

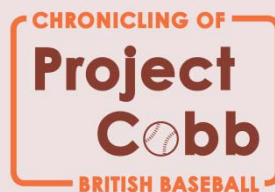
# BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 7

<http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/mercury.html>

August 1974

Sweden versus Great Britain	1
European baseball	2
1974 National Final	2
Junior baseball in Britain	3
Puerto Rican baseball	3
International softball	3
Haarlem Baseball Week	4
Miscellany	4



<http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/cobb.html>

# BASEBALL

## Mercury.

NO.7. AUGUST 1974.

### SWEDEN v. GREAT BRITAIN by Don Smallwood.

This game was the qualifying round for the 1975 European Championships which are to be held in Spain. Four countries, Holland, Spain, Italy, and Belgium were considered to be qualified for direct entry, while other countries had to play qualifying games this season. The other qualifying contest was to be between France and West Germany.

The British Amateur Baseball Federation received relatively short notice that we had to play Sweden in the qualifying round, being drawn to play away made a tremendous effort necessary. The B.A.B.F. decided to go ahead and reserve travel facilities for a party of twelve, even before we could guarantee that twelve players would be both willing and able to pay the roughly £60 cost of the trip.

We decided that clubs would be asked to raise funds so that players selected would only have to meet half of the travel costs. The party was to leave Immingham for Goteborg on the Anlia Tor Line ferry on July 4th. and proceed from Goteborg to Stockholm by train for the game, which was to be played on Saturday, July 6th. The trip costed-out at £54 per head. The B.A.B.F. decided that in the event of our qualifying for the championships, players who had been willing to make the journey to Stockholm would have a prior claim for places in the team to travel to Spain. The B.A.B.F. had requested Sweden to make the qualifying round a single game instead of the best of three requested by C.E.B.A. This was in order to cut down on expenses and also the amount of time players would have to sacrifice from their employment.

As a result of tremendous efforts in fund-raising by means of sponsored walks, sponsored swims, discos, jumble sales etc., we finally decided that we would pay half-fares for a party of fourteen. The selected party was as below:-  
Manager, Clive Megson; Players, Keith Marshall, Pete Darnell, Alan Asquith, R. Imms, Brian Marshall, Bill Casey, George Ackrill, Bill Cornforth, Mike Harrold, M. Langton, T. Mee, J. Wiltshire, and C. Trevor.

Great Britain went down 9-1, and so we had our hopes dashed of playing in the 1975 European Championships. The Swedish team has improved greatly in the past few seasons, and the guidance of an American coach has stamped its mark on their play. Great Britain was never really in the game, and without taking anything away from the Swedish victory, the very long journey did have an adverse effect on our team. After a twenty-five hour sea voyage they had to take a train right across Sweden; not ideal preparation for a game of such importance.

In the opening innings neither team scored, and Clive Megson's gamble on Alan Asquith's pitching seemed to be coming off. I say gamble as Alan for years the country's leading pitcher had given up pitching a couple of years back as his arm was troubling him. Even so early in the game it was obvious that the Great Britain batting was not what it should be against the Swedes' moderate pitching. Sweden collected runs in couples at intervals throughout the game. Only once did Great Britain look a threat but this was short-lived through bad base-running.

One thing that did emerge from the game is that the national team must be allowed to play together more often, a lot was given away through misunderstanding each other's play. Disappointment is very deep of course, but I along with every baseball follower in the country have a great respect and admiration for the players and manager who undertook the trip at such short notice and at no small expense to themselves. Even though they lost the game they had triumphed over tremendous odds in even being able to fulfil the fixture.

There is a possibility that Sweden will visit us later in the season, and all in the Great Britain party feel that they could avenge the defeat if we meet Sweden here.

All is not lost for next season however because the B.A.B.F., the controlling body of the sport in the United Kingdom are studying the possibility of touring Spain at the time of the European Championships with a series of challenge matches to be arranged, and giving our players the opportunity of watching the other countries competing.

I understand that the Swedish Baseball Federation is approaching C.E.B.A. with a request that Great Britain should be included in the Championships. From the ashes of defeat has arisen the hope and support of our national team, something that has been missing for a long time.

\* \* \* \* \*

C.E.B.A.

1973 Statistics.

	Players.		Umpires.	Scorers.	Clubs.	Fields.
	Senior	Junior				
Holland	5,336	3,498	250	30	170	140
Italy	5,120	15,807*	411	97	347	64
Spain	720	2,596	53	18	230	8
Belgium	237	176	12	18	10	10
France	97	124	9	-	6	4
Sweden	140	190	5	10	13	3
West Germany	70	90	6	4	6	4
Great Britain	204	-	6	7	16	16
San Marino(x)	23	123	1	2	1	1
Czechoslovakia	185	30	8	2	8	3
Totals	12,132	22,634	761	188	807	253
Increase over 1972	+ 2,633	+ 10,767	+ 154	+ 80	+ 105	+ 67

\* Italy gained 10,251 juniors in 1973.

(x) San Marino 1972 figures, none available for 1973.

The Italian club Fortitudo Amaro Montenegro won the European Cup in 1973.

The European Championships will be played in Barcelona (or Madrid) in Spain, from the 10th. to the 20th. of July 1975.

The first European Junior Championships will be played from the 15th. to 18th. August 1974 at Hilversum (Holland).

Mr. Roger C. Panaye, Secretary General of C.E.B.A., was awarded the Berezowski Cup, as co-founder of the F.E.B.-C.E.B.A. in 1953 and for his 20 years of work in the European Federation.

\* \* \* \* \*

NATIONAL CUP by Granada.

Nottingham Lions won the B.A.B.F. Cup beating Hull Royals in a really close and exciting final. Hull Royals, having defeated their arch rivals Hull Aces in the previous round by 4-3, journeyed to Nottingham with every confidence that they would carry off the National Trophy once again. The outcome while disappointing for the Humberside club is a fine thing for baseball and should help the Midland club in its effort to further the sport in Nottingham.

Lions really won the game in the opening innings, when after two frames they led 3-0, having been helped by some indifferent fielding by the Royals. In the third innings the game swung towards Hull when they mounted a rally and runs were scored by K. Marshall, B. Cornforth, and A. Jelley. On reflection this was the point at which Royals could have taken a good lead, but they left baserunners stranded. Royals certainly did not play as well as they have shown themselves to be capable of playing, but on the day Nottingham rose to the big occasion and fully deserved their first ever National Cup Final victory.

The only Royals' player to emerge with flying colours was pitcher, Keith Marshall who worked hard for his twelve strike-outs, but sadly did not have adequate fielding support from his team-mates. Nottingham had no man of the match or brilliant individuals, it was a real team performance that won them British baseball's premier trophy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Baseball Mercury appears four times a year. Subscription for four issues is 30p. P.O.'s. and all correspondence should be sent to William Morgan, 89 Sterndale Road, Hammersmith, London, W.14.

The next issue should appear in November.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### JUNIOR BASEBALL.

This season has seen the revival of schools baseball in Hull after a lapse of more than twenty years. The Junior Baseball Association formerly Yorkshire Babe Ruth League is enjoying a boom in recruitment and interest amongst boys in the city. This has not been an overnight success story, but is due to sheer hard work by a go ahead committee and an energetic secretary, Bill Jewitt, the officers have been ably backed by the coaching of L. Pettit, G. Jackson, P. Shorten and many others.

Schools with baseball teams are Alderman Cogan and Boulevard, Alderman Cogan having the honour of being the first school to play a game, when they met the Hull Junior Baseball Association. Although losing to the Hull J.B.A., Alderman Cogan created a very good impression, and credit must be given to the teacher who formed and coached the team, Mr. B. Morrell.

The Junior Baseball Association had earlier commenced their season with the customary Players v. Coaches game. This season the Players' Under-12 team surprised the Coaches by winning 18-17. Frank Parker Jr. son of former Aces and International player Frank Parker hit two homers in the game.

Another development in junior baseball is that the Nottingham Junior Baseball Association has been granted permission by the Nottingham Education Committee to approach schools with a view to introducing the game into the schools recreation programme.

A tournament is planned for this season between the junior baseball players of Hull, Liverpool, Nottingham, and Bromsgrove. Hull Junior Baseball Association travelled to Harrogate on July 4th. to play the first leg of a contest versus the American Boys of Menwith Hill, Harrogate, for this season's Don Smallwood Trophy. Hull won 25-8. A curtain-raiser had been played by the younger boys, and in that game Hull beat the Americans 18-7.

A player with the Boulevard school team Mike Marrazza is a stand-out in every game he plays, and appears to be the greatest prospect to have appeared in Hull for decades. A player in the younger grouping whose name seems to crop up regularly is Carl South, others showing promise are Wayne Parker, Graham Colgrave, and Brian Read.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PUERTO RICO.

A reader in Puerto Rico has sent photostats of many items from his local press bearing on what one writer has described as "Baseball Range War". I was somewhat puzzled by the fact that Puerto Rico was competing in two separate World Championships organised by FIBA and FEMBA, which in any case overlapped in time. The photostats explain the situation. The long established Puerto Rico Amateur Baseball Federation was affiliated to FIBA. The body affiliated to FEMBA was the Central Amateur Baseball League. This latter organisation was formed nine years ago, when a group in the central island towns wished to get their teams admitted into the PRABBF. At the time the federation refused thus causing some individuals to resign, and then to set about organising the CABL. Over the years the CABL set-out to attract the younger players, and has expanded to 37 teams while the PRABBF has 36.

With the setting-up of FEMBA the CABL jumped at the opportunity of joining this new grouping which would enable it to compete internationally. So readers of the Puerto Rican press have been seeing claims and counter-claims as to which team is actually the legitimate representative of the country.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SOFTBALL.

In the previous issue I stated that the 2nd. World Softball Championships for men was played in 1966; this should have read 1968.

The Australian team is to undertake a six weeks World Tour after competing in the 3rd. World Softball Championships for Women at Stratford, Connecticut this month.

I understand that Henry Cooper, former British heavy-weight boxing champion is the President of the British Softball Federation.

Don Porter, Secretary-General of the International Softball Federation was in the Netherlands during June. He had meetings with officers of the Royal Netherlands Baseball and Softball Association and the Belgian Baseball Federation. Belgium has become the 45th. member of the I.S.F.

The I.S.F. has seven affiliates in Europe; Czechoslovakia, Italy, Belgium, United Kingdom, France, Holland, and the Channel Islands.

Czechoslovakia has 22 men's teams and 18 women's teams, with 435 men and 210 women players.

Italy has 175 women's teams with a total of 3062 players.

Belgium has 6 women's teams with 75 players. France has 4 men's teams with 65 players.

Holland has 30 men's teams, 168 women's teams, and 71 Youth teams; with a total of 456 men and 3442 women players.

Channel Islands, no information available.

United Kingdom, position somewhat vague. There appear to be 16 teams in Hampshire with a total of 200 men players. From one communication received from the British Softball Federation I gathered that the game is also played in Plymouth, in Bedfordshire, Yorkshire, Leicestershire, and at St. Luke's College, Exeter.

\* \* \* \* \*

8th. HAARLEM BASEBALL WEEK.

This tournament was staged from Friday, July 12th. to Sunday, July 21st. in the Pim Mulier Stadium. Contestants were Cuba, FIBA World Champions; Holland, University of Arizona, one of the strongest college teams; Grand Rapids Sullivans, a leading team of the National Baseball Congress; and USEF, an all-star team drawn from the U.S. Forces in Europe.

Earlier in the year the Haarlem City Council had decided to double the lighting power at the stadium from 150 lux to 300 lux at a cost of 150,000 guilders. At the time of its construction in 1963 the stadium had the most powerful lighting system of any stadium in Holland.

Each team met the others twice, making a total of 20 games in the tournament. Two games were played each day, generally one during the afternoon and another at night. Once again the tournament was a great success.

Final Standings: 1. Cuba 8-0, 16pts. 2. Arizona U. 5-3, 10pts. 3. Grand Rapids Sullivans 4-4, 8pts. 4. Holland 3-5, 6pts. 5. USEF 0-8, 0pts.

Individual Trophy Winners. Best Pitcher; Ray Peloquin (Holland); Best Hitter; Hassey (Arizona) .519; Most Valuable Player; Dudek (USEF); Most Valuable Dutch Player; Alfio Troeman; Most Spectacular Player; Armando Capiro (Cuba); Homerun leaders: Dave Stegman (Arizona) and Howard Schreyer (Sullivans) each with 3. Bad Luck Trophy; USEF.

There were 47 homeruns hit during the tournament; Cuba 16, Arizona 10, Sullivans 9, Holland 6, USEF 6.

Ray Peloquin, Best Pitcher, was used by Holland in relief five times, giving up only one earned run in more than twelve innings. Another Dutch pitcher, Jan Leurs had the experience of only giving-up four runs during the tournament, each being a solo homerun.

Possibly the most exciting game of the tournament was the second meeting between Cuba and USEF. The World Champions started their second-string versus the weakest team participating, but had to hastily send in their first-string to avoid an upset defeat, finally emerging victors by 6-5.

\* \* \* \* \*

MISCELLANY.

American coach, Nick Testa was in Hull in mid-June arranging affairs for a visit by an Italian team on August 18th. The Italians are playing in a triangular tournament with Humberside and Bromsgrove. While staying in Hull Nick gave coaching sessions for local players.

Cuba is to play a best of seven series versus Japan in September. Leading figures in FEMBA have also persuaded Cuba to take part in the 2nd. Inter-continental Cup tournament which is scheduled for 1975 in Canada. The other countries which will compete are Canada, U.S.A., Japan, Italy, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua (or Colombia), and South Korea (or Taiwan).

An unusual item appeared in The Sunday Times some weeks ago, a photograph of the Derby Baseball Club team which won the National Baseball Association Cup in 1897. The group also included club chairman Sir Francis Ley, who, if memory of certain researches I once conducted is to be relied on, was then chairman of the N.B.A. The cup in the picture was almost certainly that presented by Mr. A.G. Spalding to the Baseball Association of Great Britain and Ireland in 1890.

\* \* \* \* \*