

SPORT ECHOES

Is Baseball A Dead Issue?

Is baseball really dead in Summerside? We find that very hard to believe. During the last war baseball went into decline here and was superseded by softball, but there was a serious shortage of athletes in the town at that time, and for some reason or other there are boys who make a grade in softball but don't quite measure up in the hardball game. There doesn't seem to be any such excuse in Summerside today. We have had a minor program rolling now for four or five years, and some of the products of that program are about ready to play junior or intermediate ball. According to some rumors there will be no such pastime for them to indulge in.

We're doing our utmost to keep the younger age brackets busy at baseball, which is all to the good, but if they are going to have to quit the game for lack of employment when they are 13 or 14, why go to all the trouble? It's like having schools for children up to grade five or six, but no junior high, high schools or universities. If softball is to be our game, why not start the kids in softball so they'll be more proficient at it when they grow up?

Frankly, we're a die-hard as far as baseball is concerned for

the town of Summerside. And if there are any other die-hards in the town, let's get organized. We'll call it "the die-hards incorporated." We might try to operate on a four-point program something like this: 1) start off with an effort to raise some money by some form of entertainment, a dance, or what have you? 2) with this nest-egg, large or small as the goddess of fortune ordains, let's operate with a shoestring technique, as follows: do not insist on new baseballs for every game; get umpires who will officiate for the same remuneration as our softball umpires do; let young players act as base-judges, gratis or for fifty cents a game, say. Don't tell us they couldn't do a satisfactory job; we've seen some pretty weird calls on the bases by the high-priced boys. Etc., etc.; 3) go back to the old "pass the hat days" till we can supply better competition. Hats with brown linings are better so the copper stains won't show. 4) Organize a league in the town, keep batting averages, with prizes for individual achievement. Try to get Charlottetown or some other centre in for the odd exhibition game.

Let's hear from you, die-hards. Summerside is too sports-minded a town to let this grand old game of baseball die.

The Unresolved Question; Who "Invented" Baseball?

WASHINGTON (Special) — As the 1956 baseball season opens, the Abner Doubleday sides begin to choose up again. Did he or did he not "invent" baseball?

The established leagues have accepted the tradition that he did, says the National Geographic Society. The Baseball Hall of Fame was established at Doubleday's home town, Cooperstown, New York, to honor him and heroes of the game. Various sports historians have since raised shouts of protest.

It is generally agreed that Doubleday devised the diamond-shaped playing field, but some experts contest even that.

The authoritative "Encyclopedia of Sports" says flatly, "The case who fix 1839 as the year of its beginning and honor Cooperstown as the birthplace are wrong on all counts."

PLAYED AT VALLEY FORGE

Robert W. Henderson, former chief of the New York Public Library's Main Reading Room, is equally positive. He asserts that George Washington's men played baseball at Valley Forge. He also quotes from "A Little Pretty Pocket Book" published in 1744: "The Ball once struck off, Away flies the boy To the next destined post And then home with joy."

The poem is entitled "Base Ball."

Similar games go much further back. From the dawn of civilization throwing, running and catching have been popular. Greeks, Persians and Norsemen played handball. The Romans batted balls

with bandaged forearms. In Egypt archeologists have found a leather-covered ball more than 30 centuries old. It is stuffed with papyrus and the segments of its cover are sewn like those of a modern baseball.

The Fuzzi Wuzzies of the Sudley National Geographic Society, an immortalized as fighting men by Rudyard Kipling, have perhaps the strangest "ball game." To settle differences they duel in a way that certainly fits Ty Cobb's prescription of coming up "the hard way."

Each of two duelers takes his place in a circle marked in the sand. The circles are several yards apart and are equipped with mounds of baseball-size stones. The players then pelt each other until one retreats from his circle in disgrace.

KNICKERBOCKERS FIRST

The first organized baseball teams in the United States were set up in 1845 by the Knickerbocker Club of New York. They played on the Elysian Fields in Hoboken, then a popular resort for New York's elite. Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Baltimore soon formed teams. During this period the game was strictly an amateur, aristocratic sport comparable to polo today.

Baseball grew into a national sport during the Civil War. Northern soldiers taught it to men of the West and South. In the same manner, American armies introduced it to other nations in both World Wars. The game caught on most solidly in Japan, though it was banned for a time in World War II.

Surprisingly Large Field Is Entered In Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The traffic congestion in the 82nd Kentucky Derby Saturday is expected to be slightly terrific and a confident bunch of rosters from the small state of Delaware believe they have the big horse.

His name is Countermind, a strapping bay colt who scamped home second in the one mile Derby Trial stakes at Old Churchill Downs Tuesday.

As of now it looks like a surprisingly large field of 17 horses will parade to the post Saturday instead of the expected dozen.

The prospect of bumper to bumper traffic, however, doesn't dismay wily little Buddy Raines, who trains Countermind for the Brandywine stable of Donald P. Ross, president of Delaware Park race track.

NEEDLES AND FABRUS

"I've got to beat Needles and Fabrus," he declared flatly, leaving little doubt that he thought this could be accomplished if his horse didn't get blocked off or have some other mishap in the large field.

That leaves out Career Boy, Head Man, and the California

Operation May Mean End Of Jockey's Career

LAUREL, Md. (AP) — The jockey career of Tony DeSpirito, the hard luck kid of the silks and saddle set, may have ended Wednesday on an operating table at Prince George's General Hospital, Chevy Chase, Md.

One kidney and the spleen of the 22-year-old rider were removed in an operation performed by Drs. William Chase and Louis Bachrach. It was reported here.

DeSpirito was reported Tuesday when his mount, Folders, fell in the fifth race. A preliminary examination at the hospital revealed three fractured ribs. The more serious injuries were disclosed Wednesday following considerable hemorrhaging.

Doctors said he will be out of action for at least two to three months, and perhaps forever. His condition was described as good.



DOUBLES CHAMPS
Walter Cullen (left) and Jennie Boomhower won the Provincial Mixed Doubles Badminton championship at the Queen Charlotte High School on Saturday defeating Jim Johnston and Wanda MacMillan 15-10, 15-11. Photo by D. Geoyte.

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TIPS ON GOLFING

Don't Neglect Wrist Action

BY ALEX MORRISON
CENTRAL PRESS CANADIAN
GOLF COLUMNIST

When you look around for the answers to your problems in shot-making and scoring it will pay you to check up on wrist action. Chances are you are slighting, possibly omitting, this swing essential.

You may do so without being fully aware of it or you may do it through underestimating the value of wrist action in your swing. In either case the slighting or omitting greatly lowers the efficiency of your swing. It is comparable to writing with pen or pencil fastened to your elbow. Among other things the proper bending of the wrists affords a smooth blending of backswing, also a hinge-like action between the arms and club which is vital in producing the clubhead speed needed for striking force and accuracy.

Every golfer, in every shot, needs more or less of the proper wrist bend. When the wrists do not bend properly the player must compensate for this by extra movements of his arms, shoulders or hips. I explained all of this to Paul McGuire, because his swing showed a tendency to slight the bending of the wrists at the top of the backswing. This happened mainly through his efforts to keep his left wrist quite firm in the backswing, and downswing.

The line between firmness and tightness often is too fine to recognize under the stress of competition. Since Paul is gifted with a Sneed-like physique, the slighting of wrist action didn't register as strongly as it does with older players or those with inferior swings. In other words his flexibility enabled him to compensate rather easily. Yet it is possible that slighting this essential accounts for his incomplete success to date.

One way to assure yourself of some wrist action is to have them free from tension in your starting position for all shots.



Paul McGuire, promising young tournament pro, was expected to win an event or two in 1955. Though he turned in many good rounds his swing may have lacked the wrist action for top performances.

Remember When

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Lionel Conacher, Canada's greatest all-round athlete, won his first professional wrestling match 24 years ago tonight at Toronto. He worked in some of his ruzby tricks to pin Carl Pospesheil in two straight falls. Conacher, best known for his football prowess, collapsed and died during a softball game in which he was playing for members of parliament against press gallery members at Ottawa in 1954.

Joins Field Against Landy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Villanova miler Ron Delany, unbeaten in indoor races this winter, Tuesday joined the field to race against record-holder John Landy of Australia on Saturday.

Delany, who hails from Northern Ireland and is a sophomore, turned in a 4:04.9 time a couple of weeks ago.

Already entered in the special race to be televised nationally Saturday afternoon are Oregon stars Jim Bailey and Bill Dellinger, NCAA champs in 1955 and 1954, respectively. Lon Spurrier, a world half-mile record holder, formerly of the University of California; and Jerome Walters, a Los Angeles runner.

50 To 1 Shot Springs Upset In Year's 1st Race Classic



By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer
NEWMARKET, England (CP) — Gilles de Retz, a 50-to-1 shot in the betting, came from behind Wednesday to beat off a strong French and Irish challenge and keep the Two Thousand Guineas in England.

Gilles de Retz — the real name of wicked old bluebeard — created a havoc appropriate to his monicker as he stormed past the fancied horses in the first of the season's five classic races. Mrs. Emily Foster's Chantelsey, a north country horse, was a length away second with the Aga Khan's 20-to-1 shot, Buisson Ardent, third in the 19-horse field.

The winner, a three-year-old bay colt owned by English banker A. G. Samuel, turned early season form upside down and confounded turf critics who had just about conceded the one-mile event to France or Ireland. In his first race this year, Gilles de Retz finished far behind after starting slowly.

SCORCHER DIES OUT
The 6-to-1 favorite Drum Beat, owned by South Africa's J. S. (Lucky Jack) Gerber, set a scorching pace as predicted but "died" after six furlongs. Gilles de Retz then swooped down the centre of Newmarket's straight mile and easily held off a late bid by Chantelsey, a 10-to-1 shot.

WEEK - END SPECIALS at CUDMORE'S

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	Island Honey 2 Lb. Tin 49c		Sliced Bacon 1 Lb. 45c
	McCready's Pickles 24 Oz. Bottle 39c		Christie's Milk Biscuits 25c Pkg.
	Sweet New Potatoes 20 Oz. Can 25c		East Pak Fresh Beef 12 oz. Tin 35c

Fancy Grade Crushed Pineapple 20 Oz. Tin 25c	Grapefruit Juice 48 Oz. Can 29c
Lynn Valley Whole Beets, 2 for 20 Oz. Can 33c	Cloverleaf Pink Salmon 1/2 Lb. Tin 29c
Chase & Sanborne's Instant Coffee 6 Oz. Jar \$1.65	Chicken Sandwich Spread 2 Tins 29c
Paper Napkins, 2 boxes 70 to Box 35c	White Cross Toilet Paper 2 Rolls 25c
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TI-CAT DREAM

Ulcer-producing news for rival Big Four coaches is the report angling for the \$25,000 services of famed Cleveland Brown quarterback, Otto Graham. Tact officials say Graham would act in an advisory coaching role but they may be able to persuade him to don playing togs. Graham originally retired after the 1954 season. Last year he returned to lead Browns to the NFL championship.

Florida-bred Needles, owned by Bonnie Heath of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Jack Dudley, Stillwater, Okla., remains the 2-1 favorite, but there's been a switch on the second choice.

The ever dangerous Calumet Farm, with Fabius and Pintor Lea, now is rated at 3-1 for the race, while C. V. Whitney's pair of Career Boy and Head Man went up to 4-1.

Calumet stock boomed after Fabius romped home first in the derby trial, while Head Man finished third behind the fast closing Countermind, Career Boy and Needles didn't run in the trial.

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