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GRAND SLAM

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Results, Standings up to date.

Game Reports, National League (plus pix).

Don Ferguson's Literary Section !

30p

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...If you weren't at Richmond on Saturday you missed a fine game between the Tigers and the Warriors...I forgot to mention in my report (p.8) that Julian Dodwell was the Tigers' starting pitcher - manager, pitcher, slugger, outfielder, is there anything this kid can't do?...It's not too late to try out for the National League. Just make sure you check with your team manager first; Tigers: Julian Dodwell, hm. 07842 54938. Warriors: Les Pierce, wk. 0273 684736, hm. 0273 508252....Is it beyond the powers that be to get a pitcher's sound together at Richmond?...Apologies; to Ashford for misprinting a result, it should have been Brighton 13 Ashford 16 (26 April)..to Brighton for docking them 30 runs against Croydon BJs II, it should have been Brighton 31 Croydon 6 - a little local difficulty with the dog and bone....Please agree with the opposition on a final score before calling it in - if you're still on speaking terms, that is - otherwise I have to play Solomon and cut runs in half....Weird Ways To Lose A Ballgame Dept: the winning run in Cobham's crucial 13-12 win over Sutton (10 May) scored on a balk during an intentional walk...Balk This Way....It's Raining Shutouts: Enfield started it on 31st May, blanking the Braves for the year's first, then Ashford joined in last Sunday v. Croydon BJs II....Enfield beat Cobham & Sutton despite being outthit 17-11 in the two games; the Spartans last four opponents have amassed 11 runs - congratulations to them on deservedly leadin Div. 1...Rig Game in Div.3 North on Sunday is between the Hemel Red Sox and the Banildon Mariners, both 5-0 and the only remaining unbeaten teams in the league....In Next Issue: Report on BBFS Executive Meeting June 8th...GS may be expanding, so I may need more game reports, esp. from clubs outside Div 1 - max. 150, line score, and some idea of why the game was won and lost, and how....

Muir MacFean.

book review

Baseball is the cricket of North America, in its subtlety, its pace and rhythm, its history, its characters and its statistics. The literature of baseball, too, resembles nothing so much as cricket's. Hundreds of books a year are published in the US on the 'national pastime', 90% of them either of extremely limited interest or very bad. The 10%, though, collected over the years, would represent a deep insight into the game at all levels.

There are four types of baseball book - biographies, fiction, coaching or technical manuals and, loosely, 'non-fiction'. Where space permits, we hope in GS to bring you reviews of books in different categories which are currently available in this country.

As in any sport, most biographies are instantly out of date, ghost-written junk churned out to generate demand for the 'inside story' on the game's latest media star. There are, of course, honourable exceptions and Robert Creamer's 'BABE' (Penguin American Sport, £6.95) is one. Babe Ruth was the greatest player ever to put on a baseball uniform - no question. He was a sort of blown-up Ian Botham character, in every sense. Had he not been converted to a hitter from a pitcher who had won two games for the Red Sox when they last won the World Series in 1918, he would still have been a Hall of Fame certainty. He could do it all, and Creamer captures it all in a highly readable and enjoyable book. Without becoming lurid in his description, Creamer does not shrink from describing Ruth's over-indulgences in booze, food, and women and goes some way towards explaining the absolute magic and brilliance of the Yankees' 'Bambino' (Ruth was traded to the Yankees for \$125,000 and a \$300,000 loan to Red Sox owner Harry Frazee in 1920 - Ed). 'BABE' is one of Penguin's American Sport Series, (of which more another time) all of which are worth reading, and are currently available in this country only from Sportspages.

Don Ferguson.

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- GAME REPORTS -

GRMERS 12 COBHAM YANKEES 11.

American School, 31st May.

Pitcher Shane Mackean's two out single to right centre, off the outstretched centre fielder Alan Smith, brought home the winning run as Barnes rallied runs in the bottom of the ninth to defeat the Cobham Yankees 12-11. Trailing runs had 4 hits and sent ten men to the plate in the ninth. After a walk in 1 run, and two more scored on pitcher Kyle Koloja's throwing error, centre Chris Johnson tied the game with a single to centre. Barnes then had runners out at home and third on infield grounders and Cobham seemed about to escape with a tie. But pinch hitter Glenn Libby walked on four pitches to reload as, setting the stage for Mackean's winning blow, his second hit of the second and third of the game. Lee Pierce and Gary Hickam had three hits apiece for as the Yankees came back from an early 6-2 deficit to tie the game in the 4 three run sixth led by Pierce's double and 2 runs in the eighth on an error Kocher's triple gave Cobham the advantage they took into the ninth. Ben was the winning pitcher for Barnes allowing only two unearned runs in four innings in relief of starter J. Godfrey. Cobham out-hit Barnes 15-11 and 19 walks to four for Barnes. But the Yankees left 14 on base and committed 4 errors. Barnes made only 2 errors and got 3 of their 4 walks in the decisive 9th. An exciting, highly competitive game from first pitch to last.

COBHAM 111 213 020 -11 15 5
BARNES 240 000 015 -12 11 2

BRAVES 0 ENFIELD SPARTANS 3.

Rosehill Park, 31st May.

It was a hot afternoon, in probably one of the tightest games we shall see all year as Spartans pulled off their second major upset by shutting out the Sutton Braves. This was the first shutout in the league all year, and according to one brave, the first against them for 17 years. Oscar Marcellino again claimed the victory, giving a 7 hit, 3 strikeout performance to follow his victory over Cobham. He pitched 13 fly balls, all gratefully accepted by the Spartan outfielders, amongst them centre fielder, Chris Manning, was outstanding. Enfield manager, Jack Akers, was very shrewdly to eke out his team's five hits into three runs, assisted by a rundown leading to runs in the fourth and ninth. Marty Jewer pitched 5 for Sutton. Andy Evans went the remaining four.

SPARTANS 010 100 001 3 5 1
BRAVES 000 000 000 0 7 3

ORIOLES 7 WALTHAM ABBEY ARROWS 6.

American School, 31st May.

The Orioles took the second division lead from the Arrows with a dramatic 9th inning victory. Jez Santos pitched five innings for Oxshott, giving up 2 runs on 3 walks and 2 errors while striking out 6. Paul Baybould lasted 2 innings for the Arrows, conceding 4 runs on 5 hits and 2 errors. Si Bowden came in in relief for Santos and struck out 8 batters while holding Oxshott scoreless for five. Meanwhile, the Arrows were clawing back the four run deficit, eventually tying the game in the bottom of the ninth taking a 6-5 lead in the top of the ninth. The Orioles Tony Kuramitsu, who went out 7 and gave up only 3 hits in the last four innings, was hurt by 4 Oxshott. In the bottom of the ninth, Derek Matson led off with a single, went to second on a two out single by Kuramitsu, and both scored on a booming, two strike home run by Santos, the cleanup hitter, who went 4 for 5 on the day.

R H E
ARROWS 000 200 022 6 6 3
ORIOLES 220 000 012 7 13 6

STANDINGS

FIRST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Enfield	5	1	.835	-
Cobham	4	2	.666	1
Sutton	4	2	.666	1
Croydon	3	2	.666	1 1/2
Barnes	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Golders Gn	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Crawley	1	4	.200	3 1/2
Gillingham	1	5	.167	4

SECOND DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oxshott	4	1	.800	-
Southampton	4	1	.800	-
Waltham Arrows	4	1	.800	-
Hounslow Hirs	3	2	.600	1
Croydon BP	2	3	.400	2
Tonbridge	1	4	.200	3
Hounslow Hens	0	6	.000	4 1/2

THIRD DIVISION (NORTH)

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Basildon	5	0	1.000	-
Hemel RS	5	0	1.000	-
City Slick	2	2	.500	2 1/2
Waltham Saxons	2	2	.500	2 1/2
Totteridge	1	3	.250	3 1/2
Waltham FRR	1	4	.200	4
Hemel Rebels	0	5	.000	5

THIRD DIVISION (SOUTH)

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Crawley C	5	1	.835	-
Ashford	4	1	.800	1/2
Reading	4	1	.800	1/2
Arun Panthers	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Brighton	3	3	.500	2
Croydon BJ II	1	4	.200	3 1/2
Bournemouth	1	5	.167	4
Burgess Hill	1	5	.167	4

RESULTS

31 May

Barnes	12	Cobham	11
Crawley Giants	13	Croydon BJs	17
Gillingham	7	Golders Green	4
Sutton Braves	0	Enfield	3

7 June

Croydon BJs	5	Cobham	13
Enfield	17	Gillingham	1
Golders Green	8	Sutton Braves	13

31 May

Hounslow Hens	10	Southampton	43
Oxshott	7	Waltham Arrows	6
Tonbridge	10	Hounslow Hirs	13

7 June

Hounslow Hens	1	Tonbridge	43
Southampton	11	Hounslow Hirs	10
Waltham Arrows	11	Croydon BP	4

31 May

Basildon	45	Waltham FRR	20
Totteridge	20	City Slick	35
Waltham Saxons	33	Hemel Rebels	6

7 June

Hemel Rebels	16	Basildon	46
Totteridge	13	Hemel Red Sox	36
Waltham FRR	16	Waltham Saxons	35

31 May

Arun Panthers	21	Crawley Comets	27
Burgess Hill	15	Ashford	38
Croydon BJ II	7	Bournemouth	14
Reading Royals	11	Brighton	10

7 June

Ashford	21	Croydon BJ II	0
Bournemouth	27	Arun Panthers	29
Brighton	9	Burgess Hill	2
Crawley Comets	17	Reading Royals	6

(up to and including 7th June)



- GAME REPORTS -

GIANTS 7 GOLDERS GREEN SOX 8.

Southgate Playing Fields, 24th May.

The Golders Green Sox held off a late rally by the Crawley Giants to snatch a victory in a close and well played match. Leading the way for the Sox was ex-Ralph Papendorf who fanned 11 batters in 8 innings as well as driving in 3 including a two run double. Giant pitcher Steve Chinn was also in good form he was injured in the fifth inning. Steve eventually returned to finish the job on the mound, but by then the Sox had built up an 8-3 lead. It could have been led if not been for Giants centerfielder Rick Soan, who made a great running play, and on another play gunned down a runner at the plate. The Crawley batters fied against Papendorf; only five balls reached the outfield, and the Sox led in good form defensively.

	R	H	E
GREEN SOX	100	132	100
CRAWLEY	010	200	130

YANKEES 5 ENFIELD SPARTANS 7.

American School, 24th May.

The Cobham Yankees lost their first game of the season, despite taking a 5-3 in the back of a traditional Yankee big inning in the sixth. Starter Kyle gave up three runs in the first two innings before steadying and holding the Sox scoreless for the next five. Wily Oscar Marcellino, pitching for Enfield, the powerful Cobham lineup scoreless for five before their sixth inning. Enfield came back in the top of the eighth to win the game with four runs, ahead run scoring when a run-down between third and home ended with catcher Thompson making a throwing error.

	R	H	E
SPARTANS	210	000	040
YANKEES	000	005	000

TURNERS 9 GILLINGHAM DODGERS 2.

Barn Elm Field, 24th May.

Matt Abbott and Jason Godfrey combined to pitch a four hitter as Barnes won first game of the season. Abbott allowed 3 hits and one run over the first 6 1/2 and J. Godfrey just 1 hit and 1 run in 2 1/2 innings of relief. The Barnes bats also figured heavily in a 14 hit attack. J. Godfrey had 2 hits and Abbott got his first inning single to right centre scored two runs and capped a four fly. Barnes added single runs in the fourth and fifth on doubles by Martin and Muir Mackean. In the seventh, the Dodgers loaded the bases on walks no out. Gilmore, the Dodgers' number three hitter, hit a grounder hard into the hole left for an apparent 2 run single, but shortstop Ben Godfrey stopped it with and threw to second from his knees for a forceout. One run scored but a big was averted. Seven Baines' 2 run 2 out single for Barnes in the bottom of the 8th put them out of reach. Both teams played well defensively, each making just errors.

	R	H	E
DODGERS	000	000	110
BARNES	400	110	21x

BRAVES 24 CROYDON BLUEJAYS 9.

Rosehill Park, 24th May.

Undefeated Croydon woke up with a start against a hot hitting Sutton team, who starting pitcher Kevin Sylvester out of the game by scoring seven runs before aged to get anybody out. Hugh Neffendorf hit a 3-run homer, and Alan Bloomfield dy Evans extended the pasting to reliever Damen Ward with back-to-back homers third. Bloomfield and Evans were impressive all day, igniting the Braves' e. Marty Jewer pitched five innings for Sutton to claim the win, with Andy Evans going the rest of the way. Keith Wilesmith, the third Bluejays pitcher, d to quieten the Braves hitters somewhat, and also hit a home run.

	R	H	E
BLUEJAYS	013	021	2
BRAVES	800	000	5



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NATIONAL LEAGUE

WARRIORS 17 SOUTHERN TIGERS 13. Richmond Athletic Ground, 6th June.

The Scottish Amicable National League got off to a breezy start in every sense on Saturday as the Warriors beat the Tigers 17-13 in Richmond. The two teams displayed the complete repertoire of the game in conditions more suitable for a cup-tie in December than a ballgame in June. The crowd of roughly 200, shivering in the grandstand, could have had no doubts about baseball's entertainment value.

With a powerful breeze blowing out all afternoon towards the green corrugated stand in left field (will it become known as Richmond's Little Green Monster?), conditions were ideal for right handed power hitters, and, not surprisingly, four homers were hit. The Warriors' third baseman Lee Pierce clouted a grand slam in the third, and teammate Brad Benson connected for a three-run shot in the sixth. The Tigers' two round-trippers, by leftie (and manager) Julian Dodwell leading off the second, and centerfielder Jim Dunn in the seventh, were both solo efforts.

Going into the sixth trailing by five, largely thanks to Pierce's blast, the Tigers got their leadoff man aboard with a walk to Dodwell. Dunn doubled him home, and scored himself on pitcher Andy Evans' single to centre. With Evans going with the pitch, shortstop Ben Godfrey cleverly singled into the gap created by the second baseman moving towards the bag, sending Evans to third. Godfrey stole second, but could only advance to third on Rob Lanario's double to left after holding up until it dropped in, Evans scoring. Paul Bullock struck out, and with men on second and third, Dan Godfrey's ground single up the middle tied the game.

The Warriors were stung into immediate and decisive retaliation. Ken Kocher rapped a leadoff single to left, Benson walked, Fisher was safe at first on Andy Evans' error, and the bases were loaded for Alan Smith, who delivered with a single that scored Kocher. Benson scored on catcher Brad Thompson's single, Fisher to third, and Fisher scored on Kyle Koloja's fielders choice grounder that forced Thompson at second, Koloja safe at first. Evans then appeared to have Koloja picked off first with a smart move, but a balk was called which scored Smith from third for a four run lead.

The Warriors extended their lead in the bottom of the seventh, scoring six times with Benson's three run homer to left centre the big blow. The Tigers came back in the ninth against Koloja, who had relieved starter Dave Jensen, scoring four times on two singles, an RBI double by Mark Winfield, a walk, a two base fielding error by shortstop Lee Pierce and a double steal, but the gap was too great and Mark Powell struck out for the final out.

It was fine ballgame all round, other highlights including a smooth 6-3 double play by Tigers shortstop Ben Godfrey, Brad Thompson's expert handling of two or three awkward, swirling pop-ups behind the plate, and the generally high level of outfield play by both teams in gusty conditions that were an outfielder's nightmare. Let's hope the rest of the National League games are as good as this one.

TIGERS 011 005 114 13 16 4
WARRIORS 014 024 60x 17 9 3

Muir MacKean.

Other National League Scores; Humberide County Bears 14 Mersey Mariners 7.
Nottingham Knights 19 Lancs Red Sox 12.

Last issue I printed Hugh Neffendorf's address wrongly as contact for the Weybridge White Sox. It is: 41 Outlands Ave, Weybridge KT13 9SS. (0932 47527).

The contact for the Sutton Braves Juniors is not Rick D'Alenandro, as stated last week; it is Paul Newhouse, 89 Olley Close, Roundshaw, Wallington, SM6 9DL. (01 669 9953).



Andy Evans of Sutton puts everything into a pitch for the Tigers.



Tigers' catcher Gary Bedingfield (Enfield Spartans & Gr. Britain)



Lee Pierce rounds third after his grand slam for the Warriors.

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