BASEBALL NEWS

★ *A News Sheet of Baseball, published by the South Eastern Baseball League* ★ 3D.

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Close Game for Coronation Pennant

S.E. COUNTIES BEAT WESTERN 4-3

The long-awaited meeting of the South-Eastern Counties and Western Counties Associations brought the Coronation pennant to the South-East after a close fight at Dagenham on June 6th.

Overcast weather and other Coronation attractions made the attendance disappointing, but excitement was not lacking in a game of shifting fortunes. Both sides were short of some original selections, but play was of a generally high standard des ite errors.

No earned runs off Devore

It was this factor that decided the match, as pitcher Carl Devore yielded only four hits and no earned runs whilst his side gathered seven hits off opposing pitchers Pete Donoghue and Ike Gaffron. However, eleven Western errors against seven by their opponents sufficed to tip the scales.

An error and a walk put Adey and Wellen on base with none out in Western's first innings, but with Adey caught stealing at third a fine catch at centre-field of the homesters out of trouble. In S.E.'s half Oelofse hit safely, stole two bases and scored on a catcher's error, and Hill added another in the second frame when he came home from third on Howard's hit after an error and a balk had put him in a scoring position.

Costly Errors

By now Donoghue had settled down on the mound for S.E. and it was not until the fourth innings that Rogers and Field hit safely to make the score 2—1. However, Western threw away another run in the fourth when a dropped catch at left field put Howard on first; the runner stole second, advanced to third on Ferrier's hit and scored on another catcher's error.

Adey's safe hit in the fifth started another Western rally, and a two-bagger by Ingalls brought him home before the side was retired; the game stayed that way till the second half of the sixth. Ferrier was walked with two men out, advanced to second on a fumbled ball by third base and attempted to steal third; Western's catcher overthrew, and Ferrier scored standing up. (4—2).

Gaffron takes over

Meanwhile Gaffron had relieved Donoghue on the mound for South East, and was well on top until the eighth. This was to prove the vital point of the match, for both Berridge and Devore hit safely to put two on with none out. With a 2—2 count on him pinch-hitter Dade was struck out, but Lapovsky brought home Berridge and was safe at first when an attempt was mad to retire the runner coming home. W th tw men on and one out, Staples came in to pinch-hit, but went down swinging after a 3—2 count. Adey was then walked to load the bases, but Wellen (Streatham ice-hockey player) struck-out on four pitched balls to end the innings.

With the score still at 4—3 in the ninth, the game ended with Devore put out at first as Berridge came in with what would have been the tying run.

Centre-fielders shine

A notable feature of the game was that each of the centre-fields, Berridge (Western) and Beckwith (S.E.), made four good catches in faultless displays.

Navy Umpires handle game

The umpires for the game were two members of the U.S. Navy (London)—Chief Yoeman W. W. Nichols and Ed Vaccaro. Their display was one of the best seen in England, the competent handling being an example to players and officials alike, and they are to be complimented on their handling of a close game where close calls were so often a deciding factor.

★ ★ THE TEAMS ★ ★

SOUTH EASTERN

P. Donoghue (Brigands), *pitcher;* S. Ferrier (Brigands), *catcher;* W. Dawber (T.B.M.), *1st;* L. Banks (Fords), *2nd;* A. Howard (Fords), *s.s.;* R. Hill (Dagenham), *3rd;* L. House (Dodgers), W. Beckwith (T.B.M.), R. Oelofse (Brigands), *outfield.* I. Gaffron (Snowdown), pitched for Donoghue in 5th, L. Laurie (Dodgers), batted for Hill in 6th, W. Isaacs (Brigands), batted for Banks in 7th. *Manager:* A. Maddison (Essex).

WESTERN

C. Devore (Tigers), *pitcher;* E. Lapovsky (Beavers), *catcher;* L. Ingalls (W.L.P.), *1st;* N. Rogers (Tigers), *2nd;* K. Wellen (Tigers), *s.s.;* F. Adey (Beavers), *3rd;* R. Herri (Tigers), P. Berridge (W.L.P.), R. Field (Kodak), *outfield.* C. Dade (Beavers), batted f r Rogers in 8th, C. Staples (Kodak), batted f r Field in 8th. *Manager:* F. Adey.

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BOX SCORE

Western	...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
S. East	...	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	X

PITCHING		*I.P.*	*E.R.*	*B.B.*	*S.O.*
Donoghue	...	4	1	1	4
Gaffron	...	5	2	1	7
Devore	...	9	0	3	5

HITS: S. EASTERN: Oelofse (2) (one 2-base), House, Ferrier. WESTERN: Adey, Ingalls (2-base), Berridge, Devore, Rogers, Lapovsky, Field.

RUNS: S. EASTERN: Oelofse, Hill, Howard, Ferrier. WESTERN: Adey, Berridge, Rogers.

ERRORS: S. EASTERN: Howard (2), Ferrier (2 passed balls), Oelofse, Banks, Hill, Laurie. WESTERN: Lapovsky (5), Ingalls (3), Adey (2), Herring.

South Eastern League

Including matches played July 12th

SENIOR DIVISION

	Pld	Won	Pct.
Briggs Brigands ...	8	8	1000
Thames Bd. Mills	10	8	800
Dodgers ...	7	4	571
Ford Sports ...	8	3	375
Essex Nationals...	6	2	333
Snowdown M. ...	7	1	142
Aveley Cubs ...	8	1	125

DIVISION ONE

	Pld	Won	Pct.
Pond	10	8	800
Dagenham Royals	9	7	777
Briggs Tigers ...	9	6	666
Essex Nomads ...	10	5	500
So thend Buffs....	10	4	400
Benfleet Greys ...	9	2	222
Hedleys	11	2	181

Baseball News

EDITORIAL

The Halfway Stage

With half the 1953 season gone we have reached the stage where championship issues are becoming clearer and the destination of Cups is being decided. We are also nearing the time when holidays mean the temporary "closing down" of several clubs and a decreased fixture list. However, by mid-August we shall again be in full swing, and the "home stretch" should provide an exciting finish to a good season.

Their unbeaten record in the Senior Division of the S.E. League gives Briggs Brigands an outstanding chance of ending as champions, but a rather surprising exit from the S.E.C.B.A. Cup has shown that other members will be keen to prevent them adding to this honour.

In Division 1 the issue is less clear-cut, and the fact that every team has lost at least two games indicates that the newer members of the League are well-matched.

National Service

It is most unfortunate that so many of our clubs have been affected by the calls of National Service. Just as most of these youngsters are "finding their way around the diamond" and gaining experience that means so much, they disappear for a couple of years. Upon returning it usually takes the best part of a season before they are really back in form—only to find that some of the newcomers to their teams have also been "called up." The consolation is that quite a lot of post-war newcomers to baseball have concluded their Service, and we can expect the standard of play to steadily increase from now on.

The "Overseas" Influence

The scarcity of "home-produced" players has led to an increasing demand for the services of visitors to this country who are "ready-made" ballplayers. Whilst U.S. Servicemen are in England it is natural that there will be a large number of them competing in British baseball, especially in the South where the majority of them are stationed, but whilst this is an immediate advantage to their teams, there will naturally be a difference should there be a future decline in the numbers of "guest stars" available. It is for this fact alone that all teams should concentrate on building up "local talent" *side by side* with the experienced men. British players can learn much by playing with those who have been in baseball from their schoolboy days, and we must not neglect this opportunity *whilst it is available.*

We have already seen that mixed teams of Americans, Canadians and English players can weld into strong sides, and inter-area and similar games have proved that our own "stars" can hold their own with the majority of those from overseas.

International Future?

This progress of English baseball could enable us to hold our own with other countries in International games, and with the formation of the European Baseball Federation it is obvious that baseball is becoming internationally-minded. As the birthplace of baseball in far off days, let it not be said that England is to be among the "also rans" of a sport that hopes to gain Olympic recognition.

SNOWDOWN AND FORDS IN S.E. COUNTIES CUP FINAL

Rain washes out first game

BRIGANDS AND DODGERS ELIMINATED IN SEMI-FINAL TIES

A new name will appear on the South Eastern Counties Cup this year, as neither of this season's finalists have been previous winners.

FINAL NEXT SUNDAY

The Final—between Fords Sports and Snowdown Magpies—was due to take place at Aylesham, Kent, last Sunday, but was rained-off; it has now been mutually rearranged to take place at Fords' ground on Sunday next, 19th July.

It promises to be a very "open" game. Both sides have batters capable of turning the fortunes with strong hits and previous meetings of the teams in the League this season have brought heavy scoring—although neither is very well placed in the table.

SURPRISE RESULTS IN SEMI-FINALS

The Semi-Finals ended in surprise wins, Briggs Brigands losing their unbeaten record and Fords overcoming Dodgers, who had beaten them 15—4 in a League game during the previous week-end.

Wages pitches well to hold Brigands

At Victoria Road, Dagenham, there was an "international" touch about both sides. Magpies (including four of five Americans), gained a 14-run lead by the sixth innings against Brigands (who had three Americans, two South Africans and two Canadians in their line-up), although Brigands took three runs in their half of that frame the Wages-Gaffron battery held them scoreless for the remainder, Magpies winning 19—3. Although Ralph Daly, Ed Miller and Wages each had four hits for Magpies the colliery side owed much to their pitcher who had only one safe hit off him in the first five innings.

Brigands	...	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Magpies	...	0	3	3	0	7	1	0	5	0

Pitchers lead batting in Dodgers v. Fords tussle

The other tie at Falconwood was more closely-fought. Fords led by 6—0 at the end of the fifth but with pitcher Bob Shearer holding them down the Dodgers rallied with two in the eighth. With more runs in the ninth and two men on base it looked odds-on a Dodgers' win, but the visitors tightened up and held out to win 6—5.

Pitcher Harry Knapp led Fords' batting with four hits, Bob Baillie having three. For Dodgers, Bob Shearer (who pitched throughout) and manager Lorne Laurie each had three safe hits.

Fords	...	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
Dodgers	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3

GAFFRON TRANSFERS TO T.B.M.

Thames Board Mills have made a notable "capture" by the transfer of Ike Gaffron. The former Snowdown Magpies' pitcher-catcher was recently posted from his U.S. Air Force station at Manston, Kent, to another in Oxfordshire; this meant that it was impossible for him to travel to Snowdown for "home" games, and although the Magpies regretted his departure they were the first to wish him every success with his new club.

Chance for Newcomers

Although they do not usually play matches during the works' "shut down" period, the Mills have arranged some friendly games during their holidays this year, and among the teams engaged will be De Havilland Comets. These friendlies will give the Purfleet club the opportunity to develop some of their newcomers with eyes on the 1954 campaign.

RESULTS

of Southern games are published in the 'Daily Express' on Mondays

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Two Leagues in Midlands

Correspondent—
A. H. Wheatcroft (Hon. Sec., M.C.B.A.)

Allens Cross and Tigers lead in Birmingham

The Midlands Area is strongly established with fifteen teams and two Leagues.

In the Birmingham League Allens Cross and Tigers led for the earlier part of the season, each winning their first five games; these two, together with the Saints (four wins) appear likely to contest the final championship honours. The other five teams in the League are Birlec, Pirates, Valor, Eagles and Wolseley, but it is surprising to find the latter at the foot of the table in view of their past record.

A comparison of inter-Area strengths was given by the meeting of Allens Cross and a combined team of Liverpool Cubs and Bootle Red Sox on May 31st. The Birmingham team lost a fine game by 3—2, but proved stronger than Hull Giants whom they visited on June 28th.

Canadian Air Force provide Nottingham attraction

There are seven teams in the Nottingham League—Dodgers, Athletics, Royals, Braves, Senators, R.C.A.F. (North Luffenham) and R.C.A.F. (Langar). The inclusion of the two Canadian sides is an added attraction to local fans.

Saints in Midlands Cup Final

The Semi-Finals of the Midlands Area Cup were played on July 5th. Birmingham Saints beat Dodgers at Nottingham 8—3 and Allens Cross gained an 11—6 success over the Athletics in Birmingham to make it an all-Birmingham Final.

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Hull News

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BIRMINGHAM & LIVERPOOL STARS AT CRAVEN PARK

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Correspondent—
E. E. Martin (Hon. Sec., Y.C.B.A.)

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Main news from Hull this month is of two inter-area games.

On June 14th, Hull Eagles met Liverpool All-Stars at Craven Park. Liverpool scored one in the first innings and there were no further runs until the ninth frame when they notched another couple to win by 3—0. The "shut-out" was pitched by Hal Bonallo, who played for England in the Lakenheath tournament last September.

A fortnight later the visitors were Birmingham Saints, who played Hull Giants. Saints were led by pitcher Vic Lambrecht, who held the Giants scoreless except for a couple of runs in the fifth frame. Birmingham scored three in the fourth, but led only by 6—2 at the end of the eighth; however, another triple in the final frame gave the Midlanders a 9—2 success.

More "Out of Town" Games

The Yorkshire C.B.A. are subsidising two "out-of-town" games; Hull Royals travel to meet Liverpool All Stars on July 11th and Hull Pirates provisionally visit Allens Cross (Birmingham) on August 9th.

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Dodgers back to form in beating Board Mills

Dodgers' recent league win over a strong Thames Board Mills' side after an indifferent start in the Senior Division proves them anything but a spent force. The departure of Lyn Schaffer and Harry Tutton for Canada in May left the team temporarily weakened, but this recent run of success must be sufficient proof to manager Lorne Laurie that this weakness is no longer apparent.

Former Red Sox pitcher keeps on top

Much of the credit for the win over T.B.M. must go to ex-Hornsey Red Sox pitcher Geoff Rogers, who seldom can have pitched so well. He was ably supported by good fielding and the hitting of Frank Ball and Laurie in this 13—8 victory.

The club from south of the Thames will be all out this week-end to overcome the league-leading Brigands in the Senior Cup Semi-Final at Dagenham.

FORDS REACH ESSEX FINAL

Rally after being 10—1 down

Ford Sports reached the Essex Cup Final by defeating Dagenham Royals 20—11 in the last four of the competition. Royals were leading 10—1 in the fifth frame, but an amazing rally by the works side took them into the lead in the later stages to gain them the right to meet Brigands or Essex Nationals in the Final.

Four hits by Les Banks and a homer by Les Woodland were the biggest successes for Fords, but Ron Cooper's homer and two three-baggers by Johnny Finch showed the Royals' batting power in the early stages.

Fords are still meeting with rather mixed success and have proved better cup-fighters than their league record indicates, reaching two Finals and being in the Senior Semi-Final against T.B.M.

Full Programme for Comets

De Havilland Comets have arranged a full programme for the second half of the season, and among the teams they meet are Epsom Lions, Tigers, Queens Park Aces and several South Eastern League clubs (including Thames Board Mills).

Chairman Harry Fisher reports that the Leavesden side are shaping well, and they look forward to entering a League in 1954.

Baseball News

Price 3d. **Post free 4½d.**

Editor :— J. F. HELLIAR,
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36 Derby Avenue, Upminster, Essex

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

British Teams meet American Forces' Sides

Navy Destroyers "sink" Guest Stars

The visit of two American destroyers to Southend in the early part of June provided the opportunity for the best game of baseball seen in the town during the two seasons the Southend Buffaloes have been playing there.

On Wednesday, 10th June, the Buffaloes (strengthened by "guest stars") met U.S.S. Gyatt. The game was played in the evening, being called at the end of the seventh frame owing to failing light—the American team leading 8—5.

Last Innings decides

In the Southend side was Ike Gaffron (Snowdown) who pitched throughout, Slim Beckwith (T.B.M.), Sam Alexander, Art Coates, Harry Yellop (Brigands), Bob Buckle, Ron Turner and Bob Nunn (Benfleet). Southend players in the side were Ben Butler, J. Smith, Don Cooper, Jack Bennett and Tom Radley.

Beckwith hit a homer in the first innings to give Buffaloes the lead, and it was not until the final frame that the Navy team went in front.

This is the second time that Buffaloes have entertained teams from warships visiting Southend; their opponents on this occasion expressed complete surprise on finding such a good standard of baseball being played in England.

U. S. A. F. Champions win Carnival Game

The Margate Carnival game on Friday, 26th June, between Snowdown Magpies and Manston Wildcats was seen by a crowd of 2,000 at the Palm Bay Recreation Ground, Cliftonville. The entire proceeds went to charity.

Wildcats were last year's winners of the U.S.A.F. United Kingdom championship and runners-up for the European championship. The statement from Magpies' secretary, Bob McCarthy, that "we played our best ball of the season" was backed up by the fact that the colliery side were only defeated by 8—3 in a real thriller.

Warren Kerr (who played for Magpies in 1952) pitched for the Wildcats, and hit the only homer of the game.

A running commentary on the game was given by F. H. Charles, a member of the Margate Coronation Committee. Mr. Charles is moving to Maidstone shortly and hopes to form a ball team there.

Compton to pitch off ?

Another big date for Magpies is a return date with Wildcats at St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Canterbury, on August 7th. The game will follow the end of the county cricket match at 4.30, and Denis Compton is being asked to pitch the first ball. The proceeds of the match will go to the Kent Army Cadet Corps Welfare funds.

Lakenheath Pirates at Wolseley Ground

One of the biggest dates of the Midlands programme is the International game at the fine Wolseley Ground on August Monday, when an English selected side will meet U.S. Air Force (Lakenheath). Lakenheath certainly "get around" during the season, and readers will recall their recent match in Belgium reported in our previous issue.

Hendon Festival will feature Edgware Team in Ball Game

Part of Hendon Council's annual Festival Week will feature baseball this year, and a match is being played on the evening of Friday, 7th August in the special arena constructed at Queens Park.

Edgware and District will meet a U.S. Forces Team in this game which is limited to 90 minutes, pitch-off being at 7.15. Several of the Edgware Wildcats will be playing in the "home" side, who will probably also include some "guest stars."

Holland Easy Winners against Belgium

AMSTERDAM MEETING ENDS WITH 12-3 SCORE

16-YEAR-OLD BELGIAN PITCHER WALKS TOO MANY

from our Special Correspondent
GUUS V. D. HEIDJEN
Editor, 'Honkbalnieuws,' official publication of the Royal Dutch Baseball Association)

The International Match on 28th June at Ajax Stadium, Amsterdam, resulted in an easy 12—3 win for Holland over Belgium.

A triple from pitcher Hannie Urbanus and a single by Bouwens helped to bring the Dutch four runs in the first innings, and although Belgium got three on errors in the second they failed to score during the remainder of the game.

In the absence of their star pitcher Vital Verbert (on national service in Germany), the Belgians used 16-year-old Jeske Robijn on the mound, but nervousness in his first international appearance combined with the fact that catcher De Cauwer could not cope with his "drop curve" put his side at a disadvantage. Short-stop Sy Hardies took over pitching during the first innings, but Robijn returned to pitch again in the fourth; however, after he had given three walks in the fourth and two more in the fifth, Hardies returned to pitch for the remainder of the match.

Hardies, "Steph" Van Acker (3rd Base) and Van Hoof (2nd Base) were Belgium's best players and the Dutch were a useful all-round side.

Belgium	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	— 3
Holland	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	x	—12

Belgium made four safe hits and Holland eight, but the Belgian pitchers had eleven strike-outs against Urbanus's seven.

Dutch selectors make changes for return with Belgium

Further international games are already scheduled among the Continental countries. The first of these is on July 12th at Antwerp where Belgium meet Holland in the return game of their 1953 series. Holland have made some changes in their team despite their previous victory, the biggest surprise being the dropping of their captain, third-baseman Kenlmans, already capped 10 times. One of the newcomers to the side is Charles Urbanus, outfielder brother of the Dutch pitcher.

Italy to play Belgium and Spain

Italy enter the international arena in August when they travel to meet Spain on the 16th or 23rd. They play a home game against Belgium on September 6th in Milan and these fixtures should all assist the newly-formed European Baseball Federation in its efforts to regularise the baseball on this side of the Atlantic.