



# BASEBALL

## Mercury.

No. 19. SEPTEMBER 1978.

### ITALY WINS YOUTH TITLE.

At Oosterhout in The Netherlands on Thursday, 17th August Italy won the tournament for the European Youth Baseball Championship by beating the Netherlands 7 - 0. Italy had 7 hits, including a homerun in the fourth inning by Landuzzi. The Netherlands had five hits.

The Netherlands finished in second place, Sweden third, and Belgium fourth. Sweden which had earlier lost to Belgium by a score of 8 - 0, beat Belgium on Thursday by 11 - 1.

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### NOTTINGHAM 1978 by S.M. Williams.

Clifton Cougars decided to withdraw from the Midland League at the end of June, leaving us with four teams, the placings are as follows.

|                    | Played | Won | Lost | Points. |
|--------------------|--------|-----|------|---------|
| Nottingham Lions   | 3      | 3   | 0    | 6       |
| Bromsgrove Dodgers | 3      | 2   | 1    | 4       |
| Southglade Hornets | 3      | 1   | 2    | 2       |
| Pressac Panthers   | 3      | 0   | 3    | 0       |

### NOTTINGHAM JUNIOR LEAGUE

|                   | Played | Won | Lost | Points |
|-------------------|--------|-----|------|--------|
| Top Valley Tigers | 4      | 4   | 0    | 8      |
| Lion Cubs         | 5      | 3   | 2    | 6      |
| Southglade Eagles | 6      | 3   | 3    | 6      |
| Holmewood Aces    | 5      | 0   | 5    | 0      |

The Lol Whelan Junior Tournament - with the four Nottingham Junior teams competing - was won by Southglade Eagles. The final of this competition produced a very high standard of baseball, with Top Valley Tigers playing well but being unable to get the upper hand over the Eagles who succeeded in turning on the pressure at the right time.

The Player of the Day Trophy was won by Glen Whalen, who pitched his team to victory over Lion Cubs in the semi-final, and batted 1.000 in both the semi-final and the final.

The B.A.B.F. Junior All-Star Championship was held for the first time ever this year, and the teams managed to produce some good baseball. It was a three-cornered competition with Midlands, South and Humberside competing at the Harvey Hadden Stadium in Nottingham. The final was between Humberside and the South. Humberside found themselves with a fight on their hands but they stuck to their task well. They were rewarded by getting the hits at the right time to win the final and take the Championship title. Martin Adamson, the Humber-side pitcher won the trophy for the Player of the Day, having worked hard for his team both in the semi-final and the final.

Humberside Juniors had a convincing win over the Nottingham Juniors to take the Nottingham Lions Inter-City Challenge Trophy, and Martin Adamson, who pitched extremely well for the Humberside team in appallingly wet conditions, won the Trophy for the Player of the Day.

The Nottingham Cup (Senior baseball) was a three-way competition between Pressac Panthers, Nottingham Lions and Southglade Hornets; Nottingham Lions beating Pressac Panthers in a final which was a nail-biter to the finish. Lions leaving it to the very last frame to clinch the game. John Martis, who pitched for Lions in their game against Hornets, and played catcher in the final, was awarded the trophy for the Player of the Day.

Next season Top Valley Tigers will be entering a senior team in our league and we are hopeful that at least one other club will be added, so that our sport will continue to expand in this area.

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#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Will all readers take note of the change of address of the editor of Base-ball Mercury, William Morgan. All letters relating to Baseball Mercury, or relating to the financial affairs of the British Amateur Baseball and Soft-ball Federation should be addressed to : -  
6B STEVENAGE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.6.

The editor apologises for the delay in publishing this number of Baseball Mercury, a delay caused by problems connected with the move to a new home.

The next issue should appear in December. Subscription for three issues is 30p.

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#### JAPAN JOTTINGS.

In the Spring National High School Championships, held at Koshien Stadium, Osaka, Minoru Matsomoto of Naebashi High pitched the first ever perfect game in the history of this competition. Naebashi High beat Hieizam High 1 - 0. Matsomoto threw 78 pitches in the game; 17 batters were retired on grounders, 5 struck-out, 2 were dismissed on infield flies, and 3 flied-out to outfielders.

The Cincinnati Reds are to tour Japan from 25th. October to 22nd. November. They will open with two games versus the Tokyo Giants, and play in 13 cities. this will be the first visit to Japan by a major-league club since 1974.

Japan College All-Stars beat U.S.A. College All-Stars by 4 games to 3 in this year's international series. The series which alternates yearly between Japan and the U.S.A. had last been won by Japan in 1972.

590 items from the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York, plus items loaned by the Los Angeles Dodgers, and by Major League Baseball Promotions Association are to be displayed in a large number of Japanese cities. The exhibition styled Hall of Fame- Major League Baseball Exhibition will open at a Tokyo department store, where it will remain from 25th. July to August 15th. It will then move around Japan for about six months.

In July a 35 member baseball group from Meiji University, winner's of the spring tournament in Tokyo's Big Six competition, departed for Brazil. Meiji U. were to play 6 official games plus 6 exhibition games during a stay of two weeks. These games were to be played in Sao Paulo and two other cities.

The Central League won the 1978 Major-league All-Star Series by 2 games to 1. The Central League won the first game 7 - 5, and the third game 8 - 5. The Pacific League won the second game 9 - 0. In the history of the series the Pacific League have a total of 43 games won, the Central League has 29 wins, and there have been 3 tie games.

The Japan Industrial Amateur Championship was won this year by Toshiba, this was Toshiba's first win. Their opponents in the 49th. Annual Championship final was Nippon Kokan, both the finalists came from the same city, Kawasaki. Yoshiro Kurogami pitched a 3-hit game to beat Nippon Kokan 4 - 0.

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#### SCANDINAVIA.

I am indebted to the Swedish Baseball and Softball Federation who send me a copy of their annual handbook plus copies of their official magazine Basebullen. The items which follow have been seen in these publications.

Recently, the Danish Baseball and Softball Federation was formed. There is information on two clubs, Munkerne has about 55 members aged from 12 to 20. Horsholm is an ambitious club, it has 35 members, the oldest being 25. It hopes soon to have the first authentic baseball field in Denmark.

A Norwegian, one Ingvar Simonsen of Drammen, a town southwest of Oslo is trying to organise baseball in Norway.

The International Softball Federation has offered to provide a cup for presentation to the winner of the Swedish National Championship for Women.

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### SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

The Southern Youth Baseball Association operated for the first time during this season.

Isleworth Tigers, Suburban Youth League champions, are the SYBA qualifiers for the BABSF National Club Championships at Hull on 24th. September.

Suburban Junior League champions look certain to be Wokingham Earls who seek one more win to clinch the title.

Champions of the Wimbledon League and the Regents Park League have still to be decided. The Yankees won the Slick Willies League (Early Season), and now try for the double by winning the Late Season competition.

Expansion plans, in 1970 Ashford will expand from 2 junior and 1 youth team, to 4 mixed youth teams and 1 adult team. A new local league is planned.

Enfield will grow from 1 youth, and 1 junior team, and a ladies softball team to 8 mixed youth teams, and 4 ladies softball teams, and 1 adult baseball team. A new local league is expected.

New teams should emerge in East Kent and South London areas.

Slick Willies League to expand from 4 mixed youth teams to 6 or 8 teams, and 1 adult team.

The editor was recently told of a group of Japanese playing baseball in Regents Park. Upon contacting one of the persons connected with the group, I learned with some pleasure, but not too much surprise, that instead of a group playing pick-up games, there were 10 teams playing in a competition. I spoke to the captain of the Hampstead Hotshots, a mixed Japanese and English team, most of the members of which are in journalism and the entertainment world, Japan Air Lines has a team, as has Lufthansa. The other 7 teams are drawn from workers at a number of Japanese restaurants.

The reason for my lack of surprise at this news was that some years ago on the outskirts of Amsterdam a large number of Japanese softball teams were found to be playing in a regular competition, quite unaware of the existence of baseball and softball in the Netherlands. One of the players at Regents Park told me that a similar organisation existed in Paris where there were 15 Japanese teams playing.

The group at Regents Park started at the beginning of 1977 playing softball, and switched to baseball towards the end of 1977. I have a problem deciding whether to class them as playing baseball or softball. Although they play by baseball rules, they do not use the regulation baseball. The officer who spoke to me explained that some years ago the Japanese government banned the use of the regulation baseball in junior high school play. A rubber ball of similar size and weight was devised, and this is much less dangerous. For example, the umpire and the catchers that I saw in two games at Regents Park did not use leg-guards or chest protectors. From my limited observation this rubber ball seemed to have more bounce when it hit the ground than the regular ball has.

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### 10th. HAARLEM BASEBALL WEEK.

This tournament was staged from Sunday, 13th. to Tuesday, 22nd. August. The participating teams were the Netherlands, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and the world champions, Cuba. Gerard Voogd, the organiser of these Haarlem tournaments, for once had no headaches caused by late withdrawals. Undoubtedly the fact that all the teams playing at Haarlem were to play in the World Championships, which were to start a few days after the Haarlem event ended, ensured that they honoured their commitments to appear. All the countries concerned were keen to use Haarlem as a warm-up period prior to the World event.

13 August. The week started with a surprise, South Korea, the holders of the Intercontinental Cup, were beaten by the Netherlands 5 - 4. Yet another upset followed, in the night game, Cuba lost for the first time ever at Haarlem. The world champions went down to Japan 8 - 2.

14 August. Australia, making its debut in a European tournament, had a disastrous afternoon. Versus Japan, Australia used four pitchers, who between them struck-out six batters, gave up fifteen walks, and made thirteen errors. The rest of the team made another six errors; the result, Japan won 14 - 2. In the night game Cuba was defeated for the second time, South Korea winning 6 - 3.

15 August. In the afternoon, Cuba beat Australia 12 - 2 in seven innings. Japan met the Netherlands at night, and won 4 - 1. Japan's first two runs coming as a result of Dutch errors. The Japanese pitcher, Fukuma, had a shut

-out, going into the ninth inning. This was ruined when Ben Richardson hit a tremendous homerun.

16 August. Australia, in the afternoon game versus South Korea, turned in what was probably its best performance at Haarlem. Alan Albury pitched a very steady game. Although only getting two strike-outs, he gave up seven hits scattered through the game, and usually managed to get the South Korean batters to provide easily handled chances to the Australian fielders. South Korea won 2 - 0. In the night game, Cuba unleashed its power on the Netherlands. Cuba came up with sixteen hits, eight of them homers, to win 16 - 4.

17 August. In the afternoon Japan overwhelmed South Korea, 14 - 0, in a seven inning contest. At night in a very bad game the Netherlands beat Australia 4 - 3. Australia had held the lead twice in this game.

18 August. The Netherlands flattered only to deceive in its game versus South Korea. After three innings the host team led 5 - 1, two of the runs being homers. Charles Urbanus homered in the first frame, and doubled in the third, this double was followed by a homer from Ben Richardson. South Korea managed to wrest the lead from the Netherlands in the seventh inning, making the score 8 - 7, and went on to win 9 - 8. South Korea was enabled to draw abreast of the Netherlands when the latter team made five errors in one inning. The Netherlands hit four homers in this game. That night Japan and Cuba battled to a 1 - 1 tie.

19 August. In the afternoon South Korea beat Cuba 4 - 2. The night game saw Japan held scoreless for five innings by Australia, and then scoring in innings 6, 7, and 8, to run out victors by 8 - 0.

20 August. The afternoon game produced a magnificent pitching performance by Ronnenbergh for the Netherlands. Aply supported by his fielders, he went 11 innings, got two strike-outs, gave up nine walks, and allowed only three hits. Japan used three pitchers, losing to the Netherlands 2 - 1. That night Cuba beat Australia 10 - 3.

21 August. The afternoon game resulted in a win for South Korea over Australia 8 - 3. Once again the Australians displayed extreme thoughtlessness in their base-running. The night game witnessed another easy win over the Netherlands by Cuba 13 - 0. Cuba increased its total of homeruns in the tournament to twentyone, eleven of them in the two games versus the Netherlands.

22 August. Japan beat South Korea 8 - 6 in the afternoon. At night, in the final game of the tournament, Australia won its first victory, beating the Netherlands 1 - 0.

Standings. 1. Japan, played 8, won 6, tied 1, points 13. 2. South Korea, played 8, won 5, lost 3, points 10. 3. Cuba. played 8, won 4, lost 3, tied 1, points 9. 4. The Netherlands, played 8, won 3, lost 5, points 6.

5. Australia, played 8, won 1, lost 7, points 2.

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#### MISCELLANY.

Mr. Sadanori Gunji, a Japanese journalist who visited London in February gathering material for articles on baseball in Europe, informs me that he has launched baseball in Vienna.

The XIII Central American and Caribbean Games were held in Medellin, Colombia, from the 7th. to 22nd. July. The baseball competition had seven entrants, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia, and the Netherlands Antilles. Cuba won the tournament, Nicaragua was placed second, Puerto Rico third. Fourth place saw a tie between Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. Colombia was sixth, and Netherlands Antilles seventh.

After five years of effort the Botswana Softball Association has been formed. The first ever national softball tournament staged in Botswana resulted in the Vikings Club of Gaborone emerging as national champions.

The Southeast Asian Games to be held at Jakarta, Indonesia in 1979 will include softball. Countries in the SEA games are Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Belgium, which according to C.E.B.A., by finishing third in the 1977 European Championships, had qualified for a place in the World Championships being held in Italy this year, has been removed from the contest by AINBA, on the grounds that their standard of play is so low that it would detract from the status of the event. The Belgian Baseball and Softball Federation is quite naturally incensed by this decision. It accepts that it would most likely be much weaker than any of the other competitors, but having asked its players to arrange their holidays for the period of the tournament, and arranging for its American coach Eric Affeldt to come to Europe especially for this event, considers that it has had a very raw deal from the world body.