Baseball Juniors Jump Into Tough Tourneys

Little League OK's Post Season Tourneys

While all the young players in the Birmingham Little league were playing, their team managers were waltzing around with the problem of post season tournaments.

Strong opinions and even stronger arguments were given, pro and con, regarding the merits of such district and state baseball competition.

On Sunday the league leveled all differences and voted to enter the all star tournament play.

This action had been preceded by two voting sessions during past months where a narrow margin had put thumbs down on any and all tourney action.

AT THIS DECISION there was an immediate response by the coaches, players, parents and fans who favored the idea of going on to wider competition. Many believed that the Birmingham teams have the quality to take the state title.

Enough pressure came to bear by these interested parties that the third in a series of meetings was called to re-evaluate past attitudes and voting. The league's approval, now allows Birmingham to be included in the slate of tournaments.

BOYD SIMMONS, Commissioner and tournament director, has drawn up a schedule which will see one local team in action during the first round.

The Birmingham American league will meet the Huron Valley Boys Club Little League at Milford in the only opening round game at 3 p.m. Saturday.

The other two leagues drew first round byes. They will open competition at 5:30 p.m. Friday, July 27. The Birmingham National league will be host to the Hamtramck Americans who were state champions in 1954 after defeating the Birmingham Americans in the Detroit district finals.

The Federal league will go to Harper Woods for a game with the American league there.

THE WINNER of the Birmingham-Milford game will play at Walled Lake July 27.

If the Birmingham teams survive the early competition at least one and possibly two third round games will be held at Eton Field July 28.

There are 17-teams in the Detroit district playoffs. The Birmingham teams are paired with two from Harper Woods, and one each from Milford, Walled Lake, St. Clair and Hamtramck in the North bracket. Eight other teams, including Hamtramck National League, the 1955 state champions and national semi-finalists, are playing in a Downriver bracket.

B'ham All Star Selections Made For Tournaments

Voted the top players in their respective leagues and chosen to represent those Birmingham leagues in All Star tournament competition are the following boys:

American League:

Indians: Stewart Harley, Bob Townend; Red Sox: Carl Kaloc say, Craig Kirby, Tom Ryan, Bill Shroyer, Edson Stevens; Tigers: Jack Coons, Jim Flaiz; Yankees: Delmer Gowing, Fred Jeynes, John McCracken, Fred Muenchinger, Doug Welton; manager, Bob Kirby.

FEDERAL LEAGUE:

Athletics: Larry Hard, Tom Martin; Orioles: Ron Clark, Tom Heydon, Mike Thornton, Ricky Thornton; Senators: Bob Bihler, Mike Harris, Larry Huffman, Tim Tout; White Sox: Bruce Coburn, Jon Cauley, Larry DuCharme, Joe Seilin; manager, Carl Mattson.

National League:

Braves: Dick Farricker, Duane Nellis, Bill Olmstead, Pete Sobelton, Art Tregenza, John Waltz; Cubs: Bruce Bates, Jim Farrell, Terry McGovern, Dan Pierce, Chip Sestok; Giants: Ed Brown, Jeff McPartlin; Pirates: Roger Apple, John Bannuricker, George Clark, Tim Mitchell; manager, Cliff Stanton.

The Birmingham Eccentric
SPORTS
PAGE 6 JULY 19, 1956

Babe Ruth Teams Hustle for State Title at S'fld

Onto the three diamonds of Southfield high school will come this weekend bunches of youthful enthusiasm sprinkled freely with season-long playing skill and unlimited determination.

Quite possibly, some of these young men who gather for the annual Babe Ruth tournament will be the popular big leaguers of tomorrow. For now their goal is to battle with all their might against the 20 other squads for the honor of representing Michigan in the regionals.

For the most part the All-Stars who have selected by their respective leagues will be having their first fling in the arena of "big time" competition. New settings, strange crowds, stronger opposition will be some of the factors that arouse those well known butterflies.

BUT WIN or lose, it will be an experience long remembered.

Since this year's junior affair will present the largest field of teams to take part in the Babe Ruth classic, it would be difficult to single out a favorite.

Many of the out-state teams are of unknown quality, so the general opinions of coaches and league officials seems to center on squads from the metropolitan area.

Northwest Detroit the champs in 1954 and 55 are sure to be back with a strong and experienced aggregation.

BERKLEY and the two local teams, Southfield and Birmingham are groups that have the potential to carry them through the one game knock-out series.

Topping the out-state ball clubs will be Kalamazoo and Port Huron who play in a very good recreation league which conditions them against some mighty tough competition.

Hosting the tournament will be the Southfield Babe Ruth League who have attempted to make this event one of the best tourney for the junior players in the way of facilities, programing and enjoyment.

THE LOCAL GROUP is headed by Hugh Dohany, president of the S'fld league, and Jack Ridley, publicity chairman. Representing the state association and working along with this host group is James C. O'Connor, Michigan district commissioner and Albert Bates, State director.

Expenses of the tournament include such important items as ground maintenance charges, umpire's fees, ambulance service and baseballs. Total cost for the double weekends of action will be approximately $1,500.

ACCORDING TO Al Bates, the main purposes of the Babe Ruth activity is not so much served by champion-ship play like this tournament but rather the importance comes from the baseball playing by all the boys in the program.

This is sort of the icing on the cake, he added. The fans will see some outstanding baseball—probably the best in history of Michigan's participation, Bates summed up.

Games begin this Saturday at the Southfield high school diamonds 1, 2, and 3. Location is at Ten mile and Lahser road.

SCHEDULE

Birmingham plays Berkley, 10 A.M.—Diamond No. 1

Huron Valley plays Redford Township—10 A.M.—Diamond No. 2

Walled Lake plays Lincoln Park—10 A.M.—Diamond No. 3

Port Huron Whites play winners of Birmingham-Berkley game at 3 P.M.—Diamond No. 1

Southfield plays Ypsilanti National League—1 P.M.—Diamond No. 1

Port Huron Reds play Kalamazoo—3 P.M.—Diamond No. 3

Ypsilanti American League plays Escanaba—3 P.M.—Diamond No. 2

East Side Kiwanis plays winners of Redford—Huron Valley—3 P.M.— Diamond No. 1

N.W. Detroit plays Grosse Pte. Woods American League—1 P.M.—Diamond No. 3

Brighton plays Grosse Pte. Woods National League—1 P.M.— Diamond No. 2

Benton Harbor plays winner of Walled Lake-Lincoln Park—3 P.M.—Diamond No. 2

ALL WINNERS WILL PLAY SUNDAY AFTERNOON JULY 22nd.

TYPICAL of the many boys who will come together for the Babe Ruth Tournament are these five players from Birmingham. Clockwise, they are Phil Isbell, Jay Madonna, Gary Johnson, Ed Busch and Bob Wood. The mighty Babe left an inspiration which will always hover over any spot where the great American game is played.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

White and Red Sox Lead in Stretch

Going into the final stretch of the Federal league, the White Sox took over the loop leadership for the second half of the season by shutting out the second place Senators 5-0 and outslugging the third place Orioles 14-8.

The two victories broke a first place tie with the Senators and put the Sox in the driver's seat with 4 wins and 1 loss as the teams prepare for the final two weeks of play.

Against the Senators, Coburn, Sox hurler, held the opposing batsmen in check with runners on the bases and scattered four Senator hits. The shutout was Coburn's second of the season against the Senators and boosted his shutout mark to 12 straight innings without allowing a run.

THE SOX RANG UP 8 hits against Harris, Senator hurler, and combined with Senator miscues, rang up 2 tallies in the second, added 1 in the third and pushed across two in the fourth for the win.

The Orioles battling for second place, split even in its last two encounters. They gained a 25-7 win over the vacation-riddled Athletics and stopped a slugfest to the White Sox 14-8.

THE RED SOX regained first place in the American league by defeating the Yankees 7-2 and shutting out the Tigers 14-0.

The Yankees dropped the Indians out of a first place tie by beating them 2-1.

Carl Kalpesay held the Yankees to two hits in continuing his mastery over them. Fred Jeynes was the losing pitcher as the Sox rallied for four runs in the third and three more in the fifth.

The Yankee-Indian game was a pitcher's battle between Doug Walton and Stewart Harley. The teams were tied until the last inning when McCracken doubled, scoring Walton to end the game.

Teen-age Swimmer Takes Double Wins

Displaying a remarkable amount of endurance and swimming skill, 13-year-old Floyd Bunt, Jr. splashed to two first place wins in the water carnival held at St. Clair city.

Floyd registered a strong first place in the quarter mile marathon event with a time of 3-minutes and 55-seconds.

He returned for another victory in the 50-meter junior competition which made him a double winner for the day.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd W. Bunt, Cranbrook School.

Panthers Win Babe Ruth Crown in S'fld

Southfield's Babe Ruth race wasn't decided until the final game was played between the two leaders last week who have been fighting for first place all season.

The Panthers downed the Bears 6-4 in a ball game with both teams getting the same number of hits. Walks played an important part in the scoring.

Bob Hayes, the Panthers' All-Star pitcher was credited with the win. He gave up five hits, the same number that his opponent Andy Billesdon was charged with.

Final Standings

	W	L
Panthers	9	3
Bears	8	4
Eagles	7	5
Rams	4	8
Colts	2	10

B'ham Legion Team Notches Victory Over Waterford

Birmingham's American Legion team started off the second half in the 18th district by beating Waterford 5 to 0.

Dick Cloonan started the pitching duties for the local nine and limited the opposition to only three hits. He had the Waterford bats swinging freely as he struck out 14 batters.

Kirken was on the mound for Waterford and was charged with the loss.

Bill Kelly rapped out two big triples for the winners and also helping the victory were Ed Levenworth and Fred Bleakley who accounted for two RBI's apiece. Bleakley's blow was a round tripper with one man on.

B'ham	010000202	5	8 0
Waterford	000000000	0	3 3

Cloonan, Cornila, Bolle—B'ham
Kirken, Savas—Waterford

B'ham Youngsters Get Rifle Tourney

A rifle tournament has been planned by the Birmingham Recreation department for all boys and girls between 9 and 12-years-old.

Shooting will be held at the Police range, kitty-corner from B'ham high school during the day from July 19-20 and July 23-27.

Trophy will be awarded to the person turning in the best ten targets which have been shot at the range.

All shooters must have their parents consent to participate in the tournament.

Jerry Florez

Florez Elected Tennis Captain

Varsity players on the Dennison University tennis squad have elected a local netter as their team captain for the 1957 season. The young man is Jerry Florez of Bloomfield Village.

Jerry has held down two important slots on the team this year, playing in the number two singles position and the second doubles. He had a highly successful college campaign, going undefeated in both net actions.

His steady play contributed to the university at Granville, Ohio in taking the state championship for Ohio.

THE 6-FT. 2-IN. senior assisted the basketball team as manager during the off season and is affiliated with Sigma Chi fraternity.

This summer Florez will enter a number of local tennis tournaments, including the Motor City Open.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Florez, 1532 Tottenham, Bloomfield Village.

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Sportsweek

B'HAM LITTLE LEAGUE

July 19—Indians vs Tigers (Am) White Sox vs Senators (Fed), Eton
Braves vs Cubs (Nat) Popplelon
July 23—Yankees vs Indians (Am) Orioles vs White Sox (Fed), Eton
Giants vs Pirates (Nat), Popplelon
July 24—Tigers vs Red Sox (Am), Senators vs Athletics (Fed), Eton
Cubs vs Giants (Nat), Popplelon
July 25—Yankees vs Tigers (AM) Senators vs Orioles (Fed), Eton
Pirates vs Braves (Nat), Popplelon
District Tournament
July 21—B'ham (Am) at Milford 3 p.m.

B'HAM BABE RUTH

July 19—Spartans vs Chiefs
20—Rockets vs Wolverines
21—B'ham vs Berkley, 10 a.m.
State Tournament at S'fld HS
S'fld vs Ypsilanti, 1 p.m.
22—Barons vs Spartans
24—Wolverines vs Chiefs
25—Rockets vs Spartans

AMERICAN LEGION

July 25—Pontiac at B'ham

Top Tennis Coach, Jean Hoxie Comes To B'ham Clinic

One of the nations most outstanding instructors of tennis Mrs. Jean Hoxie will visit Birmingham this Friday to conduct a clinic and demonstration.

She will appear in conjunction with the Greater Detroit Novice Tennis Tournament and the Birmingham recreation activities.

Mrs. Hoxie has had a remarkable amount of success with young people in particular but everyone appears to benefit from her teaching methods. The informal gathering for all tennis fans and players, young and old, will be held at Eton Park from 6:30 to 7:30 Friday evening, July 20.

JEAN FEELS that everyone should attend who is interested in the game—the more the merrier, she remarked.

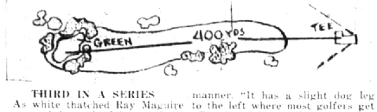
All players in Birmingham who have plans to enter the novice tournament should make application through the recreation office or Eton Park.

Jim May will accept the entries at Eton. Qualifying play will be held this weekend at Eton from 9-12 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. for both juniors and seniors, men and women, boys and girls.

Winners from this local meet will go to Detroit for the finals held from Wednesday, July 25 through Sunday, July 29.

★ ★ Scorecard Heartbreakers ★ ★

LOOKING DOWN from the mid-way point of the 400-yard fourth hole fairway at the Birmingham Country club, Ray Maguire, club pro, explains why he believes this hole is the toughest. Top professionals in the nation tested the local layout during the 1953 PGA tournament.



THIRD IN A SERIES

As white thatched Ray Maguire sauntered down the fairway of the number four hole, he remarked that his selection of this hole as the most difficult at the Birmingham Country Club was backed by statistics.

During the PGA Tournament at the local 6,324-yard course in 1953, the record was kept on the scores of the playing pros. Their average scores for each hole was matched with the established par.

Of all the eighteen holes, the fourth played over par more than any other. Actual figures showed an average of a 4.47 score for the par four.

THE TOURNAMENT also demonstrated that this particular hole was among the hardest to take a birdie on, with only 13 carded during the entire PGA. It also rated as the most difficult in the bogey department with the largest number, a total of 175 taken.

Ray appraises the hole in this manner. "It has a slight dog leg to the left where most golfers get off drives that will carry to a slight rise about 200-yards."

"FROM THAT POINT on the fairway, the player can see the green surrounded by deep sand trapping which offers only a very narrow channel onto the green.

The length of the fairway is high and open and usually has a wind out of the west which affects drives, holding them in the air a little longer."

"Average golfer will use a spoon for his second shot and then chip onto the green if he doesn't fall into one of the sand traps.

THE KIDNEY-SHAPE green presents a series of waves or rolls which makes putting a tricky experience. The back side of the green also offers another difficulty in the shape of plateaus which elevate the ball in steps away from the hole."

Skating Miss Places Second In Roller Meet

Birmingham's graceful roller skating miss, Martha Rodgers, continued her expert performance recently to score high in inter-state competition.

At the Great Lakes regional roller skating meet which was held at Milwaukee, she won second place for two events—senior ladies free style and the senior pairs.

Top-notch competition was offered in these events by the best young skaters from a five state area. Her record in the four day event enabled Miss Rodgers to enter the national meet which will be held later this month.

IF HER SKATING is as successful as it has been in local and regional performances, then Martha hopes to compete in the world-wide contest.

Matched with her for the senior pair's position was John Matejec, her fine partner from Detroit.

Martha is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl D. Rodgers, 1411 Maryland, Birmingham.

Federal League 1st Half Batting Statistics

PLAYERS	TEAM	AB	R	H	2b	3b	HR	SB	HB	Pct.
Baumrucker	Pirates	24	9	14	4	0	1	2	0	.500
Farrell	Cubs	24	11	11	3	0	3	2	7	.458
D. Pierce	Cubs	42	16	19	2	0	1	4	0	.444
Mitchell	Pirates	23	7	10	1	0	3	2	6	.435
Tregenza	Braves	29	14	9	5	0	0	4	7	.391
Apple	Pirates	24	10	9	3	0	0	4	8	.391
R. Farricker	Braves	41	12	16	1	0	1	9	3	.381
McGovern	Cubs	29	9	11	1	0	0	6	4	.379
McPartlin	Giants	24	7	9	3	0	2	1	7	.375
Olmstead	Braves	24	7	9	3	0	1	2	4	.375
Pool	Braves	19	3	7	2	0	0	2	8	.368
Clark	Pirates	24	5	8	2	0	0	1	3	.333
Soltis	Cubs	25	6	8	1	0	0	1	3	.320
Ortis	Giants	25	4	8	1	0	0	0	2	.320
Lasia	Pirates	22	5	7	1	0	0	0	2	.318
Sobelton	Braves	22	3	7	1	0	0	0	1	.318
Sestok	Cubs	28	4	9	2	0	0	2	5	.321
Bates	Cubs	28	4	9	2	0	0	2	5	.321
McTigue	Pirates	24	3	8	2	0	0	2	3	.333
Sutton	Giants	20	3	6	1	0	0	1	2	.300
Nellis	Braves	26	11	8	1	0	0	4	2	.308
Jacobson	Braves	15	2	5	1	0	0	0	1	.333
Gray	Braves	12	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	.333
Brown	Giants	22	6	5	1	0	0	2	1	.227
Gipson	Pirates	17	3	4	1	0	0	1	1	.235
Waltz	Braves	24	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	.208
Emerick	Cubs	29	4	4	0	0	0	0	1	.138
Koch	Cubs	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Hyde	Giants	27	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	.148
Slater	Cubs	17	3	3	0	0	0	0	4	.176

PLAYERS	TEAM	AB	R	H	2b	3b	HR	SB	HB	Pct.
Duffus	Giants	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	.143
Smith	Cubs	15	2	2	1	0	0	1	4	.133
Cheney	Giants	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	.125
King	Giants	18	3	2	0	0	0	1	5	.111
Beiegel	Giants	20	3	2	0	0	0	0	6	.083
Adams	Cubs	23	2	2	0	0	0	2	3	.087
Boyle	Cubs	12	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	.083
Alkire	Pirates	18	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	.056
Grate	Pirates	12	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	.083
Chadwick	Giants	12	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	.083
Rogers	Braves	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Heimgod	Pirates	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Williams	Pirates	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Kiebler	Cubs	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Simmons	Pirates	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Posey	Braves	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Lansing	Pirates	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Luther	Pirates	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Tosar	Pirates	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Kilborn	Braves	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Crawford	Giants	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
E. Pierce	Cubs	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
J. Farricker	Braves	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Henderson	Braves	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Weaver	Giants	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Stenger	Braves	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Orth	Giants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Stuart	Giants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Patton	Cubs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Mann	Cubs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Carter	Cubs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

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