of Grover advanced to the finals by downing Valdese 4-2 in the one game played in the Midwestern District Seven softball tournament Tuesday in Gastonia.

Tippy Francis hit a single, double, and triple in three trips for the winners while Keith Cloer had a double and single for Valdese.

In semi-finals play Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Broyhill Furniture of Lenoir was scheduled to meet Valdese while the winner of the Broyhill-Valdese contest was to engage Great Lakes of Morganton at 8:15.

Minette 201 000 1-4 7 3
Valdese 000 011 0-2 7 2

Taylor and Sheppard; Whisenant and Baker, Powell (6).

Shelby Romps Cumberland 17-4

Shelby's American Jr. Legion team romped over Cumberland County 17-4 in Shelby Tuesday night and stretched its playoff lead to two games.

Pitcher John Kouri was the big show for Shelby, allowing only one base runner over the first four innings. The right-handed hurler was in trouble only once—in the fifth—when he loaded the bases on three walks.

Charles Koonce then singled in two runs for Cumberland, getting the only hit off Kouri over the six innings he worked.

Batting around in the first inning, Shelby secured four runs off five walks, an error, and one base hit. They sent 11 men to the plate and scored seven runs as they steam-rolled through the third inning.

Catcher Ronnie O'Shields doubled the Shelby attack with a double, a triple, and a home run.

Tonight the teams move to Massey Hill for the third game in the playoff series.

Shelby 417 310 01x—17 10 2
Cumberland 000 020 020—4 3 6

Maxwell, Koonce, (3) and Teague; Kouri, Phillips (7) and O'Shields.

Braves Win Saturday Tilts

The Kings Mountain Braves won their eighteenth and nineteenth games Saturday as they overpowered Grover 9-2 in a daylight game there and trounced the Charlotte Clippers 14-2 Saturday night in Kings Mountain's City Stadium.

Herman Green was winning pitcher in the Braves-Grover tilt and allowed only five hits while his teammates collected 14, thereby chalking up his sixth straight win for the Braves.

In the night contest, hurler, David Hughes allowed the Clippers only six hits while his teammates came through with sixteen hits to trounce the Charlotte club.

The next game will be Friday night at 8 o'clock in City Stadium against Temple Baptist Church, ranked as the top church team in this area. The Baptist group is mentored by Lloyd McFalls.

A Braves spokesman said Wednesday morning this is another free game to promote interest in baseball in this area. He also issued a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

Mountaineer Football Players Report For Drills On August 15

Bargain Events At City Pool

Ladies may swim free at Deal Street pool Thursday and Friday nights, as the city observes Ladies Night.

On Saturday, it will be Family Night, with any family eligible to swim at the bargain-basement rate of 60 cents.

City Recreation Director Jake Early noted that the concession area has been enlarged and invited all citizens out for a look-see.

Adult Swim Course Offered

Free adult swimming courses for men and women will be taught at Deal St. pool by Buck Early, beginning August 11.

Men and women 16 years and over are eligible for the instruction, Preston Holt, pool manager noted.

Holt stressed men enrollees, he said because oftentimes the men folk had the idea they were not included. Hours for the course is 6-7:30 p.m.

Nats, Foote Are Eliminated

Kings Mountain's slow-pitch softball teams vying for berths in the Slow-Pitch Tournament held at McAdenville, have been eliminated.

The Kings Mountain teams participating were National Guard and Foote Mineral.

Jake Early, Kings Mountain Recreation Director reported Foote Mineral was eliminated last week by two losses to the National Guard team. They were beaten 15-0 and 9-5.

The National Guard club was eliminated Monday night as they were edged 3-2 by a tough Rex club.

Slow-Pitch League Finals Underway

Finals in the city slow-pitch softball league play-offs, a three of five series, were underway Wednesday, as the National Guard team and Osage locked horns.

The games will be played at the Deal Street ballyard.

National Guard won the pennant in regular season play. Osage advanced to the finals on forfeit from the Merchants team.

at that time, Promoter Bruton Smith said today.

The lineup will also include Fred Harb, George Dunn, Shep Langdon, Roy Tyner, Doug Cox, Larry Frank, Neil Castles, Glenn Wood (Barney Shore and others.

Quality JOB PRINTING



Phones 167 & 283



SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS — The National Guard team, pictured above, won the title in the Kings Mountain Slow-Pitch Softball League this summer with a season's record of 11 wins and two losses. The Guard also participated in the Midwestern Slow-Pitch tournament at McAdenville. The squad, left to right, FRONT ROW—Manager Bill Morgan, James Staggs, Bob Duncan and Decalis Burton; BACK ROW—Floyd Peterson, Pete Martin, Dwight Alexander, Gerald Hipps, and Lefty Moss. (Photo by Pennington Studio)