

The Birmingham Eccentric

If there be such a fact as Divine Law (and every man of the club says there is) then is not a violation of some phase of it deserving of a penalty? If you cannot break a man-made law without penalty, then how can one expect to break Divine Law without the penalty of personal woe?

★ ★ Boys' Baseball Programs Point to Champs ★ ★

Little League • Babe Ruth • Farm Teams

The last strike has been called, the last batter is out, and the last game has been played.

So finished the baseball season for the youngsters in the area who played on one of the many organized junior teams.

The end of the scheduled games and tournaments doesn't end the enthusiasm and activity for the game which the players had developed during the weeks of pre-

season play. Their eagerness will prevail until the end of summer with make-up games and on into the school year with chatter and boasts among their friends and the gang.

MOST OF THE BOYS are looking forward even at this time to next year's activity. Many will move up into higher and tougher leagues.

The 1956 season ended on the most successful note that the various junior baseball enterprises have had since their first local organization. More boys were able to play the game than ever before. New leagues were introduced and maintained by interested parties to allow for these worthwhile activities.

THE MOST POPULAR appraisal

among the managers, coaches and students of the game was the great improvement, demonstrated by the boys, in their play. Better baseball savvy was illustrated by the fellows in the hitting, fielding and team play departments.

By and large, the greatest share of credit goes to the managers, coaches, umpires and officials who quite generously donated a great deal of their personal time to see

that the boys received all the best aspects of the game.

THE EXCELLENT BRAND of coaching and instruction was displayed, again and again, in the games throughout the year.

A goodly share of credit and applause should also be directed at two gentlemen who reside in the Birmingham area. Through their dedicated efforts and baseball background, they were able to supervise and direct such an outstanding program. The men are well

known in their respective leagues but to the general public they have been behind the scenes and gone unpublicized. Boyd Simmons, 1460 S. Bates, Birmingham, heads up the Little League and Albert Bates, 922 Mohagen, Birmingham, leads the Babe Ruth activities.

THE LAST GAME, literally speaking, will never come to our area with men like these to lead the boys and conduct their program.



BOYD SIMMONS
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
LITTLE LEAGUE



ALBERT W. BATES
STATE DIRECTOR
BABE RUTH LEAGUE



AMERICAN LEAGUE champs in the Birmingham Little League were the Red Sox. Members of this squad also furnished some of the outstanding players for the All-Star team. First row (left to right) Jack MacDonald, Jim Foster, Dick Gillson, Gerry Kurz, Bill Shroyer, Bob Heavenrich, Terry Schaefer, Jimmy Frohberg, Kirby row, Bruce MacDonald, Tom Cook, Edson Stevens, Carl Kalcocay, Craig Barkly and Tom Ryan. Standing to the right is the Red Sox manager, Lyman Shroyer.



A SEASON'S RECORD of 14-4 was the kind of baseball playing that won the National League championship for the White Sox. Members of the team sitting (left to right) David Brandt, Joe Scilla, Gary Zimmerman, Mike Davis, Ron Mattson, Bob Jacobsen, Bert Gelmine. Standing in the back row are Jon Cauley, Mike Halpin, John Strang, Bob Rottiers, Bruce Coburn and Larry DuCharme. Absent from the picture are Steve Kwawney and Steve Hazard, Team manager, Carl Mattson, stands in back. Assisting him during the season but not in the picture were Mel Zimmerman and M. C. Sheppard.



CHAMPIONS of the Babe Ruth league were the Rockets who won both halves of the season's schedule. Front row (left to right) Mike Jackson, Bill Baby, Larry Kelly, Roger Barrett. Second row, Jeff Boucher, Bill Henderson, Jay Hengelman, Steve Jacobson, Bob Morrison. Third row, Jerry Jurica, Bob Hawkins, John Dixon, George Diller, Tim Springer. Team managers are standing behind bench (left to right) Brad Springer and Paul Jackson.



MEMBERS of Southfield's All-Star team are: (back row) Terry Odom, Gerry Odom, Dave Newsom, Jim MacDonald, Bob Pilar, Andy Billesdon, Tom Ridley, Bob Hayes. In the front row are: Bill Yeates, Dick Jusino, Ron Helfner, Len Spicer, Phil Floyd, Bill Gonwich, John York and Ken Youch (not in picture). Co-managers of the team are Jimmy Odom and Alex Billesdon.



PROTECTING home plate from a charging runner is one of the little farm team fellows of the Little League. This junior size catcher is guarding the base path like the rock of Gibraltar but his opponent is just as determined to score for his team. Some of the scores in these games went up into IBM figures but the boys played a heads-up, serious game and what's more, had a barrel of fun.



WHETHER IT IS a regular season game or special tournament play, the youngsters gave their all at the plate or in the field. A tense scene unfolds here, as the batter takes a mighty cut at the ball, catcher is ready to pounce forward to snag a possible foul and the umpire is ready to make a spot decision on the outcome of the play. The calibre of fielding and hitting surprised many parents and fans who were not acquainted with the junior baseball program.

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