

The Fearless Spectator

By

Charles McCabe, Esquire



In those thin, despairing hours—when as Scott Fitzgerald remarked, it's always 3 in the morning—there is for me a consolation that is inviolable.

I have a pal.

As I twist in my sack and reflect on the vanity of human wishes, the sweetness of death and the blindness of the world's elite to my singular virtues, I know the final sadness can never overtake me. I can always sink into the cotton of companionship.

I can turn to the right of my bed and gaze into the friendly—if a bit vulpine—mug of Roger Maris of the New York Yankees. And I know I have a friend. Further, a friend who will not talk back.

I know he is a friend—a pal, to be exact—because I bought him. For one buck. And as is well known in this country, when you buy love, it's yours forever.

The picture, a handsome eight by ten glossy, shows me and Rog. And the signature, "To my pal, from Roger Maris."

For a buck you, too, can enter the same heaven I now possess so securely, and become a pal of Willie McCovey or Marv Throneberry, or Mickey Mantle—or that great hero and hitless wonder, Bob Buhl of the Cubs.

At any of 3,000 supermarkets around the country, you can order the photo of yourself and Your Pal. That is, if Your Pal happens to be one of 209 major leaguers signed up by Frank Scott, a former Yankee front-office man with an almost unique occupation: He's an agent specializing in the well-hung flesh of baseball players.

For a dollar, Your Pal and you are shown against a background of a player's clubhouse cubicle. This portable background was hauled around spring training camps this season. Your Pal was mugged against it in such a way that space was left at the right for the overprinting of your picture.

Why, it may be asked, did I choose Roger Maris for my buddy? I say the choice was simple. If you have a pal, the least you can have is Roger Maris.

Pure greed motivated me. I wanted to have a pal like nobody else had. Or wanted. An exclusive pal, if you follow me.

Like those ladies who put out a thou or so for a Balmain frock, and don't want to see the same thing on some Palm Beach slob when both next enter the Forum of the Twelve Caesars.

As it is widely known through the world of baseball, charm is not the strong suit of my boy Roger. Like several of our own lordly Giants, he is said to feel he should be paid to smile, and maybe even to breathe.

It is believed that in his sleep he intones the stirring shibboleth of the professional athlete, "What's in it for me?"

He's a red neck. He ain't bright. He's about as lovable as a tarantula. And he ain't even hitting .300 these days. But he's my pal.

It is one of the comforts of our industrial culture that you can buy palship. And buy it for a buck.

Each morning as I gaze on Roger's melancholy kisser (at times he looks like one of the Lake Poets with a crew cut) I reflect on that rough-hewn justice which enables me, a humble sports writer, to be on terms of palship with a man who has mastered our culture's most sacred totem pole—the baseball bat.

It can be argued that I deserve a friend like Maris. I can only reply that sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me.

For Roger is a hero. A sublimary hero, at the moment; but a hero none the more. And we all need something or someone to believe in, no?

There are times I forget that buck I sent in, and persuade myself that there was no cash involved in my relationship with my love object. That Roger sent me the picture all by himself, and for nothing. Hall, Walter Mitty!

So great is the need for love and palship in us all, and so pathetic. What?

Torrance Tappa Kegs Bid For Second Round Crown

Finally pulling together as a team, the Tappa Kegs are suddenly resuming their normal position as the class of the West Coast Slo-Pitch League.

Because of the four-day July Fourth holiday, the entire league drew byes this weekend, but the Torrance club will resume action next week.

Currently the Kegs are tied for the second round lead with a determined Gardena club. In the first round of play, Torrance finished in second place while a veteran team from Los Angeles, the Old Timers, walked off with top honors.

TORRANCE and Gardena now boast identical 5-1 records while the Old Timers can manage no better than a 2-2 record. Gardena spoiled the chance of a second round title for Los Angeles two weeks ago by taking 8-3 and 6-5 victories in a doubleheader.

This Friday Torrance will run up against another surprising outfit — El Segundo, who is now in second place with a 3-1 mark. Manhattan Beach is fifth with a 1-3 record while Santa Ana and Redondo Beach hold down the cellar slot with 1-5 slates.

SHOULD Gardena and Torrance deadlock for the second-

round title, and Tappa Kegs manager Chuck Ryan envisions such a possibility, there will be a one-game playoff to determine who will play Los Angeles for the league championship.

The West Coast League crown will be decided between the first and second-round winners in a five-game series.

LEADING Torrance against El Segundo on Friday at 8 p.m. under the lights at Torrance Park will be a pair of heavy-hitting veterans plus two new phenoms.

Ray Magnante, who according to Ryan has been carrying the club all year long, and

Chuck Schoendienst, who is rebounding from a poor start, will top the Keg offense.

TWO NEWCOMERS, Charlie Williams and Ed James, are also starting to come around with the stick. In past years, Torrance has boasted a team hitting average that often ran to .357, but this year, because of an increase in the caliber of teams faced, the Keg average has dropped to .310.

Ryan also points out that Redondo will once again sponsor the West Coast Slo-Pitch Tournament on Aug. 16, 17, 18 with the top teams in Southern California expected to compete. The Kegs are defending champions.

Inglewood Track Sponsors Annual Thoroughbred Sale

The opportunity that many people have been waiting for—that of getting into the sport of thoroughbred racing with a horse of their own—will be presented at Hollywood Park today and tomorrow when some of the most highly regarded bloodstock in the country will be put up at auction.

Under the auspices of the Caldwell-Heerman Sales Co., the first annual yearling sales at Hollywood Park will start at 1 p.m. today with 47 colts and fillies going under the hammer. This will be followed tomorrow at 11 a.m. by an auction of 58 horses now in training at Hollywood Park.

Many of America's leading breeders are listed as consignees to the yearling sales, among them Mrs. Connie M. Ring of Three Rings Ranch, Mrs. Elizabeth Tippett of Llangollen Farm, William N. Modglin, Curragh Stock Farms,

Mrs. Lillian Butler of Three Way Ranch, Jockey Bill Shoemaker, Harry Silbert and Jack Stein of Shoemaker Stock Farm, Ted Tepper, Corona Breeding Farm, Petaluma Stud and M-T Acres.

HORSEMEN who have inspected their yearlings and their pedigrees are predicting particularly spirited bidding on Modglin's Sir Khalit, a brown colt with the aristocratic parentage of Fleet Nasrullah and Khalita.

His sire and dam were both winners of numerous major stakes, while his grandparents — Nasrullah, on Fleet Nasrullah's side, and Khalid, on Khalita's pedigree — have been two of horseodom's leading sires for years.

THE PROGENY of Nasrullah who died in 1959, won \$1,474,

831 last year, while Kahled has sired many famous runners, among them the record-smashing Swaps.

Among top sires who have sent out stakes winners and who are represented by yearlings in the Hollywood Park sales are Admiral Drake, Anyoldtime, Curraugh King, Cyclotron, Endeavor II, Lodge Nighth, My Host, Native Dancer, Old Pueblo, Pappa Fourway, Prince Khalid, Supreme Court and The Pie King.

Also to be represented by yearlings in the sales are Hollywood Gold Cup winner Hillsdale, whose first foals are now yearlings, and other young stallions of outstanding racing records and pedigrees, including Cohoes, Colonel Mack, Getaway II, Jedge Ruler, Mr. Sam S., Nashville, Royal Orbit, Serialslipper, Sheshoon, Silky Sullivan and Social Climber.

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Tordondo League Picks Top Stars

Tordondo Little League has selected its top 14 players to represent it in the International Little League Tournament.

Selected from the Braves were Tony Kelich, Gary Hulsey, Jerome Kurtik, and Tommy Middleton. The Cubs landed Tom Fischer and Larry Brown on the All-Stars while Jim Mullins was given the nod from the Indians.

George Sharp and Jim Tobin, Dodgers; Greg Loney, Senators; Bruce MacEachern and Greg Keister, Tigers; Corky Arneson, White Sox; and Dean Gibson, Yankees, will also represent Tordondo.

ALTERNATES will be Bob Hornaday, White Sox; Don Shockley, Yankees; Neil Sorenson, Senators; and Mike Weatherman, Indians.

Stu Marshall of the Yankees will manage the All-Stars while Phil Hulsey, manager of the Braves, will serve as coach according to league President Fred Jackman.

MARSHAL believes, "With a little luck, this team has the potential to go a long way in the tournament."

In recent Tordondo action, Jon Walker threw a three-hit shutout to pace the Indians in a 3-0 triumph over the Yankees. The Indians played errorless ball and Mike Sage and Jim Mullins drove in the winning runs.

IT TOOK a 13-strike out performance by Rick Berwick to turn the trick, but the Stars managed a 3-2 victory over the Pirates.

Star catcher Dan Russell belted a double and a single while Ed Miller went 2 for 3 at the dish off losing hurler Jim Von Flotow.

ARLO HAGEN went the entire route on the hill and helped his own cause with two singles and a double as the Orioles handed the Cards an 11-6 pasting.

Bob Sheppard collected

SLO-PITCH RESULTS

TUESDAY LEAGUE
Warriors 10, Touchables 2
Unproductables 17, King Pipe 6
Fire Fighters 6, Mobil 21 5
WEDNESDAY LEAGUE
Mobil 22 7, Rose Bud Dairy 4
Fire Fighters "A" 14, Edison Co. 0
Falcons 12, Computer Science Corp. 0
OPEN SOFTBALL
Torrance Bears 3, Magnavox 0

Fornelli Records New Slam Mark

With only the half-way mark reached in the Torrance Babe Ruth League season, Mike Fornelli owns a new home run record.

Playing for the Oaks, Fornelli has clubbed nine home runs to date, outdistancing the record of eight established five years ago by Joe Montgomery.

Fornelli carries a 462 batting record into the second round of play and leads the league in runs-batted-in with 27 to his credit.

On the other end of the baseball spectrum, Larry Snyder of

three singles while both Sonny Pettit and Don Von Flotow earned a pair of one-baggers for the Orioles. Calvin Davidson tried to keep the Cards in the contest with a double and a single.

Pin Aces Continue Hot Spree

Women continue to dominate the high-scoring picture at Gable House Bowl in Torrance.

Rolling high scores were Connie Brown, 202; Jerry Sansbury, 214; Betty DeGando, 204; Vera Orr, 212; Louise Ansley, 211; Carol McClain, 202; Edith Eakins, 203; and Ruth Emrich, 201.

Others recording top scores were Naomi Kast, 210; Joan Beck 210; Shirley Larsen, 200; Gracey Santa, 209; Kathy Mahoney, 210; Irene Whalen, 218; Lee Walker, 215; and Pearl Morgan, 208.

ONE MAN, Duane Marshall, slipped into the headlines as he bowled a 656 series in the Mixed Four League at Gable House.

Winners of weekly prizes for high series and high games for all classes participating in the Golden States Singles Classic have also been announced by the Torrance Bowl.

IN CLASS A, Robert Nugent, 683; and Bernard Walker, 238; won, while Mike Ellis, 653; and William Cottle, 242, won in the Class B competition. Timothy Galloway, 558; and Warren Underwood and Ruth Lingo, 201, earned Class C prizes.

The winners received \$10 for high series (with handicap) and \$5 for high scratch game.

Republican Men Sponsor Meeting

All residents of the South Bay and Southwest areas have been invited to attend an open meeting of the Peninsula Republican Men's Club on July 9. The meeting will be held at the Smith Brothers Fish Shanty, 4020 Pacific Coast Hwy., at 8 p.m.

Gordon van B. King will speak on the Liberty Amendment.

Chuck O'Brien Tops National Loop Hitters

As the mid-mark in the Torrance National Little League season slips by, Chuck O'Brien of the Angels is clearly head and shoulders above any other batter in the circuit.

O'Brien currently boasts a .615 average while the second place hitter, Terry Waters of the Cubs, is a long drop down at .409.

Making up the top six are Mike Abrams, Phillies, .391; Randy Bishop, Cardinals, .368; Tim Venable, Yankees, .345; and Dick Stellabatte, Yankees, .333.

ALSO DOING efficient work so far are Ken Waters, Cubs, .333; Malcolm Keenan, Cardi-

inals, .300; Don Goss, Yankees, .286; Keith Click, Angels, .286; Jim Fox, Cardinals, .259; and Mark Marquard, Braves, .259.

Recent Major League action found the Angels walking off with two victories against the Braves. In the first contest, Mark Marquard was out-dued by Keith Click and Chuck O'Brien as the Angels grabbed a 4-2 victory.

THE TWO Seraph chuckers allowed only four hits while fanning eight and walking six. Marquard gave up five safeties, struck out nine, and walked four.

Rapping across runs for the winners were Bruce Johnson,

Craig Dietlin, O'Brien and Click. Al Pruitt and Jim Yates drove in runs for the Braves.

CLICK AND O'Brien also combined in the second game as the Angels absorbed a 7-1 win against the Braves and a combo of Dick McCormack and Al Pruitt.

The Angel duo threw a four-hitter, fanning 12 and issuing three free passes. McCormack and Pruitt were touched for five hits, but they struck out 10 and walked six.

O'BRIEN HIT third and fifth-inning home runs to drive across across five tallies for the Angels. Curt Ankerberg

belted a sacrifice fly to center field for the only Brave run.

Sharpshooting Phil Roeder came up with a three-hit, 16-strikeout gem against the Cubs as he led the Yankees to a 4-3 triumph. Roeder suffered control problems and walked eight batters.

KEN WATERS suffered a rugged loss as he gave up only four hits, fanned five and walked an equal number.

Art Caylor pushed across two runs for the Yanks, but it was Roeder's clutch double that drove in the winning tally. Daryl Coast belted the only earned Cub tally across.

THE GIANTS picked up two

wins and one loss in recent Minor League competition and continue to lead their division with a 12-4 record. The Yanks are in second place with a 9-6 mark while the Cubs, at 9-8, are in third.

Trailing are the Braves, 8-8; the Angels, 7-8; the Cardinals, 4-10; the Phillies, 6-8; and the Dodgers, 4-11.

JOHN ROZHON and Don Cook went together on a four-hit contest as the Giants put down the Yankees by an 8-5 margin. The winning combination struck out seven and walked four.

Dennis Kallaberger and Randy Lenehon shared mound

chores for the Yankees and gave up eight hits, three walks and fanned 11 opponents.

ROZHON ALSO took to the mound against the Cubs and came away with an 8-6 victory. The young Giant star fanned 11 while allowing nine hits and six walks. Jerry Pagel threw for the losers, walking none, striking out six, and issuing nine hits.

Faring worse than the Braves, the Giants absorbed a 7-6 licking despite a two-hit game by Frank Maynard. Maynard struck out 14 men but gave up 10 walks as Bart Le Bon took the win with a steady performance.

LE BON allowed seven hits, struck out seven and walked six. John Secondo clobbered a clutch sixth-inning home run to drive across the winning tallies and wound up with four RBIs for the afternoon's work.

The Dodgers split a pair of games, falling before the Angels, 17-5, but taking a 12-9 win from the Phillies.

THE ANGELS received top hitting from Clay Hawks, Glenn Wood, Alan Livesey and Bill Meronek to out-balance the stickwork of Mike Gilbert, Dave Reid, and Dick Kay for the Dodgers.

Alan Livesey threw a seven-hitter for the victory, fanning seven foes and walking eight.

AGAINST THE Phils, Gregg Parr and Steve Dexter earned the win against three Phillie chuckers.

The Yankees managed a 5-2 win against the Braves before dropping a 3-2 decision to the Cubs. John Secondo was the bat star against the Yanks while Steve Mosler threw a four-hit victory.

PAT STOCK fanned 11 men, walked only three and gave up a like number of hits for the Cubs. Bill Skowronek dropped a close nod as he struck out seven, did not allow a walk and gave up five hits.

Coy Hall and Jerry Pagel pushed runs across for the Cubs.