

The Fearless Spectator



By Charles McCabe, Esquire

It was one of those uncommonly clement days that occasionally afflict Muskogee, Okla. It was the bottom of the depression and there was a ball game going on.

Muskogee, as you are doubtless aware, has three banks and many good oil refineries. It produces corrugated iron, sheet metal products, shipping containers, glass, clothing and canned goods. It had 21,500 telephones at last count: It is the seat of Bacone Indian University.

That town and that day were an important milestone in the career of Paul Richards, one of the few really competent switch-pitchers in baseball history. He is now general manager of the Houston Colts 45s.

Mr. Richards talked for all baseball managers when he once said he would as soon finish last as second. He read the Bible, and was a catcher for the New York Giants when they won the World Series in 1933.

Richards is famous among baseball managers for taking a dim view of writers. In 1956 at Baltimore he placed an Iron Curtain between the noble athletes and the writers covering them. If you wanted to interview one of the critters, you had first to get Richard's permission.

Which led one writer to observe "It's a hell of a situation when a working newspaperman has to make appointments to give free publicity to a lot of ball players." Nowhere has the function of a baseball writer been better defined.

In his playing days, Paul Richards was one of those babes who could do almost anything with a baseball. He started out as a pitcher who could throw equally well with his right and left arm—a feat of almost unprecedented virtuosity. In the majors, however, he ended up as catcher for the Giants and the Detroit Tigers.

In between he was a shortstop. For the Muskogee club in the Western Assn.

On that happy day, before he hit the big leagues, Paul Richards was a principal in what must have been one of the most extraordinary ball games ever played. I was told about it by Jack Edwards, manager of the Filing Hotel in San Francisco, who was there.

Though a shortstop, Richards was occasionally used as a relief pitcher by a manager who remembered his versatility.

On this eventful day, he was on the bench. The bases were loaded, as Mr. Edwards recalls it, and no one was out. Richards was brought in to pitch.

He struck out the first batter he faced, throwing as a leftie. The second batter he threw to as a right-hander, and fanned him, too.

Then came one of those glorious concatenations of fate. He was faced by a switch hitter.

Richards and the double-gaited fellow stared at each other with deepest intensity. The lean, serious Texan from Waxahachie can be a rough boy when he stares at you.

Richards started throwing leftie. Then he threw with his right hand. Meantime the batter switched from the left to the right side of the plate several times.

(Apparently he could get away with this kind of thing in the Western Assn., but it's against the rules in the major leagues to switch once you've taken your stance on a certain side of the plate, though there's no such rule about pitching.)

Richards registered proper disgust. The crowd was howling with the emotion of it all. Richards stood motionless on the mound with the ball in BOTH his hands, waiting for the batter to make up his mind. Quietly, Richards used his right arm, and fanned him. Them was the days.

Yacht Club Hosts National Regatta

Officials of the King Harbor Yacht Club have announced they were successful in their bid to host the National Championship Regatta for the Victory Class Sloops.

Between 35 and 40 of the racing yachts will hit the starting line in the first of a five-race series on Saturday, Aug. 17. Two races on Aug. 17 and one on Aug. 18 will

be held in conjunction with the first annual International Surf Festival.

Key factors in the selection of King Harbor is the recent completion of the modern hoist facility and the sailing conditions which prevail off the site of the new \$200,000 yacht club facility currently under construction.

Defending champion Jim Cost of the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club is expected to have his hands full with local King Harbor skippers, including Bill Meier, former National champ; Wes Hillendahl, Dick Stewart and Joe Sansing.

Other sailing events to be held on the big weekend will include the start of the annual King Harbor Malibu Invitational Regatta, sponsored by the Malibu Yacht Club, in which 30 yachts are expected to head up the coast within close range of thousands of spectators.

It has also been announced that Frank J. (Bud) Stevenson, Chief of the Los Angeles County Lifeguard Service, has been named general chairman of the International Surf Festival, which will run from Aug. 16 to 18.



FRANK STEVENSON Festival Head

National Loop Suffers Loss, Ends Season

Torrance National Little League was eliminated from the sectional All-Star playoffs the past week when North Venice Little League came up with four runs in the fifth inning and went on to a 5-2 decision. Home runs by Gary Williams and Greg Zundel overshadowed a two-run blast by losing pitcher Mike Abrams as North Venice advanced to the sectional finals.

Abrams allowed six hits, walked four and sent 19 batters down swinging, but a two-run homer by Zundel in the fifth frame and William's four-bagger were too much to handle.

WILLIAMS WAS the big man for the winners. He went the full six innings on the mound, allowing only three hits while striking out eight and walking two.

In addition to his mound chores and home run, Williams singled in the big fifth to bring across Chris Jacobson with the final run of the game. Zundel homered after Jerry Indvick and Steve Wright had singled.

NORTH VENICE earned a 1-0 lead in the second inning, but Torrance National came right back in the third stanza when Abrams homered after Tim Venable was safe on a fielder's choice.

Going into the fifth inning, it appeared Torrance National's 2-1 lead might hold up since the eventual winners had collected only two hits. Suddenly the storm broke and North Venice tallied four runs on four hits to end Torrance hopes of a win.

IN OTHER playoff action, Los Altos of Long Beach gained a 4-2 win over East Fullerton, its sixth triumph of the playoffs, to move into the finals.

Three consecutive walks with two away in the fifth frame helped produce three runs for Los Altos.

EARLIER, East Fullerton earned a 2-1 nod from Manhattan Premier to advance into the semi-finals. East Fullerton tallied both of its runs in the first inning and made it stand up the entire route. Manhattan's only tally came in the top of the sixth frame.

Youth Grid Loop Sets Registration

Veterans Eye Young CRA Foes

California Racing Assn. veterans Bob Hogle and Allen Heath will have plenty of competition Wednesday when the CRA cars go in a 30-lap main event at Ascot Park in Gardena.

Up-and-coming Don Melton, second-ranked Dee Jones, and converted motorcycle champ Don Hawley are all gunning for a win in the big cars. Although Jones trails Hogle in the race for the CRA point crown, the Phoenix, Ariz., driver has yet to win a main event. Hogle has captured six while Heath has three feature triumphs to his credit.

Tryouts and registration are currently being conducted by the Torrance Pop Warner Football Assn. at Torrance High School.

Interested boys and parents are asked to come to the field, located behind the high school on Plaza Del Amo, on weekdays between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday workouts for the various teams are scheduled between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

THE TORRANCE organization plans to field seven teams for the 1963 season. Four of the squads will be in the Pee Wee Division, two will be in the Midget group, and one will play in the Junior Bantam class. To be eligible for the Pee Wees, a boy must have been born from 1951 to 1953 and weigh between 65 and 90 pounds. The Midget teams will include boys born between 1950 and 1952 who weigh between 85 and 110 pounds.

Golf Tourney Winners Named, Play-offs Set

Winners in the first of a series of teen-age golf tournaments at Sea-Aire Golf Course were announced this week. The tourneys are being conducted by the Teen-Age Golf Club in three divisions.

Winners in the first division were Tom Krig and Dennis Meyer with a combined 49 for the nine holes. Second place went to Gordon Mahon and Billy Lydon with a 52. Second division honors were picked up by Gerald Neece and Larry Maddix, 58, an George Broatch and Mike McEachern, 59.

A team of brothers, Bob and Ken Kurtz, picked up laurels in the third division with a 64, and Janice and Mike Kennedy,

a sister and brother team, turned in a 67 for second place.

An Aug. 8 date is set for the two-man best ball tournament, while the novices will play for their sectional championships on Aug. 22 and 23. A tune-up for the championships is planned for Aug. 24, and the club championships will be decided during a two-day play-off Aug. 29 and 30.

The Teen-Age Golf Club is sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department and meets each Thursday afternoon at Sea-Aire Park. Membership is open for boys and girls from nine years of age through high school.



MOVE OVER . . . Bill Bartley of Torrance attempts to get over a hurdle as the two Hot Rod drivers come off a turn on the dirt track at Ascot Park in Gardena. The two men will be back in action this afternoon at Ascot as Harrison attempts to maintain his jalopy point lead while Bartley tries to advance from his seventh-place standing.



NO PICNIC . . . Three steeplechase riders get set for a rugged landing during a recent race at Ascot Park in Gardena. Tonight, J. C. Agajanian will have four of the top drivers in 1963 back to compete in the 15-lap main event on the twist, turn and jump course. A huge field of over 150 riders is expected to compete when practice laps begin

at 7 p.m. and the first race starts at 8:15. Skip Van Leeuwen, Sid Payne, Clark White and Jack Simmons are the big four to date at Ascot, but from national TT champs Dick Dorresteyn and Dick Hammer are expected to provide plenty of trouble.

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Sports

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Local 'Pilots' Successful In National Competition

Loudly whirring engines and snapping rubber bands will continue to monopolize the sound waves at Naval Air Station Los Alamitos today as the National Model Airplane Championships come to a close.

Two Torrance speed enthusiasts have already left their mark on a top field of competitors that included five national record-shattering performances.

Lee Hines, 20346 Hawthorne Blvd., a 24-year-old flyer, re-

peated his national triumph of 1957 by keeping his glider plane in the air for 1 minute, 17.6 seconds to earn another first place.

RONNIE YOUNG, 19, 3314 W. 168th St., proved slightly less fortunate, but still came out with honors. Young had the misfortune to be entered in the senior division of the free flight Nordic A-1 glider division where Robert Beecroft, 17.6 seconds to earn another national mark.

Beecroft watched his glider stay aloft for 15 minutes while Young's glider hit the ground after 14 minutes, 11 seconds.

THE MEET, which has attracted over 1,000 entrants and 7,000 precision-built models from throughout the nation, is sponsored by the Academy of Model Aeronautics and is in its 32nd year of presentation.

Two of the new records were established Tuesday in the senior division competition, consisting of hobbyists from ages 16 to 21.

Pony Loop Play-Offs Set Today

Pacific Riviera Pony League All-Stars will play today at Bullet Park in San Pedro for the District 26 championship. Game time is 1 p.m. for the finale.

Redondo Beach and Rolling Hills met yesterday afternoon in the loser's bracket, with the winner slated to take on San Pedro. The winner of the San Pedro tilt will meet Pacific Riviera for the tourney laurels.

Pacific Riviera defeated Rolling Hills, 5-2 in 10 innings on Friday. They had previously defeated West Torrance and Redondo Beach by identical 6-2 scores.

Hot Rods, Wings Go At Ascot

Flying Wings and flathead jalopies will have the run of Ascot Park this afternoon as the California Jalopy Assn. presents a doubleheader.

Qualifying will begin at 1 p.m. with the first race, a trophy dash, scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m.

Jay East from Colton will return for a try at two in a row against the super modified Flying Wings. Currently, George Durade holds a comfortable lead against super modified foes with 1555 points.



GLIDER CHAMP . . . Lee Hines, 20346 Hawthorne Blvd., receives a trophy from Lt. (j.g.) Art Lyons after winning the hand-launched glider event during indoor competition at the National Model Airplane Championships now underway at the Naval Air Station at Los Alamitos. Hines, 25, repeated his national triumph of 1957 as his plane stayed in the air 1 minute, 17.6 seconds to grab first place.

Big Field Of Cycles Set Today

A free-for-all race to the wire featuring the four 1963 winners is the prediction for the 15-lap main event of an AMA sanctioned motorcycle steeplechase over the jumps at Ascot Park tonight.

Due to the loaded field of some 150 riders, the first race will start at 8:15 p.m. with practice laps over the treacherous twist, turn and jump course at 7.

The course is the seventh of J. C. Agajanian's schedule that leads up to his second annual 50-lap Grand National steeplechase championships at the Gardena track Sept. 20-21.

SKIP VAN LEEUWEN, Lakewood's "Flying Dutchman," and Sid Payne of Bakersfield, who have won twice apiece; and Clark White, Bakersfield cotton rancher, and Jack Simmons of Artesia, who have bagged singletons, top the expert class field.

Dick Dorresteyn of San Pablo and Dick Hammer of Lakewood, both former national TT champions, are big threats to the "Big Four" along with Jack O'Brien of Santa Monica and Dave Palmer of Bakersfield.

EDDIE MULDER of Burbank and Bob Bailey of Torrance resume their monthly dogfight in the amateur 10-lap "main," with Mulder also going for his fifth straight victory in the open trophy dash over the experts.

Doug Christopher, Los Angeles; Ivan Oden, La Habra; Dusty Coppage, Granada Hills, and Paul Wilde, Long Beach, are among the leaders of the 50 rider novice division. Eight laps in main event distance for this class, and there will be a full card of heats and semifinals for all three AMA competitive classes.

Women End First Round In Softball

Torrance Recreation Department's night softball league for women completed its first round last week with the Esabs continuing their league-leading pace. The Esabs have piled up a 6-0 record.

Play in the league will continue, with games slated for El Nido Park on Tuesdays and at McMaster Park on Thursdays. Game time is 7 p.m. for the first contest, and 8:30 p.m. for the nightcap.

League standings at the end of the first round were:

Team	Won	Lost
Esabs	6	0
Corkers	4	2
Debs	3	3
AiResearch	3	3
Comets	2	4
Tyros	1	4*
Thunderbirds	1	4*

*Tied one game