

CROSSFIRE

By LOU CHIESI

He Goofed, Manuel Laments

KEY WEST, Fla.—Manuel, the handsome young bartender at the Key Wester motel, turned his gaze from the port Cuban girls swimming in the pool to comment:

"Yes, it is too bad. Maybe someday Havana would have had a major league baseball team. That would have been so great. He had goofed everything up. He had a chance to be the greatest man of Cuba. But he goofed it up. Too bad."

Obviously, Manuel was speaking of Fidel Castro, but he had the best opportunities of history, and the forlorn hopes of Cuba's flimsy baseball fans.

Manuel continued his bar talk, adding a little extra gin to the next drink because he realized the audience was attentive and on an expense account, thus capable of a larger tip than might otherwise be anticipated. And the tourists haven't been spending much at Manuel's bar this summer.

"THERE ARE" maybe 15 Cubans in the major leagues, he believes. Yes, at least 15. Baseball is big in Cuba. Next to the United States, baseball is biggest in Cuba. In Havana they follow the majors just like in the States. But now Havana does not even have the Sugar Kings," Manuel bemoaned.

The Sugar Kings, if you aren't up to such things, and there's no reason for you to be interested particularly, were the Havana team in the Triple A International League. After the "followers of Fidel" became excited, the national league removed the franchise from Havana and exiled the club to Jersey City.

"It's all wrong, Mister. He cannot bring Communism to Cuba. Communism might go on, but not in Cuba. In Cuba they want a big red car, and a lot of suits, and a good living. They like to play and have fun. They will not be like Communists. Never!" Manuel added, meeting quickly into the philosophical shortcomings of Communism. He was correct, of course. Imagine Minnie Minoso without his red convertible, 30 suits and appreciative feminine followers.

A FEW HUNDRED yards away, at Meekham Field, anglers are busy regularly to Havana. But not many Americans care to visit the Cuban capital anymore. "I would not advise going, Mister. Man a n e l continued. The thought of a quick trip to Havana had occurred as such things sometimes do during the cocktail hour at the end of a hot day. The pretty girls were still diving in the pool, so there was no reason for a sensible man to leave anyway.

By this time, Manuel had picked up the sports pages of a Miami paper. A Scorchum headline topped a story reviewing the Detroit-Cleveland trade of pitcher DeWitt for Joe Gordon. Not even by traveling to Key West, the southernmost point of continental United States, can one escape baseball, Manuel had proved that.

ONLY A FEW weeks back, this column had discussed the possibilities of the Tigers trading Bill Dewitt, their president and general manager, and outfielder Al Kaline to the Chicago White Sox for Bill Veck, the Sox's general manager, and Veck's new scoreboard—the one that rings the home runs and sings songs when the White Sox do something spectacular. The deal, which was whimsical at the time, but now we don't know. That would be the one way out for Dewitt's singing and get better.

But the scoreboard would not benefit the Tigers much at that. Veck's marvel probably would fall apart from disuse. The deal does nothing these days except justify such departed managers as Red Hollop, Doc Kiser, Jack Tighe and Bill Norman.

Maybe Chicago and Detroit could fall apart from disuse. The deal does nothing these days except justify such departed managers as Red Hollop, Doc Kiser, Jack Tighe and Bill Norman.

IF THE AMERICAN League really plans to add two new clubs in the next few years, Detroit's solution of its baseball problem may be easier than expected. Why not give each of the two new clubs half of the Tiger players? Let Detroit could rustle up a complete new team with the assurance that at least two clubs in the league would be weaker.

Or perhaps the whole team could be sent to Havana. That would be one way to get even with Castro. But the Cubans still couldn't say they had a major league team.

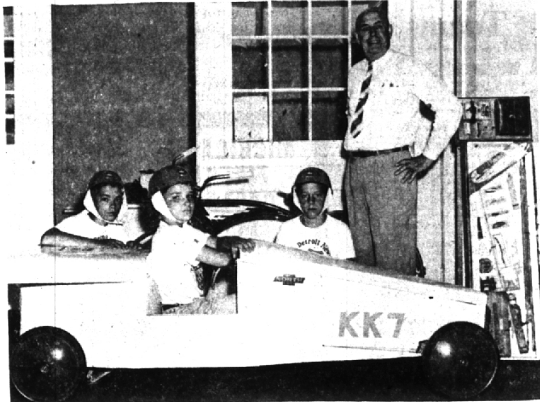
The Tigers are having trouble, are they not? Manuel asked politely.

Manuel apparently hasn't heard that in Detroit there's always next year.

Ladies Day Golfers Compete in Tourney

It was ladies day at Birmingham's Knollwood Country club Sunday as the club's women members competed in the annual ladies' championship.

The championship flight was won by Mrs. J. G. Israel who defeated Mrs. Arthur Rasmussen, 6 and 4. Mrs. B. J. Schwartz downed Mrs. Sid Sherman 2 and 1 to take the consolation flight.



Derby Contestants Back from the Races

Pop Goyette of North Chevrolet in Birmingham poses with local drivers he managed in last week's annual Soap Box Derby in Detroit. From left are Mark Waterman, 13, 2479 Pembroke, Wayne Warner, 12, 7355 Chula Vista, and Rick Hyer, 11, 5601 Kolly. Sponsored by North Chevrolet, the boys were among 270 speedsters who raced their home-made models down the derby hills. Although the boys were eliminated in the competition, Mark received a bicycle; Wayne a fishing tackle set and Rick, a camera outfit, from their sponsor.

Speedsters Tune Up For Waterford Races

Sports car drivers from surrounding states and Canada with every type of modified sports car from low-powered Volkswagens to high-powered Corvettes and Jaguars will merge at the Waterford Hills road course this weekend for the Mid-Summer Trophy Races sponsored by the Oakland County Sportsmen club.

The two-day events will test cars in seven classes with each class having its own race. The two-day events will test cars in seven classes with each class having its own race. The two-day events will test cars in seven classes with each class having its own race.

Hills Angler Wins First Fish Series

Robert F. Rea, 5400 Lane Lake road, Bloomfield Hills, reeled in a three pound, eleven ounce large mouth bass Saturday to become the winner of Birmingham's first local series of sport fishing contest.

Using a spin cast rod with a "staircase" lure, the lucky angler hauled out the 19 1/2 inch bass right from his dock on Gilbert Lake.

Rea's catch earned him a spot in the state championship fish-off slated for Sept. 21-23 at the Sportsman Showdown on Houghton Lake when winners of all local contests will vie for the world championship tour.

IN THE TWO-DAY state championship rounds, anglers will fish in Houghton Lake for the designated species. Contestants weighing in the 21 heaviest single catches will qualify for Sunday's final in which competition will be held under observation for anything and everything.

With the species and amount restrictions removed from Sunday's finals, any kind and amount of fish may be entered by each angler. (See ANGLER, Page 7-E)

Eccentric-Recreation Net Tourney Ends

Netters displayed some fancy footwork as they slid through last week's rain drenched matches of the Eccentric-Recreation sponsored community tennis tournament.

With 79 entrants competing for medals and trophies in eight divisions, some defending champions were dethroned while others continued their reigns.

The outstanding match of the tournament started and finished in the rain with Don Kelber swatting his way to victory over Bud Wittus 6-0, 2-6 and 8-6 for the men's singles championship. Another hard fought Betty McKee stage fast moving battles against Ann Holmes 6-1 and 6-1 to retain her crown in the women's singles division.

LAST YEAR'S women's doubles champs Bea Stumpf and Bea McKee teamed up once again to defeat Lauri Smith and Patricia Smith 6-1 and 6-2 to repeat last year's winning performance.

With the boys' doubles division discontinued this year, last year's boy's doubles winning combination of Steve Smith and Don Kelber split up to face each other as opponents in the consolation match.

ALTHOUGH ON THE losing end in the men's doubles, Steve Anderson topped the boy's singles division as he breezed by Bert Green 6-0 and 6-1. In the girl's singles event, Bea Stumpf beat out defending champion Fran Green 6-2 and 6-1.

Upsets were not confined to the older age classes as Peter Elliott, who lost to Mike Fisher in the final last year, defeated the former champ 6-4 and 6-0 for the junior boy's crown. Sue Fitzgerald took the junior girl's championship sweeping 6-1 and 6-0 over Patty Harring.

Southfield Americans Cop District Little League Title Hayes Hurls No-Hitter To Blank Nationals 7-0

Out of 13 starting teams in the District No. 4 all-star games, Southfield came up with not one, but two teams in Sunday's final playoff championship game. Even before the contest, it was inevitable that Southfield would represent the District at Kalamazoo Aug. 11 in the state championship skirmishes.

Between four interruptions of showers, the Southfield Americans shutout the Nationals 7-0 behind the no-hit pitching of Dale Hayes. At no time did the tall 11 year-old show signs of losing control as he mixed hisizzling fast ball with an occasional change-of-pace to baffie National batters.

Going the six-inning distance, Hayes fanned nine and walked two of the 20 batters he faced. Chris Larson, who had trouble with his control under pressure, lead-off batter, Mike Kuhna, who led the Nationals.

IN THE ONE-SIDED runs department, the third and sixth innings were the big ones for the Americans.

A first inning American rally was checked as Larson refused to be rattled under pressure. Lead-off batter, Mike Kuhna, who led the Americans' slugging attack with three singles, placed a ground duster through the box. Gerry Jenkins' fielder's choice forced catcher Mike Hayes and sent him advanced on a pass ball. But Allen then walked and Hayes topped a bit to load the bases.

But Larson stretched to juggle Bill Allen's line drive and whirled to double Bill W. and walk off Bob at first.

The game was rips and tucks until the fourth inning when Kuhna drove a single over the same spot as his first run going back to second on a pass ball. Jenkins shot a liner by the short stop and Bob Allen dropped a blooper hit between fielders to score Kuhna, 1-0.

HAYES THEN settled for a single, after clobbering the first pitch foul over the left field fence. Bill Allenfield would represent the District at Kalamazoo Aug. 11 in the state championship skirmishes.

Southfield catcher Mike Kuhna crosses the plate in the sixth inning with the Americans sixth run as National catcher Mike Hayes gets rid of but for play at the plate. The Americans defeated their backyard Rivals 7-0 for the little league district championship.

Last B'ham Survivor Falls in Extra Innings

Birmingham's newest little leaguers, the Continentals, were the last of the local teams to survive last week's all-star district championship games. The last of the Moheicans lost a 2-1 heart-breaker Saturday as the Southfield Americans, the eventual district champions, came up with an extra inning homer to knock the Continentals out of the running.

The Continentals just couldn't click for that slugging power they've been displaying throughout the season. After slaughtering Novi 8-1 on 11 hits in their first all-star game, their 378 tournament batting average failed to pay off.

It looked like the Continentals would strike back in their half of the seventh as Dave Raup led off with a single. With one down Ralph Atkin sliced a line between the bag and first baseman Hayes, dove to stab the ball and stretched to tag the bag for the double play. Without that key play the game may have never gone to the disastrous eighth inning.

Results of the week's district championship all-star games are as follows: Novi, 5-0; Birmingham Nationals 5, North Farmington 4; Farmington 5, Birmingham Federals 0; Lathrup Village 3, Midford 2; Walled Lake 4, Birmingham Americans 2; Birmingham Continentals 8, Novi 1; Southfield Americans 3, Birmingham Nationals 1; Birmingham Continentals 2, Farmington 0; Walled Lake 1, Lathrup Village 0; Southfield Americans 2, Birmingham Continentals 1; Southfield Nationals 5, Walled Lake 4; Southfield Americans 7, Southfield Nationals 0.

Oakland Hills to Hold Doubles Tournament

About 40 of the state's finest doubles teams will meet Saturday, Aug. 13 for Oakland Hills Country club's annual invitational doubles tournament.

Last year's champion combination of William Patton and Fred Otto and the runner-up team of Don Mackay and Ted Peterson will be defending their titles.

Tournament matches begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday with the finals included William Brown Sr. with on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. No admission will be charged. The club is located on W. Maple just east of Westport.

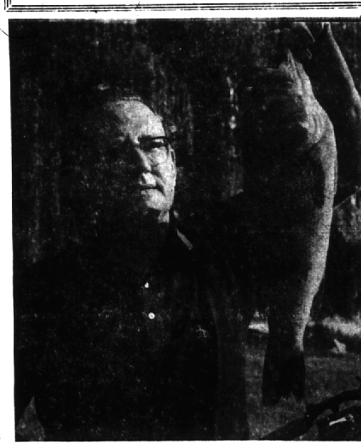
7 Teams Vie In Swim Meet

The Pine Lake Country club's swimming team defeated the defending champion Bloomfield Open Hunt swimmers in the Suburban Inter Club Swimming association's annual championship meet at Meadowbrook Country club Sunday.

The Pine Lake trophy winners collected 105 points to barely squeeze by second place Birmingham Country club with 104 points. Other teams included Orchard Lake country club with 96 points, Birmingham Athletic club, 80; Meadowbrook 47; Bloomfield Open Hunt, 46; Farmington 39.

Over 220 youngsters competed in individual events with trophies awarded the first five places of each event. First winners were: BOY'S—Birmingham Athletic; Girl's—Birmingham Athletic; GIRLS 10 & UNDER FREE STYLE—Birmingham Athletic; GIRLS 11 & UNDER FREE STYLE—Birmingham Athletic. (See TIMES, Page 7-E)

The Birmingham Eccentric AUGUST 11, 1960



'Jitterbug' Does the Trick

A "jitterbug" lure and backyard fishing paid off for Robert F. Rea Saturday as he landed this three pound, eleven ounce large mouth bass to win the Sportsman sponsored world series of sport fishing local contest. Casting from the backyard of his cottage on Gilbert Lake, Rea footed his catch in a matter of minutes.

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