



# BASEBALL

## Mercury.

No. 21. MAY 1979.

### HUMBERSIDE 1978 by Barry Marshall.

#### Humberside League

	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
Hull Royals "A"	5	5	0	10
Hull Royals "B"	4	3	1	6
Hull Giants	5	2	3	4
Hull Aces	6	0	6	0

#### B.A.B.S.F. Championship

	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
Hull Aces	4	3	1	6
Hull Giants	4	2	2	4
Hull Royals.	4	1	3	2

#### Junior League

	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
Danes	6	6	0	12
Redsox	5	3	2	6
Pirates	6	2	4	4
Rebels	5	0	5	0

With only three senior clubs on Humberside, the Humberside League was run mainly to attract new and young players into the sport. Hull Royals entered two teams in this league and finished occupying first and second places.

To decide on our representative in the semi-final of the B.A.B.S.F. Club Championship, we ran a separate competition on a league basis. Hull Aces came out on top, qualifying for a game with Crawley Giants, champions of the Southern League.

This semi-final proved to be a marathon game with Crawley Giants edging home 4 - 2 in the fourteenth frame, after Aces had missed many chances to win the game.

The biggest success on Humberside was made with the Humberside Junior Squad and Hull Danes.

In the first ever All-Star Junior Tournament, staged at Nottingham, the Humberside and the South played a fantastic final game. Humberside came from behind to win 6 - 5 in the final frame.

Hull Danes played Isleworth Tigers in the Junior Championship Final. In a close and evenly fought game, Danes eventually overcame the Tigers by a score of 5 - 2.

In both these Junior games the Player of the Day Award was won by pitcher Martin Adamson of Humberside and Hull Danes. In the Junior All-Star Final he collected 17 strike-outs from 6 frames; and he proved difficult to score against in the Junior Championship Final.

The pleasing thing about these Junior Tournaments was the standard of baseball shown by all areas, and the sporting manner in which the games were played; this augurs well for the future.

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, all local fixtures were not completed.

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NOTTINGHAM 1978 by S.M. Williams.

Nottingham Lions again won the Midland League Championship, not losing a game all season, and the final positions were:- 1. Nottingham Lions 10 points; 2. Southglade Hornets 8 points; 3. Bromsgrove Dodgers 4 points; 4. Pressac Panthers 2 points.

The senior "Player of the Year" Trophy was won by Tony Mee, second baseman and pitcher for Southglade Hornets B.C.

Top Valley Tigers took the Nottingham Junior League title, winning all their league games, and the final placings were:-

1. Top Valley Tigers 12 points; 2. Nottingham Lion Cubs 6 points;
3. Southglade Eagles 6 points; 4. Chesterfield Aces 0 points.

Lee Butler was awarded the "Player of the Year" Trophy, playing consistently well at short-stop for Nottingham Lion Cubs.

It occurs to me that someone is going to question why Nottingham Lions ended up with 10 points and not the maximum 12 points, not having lost a game: this was due to the fact that they forfeited 2 points when failing to make a team for one game.

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The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in September. Letters and articles for publication should be sent to William Morgan, 6 B, Stevenage Road, London, S.W.6. Subscription for three issues is 30p.

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BELGIUM.

During the transfer period, which in Belgium runs from 1st. October to 30th. November inclusive, a number of notable moves took place.

Willy Lagrilliere, an international, has moved from Spartans to the champions, General Motors. Ronny Devriendt (Spartans), the third best pitcher in the Belgian competition in 1978, has gone to Borgerhout Squirrels. Pitcher Patrick Marien (Bell) has returned to his former club Borgerhout Squirrels.

The most sensational transfer has been that of Arthur Weyenberg, international player with Luchtbal and Belgium's number one pitcher, who this year with his brothers Francois and Patrick will be playing for Berchem Stars.

The team management of Luchtbal have imposed strict discipline on their players. So players who do not train, or only train sporadically, are set to one side. Luchtbal are not prepared to relax their rules, even for players who might consider themselves to be indispensable.

Because of his job with the fire brigade, Arthur Weyenberg is not always punctual for practise or even to play. The Luchtbal slogan is "No practise - No game!" As a result in 1978 Arthur Weyenberg played in only 10 out of the 22 championship games. He pitched in 9 games, winning 5 and losing none. With an E.R.A. of 1.09, he could have been set to end up as the best pitcher in 1978, but he did not pitch sufficient innings to qualify. He has decided to move to a club which will let him pitch more often. Naturally Berchem Stars are in high spirits at gaining such an outstanding pitcher.

The best players in Belgium in 1978 were :- Batting, Eddy Mathijs (Antwerp) .431, best pitcher Raymond Vanherck (Luchtbal) E.R.A. 1.54; MVP Albert De Lannoy (Borgerhout); best rookie Paul De Boeck (Borgerhout); home run king Albert De Lannoy with 7.

At the annual general meeting of the Belgian Baseball and Softball Federation it was decided, that in 1980 the premier baseball division should be reduced to 8 teams. This entails the relegation of 4 teams at the end of the 1979 season. The four relegated teams will be joined by four other teams to form a second division.

The premier softball division will comprise 8 teams in 1980. From 1980 one team will be relegated from the premier division, and one team promoted form the second division.

The baseball competition will run from 22nd. April to 2nd. September; there will be a break in the competition during the period of the European Championships.

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PROGRESS IN NORTHERN EUROPE by Lars Åberg.

I visited Denmark in August of last year, arriving in Copenhagen on Saturday, 19th. August. During Saturday afternoon, a game between Gentofte Monks(our hosts) and Horsholm Comets was played. The Monks won 5 - 4. Bertil Erlandsson and myself umpired; Bertil at the plate, and I covered the bases. We showed them how a two umpire system works.

Right after the game a clinic(on behalf of CEBA) was held. Apart from the Monks and the Comets, two other teams attended. Bertil instructed in batting fundamentals, while I dealt with baserunning and fielding. There were some 50 participants.

Before I went down to Copenhagen, I contacted about 15 baseball fans in the South of Sweden, e.g. Skane, the part of Sweden across The Sound from Copenhagen. Five representatives arrived, one company from Lund and another from Malmo. Bertil is now in charge of the South of Sweden and Denmark as far as new clubs are concerned. Several clubs may emerge in the south of our country. Add the Danish clubs to them and we(CEBA) will have a stronghold in the South of Scandinavia as well.

Denmark has a total of ten teams, if we include both baseball and softball; and five clubs. The Monks are located in Gentofte(North Copenhagen). Horsholm whose club is sponsored by the Japanese T.V. company AIWA, is a town about halfway between Copenhagen and Helsingor(the town of Hamlet). Lynge B.C., Aurehøj softball, and Skovserne softball/baseball.

Horsholm has an American coach, and has about 30 members ranging in age from 12 to 30. Lynge B.C. had until the clinic only softball for boys and girls, but after the clinic the boys were considering starting baseball. The club was formed in the spring of 1978, and had 25 members. Aurehøj has softball for boys and girls. Skovserne is a new club which only has baseball.

Munkene, like most other baseball/softball clubs in Denmark operates in close contact with the schools. It has some 40 members, girls and boys, and the club plays baseball and softball. The club obtained permission from the San Diego Padres to use the Padres emblem. The Monks appear to be well organised(this applies to the other clubs also), and the teams seem to be well disciplined. The president of the Monks is Svend Eriksen, he is also president of Dansk Baseball og Softball Forbund. Svend works hard to keep contact with the press, but we saw no journalists at the clinic.

Having dealt with affairs in Denmark, I will now deal with my contacts with Finland.

On Thursday, 30th. November I received a telephone call from Turku, Finland; the call was to say that on Saturday, 2nd. December, Erkki Heikkila of the Finnish Pesapallo Federation, wanted to see a representative of the Swedish Baseball and Softball Federation. The Finnish Pesapallo Federation, which was applying for membership of the international baseball and softball federations, had evidently run into trouble. We met on Saturday, 2nd. December, and the following points were discussed.

1. The Finnish Pesapallo Liitto(PPL) decided in November to adopt both baseball and softball into its programme. Pesapallo is a Finnish version of baseball played since the 1920's.

2. PPL applied for membership in CEBA, the European Softball Federation, and the International Softball Federation. For some reason they did not have an address for AINBA, so I gave them the details for both Bruno Beneck and Carlos Garcia.

Upon applying for membership of the International Softball Federation, they were refused membership by Don Porter of the ISF, who declared that the ISF was not willing to include the PPL's softball section as a member of the world softball family. I could not understand this; and I promised to write to the ISF, and tell them about the longstanding contacts that we have had with interested people in Finland.

3. Further, Erkki wanted information as to where the Finns could buy baseball and softball equipment in Sweden; I gave them three addresses.

4. As soon as we have them ready, the PPL wanted the playing schedules of our Federation for both baseball and softball. The PPL wants to give us some international competition.

5. One of the most important points discussed was the education of coaches, umpires, and scorers. We decided that it was simple to apply the SBSF system to the PPL. That would do for a start. Later on the PPL could draw up its own programme. It is quite simple for us to cross the Baltic from Stockholm to

- Turku, to conduct clinics for players, coaches, and umpires.
6. This summer Erkki wants to bring some school teams from Finland to Stockholm, to play games against Swedish school teams.
  7. Erkki wants girls softball teams to visit Finland this summer. Sweden is sure to go, and it is hoped that Italy will send a team.
  8. One idea that I discussed with Erkki was the possibility of arranging a Nordic Junior Championship tournament for both baseball and softball. Denmark, Sweden, and Finland have teams in this age group, but I have not succeeded in making contacts in Norway.
  9. Because of the meeting between Erkki, myself, and the chairman of the Finnish Association in Stockholm, Mr. Onni Kontinen, there is a chance that the Finns in Stockholm will compete in one of our minor baseball leagues.
  10. This season Erkki has formed a baseball/softball club in Turku.
  11. Erkki Heikkila, who has worked so hard for the growth of baseball and softball in Finland, is a member of the international committee of the PPL. Now the PPL has appointed him to head the baseball/softball sections within the PPL.

I have been told that Erkki is one of the best pesapallo coaches in Finland, and he also played on the Finnish national field hockey team in the 1952 Olympic Games.

Apart from Turku, there are some baseball/softball clubs in Helsinki.

12. In the summer of 1978, the Swedish national softball team for women took part in the Livorno International Softball Tournament. The Swedish team finished fourth out of eight. Helena Dahl (Sweden) was chosen as the most valuable player from among all the players at Livorno. Two Finnish girls from Turku went with the Swedish team to act as observers in Italy. A most interesting cooperation between the SBSF and the PPL. The two Finnish girls Sirpa Helin and Teja Rasanen were very grateful for the great help given to them by the SBSF.

Finland might well emerge as one of the major baseball and softball nations in Europe.

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#### MISCELLANY.

Japan sent its national team to Australia in February of this year. A nine game series was played between Japan and Australia, Japan winning by 5 games to 4.

Roger Panaye, secretary of CEBA, has written a history of the first 25 years of the federation. As one of the founder members of the federation he has been able to write with first hand knowledge, and the book contains a tremendous amount of detail. Some of the member countries have supplied histories of the game in their respective countries. The book is in English.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy can do so by arranging for the transfer of 120 Belgian francs to the account of the Federation Europeenne Baseball, Continental Bank N.V., Kipdorp 10 - 12, B - 2000, Antwerpen. A/c no. 590 - 5014131.

The Southern Baseball League has a new member this year, Regents Park Eagles, this club was playing last season with the Japanese group in Regents Park.

Liverpool Trojans, British Club Champions, arranged a visit to the Netherlands this spring; they had been invited by Canon De Spartaan of Amsterdam. Their hosts Canon De Spartaan obtained Canon as a new sponsor during the winter, Canon are makers of cameras, calculators etc. De Spartaan are receiving 30,000 guilders a year (about £6,000) De Spartaan arranged spring training at Winter Haven, Florida, at a cost of 20,000 guilders.

General Motors won the Belgian championship in 1978 with 18 wins, and 4 losses. Luchtbal came second, and a surprising third was Royal Antwerp Eagles formerly one of the also rans.

In women's softball Brasschaatse won the Belgian title for the third year in a row.

The European baseball championship for 13-15 year olds is being staged in Madrid this summer from 21st. to 25th. July. It is expected that Spain, The Netherlands, France, and Yugoslavia will compete.

The dates of the European Baseball Championship have been altered from 28th. July - 5th. August, to 11th. - 19th. August, the tournament will be played in Trieste.

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