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No 4 AUGUST 1950

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"Daily Express"
"Evening Standard"
"Ilford Guardian"
"Stratford Express"
"Essex & Thurrock Gazette"
"Grays & Tilbury Gazette"
"Hornsey Journal"
"Muswell Hill Record"
"Bromley & Kentish Times"
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"Lewisham Borough News"
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EDITORIAL

GAMES FOR TRUE ATHLETES

With the Baseball season now four months old and two to go, it is timely for this Magazine to consider its winter policy.

We are glad that we are not to close down for the off-season months for, by co-operating with the Basket Ball Association, we are able to give our readers all the Baseball news throughout the winter and spring, when the game would not be active enough to warrant the appearance of such a publication as this.

We have already welcomed Basket Ball enthusiasts to these columns in our last issue, and it now remains only for the Basket Ball Clubs and associated organisation send their reports, reviews and write-ups regularly to us each month, and they, too, will be assured of some information in the summer and autumn when their game is dormant.

We think the arrangement ideal, and we do hope that everyone will join in and make the thing a success right from the start.

In America and Canada, many Baseball players take to Basket Ball in the winter, and therefore the games become associated. Here in Britain, quite a number of Baseball Clubs ran a Basket Ball team before the war, and already two clubs are applying for membership of a Basket Ball League, and others are trying to work out the details (although their Baseball commitments keep them busy at the moment). In the same way we hope that many Basket Ball players will come over to Baseball in the summer.

The two Games will be reported quite independently in BASEBALL AND BASKET BALL, and the players of both games can take a pride that they are members of games that are truly ATHLETIC and will only be mastered by the fit and healthy. They will still be going strong when many of the present-day "stunt" sports are forgotten.

EDITOR.

THE EDITOR would like to hear from correspondents in the Birmingham and North West areas. Those conversant with all Baseball activities in their own area. Also correspondents for all areas of the Basket Ball Association.

OUR COVER PHOTO:

NOTTINGHAM WHITE SOX, 1950: BACK ROW (L. to R.)—N. McKown, T. Large, J. Rowe, H. Hawthorne, A. Jennings, A. Marks, V. Smith; FRONT ROW (L. to R.)—J. Trenam, C. Pratt, K. Sheppard and P. Beckerton.

THE EDITOR invites original contributions from readers and will consider publication of same. If return of MSS. is required, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed. PLEASE NOTE that opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor.

ROOTING THE UMP

By ERIC B. WILLIAMS

THE UMPS ARE GOOD SPORTS—BUT LET'S GET THIS ROOTING IN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE!

At the start of the present season, the South-East Baseball League had over twenty qualified and trainee Umpires. Yet with only half the season gone by, nearly all of them have quitted the game.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS?

There is only one conclusion that one can come to when the facts are probed. It is this: BASEBALL UMPIRES HAVE HAD JUST ABOUT THE WORST DEAL THAT ANY SINCERE SPORT LOVER COULD HAVE HAD.

When they have *not* enforced discipline they have been told they were wrong in not having done so.

When they *have* enforced discipline, they have *not* been BACKED UP BY THE AREA ASSOCIATION AT THE ENQUIRY.

Seems they are wrong whatever they do!

Anyone who has umpired a few League or Cup games will tell you it is a tough job. If you don't believe it, don the mask and take a few games and try it for yourself! The player may make many errors in a game and the worst that can happen to him is to be benched. But the Umpire is on his own, and if he makes one error he is the target of dissension. Yet, ironically enough, generally speaking the Umpires have left the average player standing in knowledge of the Laws of the game. Agreed that we *have* had some weak Umpires, but even they have a right to human error.

Oh yes, we know that Umpires are supposed to be able to take it—and nearly all of them can. But there is a limit to all things and many Umps. have had their patience taxed out of all proportion.

There is one particular class of player—you all know the type—the player who after he thinks the Umpire has called a wrong 'un on him, turns round to the spectators and puts on a "Sonny Boy" act. This amounts to no less than inciting the spectators against the Umpire. "Sonny Boy" is being very dirty, and deserves to be sent to the showers very promptly!

No Umpire minds rooting and good-natured chaff. But there is an element of viciousness creeping in under the cloak of "rooting the Umpire," and, frankly, it amounts quite often to abuse, and IN SOME CASES, EVEN TO COERCION.

This must be stamped out!

There is a common mistake made in this country. It is assumed that American custom allows the *players and officials* to root the Umpire. This may have been true of American Baseball some twenty years ago, but since the early 1930's both the Major and Minor American Leagues have tightened up on the barracking and rooting by players.

The spectators still have their privilege of rooting whoever they choose, but the *players* find that they root the Umpire *at their own risk*. And penalties can be very severe if the Umpire takes offence, for the Leagues will back the Umpire to the end.

This may seem very drastic from a player's point of view, but it is no more drastic than in Soccer or any other correctly organised sport in Britain.

Obviously any game worth its salt must be GREATER than the player. IT WILL BE A SORRY DAY FOR BASEBALL IN THIS COUNTRY IF WE DO NOT PUT OUR HOUSE IN ORDER AND SUPPORT THE UMPIRE WHO IS, AFTER ALL, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BASEBALL LAW AND ORDER!

NOTICE REGARDING BASEBALL FIXTURES

As fixtures are liable to late re-arrangement through Cup matches and other reasons, we have discontinued printing them for the time being. Fixtures are, however, published in the Saturday edition of the "*Daily Express*." They are also published in the "*Sporting Chronicle*," "*Evening Standard*," "*Evening News*," and "*What's On*." Many local papers likewise carry the fixtures for the current week-end.

THE NATIONAL CUP SEMI-FINAL

Hornsey Red Sox win close game

BIRMINGHAM CARDINALS 7, HORNSEY RED SOX 9. At Wolseley Motors Ground, Birmingham, a crowd of 6,000 spectators saw a thrilling encounter between the Champions of the Midlands and Southern Areas. The Red Sox opened fast and before Cardinals had settled down the visitors had put two runs across the plate in the first innings while holding the Cards. scoreless. Vic Lambrecht was pitching for the homesters, while Grody did the chores for the Sox.

It was in the third innings that things began to happen, Vic Lambrecht, the Cardinals pitcher, who was formerly with the Cleveland Indians, cracked and with one man on, Ray Carns, Don Grody and Glen Allan all hit home runs to give the Sox a six run lead. However, the Cards. retaliated and hit the Red Sox's pitcher hard and six runs crossed the plate to tie the score, and again in the fourth innings another Birmingham run came. And so into the fifth with Birmingham leading 7 to 6, a pitchers' duel commenced; Grody putting everything on to the ball for the Red Sox and Lambrecht speeding them in hard for the Cardinals. The fifth innings was scoreless and so was the sixth; neither team gave way in the seventh and, with both teams putting everything into the game, yet again the eighth . . . no runs.

Then came the epic ninth innings. The Red Sox at bat. Hemmings walked, Marsh singled for two men on base and no men out, Martlew at bat—Lambrecht pitched—crack—the ball was over the fence for a home run and three pairs of Red Sox crossed the plate into the entire Red Sox team who had jubiliantly run out to welcome in those three valuable runs. The Cardinals went to bat, a fly ball to left field—one out. Perkins hit one on. Howard at bat—the pitch a hard hit to third base, Red Soxer Marsh dived at it took the catch and made a double play to first and there was the ball game and the Red Sox into the final.

SCORE BOX:

HORNSEY										
2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	Total	9
CARDINALS										
0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	Total	7

THE FINAL TIE

The final is scheduled to be played in Birmingham on Sunday, August 13th.

BASEBALL RESULTS

(To July 16th inclusive)

South-Eastern League:

July 1st—

Hornsey Bruins	3	Briggs Tigers	22

July 2nd—

Hornsey Red Sox	14	Briggs Brigands	7
Dodgers	9	Paragon	7
Enfield Cardinals	9	Thames B.M.	10
Aveley Cubs	13	Briggs Tigers	5
Essex Cubs	11	Fondu	3

July 8th and 9th—

Hornsey Bruins	6	Essex Cubs	45
Collegians	9	Briggs Tigers	22
Essex Nationals	16	Ford Sports	6
Ford Sports	3	Essex Nationals	7
Enfield Cardinals	5	Dodgers	6
Hornsey Athletics	12	Fondu	10

July 15th and 16th—

Hornsey Bruins	7	Collegians	6
Aveley Cubs	8	Fondu	6
Dodgers	4	Essex Nationals	10

National Cup:

Southern Area Final—

Briggs Brigands	12	Hornsey Red Sox	23

Semi-Final—

Birmingh'm Cards	7	Hornsey Red Sox	9

Southern Counties Senior Cup:

Thames B.M.	16	Briggs Brigands	7

South-East League Intermediate Cup:

Semi-Final—

Aveley Cubs	9	Briggs Tigers	6

Essex Charity Cup:

Semi-Final—

Thames B.M.	11	Briggs Brigands	8

Friendlies:

Marley Y.C.	15	Collegians	25
Marley Y.C.	10	Collegians	3
Mitcham Royals	8	Essex Cubs	19
Wokingham Mon.	4	Pirates	3
Stand. 'Phones	9	W/L Pioneers	22
Thames B.M.	17	Mitcham Tigers	0
Essex Cubs	16	Ford Sports	10

Western League:

Division I.—

Mitcham Royals	2	W/L Pioneers	24

Division II.—

Stand. 'Phones	5	Kodak	13
Monarchs	24	Dulwich Blue Jays	8

Being a comparative newcomer to Baseball, I cannot argue on the finer points of the game as the President, E. C. "Pop" Brown, or George Parnell, and other stalwarts of the Baseball Leagues. But I can vouch for the eagerness and sacrifices that are made by those who play and run Baseball.

My first baptism of the game came when I saw a party of Canadians down in the South of England staging a game. Being interested, I watched progress and asked questions; a bat was thrust into my hand and I was told to "try it out." When asked what I had to do, I was shown the pitcher and told to "hit that ball." I stepped up to the base, a wooden seat bottom, took a look at the two heroes, the catcher and the ump. sans masks, pads or protectors and then faced the pitcher. Imitating the previous batter, I wielded an unfamiliar bat and waited for the ball. A sharp movement from the pitcher, a swish, a slap and a bellow from the ump.—"Strike!" Strike, I thought, this guy's crazy, I didn't touch the ball. The next ball I did touch, and what was meant to be a mighty swipe finished up as a tap and the ball rolled away in front of me. Someone shouted "run," but before I could get on my way to first base, the catcher picked up the ball and slammed it into my back. "You're out, pal," he grinned. That was my first innings at Baseball. But I enjoyed my try-out and I enjoyed the rest of the game.

That is why, too, that I still enjoy Baseball and will do all in my power to help popularise the game and make the National Press Baseball-conscious.

Players and supporters can help by writing and/or phoning the National Papers giving their views of the game.

Far from being a Western League Review this seems more like my own review. But I cannot end without congratulating W/London Pioneers and Kodak for being top of Div. I and Div. II.

Till next month.

F. SMITH.

* * *

JUNE RECORD SNATCHER

With the ink hardly dry in the annals of British Baseball Records †Lee Ridenhour, West London Pioneers' pitcher, had 19 strike-outs in the game against Mitcham Royals on July 16th. Lee, up to the end of the 1949 season was catcher for the Pioneers and took a spell on the mound for a change. Lee is now Pioneers No. 1 pitcher and, up-to-date in twelve matches, his score is 97 strike-outs. So come on you pitchers, wind up that pitching arm, there's still a chance for you yet!

† A word of caution. It would be as well to treat Lee's magnificent feat with reserve. As to being a record, I seem to remember a twenty-one strike-out job in the last few seasons, so we would like time to check up.—Ed.

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB ON T.V.

One evening in April, just prior to the commencement of the Baseball season, the Essex Nationals and Essex Cubs Baseball teams made a trip to the B.B.C. studios at Alexandra Palace to take part in the "Picture Page" programme.

The players taking part were W. (Slim) Beckwith, Art French, Jack Helliar, Benny Bierkom, and E. H. Mathews (Editor of "Baseball and Basket Ball.").

The very small size of the studio prevented any demonstration of actual Baseball playing, but the viewers were presented with a very entertaining discussion on Baseball in Britain. B.B.C. Commentator Leslie Mitchell interviewed the players, and the game was discussed in all its aspects. The purpose of the various items of Baseball equipment was demonstrated, and E. H. Mathews gave an explanation of the Baseball diamond with the aid of a specially-prepared chart.

Photographs taken from the actual performance are shown on the page opposite.

MITCHAM ROYALS BASEBALL CLUB, 1950

Baseball on Television

Essex Baseball Club at Alexandra Palace

Leslie Mitchell, of the B.B.C., interviews the Essex Baseball Club

E. H. Mathews, Editor of Baseball & Basket Ball, explains Baseball to Viewers

Leslie Mitchell discusses the seams of the Baseball with Slim Beckwith.

Jack Hellier and Leslie demonstrate the Catching gear.

Art French relates some Baseball experiences.

Leslie Mitchell and Benny Bierkom gag with each other about southpaw pitchers. (Screen Tele-snaps by John Cure)

LEFT.
A BASKET BALL FINAL played by two Student teams.

CASEY AT THE BAT

(Reprinted from the July, 1906, issue of the Baseball Magazine)

IT LOOKED extremely rocky for the Pudville nine that day
The score stood two to four, with but an inning left to play;
So, when Cooney died* at second, and Burrows did the same
A pallor wreathed the features of the patrons of the game.

A straggling few got up to go, leaving there the rest,
With that hope which springs eternal within the human breast.
For they thought: "If only Casey could get a whack at that,"
They'd put up even money now, with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, and likewise so did Blake.†
And the former was a puddin', and the latter was a fake;
So on that stricken multitude a deathlike silence sat,
For there seemed but little chance of Casey's getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a "single,"¶ to the wonderment of all,
And the much-despised Blakey "tore the cover off the ball,"
And when the dust had lifted, and they saw what had occurred,
There was Blakey safe at second, and Flynn a-huggin' third.

Then from the gladdened multitude went up a joyous yell,
It rumbled in the mountain tops, it rattled in the dell;
It struck upon the hillside and rebounded on the flat,
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place,
There was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile on Casey's face;
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt,
Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt;
Then when the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,
Defiance gleamed in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere§ came hurtling through the air,
An' Casey stood a-watching' it in mighty grandeur there;
Close by the sturdy batsman the ball, unheeded sped;
"That ain't my style," said Casey; "Strike one," the umpire said.

From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar
Like the beating of storm waves on the stern and distant shore;
"Kill him, Kill the umpire!" shouted someone on the stand;
And it's likely they'd have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.

With a smile of Christian charity great Casey's visage shone;
He stilled the rising tumult, he made the game go on;
He signalled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew,
But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said "Strike two."

"Fraud!" cried the maddened thousands, and the echo answered "Fraud!"
But one scornful look from Casey and the audience was awed;
They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,
And they knew that Casey wouldn't let the ball go by again.

CASEY AT THE BAT—*continued*

The sneer is gone from Casey's lips, his teeth are clenched in hate;
He pounds with cruel vengeance his bat upon the plate;
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.

Oh, somewhere in this favoured land the sun is shining bright,
The band is playing somewhere and somewhere hearts are light;
And somewhere men are laughing and somewhere children shout,
But there is no joy in Pudville; mighty Casey has struck out.

* To die on 2nd means that the man has been put out.
† They preceded him in the batting order. Casey could not bat until Flynn and Blake had batted.
¶ A " single " is a one base hit.
§ The sphere is the ball in baseball slang.

BRITISH BASEBALL CLUBS

No. 4. KINGSTON DIAMONDS (HULL)

The Diamonds, who operate in the " B " section of the Hull Major Baseball League, were formed in 1939 as the Beetonsville Diamonds, but the club had only a very brief playing record in the year as the second World War put matters temporarily at an end.

In 1945, however, the club was re-formed and, in due course, the name was changed to the present Kingston Diamonds. The club has enjoyed several playing seasons since 1945, but they do not point to any briliant playing successes in particular. They were, however, semi-finalists in the Hull District Cup in 1947, and have again reached the same stage this year, and are hoping to reach the final for the first time.

The Diamonds have produced many good players during the last few years, and many of them have transferred to more senior clubs. Amongst these are Pete Shorten (Cavendish Cardinals), Johnny Snowball and Ron Marshall (Hull Royals), Sam Grant (Fenners V's) and Bernard McIver (Eastfield Eagles), all these are ex-Diamonds, and there are about another dozen players in the " A " division who have had spells with the Diamonds at one time or another.

The club has also been directly or indirectly responsible for the formation of other clubs, for with the spirit of knowing that spreading Baseball is essential, some of the Diamonds formed another club, the Eastfield Eagles, who now play and share the same Diamond at Pickering Park. The Kingston Diamonds are pioneers in the sense that most Baseball is played in East Hull, and the Diamonds were the first team to form up in West Hull.

Season 1950 started with another building-up process, the club lost its first five games in a row, but since then they have won the last four with a team which, with the exception of Coach Marshall, is comprised of young players all under twenty-four years of age. New pitcher Albert Hall has had forty strike-outs in the five games he has played, and Hal Martin has been very consistent behind the plate, catching very well indeed. The most notable game this season was the victory in the second round of the Hull District Cup over Priestman Panthers which the Diamonds won by 7 to 6. A good sporting cup match in which both sides excelled themselves. The founder and guiding spirit of the club is Mr. Ed. C. Martin, to whom the club owes much. Under his guidance the Diamonds look forward to their eventual entry into the " A " division.

Given some good breaks the present enthusiastic team will do it!

BIRMINGHAM CARDINALS.

The Cardinals are a new combination, being formed only this year, with a nucleus of ex-Beavers, namely G. Davies, V. Lamprecht, G. Lester, L. Shelley, J. Palmer and P. Pickering. The Goddard brothers, Frank and Howard, joined later, and also the three Smith brothers (who are well-known locally) and so the Cardinals had excellent prospects—on paper at least—when the season opened. Playing records to date have proved that view to be right on the Target, for the club is still unbeaten in the Major League and were the Area finalists in the National Cup.

P. E. Pickering has been elected captain in recent weeks, and the Cardinals have a good team spirit. Many Baseball followers in Birmingham compare the Cards to that Durex Abrasives team which had so many pre-war Championships to their credit, and the Cards. are doing their best to emulate their fine example.

The semi-final of the National Cup saw the Cardinals fighting gamely for the Midlands, and indeed were well on top for a long period, until that unfortunate ninth innings when the Hornsey lads took over.

MIDLAND LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Up to and including July 16th)

MAJOR LEAGUE:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Cardinals	7	7	0	14
Allens Cross	7	5	2	10
Mohawks	7	4	3	8
Wolseley	7	2	5	4
Dunlop Tigers	7	2	5	4
Daytona	7	1	6	2

MINOR LEAGUE:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Beavers	8	8	0	16
Giants	8	5	3	10
Pirates	8	4	4	8
Valor	7	4	4	8
Aston Monarchs	8	1	7	2
Dunlop Eagles	8	1	7	2

NOTTINGHAM BASEBALL LEAGUE

By K. D. Coleman

Don't think because there hasn't been much news in the Baseball Monthly concerning the activities in Nottingham, that the game is still in its infancy, far from it. Baseball is now in its third season in this district, and from all reports of those "in the know" it is our best season. Although our League in Nottingham is very small and only consists of five teams—the Dodgers, the Flyers, the Seagulls, the White Sox and the Wolves—the enthusiasm shown by these clubs, the interest and support of the public has shown that Baseball has certainly come to stay, and it is hoped to be able to increase the number of teams for next season.

The biggest disadvantage that affects this League is the lack of playing pitches, and at the moment we have only one "diamond" to play our League matches on, that being at the Melbourne Road Park, Apsley, Nottingham. Last season the matches were played off on our own ground at Wilford, but as it wasn't large enough we moved to our present site. Matches are played every Saturday and Sunday throughout the season, and at present we average an attendance of about five hundred at each game, although during the last three weeks attendances have stepped up considerably and the day when four-figure gates can be claimed are not very far away.

The League champions for the season become the holders of the Harvey Trophy, a cup presented to the League by one of our Nottingham businessmen. Last season this cup was won by the Nottingham White Sox, winning the trophy in their second season. This season competition is greater than ever—at the time of writing this article four teams are in the running—and I'm afraid that we shall have to wait until the last match before we can name the winners.

The umpires for the League matches are from a selected panel appointed by the Nottingham Baseball League Committee. They are playing members of the Clubs, but are only allowed to officiate at matches at which their team are not participating.

The above is just a brief description of the League in Nottingham, and expect to hear more about our teams in future issues.

Midland Area News—*continued*

NOTTINGHAM BASEBALL LEAGUE

RESULTS

(To July 16th inclusive)

Flyers	14	Dodgers	6	Dodgers	6	Flyers	25
Wolves	9	White Sox	4	Seagulls	0	Flyers	22
Dodgers	4	Wolves	26	White Sox	20	Wolves	21
White Sox	12	Flyers	8	Wolves	11	Seagulls	17
Wolves	11	Seagulls	8	Flyers	4	White Sox	13
Dodgers	11	White Sox	17	Wolves	5	Flyers	14

STANDINGS

(Up to and including 16th July, 1950)

TEAMS:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Flyers	6	4	2	8
Wolves	6	4	2	8
White Sox	5	3	2	6
Seagulls	3	1	2	2
Dodgers	4	0	4	0

NOTTINGHAM FLYERS BASEBALL CLUB

The Nottingham Flyers are considered to be the most colourful team in the Nottingham League, and rightly so. They are ably captained and trained by Tom Harvey, who is of English parents but was born in Canada. He is their "jack-of-all-trades," equally effective at pitching, or holding the bag at third. The Flyers are lucky in having three of the Nottingham Panthers Ice Hockey Team in their side. First there is Hal Brown who is their pitcher (ask the other teams what they think of Hal as a pitcher), but is just at home at third base. Unluckily, Hal is returning to Canada with his wife and baby at the end of this month, so Tom Harvey will have to get that pitching arm ready again. Chick Zamick, who needs no introduction to Ice Hockey fans, keeps first base, and leads the field in the number of home runs scored this season. He might be small but he can make big hits. The third hockey player is our old friend Ken Westman, who last season was captain of the Panthers, can be found at second base. Ken knows and plays Baseball better than anybody in the League. No one could write about the Flyers and leave out J. Brown, their pitcher and smallest member of the team. Joe plays hard and is very keen (even the umpire is scared when Joe speaks). Most of the other players are now old hands at the game, now playing in their third season, they are: H. Moffatt (short stop), G. Darwood (left outfield and centre outfield), A. Topham (2nd base and centre outfield), Gardner (outfield), Woods (centre outfield), Baton (outfield) and Buck (outfield). So far they haven't won the Harvey Trophy, but they are keeping their fingers crossed this season —here's hoping.

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SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE REVIEW

By JACK HELLIAR

(Hon. Secretary of the League and Southern Counties Representative)

The month of July has been a most interesting one for the South-Eastern League, for there has been a varied programme which has produced keen competition and success.

The main cause of satisfaction has, of course, been the success of Hornsey Red Sox in again reaching the Final of the National Cup. The Sox have achieved this in the face of strong opposition from their Southern opponents and a major challenge from the Midland Area champions. We are sure that the whole of the South are with them in what is undoubtedly a tougher task in the Final, their opponents being an overseas side with a practically unparalleled record over here.

The fact that the National finalists have, for the past three seasons, emanated from our League is, I feel, a reflection of the strength of Southern Baseball, for the Red Sox are the first to admit that they have not had an easy path in the past two seasons, and Thames Board Mills in 1948 by no means had it all their own way on the climb to the Final.

This has been especially true in the present season for, with the beginning of August in view, there are four clubs in our First Division who all have a good chance of winning the championship this season. The fixtures for the remaining part of the season will bring swift changes in position from week to week, and the issue will be in doubt till the end.

In Division II there is likewise an interesting situation with Essex Cubs, Briggs Tigers and Aveley Cubs as the three clubs between whom the championship rests. Key games here will probably decide the issue.

Yet, despite this even race at the head of the tables, we still have three teams who have yet to record a League victory. Ford Sports and Paragon in the First Division have still to hold the lead at the end of the ninth, and it will be two very keen games that take place between these teams during September.

The meeting of Hornsey Bruins and Collegians in Division II enabled Bruins to record their first two points after an exciting 7—6 duel that was in doubt till the ninth. Collegians are undoubtedly looking forward to the return.

To turn to the administrative side of the game, it is pleasing to record that there has been good co-operation and working between Club Secretaries and the League Officials. A lengthly programme has been largely successfully completed through prompt and friendly assistance on all sides, and we can take great pride in saying that the League has been efficiently organised from that viewpoint. It is, of course, regrettable that this co-operation has not been fully fulfilled on matters outside the League's jurisdiction, but we are hoping that an early start can be made on the improvement of liason between higher authorities. The clubs have set a standard in this matter that it must be the endeavour of higher authorities to emulate, for strong leadership is the key essential if the sport is to progress—a feature that has been unfortunately lacking in the past.

Meanwhile, we look forward to a successful conclusion to a memorable season, and look forward to the support of our friends at our League Cup Finals which will probably take place in September.

SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Up to and including 16th July)

DIVISION I:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Essex Nationals	10	8	2	16	(.800)
Dodgers	9	7	2	14	(.777)
Thames Board Mills	9	7	2	14	(.777)
Hornsey Red Sox	6	5	1	10	(.833)
Enfield Cardinals	10	4	6	8	(.400)
Briggs Brigands	7	3	4	6	(.429)
Paragon	8	0	8	0	(.000)
Ford Sports	9	0	9	0	(.000)

DIVISION II:	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Aveley Cubs	10	8	2	16	(.800)
Essex Cubs	7	7	0	14	(1.000)
Briggs Tigers	9	7	2	14	(.777)
Fondu	9	3	6	6	(.333)
Hornsey Athletics	6	2	4	4	(.333)
Hornsey Bruins	8	1	7	2	(.125)
Collegians	7	0	7	0	(.000)

BEGINNERS' CORNER

THE "SQUEEZE" PLAY

When the pitchers are in good form and the play is close, a game may go five or six innings without a run being scored. One run becomes a matter of great importance, certainly more important for the batting side than having one of their men put out.

If, at this stage of the game, the batting side are fortunate enough to get a runner on 3rd base and they have only one or no outs against them, they are apt to try to "squeeze" the runner on 3rd into home.

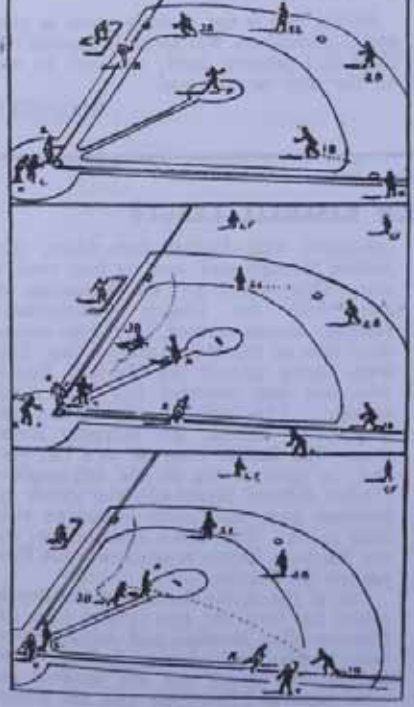
The coach gives the "squeeze" signal to both the runner and the batsman. This means that the batsman *must* hit the next pitched ball. The batsman invariably "bunts"† the next pitched ball because he is more sure of bunting it than swinging at it. The runner's part of this play is to start running at full speed for home as soon as the pitcher starts his delivery to the batsman. Thus we have runner and the ball travelling towards home plate at the same time. The ball is then bunted into fair territory away from home plate, allowing the runner to score, while the man who was at bat runs to first base, hoping that he gets there before the ball, but seldom does.

The fielding side are aware that the "squeeze" play is apt to take place when the proper conditions arise. So they have to be prepared to run in for the bunt, but at the same time cover their usual territory in case the batsman drives a "place"§ hit.

† *A "bunt" is a fairly batted ball not swung at, but with the bat and tapped slowly within the diamond by the batsman.*

§ *A "place" hit is a fairly hit ball that is deliberately hit to a place where the fielders cannot field it.*

DIAGRAMS OF "SQUEEZE" PLAY



The coach on the batting side having given the signal for the "squeeze" play, the runner on 3rd dashes toward home plate as the pitcher starts his delivery to the bat: The third baseman and the first baseman have started to run in for the anticipated "bunt."

The pitcher has also run in for the "bunt," but the runner crosses the plate to score.

The 3rd baseman realises it is too late to stop the runner scoring, so the runner to 1st base is put out.

A WORLD SPORT

Britain Out to Improve Her Basket Ball

Over fifty-seven nations are members of the International Amateur Basket Ball Federation, which goes to prove just how popular the game really is abroad.

In Britain the rules of the game have been constantly revised throughout the years, in order to keep up with overseas developments and to conform with type of play that is for ever improving, as more and more players take up the game here in Britain.

Gt. Britain hopes to be able to improve the standard of play so that one day we shall be able to be serious contenders for the Olympic title. *It is therefore essential that more and more people are introduced into the game if Britain is to overcome the tremendous handicaps that confront us.*

The A.B.B.A. of England and Wales is a "live" body. Under the watchful eye of Bill Browning (who needs no introduction to Basket Ball fans), together with his executive and area officers, the game is definitely making strides. If you are one of those who think that Basket Ball is a quiet parlour game (and I don't say you are), then you have got another think coming to you when you see your first real game. The game is strenuous in the extreme, and it can be *watched* as well as played.

The game is organised into Areas, all over the Country, and any potential clubs and players may like to get into touch with their nearest Area.

North-East: W. E. Coathup, Sir James Knott Y.C., North Shields.

North-West: R. E. Dunn, Walter Harding Gymn, The University, Liverpool.

East and West Ridings: Mr. Chouler, 3, Allerton Grove, Leeds, 7.

East Midland: R. J. Boyle, 842 Woodborough Road, Mapperley, Nottingham.

West Midland: M. A. Madders, 246, Bristol Road, Birmingham.

East: A. E. Green, Erkenwald Y.C., Marlborough Road, Dagenham.

South-East: Lt.-Col. Edmundson, M.C., The Polytechnic, 309 Regent Street, W.1.

South: J. B. Bradley, Watlington House, Reading.

South-West: W. D. Park, B.Sc., 29 Market Street, Crewkerne.

Wales: H. Nicholas, 127 Aldergrove Road, Porth, Glam.

Basket Ball is not a costly game to play, and if newcomers will form themselves into clubs and practice hard, we shall be well on the way to our goal.

HOOPSTER.

HULL DISTRICT AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE

The Royals seem to have assured themselves of the Hull League Championship, with only two more games to play they lead their nearest challengers (the Giants) by six clear points, although the Giants have played one game less at the time of writing. The Royals' lead was strengthened by their overwhelming defeat of the Cavendish Cardinals by 25—6. The Cardinals, however, were minus the services of their Star Pitcher, Pete Shorten, and against a powerful batting side had no answer. The Royals then went on and played their return match with the Pirates. The Pirates had inflicted the first defeat of the season on the Royals and, as was expected, this game was a thriller. Ron Marshall, Ace right-hander of the Royals was on the mound, and he played one of the finest games of his career. The Pirates had no answer to his almost unplayable pitching, and their only run was through an infielder's error. Although the Royals encountered stiff opposition with Pitcher Don Akers, they battled through and won by four runs to one. This victory put the Royals on top and, with the League Championship Honours almost assured, they were casting their eyes on the Hull Amateur Cup. They were drawn against the Maybury Royals, who had only recorded one victory this season. This looked a certain win but, surprisingly enough, the Maybury Royals won. The Royals were off to a bad start and, in spite of the Royals' left-hander—Pitcher Johnny Snowball—who struck out fourteen men, they were beaten by eight runs to six. This was a real turn-up, and the Maybury Royals now go into the Final against the Pirates.

One of the strong features of the Royals' attack has been the fine form of their two Pitchers—Ron Marshall and Johnny Snowball. Marshall, who has pitched sixty-three frames, has struck out *one hundred and nine* men, and Snowball who has pitched

Hull and District Amateur Baseball League—*continued*

sixty-five frames has struck out *one hundred and one* men, thus giving a combined total of *two hundred and ten*. This is surely a fine record for any team. Last season Snowball struck out a total of *one hundred and seventy-six men*. Marshall's finest game was against the Alexandra Team when he struck out nineteen men, and Snowball's best against Cardinals—sixteen strike-outs.

The Pirates, who were strong challengers for League Honours, suffered a surprise defeat at the hands of the Alexandra team. Alex. drafted in some of their old-timers and really showed the Pirates how.

Another surprise was the defeat of the Pirates by the Cardinals in the Baseball Association Cup Final (Hull Area) by four runs to three. The Cardinals then went on to Bootle for the National Semi-Final against the Burtonwood Bees, the American Team, but were defeated by twelve runs to three, in spite of a fine pitching performance by Pete Shorten who, under bad weather conditions, struck out seven men during the only five frames played. Good batting support may well have changed the game in the Cardinal's favour. We may now expect a strong rally from the Cardinals to improve their League position.

In the Major League, Division II, the Electricity Team hold a six-point lead over their nearest rivals and have a further game to play. Next season should see them encounter stronger opposition in Division I, to which they have rightly earned promotion by their fine showing this season. The Eastfield Eagles, who have a further two games to play, have a chance of drawing into joint second place with Fenners who have completed their League programme.

In the Minor League the Maybury Youth Club have been the outstanding team and, to date, have won seven of their eight games, closely followed by the Hopewell Road Youth Club Aces who have won five games. These minor games are certainly drawing the spectators.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Up to and including July 15th, 1950))

MAJOR LEAGUE, DIVISION I:	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Hull Royals	8	8	0	0	16
Giants	7	5	0	2	10
Pirates	7	3	0	4	6
Alexandra	7	3	0	4	6
Maybury Royals	8	1	0	7	2
Cavendish Cardinals	5	1	0	4	2

MAJOR LEAGUE, DIVISION II:	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Electricity	9	9	0	0	18
Fenners V's	10	6	0	4	12
Eastfield Eagles	8	4	0	4	8
The Saints	8	4	0	4	8
Kingston Diamonds	7	3	0	4	6
Blackburn Bombers	7	2	0	5	4
Priestman Panthers	8	0	0	8	0

MINOR LEAGUE (Youths):	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Maybury Road Y.C.	8	7	0	1	14
Hopewell Road Aces	8	5	1	2	11
Cavendish Comets	7	4	1	2	9
Craven Street Y.C.	6	2	0	4	4
Trinity House Bulldogs	8	0	0	8	0

LADIES' LEAGUE:	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Maybury Ladies	4	3	0	1	7
Kingston Bluebirds	4	2	2	0	4
Fenners Ladies	4	0	3	1	1

CLUB CHATTER

AVELEY CUBS.—With the majority of their League programme completed, Aveley Cubs are arranging a programme of friendly games for the remainder of the season on their vacant dates. However, they still have some vital games to play, among these being the Final of the League Intermediate Cup and a key match in Division II against Essex Cubs.

These two rivals meet in a exhibition game on August Bank Holiday Monday at Pitsea; and there should be a good afternoon sport free from the stress of League conflict. It is hoped that this game will foster the Baseball interest in Pitsea, and there is likely to be yet another new team if Secretary Jimmy Pike's efforts are rewarded.

BRIGGS BASEBALL CLUB.—July has not been a happy month for the Dagenham works side, bringing disappointing defeats at the hands of Hornsey Red Sox in the National Cup and further setbacks in the Southern Counties and Essex Charity Cups.

However, there is still a very busy programme for the club during the remainder of the season, and it is anticipated that there will be a very keen effort to atone for these losses.

Undoubtedly the playing members have felt the strain of a hard programme of close games, but with the works holiday period closing down the match programme for a couple of weeks, it will help to avoid the staleness that so often reacts around this time of the season.

COLLEGIANS.—Although still without that elusive League success, the Collegians (South-East Essex Tech.) came near to achieving it when they lost by the odd run to Hornsey Bruins. They have, however, recorded one victory this season, this being against other newcomers—Marley Youth Centre.

There is however, no lack of enthusiasm in the College team, for they have signed on more players than any other club with one team, and training has been keenly maintained despite the after-effects of examination study.

BOURNEMOUTH CUBS.—Vic Beach and his lads at sunny Bournemouth are feeling very enthusiastic. Fixtures with the Tigers in August and Fondu in September, are contemplated with interest. The two fixtures with Chipping Norton, the first away at the Banbury Road diamond and the second at home on July 16th, provided plenty of thrills and good sport. Both encounters were very pleasant and enjoyable. The Cubs are still laughing at the incident in the Paragon game, when their husky pitcher wearing pants too tight for him had to retire and make hurried repairs as a result of his energetic efforts. Phil Harris has now left the centre field position and taken over first base in place of Pete Beach who goes to short stop. "Old faithful" John Barnes has now recovered from injuries to his fingers and is back catching. Two new rookies, Les Warren and Roy Ward have been welcomed into the team.

CHIPPING NORTON.—The club has played two enjoyable games with Bournemouth Cubs. The junior side are still in need of fixtures, home and away. Can anyone help? Incidentally, this is veteran Fred Lewis's fortieth year under (strict rules) Baseball.

DODGERS.—Still maintaining their large following are the Dodgers who are at Bromley, Kent. After a most successful run in the League, they received a setback at the hands of Essex Nationals, but are still very much in prominence in the League table.

The return game against Essex Nationals and a further match at Hornsey will do much to clarify their position, and these two games may well decide the championship.

A pleasing feature this month has been the return of Al Hutchinson to the club after an absence of some months. His experience should do much to assist the Dodgers to get that little extra punch that makes a pennant-winner, and the keenness of Team Manager Ken Quinn and Secretary Bob Shearer are also invaluable.

DULWICH BLUE-JAYS became a Baseball idea when four stalwarts, Al Brown, Les Wilson, A. (Stevie) Stevens and Jim Warnoist, put a request for players in the columns of a local paper. Coach Bill Singer from the U.S. offered his services. Canada answered the call with a catcher—Trev Trefery. The Blue-Jays now boast eighteen players. If enthusiasm is enough, then the club has had more than their share. Despite setbacks and without a win in their first season, they are still eager to "play ball."

ENFIELD CARDINALS.—Still pegging away are Enfield Cardinals, who maintain good form that brings close victories or narrow defeats in the majority of their games. The Cardinals fans certainly get value for their money with exciting finishes such as that in the recent match v. Thames Board Mills, when the homesters just failed to gain the run that would have tied up the game in the ninth.

The Cards. hope that the return of Babe Merritt and George Stopher after their recent injuries will bring more strength to the line-up, although at the same time it

is pleasing to note that the substitutes that have been drafted into the team lately have done very well; an example being Roy Drew's three hits against the Dodgers when the Cards lost by 6—5 in a match where the lead changed hands six times!

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB are continuing to make a dual challenge in both Divisions of the South-Eastern League, despite the combined difficulties of injuries and Sunday work which keeps many of their players away from the diamond.

The Nationals were heading their Division at the time this article was written —having managed to keep their interest by a 10—4 win against the Dodgers at Bromley. They hope to have Sonny Campbell back in the line-up soon, after his unfortunate absence through a broken finger sustained in June.

The Cubs are still unbeaten in Division II, but cannot afford to slack off in the face of a strong challenge. It has been pleasing to see the development of the pitching side, and the efforts of Don Main and Peter Field have done much to fill the gap caused by the elevation of Bob Pullen to the Nationals on a number of occasions.

There has been a regular attendance for all games at Mayesbrook Park, and the club are most appreciative of the efforts of the Supporters' Association, who have not only provided a back-stop net, but have also spent considerable time prior to the start of matches by erecting nets, ropes, etc.

The latest venture is the probable formation of a Basket Ball team to compete in the new South Essex Basket Ball League.

Baseball in Purfleet is having a big following at the FONDU Sports Ground, the home team having had some exciting clashes. They hold midway position in the Second Division of the South-Eastern League, but are always a tough proposition for the teams above them, and their new new players promise to provide even stronger challenges next season.

FORD SPORTS are still pegging away but have still to record that first win. The pitching of "Ginger" Rawlings, Harry Knapp and Frank Wills is very keen, but somehow the batting strength can't gain those vital runs necessary for the winning margin. Two end-of-the-season games against Paragon are likely to provide a couple of thrilling "local derbies" and it will be interesting to see the outcome.

HORNSEY B.C.—The redoubtable Red Sox have once more battled their way to the final of the National Trophy, to the delight of all Southern Clubs. The Bruins registered their first win in an exciting game with the Collegians. The Athletics have had a quiet period, their match with the first division Enfield Cardinals being rained-off. The club put on an exhibition game at Broomfield Park, Southgate, which was watched by 3,500 spectators. The Red Sox beating the Athletics by 9 runs to 5.

MALDON B.C.—Ross Ricardo is gradually working his team of rookies into a ball club. He now has twenty-one on the books, and all have been enthusiastically working to put on their first game. Would any club like to make a visit to Maldon? A ground by the side of the Promenade offers a pleasant outlook for a game of ball, and any club interested, please write to Ross Ricardo, c/o The Boar's Head, Braintree, Essex.

MARLEY YOUTH CENTRE are knitting together a useful side and Bert Riley is seeing good results from his hard work in forming and coaching the team. Splitting a home-and-away double-header with Collegians was a promising first effort, and the team are looking forward to getting a regular League schedule in 1951.

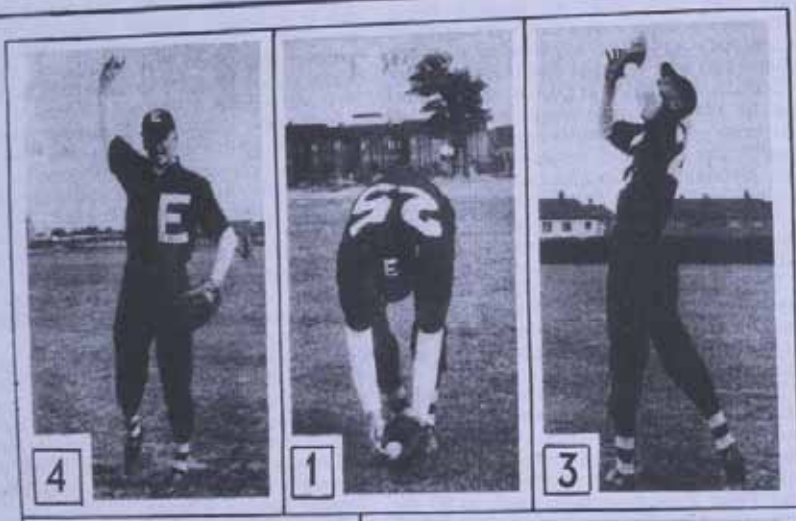
PARAGON have had a holiday period which has interfered with their programme of late, but they have a full programme for the latter part of the season, including a semi-final of the Essex Charity Cup against Briggs Tigers.

MITCHAM ROYALS.—Even the famous New York Yankees lose games, so perhaps the law of averages will allow the Royals to win a game. This enthusiastic team, struggling to get a winning ball team together, has received set-back after set-back, yet still, still, they come up stronger than ever. New players have been welcomed: Jacques Aube, a first baseman, Norman Adams, a catcher, and Bob Erwin who has come over from the Tigers. Alan Farndon has been doing great work in the outfield. With a line of defeats behind them the Royals are still undaunted, so look out next time you meet the Royals! (See photograph of the team elsewhere in this issue.)

THAMES BOARD MILLS have already reached one Cup Final this season, their defeat of Briggs Brigands in the Essex Charity Cup entitling them to meet the winners of Briggs Tigers v. Paragon. In addition, their challenge in the First Division of the South-Eastern League makes them contenders for honours. There is a feeling of quiet confidence at Purfleet.

The return of Frank Petrucci to the mound and Jack Dawber to the infield has made a lot of difference, whilst evergreen Jimmy McQuade continues to star behind the plate. This proves that experience is

(continued on page 18)



4 1 3

THE OUTFIELDER

1. Fielding the fast ground ball.
2. The Fly-ball caught overhead.
3. The over-the-shoulder catch.
4. Using the overarm throw-in.

(Photos by Beckwith & Martin)

BELOW.

Baseball & Basket Ball get together to help each other along the road to even greater popularity in Britain.

(Photo by Beckwith & Martin)

2

Left to right—

Captain (St. Erkenwalds).

E. H. Mathews (Editor Baseball & Basket Ball).

E. A. Page (Asst. Hon. Sec. A.B.B.A.)

J. Hellier (Hon. Sec. S.E. Baseball League).

and W. Beckwith (Essex Baseball Club).

One of the aims of "BASEBALL MONTHLY" will be to improve the Standard of play in British Baseball, and each month we will feature an article to coach players in the finer points of the game.

No. 4. HINTS FOR THE OUTFIELDER

It is true that in Major League Baseball, most outfielders happen to be the big hitters of the team, but this does not mean that they occupy an outfield position just because they have to field somewhere. On the contrary, all big hitters who are outfielders are expected to know the outfielder's science thoroughly.

For what useful purpose would it serve a team if a hitter was batting around .500 per cent, and yet made so many errors that the team consistently lost?

We must, then, ensure that all our outfielders know just what to do, and are capable of doing it in the right way and at the right moment.

QUALIFICATIONS—

The basic requirements for the outfielder are: overhand throwing, a good eye, safe fielding ability, a strong arm, fast running, safe catching and almost always should he be a good hitter when his turn in the batting order comes round.

The outfielder must also be a hustler. The player who stands in the outfield position and thinks that his job is to stay in position, until the ball is hit his way, is just useless. The outfielder must move himself on nearly all plays. He must always be anticipating where the batter will hit, where and who shall I cover . . . thinking and making ground with his feet all of the time.

DON'T HOLD THE BALL—

An outfielder must never hold the ball after fielding it or after making a catch. It must be immediately whipped into the infield, or to the particular base that the play calls for. It is a natural impulse after making a difficult catch to forget everything in the thoughts of the split seconds leading to the catch. You know the kind of thing: Will I catch it? or I must catch it? . . . and suddenly its done and over. The natural relief and reaction of the moment tends to make us oblivious to the following-on plays. Therefore the confident experienced outfielder will know before he catches the ball just where he will make his instantaneous throw.

FIELDING THE GROUND BALL—

When the batsman has made a hit towards the outfielder the latter must, at all times, take every care in fielding the ball. It is important that no elementary errors of that nature are made. If the ball is coming toward you at a fast rate, skipping along the turf, take a few deliberate steps in the direction of the oncoming ball, and with your feet together at the right moment, keeping your eye on the ball, place the palm of your mit forward and trap the ball with the throwing hand (see Fig. 1.). The ball that comes towards you at a slower pace (that is to say one that is spending its force rapidly), the outfielder must run in to meet it at full speed and, with a clean gather, the ball is relayed to the baseman, or some other player as the play may dictate.

THE FLY-BALL—

It is a good thing for outfielders to make it a personal matter of honour to resolve that no fly-balls shall ever be dropped. If you convince yourself that all fly-balls inside or near the playing area can be caught, then you have made a good start to becoming a successful outfielder. Fig 2 shows the position for catching the high fly by holding the hands above the head. Note the position of the mit, which is marking the course of the dropping ball, with the throwing hand ready to make the "trap"—and to get a fast throw-in.

THE OVER-THE-SHOULDER CATCH—

This is the most difficult, and probably the most spectacular catch that can be attempted. It arises where a hitter has lifted the ball farther than the outfielder has anticipated. The fielder pivots quickly and runs with his back to the oncoming ball away from the Diamond. As he runs he must glance over his shoulder to judge the correct distance and the correct timing for the catch. Here undoubtedly the hands in a "cupped" position is best for a safe catch. If time permits, the body should be turned toward the ball as it races down across the shoulder. (See Fig. 3.)

COVERING—

We cannot mention too often the need for hustling and good covering by the outfielder. Outfielders must back up all throws from one infielder to another, if at all possible. On all plays made by the Catcher to First Base, the Right Field must run in. The Centre Field backs up on all plays to second base, and the Left Fielder backs up on all throws to third base. In fact, the outfielder generally must back up for any play that might result in the ball coming into his own territory.

The College of Baseball Knowledge—*continued*

THE OVERHAND THROW—

This question of the strong-arm outfielder is a very vexed one. The point that arises is that the outfielder may be called upon to throw in a ball from a long distance, and this may prove to be his first throw for some time. It is, therefore, up to every outfielder not to throw out his arm while returning fly-balls during the warming-up period before the game. When fly-balls are being hit out, it is a good plan to have a fielder half-way between the outfielders, to relay the ball back to the hitter. Rookies and know-alls may scoff at these hints, but the experienced outfielder knows the importance of keeping the arm fit. A further tip that many new outfielders might take heed of, is to learn to throw in the ball overarm (See Fig. 4.). This type of throw should be practiced until perfect, as it is the speediest throw, and gives the best trajectory for the ball where the throwing-in distance is greatest.

OUTFIELD CHATTER—

Do not leave all the encouragement to the infielders; the outfielders can help to keep the team spirit flying by encouraging other outfielders and the infielders whenever they have run in to cover, and indeed at most times.

Result Sheets in Books of 100 can be obtained from Service Printers, 31-31a Victoria Dock Road, London, E.16. Price—Stapled Manilla Cover 7/9, or Bound 10/- (inc.).

Club Chatter—*continued from page 15*

very often too much for youthful enthusiasm and dash, though T.B.M. have still some promising talent in the background.

TIGERS B.C.—Tigers, like most other clubs in the League, have now settled down and have quite a promising line-up. There are still sufficient old-timers with the club to steady it whilst there is enough new talent to add the needed fire.

The pitching staff has been strengthened with Bosley of the U.S. Navy, who is a fast ball pitcher, and "Sailor" Capser, previously of the Mitcham Royals, who is much improved with his control and speed. Veterans Durling and Tinney have given Tigers badly-needed pitching strength. The infield has been tightened up, as their three double-plays against Kodak recently has shown. Sandy Fear is still consistently good at short stop, and "Punch" Lowes is doing well at third. The first and second bags are covered by Chief Last and Team Manager Jake Miller, both of the U.S. Navy.

Out in centrefield Frank Crane is playing well, whilst on each side of him N. Turcolt and youngster Roy Williamson are much improved.

In addition to these men, Tigers are carrying several good utility players; not just stop-gaps, but good ball players.

New Secretary D. Spicer is looking after the business end of the club and is having a busy time, as any Tiger player will tell you.

The club has an ever-open door to new players who might come along and care to sign. A junior team has recently been formed, but it is too early to tell much of them.

WEST LONDON PIONEERS are still holding their unbeaten record in the West League. In the game with the Royals, Lee Ridenhour pitched grand ball, his record for pitching nine innings reading 19 strike-out, 1 B on B, 2 hits. Now, Mr. Bosley, what about it? The Pioneers were pleased to welcome home on leave J. Dixon, the second baseman, who played a grand game, and, with the return to form of Robicheau, the infield was a treat to watch. The club is now running a second team, and their record to date is: won, 2; tied, 1; lost, 0. Furthermore, a young element of ball players attend the ground on Saturdays learning to play the game. The club now has 32 players on the books, not forgetting the grand old man of Baseball, Dick Cook, who at 58 years is still pitching for the second team! Players batting above the .300 mark include, Ingalls, Robicheau, Selkirk, Adey, Campbell, Ridenhour, Ross and Dixon. The Pioneers still hope to meet the Red Sox, their friendly "enemy," to avenge that National Cup defeat.

BASKET BALL

A FEW HINTS ON HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED

For the benefit of newcomers to Basket Ball, a diagram of the court is set out below, together with an explanation of the markings and a brief description of the game.

Clubs wishing to start Basket Ball should not be deterred if their court is not of the maximum dimensions, as very few clubs in Britain can boast of being the proud possessors of a full-size court. To ensure good ball play, however, it is essential to have a high ceiling, good lighting and ample floor space.

The dimensions of the court are laid down by the International Amateur Basket Ball Federation and must be used in all International games.

The court, which is rectangular, is 85 feet in length and 46 feet in width, is divided into two equal halves by a "division line." The half of the court which a team is defending is known as that team's "back court," and the other half being called the team's "front court." A team in possession of the ball in its back court must move the ball into the front court within 10 seconds. This rule was introduced to prevent teams from stalling when ahead on points.

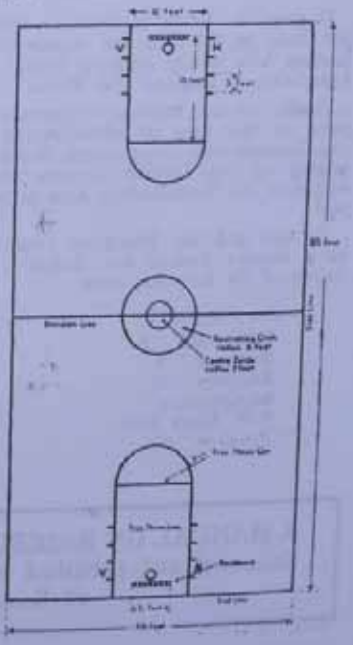
The "out-of-bounds" rule in Basket Ball differs from that of most ball games. A ball outside the playing area is deemed to be out of play if: (a) it touches the floor or any object outside the court; or (b) if a player who has any part of his body touching the floor or object outside the court, touches the ball, even though the ball is still on the court.

The "centre circle" is mainly used at the commencement of each period. The two opposing centres (forwards) face each other inside the circle, the ball is then tossed vertically between them by the referee and play commences when the centres have jumped and patted the ball to a team mate. Whilst this jump is taking place, the remaining players must stand outside the "restraining circle" until the ball is in play.

The "free throw lane" is, as its name implies, a lane along which free throws or penalties are taken. A player awarded a free throw must stand behind the free throw line and inside the semi-circle. No player is allowed in the lane during a free throw. Players who are to attempt to retrieve the ball, should the throw be unsuccessful, must stand in the 3-ft. divisions which are marked on the outside of the lane. One player is allowed in each division. The markings H (home) and V (visitor) in the divisions nearest the basket, denotes that a home player must use a division marked H and vice versa. No two players of the same team are to occupy two adjoining divisions. Players may only cross into the free throw lane when the throw has been attempted and the ball has either entered the basket or touched the ring and rebounded into play.

The free throw lane has another very important use. To prevent a very tall player "loitering" beneath the basket to receive high passes from which he is easily able to score, a rule has been introduced whereby no player of an attacking team may remain in the free throw lane for more than three seconds. Prior to this rule being introduced, it was the policy of some teams to obtain the services of a "giant" who although not a good ball player, could dominate the area around the Basket.

Backboards are made of wood and are 6-feet horizontally and 4-feet vertically, with a smooth white surface, and are located in a position at each end of the court at right angles to the floor, parallel to and 2-feet from the end lines; the lower edge of the board being 9-feet from the floor.



Basket Ball—*continued*

Baskets consist of nets of white cord suspended from an iron ring 18 inches inside diameter. The position of the ring is 10-feet from the floor with the nearest inside edge 6-inches from the face of the backboard.

The ball consists of a rubber bladder covered with a leather case, the circumference being not less than 29½-inches and not more than 31½-inches, and weighing not less than 18¾-ounces nor more than 20-ounces, with an air pressure of 11½-pounds.

Basket Ball is essentially a game of speed, therefore personal contact is not allowed. A player committing four "personal fouls" must leave the court and take no further part in the game. A personal foul is one where personal contact is involved. A few examples of this offence are "hacking" the arms of a player, charging, pushing, tripping or holding.

If a player is fouled whilst in the act of shooting for the basket, and is prevented from scoring by such a foul, he is awarded two free throws. If, however, the foul does not prevent him from scoring, the two points for the goal are counted and only one free throw is awarded. Players fouled when not in the act of shooting are awarded one free throw, no matter where the foul was committed.

There are five players in a team with up to seven substitutes, making a total of twelve in all. All players must be numbered. Players may be changed as often as the coach or captain wishes. There are no off-sides in Basket Ball and any player may score from any position on the court.

A game consits of two twenty-minute periods of acual playing time with a ten-minute interval.

This article is not meant to be instructive, but is merely an explanation of the markings of the court and a few of the rules pertaining to them. Later articles will deal with the finer points of the game.

EASTERN AREA NEWS

By A. E. GREEN
(Hon. Sec. Eastern Area A.B.B.A.)

It gives me much pleasure to write a few lines on the aims and objects of the Eastern Area of the Amateur Basket Ball Association of England and Wales.

Firstly, we are striving to promote the game in this Area by administering our own Leagues and Competitions instead of relying on the London Leagues administered by the SouthEastern Area as in the past.

To this end the Executive Committee have already formed two Leagues, consisting of the following clubs:

League Division I—

Erkenwald "A"
Eastbury "A"
Eastbury "B"
Sandringham
S.W. Essex Tech.
Plaistow "A"

League Division II—

Eastbury "C"
Erkenwald "B"
Erkenwald "C"
Campbell Y.C.
Boys' Brigade
S.W. Essex Tech.
Essex Nationals
Plaistow "B"

It will be appreciated that the above are not necessarily the final groupings, as more entries are expected before the playing season commences in October.

I should, therefore, be pleased to hear from any Club or would-be players desirous of partaking in these Competitions.

All the Clubs mentioned are in the Barking, Dagenham and East Ham Areas.

A MANUAL ON BASKET BALL by W. BROWNING (National Secretary) and published by Pitman's, is now obtainable from all Booksellers. Price 10/-.

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Full details and advice may be obtained through The EDITOR, "Baseball and Basket Ball" who will forward enquiries to the nearest Area Association.
(S. & A.E. all enquiries)

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB require a few additional players (or learners). Ground at Barking. Moderate subs.—Write, B. Blerkom, 624, Green Lane, Ilford, Essex.

Western Amateur Baseball League invites applications for membership from new clubs for next season (1951). Help gladly given on getting started.—Write, K. Brown, 103, Carlton Avenue West, North Wembley, Middlesex.

THE SOUTH EASTERN BASEBALL LEAGUE is now complete for 1950, but will accept applications for Season 1951 New clubs helped to form up if required.—Write or 'phone, J. F. Heiliar, 43, Ranelagh Road, East Ham, E.6. Grangewood 2174.

CHIPPING NORTON (oldest club in England, 1920) JUNIORS. 14 to 18 yrs. or just out of services, will play home and away with any team same age. Sundays 2.30 p.m. Youth clubs write in.— Fred Lewis (Hon. Treasurer), Chipping Norton, Oxon. ('Phone: 73.)

BASKET BALL. New teams being formed in the Ilford, Barking, Dagenham, East and West Ham Areas. Players and learners invited to apply for membership.—Write, Box No. 102, BASEBALL AND BASKET BALL MONTHLY.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN BASEBALL & BASKET BALL

Copies of nearly all photographs published in the columns of this Magazine can be supplied in half-plate size (approx. 8" x 6") price 1/6 each post free. State clearly photo required and send P.O. to "Baseball & Basket Ball" 193 Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex.

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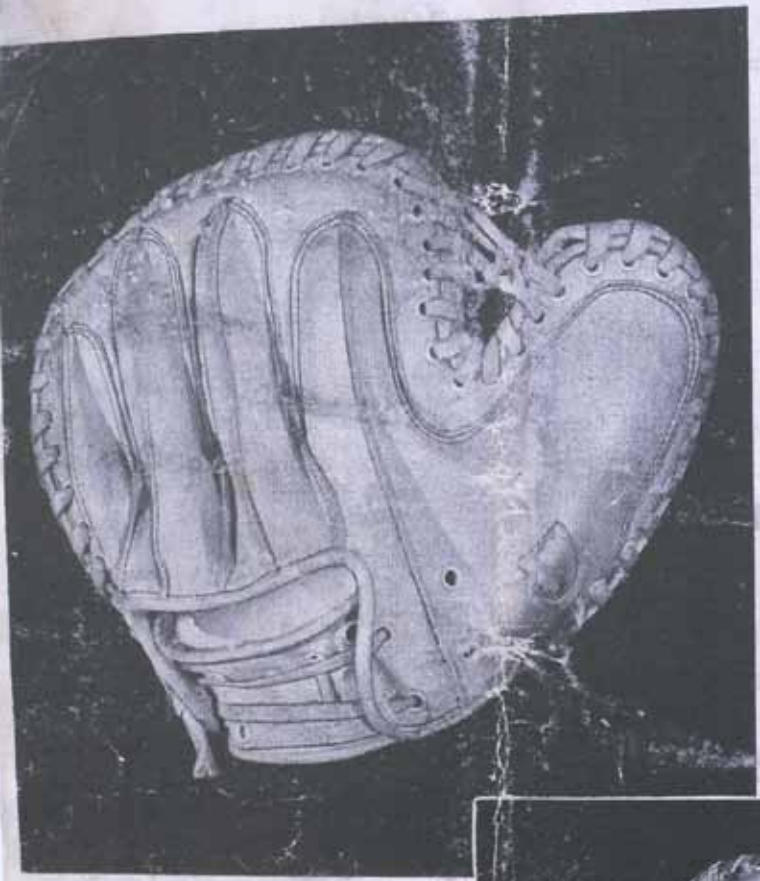

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