

The Story of the Champion Knights.

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When Coach Marv Wood drove into the school parking lot Wednesday morning, he immediately noticed the campus marquee on Torrance Blvd. which read, "CIF Baseball Champion!" He said it was a good feeling.

Bishop Montgomery won the title the day before with a 6-2 victory over Pomona High.

There wasn't enough room at El Camino College's beautiful ballpark for the hundreds of fans interested in the ball game. You could tell the Pomona crowd by its traditional red, but when the multitude of girls from Montgomery sat along the sidelines in their uniformed blue print skirts and white blouses, it was like a school assembly.

Bishop Montgomery and Pomona reached the championship game by both eliminating three of the original field of 16 league champions. Montgomery went one step further by whipping its five Camino Real League opponents a total of 15 times.

An effective pitching and batting performance against Pomona culminated a string of 19 baseball victories for the Knights.

It wasn't too many moons ago when some "prep experts" regarded the Bishop Montgomery athletic program in a minor capacity.

Now that the school is winning, it will probably be reasoned that Montgomery has a recruiting advantage!

But, actually, a crusade was inspired to settle the school's status and it has played a great psychological role in these achievements.

Since the school was opened in the late 50s, baseball has always been a winning sport at the school, though. The Knights rarely lose at home. A wind factor favors the pitchers and a history of fine pitchers attended the school.

In fact, this was one year pitching was supposed to be an inexperienced variety.

In the warmup to the league campaign Montgomery won only two of five games, beating Aviation and West and losing to El Segundo, Torrance and Leuzinger.

The early season losses were not surprising. After all, Iri Davis and Tom Thomsen who pitched the Knights to an 8-2 championship in 1966 had graduated and the name of the game is often referred to as "pitching!"

When Coach Wood said the job of rebuilding his pitching staff was not as big as it appeared, he thought two young juniors — Mike Ramirez and Chuck Desiderio — might get the job done. What actually gave Wood an optimistic feeling is that for the first time in his coaching career at the school he had an offense.

In 1965 Montgomery and three other schools tied for the championship with 7-5 records simply

Both hurled two victories in the playoffs. In 12 games Perez had an ERA of 0.50 and 80 strikeouts in 70 innings. Graham led the team in hitting with a .409 average in 24 games. (Press-Herald Photo.)

of the postseason makeup games, but Crespi had just finished beating Lasuen in a doubleheader and had nothing to lose by playing that 15th game against Montgomery. Considering Montgomery had gone unbeaten in football, basketball, track and field and tennis, it didn't seem right to rest the case at this point.

The game went five innings and Montgomery ran up a monumental 9-run lead while Rich Perez coasted with a no-hitter. When Coach John Becker of Crespi became fed up with the umpiring and the umpire was fed up with him, the game was suspended.

because every game was decided with an average combined run production of three or four.

A year ago the Knights won the league title by virtue of beating Crespi twice, although both had 8-2 records. Runs were again scarce.

Crespi figured to have the pitching this year. Fermin Lasuen and St. Bernard's were regarded as baseball poison.

Montgomery went on to win several clutch games while the opposition kept knocking each other down. The pennant was clinched long before the final game.

There was really no need to complete the last

SPORTS

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The champion Knights became a pressure team. Third baseman Chuck Bongard never allowed anyone to relax too much. Dan Graham played every pitch like a poker hand. Catcher Nelson Straley kept his fingers crossed that some pitch wouldn't snap his finger out of joint. Dan Pritchett kept calm by practicing his harmonica lessons between innings. Skip Jarvis studied the pitchers and hitters.

Coach Wood could not remember when Jarvis, a junior, made an error at second base this year. Then to have Mike Constantino fill the gap at first base and come through with some clutch hitting was another reason the Knights won 19 in a row.

Bob Comstock was always a threat on the bases. The entire squad, for that matter, was torrid on the bases.

But probably the most surprising thing about the club was the pitching. About the time it was learned Ramirez was lost to the team, Rich Perez, a senior, made himself known as a control pitcher. He went through with a marvelous 10-0 record and a 0.50 earned run average. Rich was voted the All-Camino Real League pitcher. The selections also favored catcher Straley, second baseman Jarvis, and centerfielder Pritchett, but inasmuch as Graham and Bongard were absent from the all-league team it leaves a lot to be desired.

Rather than be discouraged over the league's disregard for themselves, Graham and Bongard were superb in the playoffs. Graham could easily become the CIF "AA" player of the year.

Bongard is absolutely the smartest baseball player in the CIF. He plays it like a chess game. He batted .378 in 24 games. He robbed the opposition of more hits down the third base line than he made errors. He is a three-year varsity letterman. Chuck is the same youngster who led the Camino Real in pass receptions and touchdowns during the football campaign.

Strange as it seems, Chuck Bongard never made an all-league team. He will probably play the same role at the Naval Academy, except that he will become the Admiral.

Coach Marv Wood has learned what it takes to win a CIF baseball championship and never will he field another baseball team without comparing every candidate with the man he had at each position in 1967.

Recreation Softball

MONDAY SLO-PITCH AT McMASTER PARK	W	L	Pct.	GB
Drifters	6	0	1.000	—
Firefighters #1	5	1	.833	1
Aerona	3	2	.600	2
Spartans	2	3	.400	3
Amoco Metal	1	5	.167	4
Successors	1	5	.167	4

MONDAY SLO-PITCH AT WALTERIA PARK	W	L	Pct.	GB
30th St. Athletic	3	2	.600	—
Fo'ale	2	3	.400	1
Oranji Sports	2	3	.400	1
Dandoy Glass	1	4	.200	2
Nike's Barber	1	4	.200	2

Baseball Clinic To Be Staged By Dodgers

The Los Angeles Dodger Youth Clinic, expected to be the largest baseball clinic ever held, will take place at Dodger Stadium next Saturday.

The "super" clinic will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is open to all youngsters between the ages of 10 and 15. Free tickets and complete details on the event can be obtained at any Security Bank branch.

Participating in the clinic will be a host of Dodger stars including Wes Parker, Lou Johnson, Willie Davis, John Roseboro, Ron Hunt, Jim Lefebvre, Dick Egan, Phil Regan, Bob Bailey, Al Ferrara, Jimmy Campanis, Dick Schofield and coaches Preston Gomez and Danny Ozark.

Al Campanis, director of scouting for the Dodgers, will be the Youth Clinic's official moderator.

Tigers Extend League Lead At American

The Tigers of the Torrance American Little League are three games ahead of the pack and pulling away. The Tigers have a 12-3 record after blanking the Dodgers, 7-0, in 7 innings, and blasting the Pirates, 26-2. Rich Trautner hit his fourth home run, bringing the team total to 17 for the year.

Bill Johnson of the Red Sox, meanwhile, pitched a no-hit 7-0 win over the Athletics.

The individual home run contest is between Jeff Austin and John Eelman with 6 apiece.

Eelman homered and pitched a 2-0 win over the Dodgers Wednesday.

The Giants' Frank Baillie also hit a round tripper in a 2-0 win over the Red Sox.

Minor league Russ Baxter helped his cause as the winning pitcher by hitting a 3-run homer in the Pirates' 7-3 win over the Yankees.

Southwood Little League

MAJOR LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Thurs. — Dodgers 8, Cubs 4.				
Wed. — Braves 13, Cards 0.				
Tues. — Giants 6, Braves 5.				

Central Little League

MAJOR LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tues. — Cards 7, Braves 5.				
Fri. — Cards 5, Yanks 2.				
Tues. — Braves 9, Cards 5.				

American Little League

MAJOR LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Thurs. — Pirates 2, Red Sox 1.				
Wed. — Athletics 2, Dodgers 0.				
Tues. — Giants 2, Red Sox 0.				

Cubs, Braves Try It Again At Southwood

Southwood Little League is in the third week of the second round of the season, but the first half has not been decided yet.

The Cubs and Braves both had 8-2 records in the first half and tried to settle the issue with a play-off game last Monday. The score was 6-6 when called at the end of seven innings. It will be resumed tomorrow in the eighth frame.

One-Hitters Win 3 Games

Randy Avakian pitched his second straight one-hitter, striking out 17 batters, as the Torrance Yankees blanked the White Sox, 1-0. The run came on a homer by Jackie Hoover.

The 1-hit bug also enabled Don Koeller of the Indians to shutout the Tigers, 2-0, and Kurtis Gentile of the Dodgers to beat the Indians, 2-1. Rob Shirley homered and Gentile had 14 strikeouts.

After hitting five home runs for the minor league Padres, Edward Burr was picked up on option by the major White Sox.

Motorcycle Competition Gets Stiff

The competition seems to be getting stiffer each weekend as the West's premier motorcycle jockeys prepare for Friday evening's meet at Ascot Park in Gardena.

First event on the 12-race program is at 8:15.

No rider has been able to establish a clear superiority over the remainder of the group this year in the manner Sammy Tanner did last year. In fact, it's a rarity when a main event winner is able to repeat.

Bullets Play Long Beach At City Park

The IBMC Bullets and Long Beach Mustangs have scheduled an exhibition baseball game tonight at Torrance Park. Game time is 8 p.m.

The Bullets, 1966 national Connie Mack League champions, are tied for first place in the South Bay League, sharing a 4-1 record with Riddle & Ross.

The Bullets are managed by Bob Prior and feature Mike Barnes and Tom Schiff, catchers; Daryl Arenstein, first base; Ken Stuler and Paul Fieri, second base; Larry Burch, shortstop; Gerry Soucy, third base; and Tom Pitchford, Darrell Biore and Rich Gonzales in the outfield. Pitchers are Bruce Cooke, Phil Cadenhed, Daryl Masuyama and Marty DeWan.

NT West Little League

MAJOR LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Twins	10	1	.909	—
Angels	8	3	.727	1 1/2
Red Sox	8	3	.727	1 1/2
Yankees	6	5	.545	2 1/2
Orioles	6	5	.545	2 1/2
Indians	5	7	.417	3 1/2
Tigers	3	10	.231	5 1/2

MINOR LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indians	6	1	.857	—
Red Sox	5	2	.714	1/2
Angels	4	3	.571	1 1/2
Tigers	3	3	.500	2 1/2
Twins	2	3	.400	3 1/2
Orioles	1	10	.091	5 1/2

Bishop Montgomery Game-By-Game Record

Opponent	Score	Pitchers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Aviation	7-4	Desiderio (W)	7	3	4	1	7	2
El Segundo	14-12	Ramirez	0+	2	6	6	3	0
		Desiderio (L)	6	8	8	8	4	6
West	4-1	Perez (W)	5	2	1	0	2	10
		Ramirez	2	0	0	0	0	2
Torrance	5-2	Desiderio (L)	3	6	5	5	3	4
		Perez	3	0	0	0	1	2
Leuzinger	5-2	Ramirez (L)	1	2	2	2	1	1
		Perez	4	3	3	2	1	4
		Desiderio	1	0	0	0	0	0
Crespi	3-2	Desiderio (W)	7	6	2	1	0	5
Murphy	7-0	Perez (W)	7	5	0	0	2	7
St. Monica's	3-0	Desiderio (W)	7	3	0	0	3	6
Fermin Lasuen	3-2	Desiderio (W)	7	5	2	0	4	7
St. Bernard's	9-1	Desiderio (W)	7	6	1	0	3	7
Murphy	11-0	Perez (W)	7	1	0	0	5	17
St. Monica's	9-0	Desiderio (W)	4	2	0	0	0	4
		Graham	3	1	0	0	3	2
Fermin Lasuen	3-0	Perez (W)	7	4	0	0	4	5
St. Bernard's	2-1	Perez (W)	8	4	1	1	2	9
Murphy	2-1	Graham (W)	7	1	1	0	4	9
Crespi	2-1	Perez (W)	7	6	1	1	2	5
St. Monica's	4-0	Desiderio (W)	5	1	0	0	0	3
		Patterson	2	1	0	0	1	1
		Desiderio	2	3	3	1	2	1
		Perez (W)	5	2	0	0	3	9
St. Bernard's	6-4	Graham (W)	9	4	4	1	4	12
Crespi	9-0	Perez (W)	5	0	0	0	0	5
San Clemente	3-1	Graham (W)	7	1	1	0	6	6
St. Paul's	10-6	Perez (W)	5	2	0	0	1	3
		Desiderio	2	4	6	4	6	3
		Graham (W)	7	1	2	1	5	9
Wm. Hart	10-2	Perez (W)	7	6	2	1	1	4
Pomona	6-2							

Individual Pitching Record

Pitcher	G	IP	H	R	ER	ERA	BB	SO	W	L	Pct.
Perez	12	70	35	8	5	0.50	24	80	10	0	1.000
Graham	5	33	8	5	2	0.42	22	38	4	0	1.000
Desiderio	12	58	47	31	20	2.41	32	48	7	2	.778
Ramirez	3	3+	4	0	8	18.67	4	3	0	1	.000
Patterson	1	2	1	0	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	.000
Totals	24	166	95	55	35	1.475	83	170	21	3	.875

Hackers Haven Individual Batting Record

Pitcher	G	AB	H	BA	2B	3B	R	ERBI
Graham	24	66	27	.409	3	0	2	21
Murn	11	15	6	.400	1	1	0	3
Pritchett	24	73	29	.397	4	2	1	21
Bongard	24	74	28	.378	6	1	1	18
Jarvis	24	76	28	.368	6	2	0	26
Straley	24	73	26	.356	4	2	1	14
Comstock	19	35	10	.286	1	0	0	6
Constantino	23	67	16	.239	3	0	0	8
Haren	23	40	8	.200	2	0	0	5
Mickelbury	20	44	8	.182	1	1	1	6