

Baseball Days

Created by Dean Whiting

for Project COBB

Early photos



Barry and Maurice Whiting



West London Pioneers, Scrubs (circa 1950)

Back row: G Campbell, B Raply, M Whiting, Paton, F Adey, T Ross, B Whiting

Front row: J Dixon, Robichfall, Laurie, Ridenhour, Ingalls



West London Pioneers versus Hornsey Red Sox,
Chiswick Polytechnic (circa 1951)



West London Pioneers (circa 1950)

Articles from the
West London Observer
(1949–1951)

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Moore and Miss P. E. Watts, who comfortably defeated Mrs. E. Rowson and Miss L. Spargnapani 6-3, 6-0.

Baseball

Pioneers fight back

West London Pioneers met Hornsey Red Sox, on Sunday, in the London semi-final of the All-England Cup.

Hornsey took the lead in the first innings by 5-0, and then started the finest ball game of the season.

Ridenhour, of the Pioneers, took the mound and the Pioneers began to fight back in the second innings. Ross, Pryderch and Adey crossing the plate.

In the third, Ingalls' scored, making it 5-4; in the fourth, Adey again crossed and tied the game at 5-5.

Hornsey went ahead again in the fifth, and in the sixth there were two more for the Pioneers, who took the lead 7-6.

And then the effort of the grand fight back began to tell. All credit was due to the lion-hearted pitching of Ridenhour, but the 8th innings told, and Hornsey scored three and ran out winners by 9-7.

ANGLERS' SCHOOL

The Greyhound Junior Angling Club is now permanently established at the Epsington Road School, Fulham.

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America (1948), All-America (1949), Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, New York and West Chester.

Baseball

PIONEERS ROUT ROYALS

At home on the Scrubs last Sunday the batting strength of the Pioneers was seen at its best against Mitcham Royals. Everyone, including substitutes, made hits with Bob Curtain topping them all with a 1000 per cent. average by batting 5 for 5, with Zoupan running second with 4 for 6.

Lefty Ingalls' return to the Pioneers was commemorated by one of his mighty home run hits, and his example was followed by homers from Sleath and Ridenhour.

The Royals fought valiantly to the end, but were handicapped by injuries.

Curtain and Ingalls shared the pitching for the home team and did well to hold the Royals down to five hits from which they scored three runs.

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at Town Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1951.

versus GHENT

Americans beaten at own game

AS entertainment for the Belgian visitors, a baseball match between the West London Pioneers Baseball Club and the London Resident Americans was held at the Polytechnic Stadium, on Whit-Saturday.

In the first innings the Pioneers failed to score. In the second, the Americans came to bat, but Ridenhour held them with two strike outs and a put out.

Then the Pioneers started their hitting, and Ingalls, Ridenhour, Robicheau and Paton crossed the plate for four runs. A run for each team, making the score 5-2, was scored in the third innings, and at the end of the fifth, the score stood at 7-7. In the 7th and 8th, the Americans went further ahead to make the score 7-9. Then the Pioneers came up for their final innings. F. Adey as usual reached first and stole round to third, B. Campbell made second and Ridenhour made first, bringing Adey across the plate to bring the score to 8-9.

J. Dixon, with a smash to right field brought Campbell across the plate to tie the ball game at 9-9, and Ridenhour crossed the plate and put the score in the Pioneers favour at 10-9.

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Baseball

Pioneers keep record

West London Pioneers were at home on Sunday to the Mitcham Tigers, in a Western League match, and kept their undefeated record.

The game started with A. Ross, the home pitcher, striking the first three out. The Pioneers went to bat and F. Achey scored his usual run followed by a smashing hit by L. Ridenhour, only to be brilliantly caught in the out-field. Ingalls hit a perfect home run, but only gained second, owing to an unfortunate accident at second base.

Ross struck out 10 batters for one run in four innings, with Ridenhour finishing the remaining five innngs (10 strike outs for no runs).

Final score was—Pioneers 15; Tigers 1.

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BASEBALL

Ridenhour's grand pitching

On Sunday, the West London Pioneers had Thames Board Mill as their opponents in the semi-final of the Southern Counties Cup.

Ridenhour, the Pioneers' pitcher, had two strike-outs when Dawber, of the Mills hit a 3-bagger, scoring the first run.

Pioneers batted, and with two men left on, failed to score.

In the third innings, Campbell hit a 2-bagger and Ingall with a grand hit, brought him home to make the score 1-1.

In the fourth innnigs, a misunderstanding between short-stop and left-field, gave the Mills another run.

In the fifth, Adey and Ridenhour both crossed the plate, again through Ingall's hitting, and brought the score to 3-3.

After changes in the field, the Mills went away, although Ridenhour pitched a grand game, scoring 13 strike-outs, and the opposition only striking out six of the Pioneers.

The long season of 22 games, with only two defeats in cup matches, began to tell on the Pioneers, and the game ended with the Mills winning by 8-3.

The last match will be played on Sunday at home, with a double against the Royals.

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BASEBALL

Pioneers still winning

The West London Pioneers continued their undefeated run in the League when they met Hornsey Red Sox at the Scrubs.

In the first innings Red Sox came to bat and were put out for nil. The Pioneers started with Dixon smashing a three-base hit and bringing Laurie across the plate. Next, Ingall's smashed a homer out to right field to bring Dixon across the plate. Score at end of first: Pioneers 3, Red Sox 0.

In the second innings Red Sox again came to bat for nil. Pioneers replied with Laurie crossing the plate.

In the third, Red Sox scored a homer, crossing the plate twice to bring the score to 4-2.

In the fourth Red Sox were beaten again by Ridenhour's pitching for nil. The Pioneers replied with Campbell, two bagger, to bring Laurie across; Dixon sacrificed to bring Campbell across, and Ingalls stealing home. Score 8-2.

In the 5th, two were scored by Red Sox, and Adey and Paton crossed the plate for Pioneers.

In the 6th, nil was scored by both teams; 7th, Sox crossed once and, in the final innings with the score at Pioneers 10, Red Sox 7. Two out and bases loaded, Ridenhour pitching a grand game as usual, had two strike-outs on the batter, and the big hit came to left field. Dixon was under it and finished the ball game.

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Baseball

Pioneers Western League champions

The West London Pioneers played their eighth league game without defeat, on Sunday, meeting Wembley Pirates, who hold second position in the league, and trounced them by 14-0.

This being the second time Ridenhour, the Pioneers' pitcher has pitched a shut-out, 13 strike-outs being recorded, and 121 for the season.

Four runs were scored in the first innings, one in the second and six in the third.

Although the Pirates were twice within scoring, Adey, the catcher, calmly picked them off at home plate.

Ingalls was his usual self at first base and tops the scoring, recording four hits for five times at bat.

It appears the Pioneers have broken the London record at

of 2 min. 2.6 sec.

B. Chard had a successful day in the Film Industries sports, held at Uxbridge, when he won both the half and one-mile events.

last, having won the Western League Championship for three successive years.

League positions are at present:

	P	W	L
Pioneers	—	8	8
Pirates	—	8	4
Tigers	—	8	4
Lions	7	8	0

On Saturday, at Mitcham Common, the second team played the Tigers, and the veteran W. Cook, deserves praise for his game pitching, the Pioneers running out winners by 6-2. Notable players were B. Whiting at first and Maurice at the plate, with Rapley at third.

West London

Table Tennis league

One of the features referred to by the Secretary of the West London Table Tennis League, at the annual general meeting, in his report on the past season's activities, was the suc-

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Baseball

W. LONDON PIONEERS v. WEMBLEY PIRATES.

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As Wembley's ground proved unobtainable at the last minute, the Cup game was postponed and a challenge game was played on the Scrubs.

For the first two innings neither team looked like getting many runs, and the teams seemed evenly matched, when a hit from Sleath, in the third, started the run scoring. From this moment the Pioneers went ahead, scoring runs in every innings and fielding fast and accurate to stop the Pirates from scoring.

Wembley tried hard, but with Ingalls on the mound and Ridenhour behind the plate, their total hits only amounted to three, and they found it impossible to get further than second. The main interest of the game was if the Pioneers could prevent their opponents from getting a run and be the first London team to get a shut-out this season. They accomplished this feat and won by 16 to nil, and are proud that it could be obtained over a strong team like the Pirates.

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Baseball

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W. LONDON PIONEERS

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Last week the Pioneers gained another league victory, this time over the Tigers, on Mitcham Common.

The Tigers, with Joe Durling pitching, played a grand game, and the final score of 40 runs to 2, belied their efforts. Although playing a good ball game, the Tigers found it impossible to stop the West London team from getting runs, as Manager Lee Ridenhour's hit and run policy once again paid dividends. Everyone went in swinging and line drives, place hits and deep flys came off the end of their bats.

Peacock and Spencer headed the batting this week with six hits each for seven times at bat.

The Pioneers' battery, consisting of Ingalls and Ridenhour, played a good game, and their example was followed by the fielders, who made some light-nings plays to hold the Tigers down to two runs.

Greyhound racing

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work by crashing in the fifth
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Sutton Rovers Res. lost to
New Stamford "B" by 0-3 in
a 3rd division fixture.

Baseball

WEST LONDON PIONEERS v. WOKINGHAM MONARCHS

Supporters travelled to Wok-
ingham, on Sunday, to see the
Pioneers win convincingly by
25 runs to 5, scoring 12 runs in
the first innings and never look-
ing back. Big hits came fast
and furious, with 3 baggers by
Zoupan and Sleath and a
mighty home run by manager
L. Ridenhour.

The Pioneers' second team
took over in the 5th, and Wok-
ingham seized their chance and
scored five runs.

With the addition of pitcher
Curten, catcher Donohue and
other U.S. Navy men who have
recently joined the club, the
Pioneers probably have the best
team in London this year.

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Relay (4 x 1 lap)—3. Belgrave (Burfitt, E. Bishop; Walker, A. Bishop).

Baseball

W. LONDON PIONEERS v. TIGERS.

The Pioneers continued their string of unbeaten league victories with a dramatic 11 runs to 4 win over the Tigers.

The Pioneers evidently expected another easy win, but were shocked from their complacency by Durling's fast pitching and the vastly improved fielding of the opposition.

The Tigers used tear-away tactics from the pitch-off and in the sixth innings Pioneers found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-0 score. Things looked pretty grim for the Pioneers, but they still had another trump to play in Ingalls. The home team found a new lease of life when Ingalls took over on the mound from Ridenhour. In the seventh innings Dixon hit a single with bases loaded, and started the ball rolling, and 6 runs crossed the plate.

Ingall's dynamite pitching struck 10 tigers out in three innings, and the Pioneers batted 5 more runs home and won the best game played at home this season.

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James O'Donnell; 2, David Oliphant.

The certificates were presented by the Deputy Mayor Councillor W. E. Harriss.

On Sunday the Pioneers met Briggs (Bodies) in the quarter-finals of the English Cup, and started the game with four runs in the first innings.

Briggs were totally out-classed with the pitching of Ridenhour and the fielding of the in-fielders.

Runs were scored by Ingalls, Adey, Laurie, Ridenhour and Campbell (3 each), Dixon and Roberhean (2 each), and Paton (1).

L. Ridenhour achieved another record of 18 strike out, no hits, no runs, and the game finished with the Pioneers victors by 20-0.

They now enter the semi-final against Briggs Brigands.

BASEBALL

DARTS

Paddington, represented by a team from British Railways Western Region (Messrs. J. E. Giddens, J. Rivett, J. Conner and R. McNeish) were the run-

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More photos

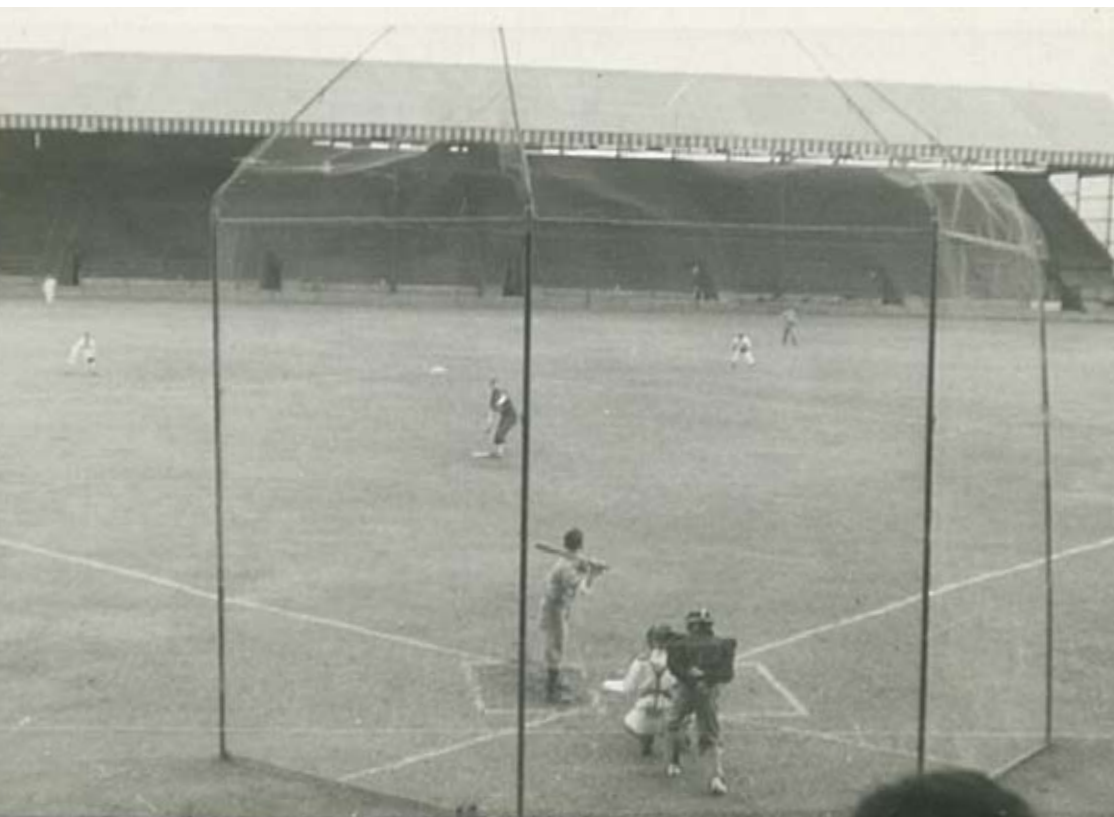


West London Pioneers versus Dulwich, Dulwich (circa 1951)

Barry Whiting (pitching) and Tom Ross (first base)



Mitcham Tigers (circa 1952)



All-Stars versus US Navy, Mitcham (circa 1953)



All-Star game, SECBA versus WCBA



M Whiting (catcher), G Campbell (manager), and R Gibson (outfield)



Left: Johnny Schawb, Leatherhead Maple Leafs (1957)

Right: Leatherhead Maple Leafs membership card (1958)



Maurice Whiting at bat for the Leatherhead Maple
Leafs against the US Navy, Brompton Regis,
Dulverton, Somerset (5 August 1956)



Barry Whiting, Leatherhead Maple Leafs (1956)



Bushy Park Cardinals, just before the base was
closed and the team disbanded, Harrow (1962)

Back row: 'Moose', J Booth, Lt McMahon, L Easley, L Cross, B Whiting

Front row: J Gibb, L Toupes, G Curran, J Clark



Bushy Park Cardinals, Bushy Park (circa 1963)

Assorted clippings

CARDINALS ON TOP FORM

BUSHY Park Cardinals were in great form when they met Thames Board Mills last Sunday at Purfleet, and won by 14 runs.

With memories of last year's bitter battles against T.B.M. haunting them they might have been expected to approach their rivals with caution and defensive action in play. However, the opposite was the case. Going in to bat at pitch-off time they threw caution to the wind and smashed the first ball pitched and scored a run. Next batter up did likewise. Then it was three men out and T.B.M. at bat.

With R. MacNeill pitching T.B.M. were retired without reaching 1st base; score 2-0. Again Cardinals went to bat and this time scored three runs while T.B.M. scored nothing. Third innings was a duplication of the second. In the fourth, Cards scored five runs to their opponents' zero. Finally, as the game neared its conclusion, the Home team got on bases and by the end had chalked up five runs. In the meantime Cards added six more to their total, and so ended the game with a score of 19 to five.

Pitcher MacNeill had allowed only six safe hits in the full nine innings and walked only three men. He also led as batter for his team, getting four safe hits and batting in six runs. Next in hitting for the Cards was Gene Dunn who collected three hits scoring six runs.

FIRST GAME

Thomas Trent, playing his first game for Cardinals this year, got a Home Run and further added to the entertainment of the spectators and drama of the game by stumbling twice on his way round the bases. Barry Whiting, one of the best of British ball-players in these parts, hit a double in the same frame. B. George covered the windy outfield in fine style.

Tomorrow (Sunday) Bushy Park Cardinals travel to Beckenham to play the Bluejays for the Southern Cup.

CARDINALS AVENGED

IN a thrill-packed baseball game, with no quarter asked or given, Bushy Park Cardinals, superior in every department, routed Thames Board Mills last Sunday.

The Cardinals hammered their way from base to base in one of the most grim and scientific matches this season, and their rivals were prevented from getting a single man beyond third base. There were no home runs.

So the home side, Senior League leaders, gained revenge for a previous defeat. Key man was Cardinals' pitcher, McNeill, who reduced the opposition to frustrated club-swingers.

Backed by the best infielders in the country, McNeill had nothing to fear on the few occasions he allowed a hit. Outfielders Bob George, Gerry Whiting and Ken Messer all but broke the batters' hearts.

The base-running and base-stealing of George was a special treat for the crowd, while Hank Drummis was again in grand form behind the bat. Steeves and Dixon never put a foot wrong at second and short stop.

This win puts Cardinals well in front of all their rivals. Tomorrow, they play Canadians in Bushy Park (3.0).

1.15 AMERICAN BASEBALL

Outside Broadcast cameras visit the United States Air Force Base, Bushy Park, to televise the match between the US Air Force and the US Navy. American baseball experts will describe the finer points of the game.

Commentator Peter Lloyd

Directed for television by STEPHEN WADE
An ATV Network Presentation

Baseball

A spirited reply by Bushy Park

IN a close contest Bushy Park Cardinals defeated U.S. Navy in a baseball game last Sunday at Mitcham by seven runs to six. The Blue Jackets had a strong team of heavy hitters and Isaacs, their well-known catcher, smashed a homer in the first innings.

Two runs were scored by the Navy and it was some time later before Cardinals scored two to tie. This nettled Navy manager Tom Ranny and he promptly drove a terrific liner out of the ball park and then sent the ball bouncing off passing cars on the far away highway for another home run.

Trailing 2-4 the Cardinals put on Bob McNeill as pitcher and he retired the next three batters. From then on it was a ding-dong struggle with some spectacular double plays produced by both sides.

In the sixth innings Ken Messer got a homer for Bushy Park and the Navy had to fight hard for their hits against McNeill who allowed only three. But one after another they were caught far out in left field by Max George.

Van Fleet, catching for Cardinals in place of Hank Drummis who sustained a painful abrasion on his knee-cap, was in fine fettle and sparked with his pegs to second base.

Drummis played third base in smart style while Barry Whiting, a Britisher who lives locally, took the place of Clemmons at first base. Barry plays the outfield as well as the infield like an American baseball veteran.

Tomorrow, Cardinals play Birmingham in Bushy Park (3.0).

CHAMPIONS AND CUP HOLDERS

THERE was an overflow crowd in Bushy Park last Sunday to get a close-up of Britain's top-line baseball teams in action for television, and millions saw this shortened exhibition game. The American Navy clashed with the Cardinals and the game served as a warm-up for the League matches which followed.

The Navy went off to play Thames Board Mills, while the Cardinals stayed at home to defend their position as Senior League log leaders against runners-up Ford Sports.

This match bristled with spectacular plays. The Senior League Cup was the prize being played for and never did Ford Sports threaten Cardinals' possession of the trophy. Well-drilled and powerful Cardinals were stronger in every department.

The fielding of Bob George and Whiting in the outfield was more than enough to cope with the few long distance hits achieved by the Sports. Just once the Sports got a runner past third base and finally were overwhelmed by 23 runs to one.

Pitcher McNeill was in top form for Cardinals despite the fact he had pitched in the exhibition game for 90 minutes. But with a catcher like Hank Drummis any pitcher must be inspired.

The home infielders were machine-like in their precision pegs to bases and what a spectacular display from Clemmons on first base. He took Gene Dunn's perfectly placed pegs from third base as if the ball was attached to an elastic band.

FAULTLESS

At bat Cardinals were almost faultless and three and four base hits were a feature. Dunn, Messer, Dickson, George and Clemmons each had his quota of home runs. Opposition fielders had a bad time chasing balls batted into the far-away and barren field by Cardinals' practised batters. So Cardinals are champions of the Senior League of the Southern B.A. as well as holders of the Senior Division Cup. A great farewell to the season.



An exciting moment during a baseball match at Bushy Park

CARDINALS TAKE A NOSEDIVE

BUSHY Park Cardinals, all fully trained airmen, took a nosedive against Fords in last Sunday's Senior League baseball match at home.

Cardinals' position at the top of the League was thought to be secure for they had shown themselves superior to the powerful U.S. Navy in their first encounter last month. However, a newcomer to the Senior League, an unknown but menacing giant calling itself "Ford Sports," and created by the "List" itself, straight away proved Canadians, Brigands and Thames Board Mills. The latter top class team lost on May 17th to Fords by 19 runs to 8.

FIRST ENCOUNTER

Cardinals' first encounter with the new challengers proved a shock. Fords outplayed the local cham as in every department except batting. In that only did Cardinals look like the superior team they are. Once again it was Dunn (third baseman and manager) and Barry Whiting, probably the best Britisher in baseball who made the home runs, while Clemmons at base and Hank Drummis, catcher, contributed the lion's share of 10 runs scored, but this all happened in the last few minutes of exciting but heart-breaking battle.

It was the scoreboard read: Fords 16, Cardinals 4. Then Cardinals, maddened by some unorthodox tactics by a rival base-runner, vented their spleen on the horsehide and pounded it to the skyline for six runs. Thus the game ended with Fords leading in League standing. Cardinals second, U.S. Navy third; and this is the position to-morrow when Cardinals meet the U.S. Navy in a League match at 3 p.m. at Bushy Park.

BASEBALL OVER HERE

DAWBER FOR HOLLAND

Only Southerner in
England Team

"Evening News" Reporter

THOSE fans who have always argued that Bill Dawber is the best ball player in southern England are saying "I told you so" this week. They have cause—Bill has been chosen to play the Dutch national team at the end of this month.

Bill is a left-handed batter. Plays right-handed base. Is a fine pitcher and is one of the mainstays of Thames Board Mills. He stands 5ft 11in and is also well-known as an expert goalkeeper—in the Remford team.

He will be the only southern player to be chosen for the tour—all the other men coming from midland and northern clubs. As if to prove that baseball is no longer a transatlantic monopoly, the England team will be truly all-British one. That's not so silly as it sounds—Canadians are ranked as British in British baseball.

WEST LONDON PIONEERS believe in that "Made in England" tag too.

Manager Charlie Dixon, who piloted the team to the Western Amateur League championship from 1945 to 1947, has at last realised his ambition of a team consisting only of Britons.

The majority of the strong team he has built up are time-expired National Servicemen who had to learn the game the hard way.

THAT meant stinging on the bench for game after game while the Canadians and Americans in the team took the diamond to play ball. Charlie's young men look good. There's H. Whiting, who has watched the Pioneers since he was eight and who has realised his ambition to take the place of Lefty in the squad at let Dr J. Dixon, who played in the victorious 1948-49 team, is still with the team.

These, and 22 others of the squad will be worth following. Pioneers are confident that in two years—a long-term policy they lay on—they will be able to take on the best teams in Britain and show them that the bases.

That runs for America's teams too.

SEMI-FINALS in the South-Eastern Counties Cup will be played out between Fords and Essex Nationals and Briggs Brigands and Thames Board Mills.

There was heavy scoring in the second round games, but the semi-finals are likely to develop into pitching duels. Briggs were too strong at bat for their local rivals, Marley, but Ron Cooper and Billy Wilson each got three hits for the D.C. team. Bill Knapp pitched another windmill game for Fords.

Bob Shorrogh pitched beautifully to help Fords beat U.S. Navy 8-6 in a friendly.

RAIN interrupted the Southern Whittington tournament, which was however completed.

In the first series, Barking represented by Essex B.C. beat Bournemouth, Bournemouth and Dagenham (Males) defeated Bendish Grays. Barking beat Bendish and Dagenham and Dagenham topped Southdown. Barking easily beat Dagenham to become tournament champions with Dagenham and Bendish trailing in second and third places.

Week-end games (all start at 3.30):

WESTERN AMATEUR LEAGUE
Sunday: South: Dulwich Bushy Park v Wokingham Monarchs; Beckenham v Pars. Cardiff: Sutton Beavers v Tigers. North: Wembley Fairies v West London Pioneers. Tyne Park: Ray v St. James. Standard: Princes v Kodak. Oxford: Oxford v Reading. League Cup: Athletics v Millham Royals. Midlands: Common.

Final photos



Waiting for the bus to go and play baseball, opposite Richmond station (circa 1957)

Left to right: Barry and Joan Whiting, Maureen Rapley,
Arthur and Pam Bloomfield, and Maurice Whiting



Barry and Maurice Whiting, Leatherhead Maple Leafs (circa 1956)