

SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

Home Runs Coming Easy

THERE was a time when a fellow hit a home run he was considered something of a slugger. However, those days are gone forever as players are being named as home run sluggers by their managers on every one of the 30 clubs in the majors.

Undoubtedly the weakened pitching caused by the expansion of each league has helped these 'sluggers' to hang them out of the park. At any rate they are doing it, much to the delight of the cash operators. 64 players reached their peak in home run production. The American League enjoyed a 39.25 margin in this as they were out as a real four-base slugger. Now the National League was only an eight-team affair in 1961 but this year ten clubs are operating. Therefore, it's likely the senior circuit will even the score with the American Leaguers.

Baltimore's Jim Gentile made the biggest jump in 1961. His previous high was 21 but he belted 46 of them for the Birds in the past season.

Last year's American League batting champion, Norm Cash, also made a terrific jump. Norm's previous high in a four-year career was 18 but in 1961 Cash smashed out a total of 41 circuit-clippers.

The National League champion Cincinnati Redlegs saw their first baseman, Gordie Coleman connected for 26 homers. Coleman had had only 16 in the previous year.

In San Francisco, Orlando Cepeda upped his mark to 44. The best Cepeda ever did before was connected for 31. Many are tabbing this great first baseman to reach the 60 mark in 1962.

Teammate Willie Mays didn't better his mark of 51 made in 1953. However, Mays had a great season and his 49 four base blows were his best effort in the past six years.

Six of the New York Yankees hit new heights in 1961. Of these Roger Maris headed the parade with 61 and naturally this took away from the feats of the other five Bombers who made new highs.

Maris himself was 22 better than any previous mark but Mantle, Richardson, Howard, Blanchard and Skowron all had new records as far as home runs went. Mantle had 54, two better than his record. Howard had 21, an increase of three. Skowron had a jump of two. Blanchard 21, a high rise of 17 and Richardson 5, one better than what he had done previously.

A Big Jump

One of the greatest jumps was made by Chicago Cub's George Altman who had 27 home runs in 1960 but he had only 11 in the year before. Teammate Santo was also a big jumper, going from 9 to 23.

Returning back to the American League, it should be noted that Leon Wagner had a jump of from 13 to 25 in his home run department. Leon's production was more than a 100 per cent increase over his best season. This is the youngest leading American League with nine home runs in this recent season. He should not have too great trouble beating his 25 of last season.

How Are Things Going?

WE KNOW it's cold but one of these days (we hope) things will brighten up and baseball and softball will be with us.

Up Summer side way, baseball and softball meetings have been held and things are beginning to take shape for the coming season. In King's County, we have been hard at work lining things up for the summer of 1966.

Here in Charlottetown we understand one meeting of the City Baseball League executive was held and at that session came the suggestion that a four-team league operate in Charlottetown this season.

That's the last word we had on baseball in the capital and as regards softball, if anything is being done, it is being done secretly on the quiet.

Undoubtedly things will live up shortly and some definite plans will be made for us as well as a successful season for both baseball and softball.

SPORT OF KINGS

League In King's County Looks Evenly Balanced

By Ed Clinton
Souris Bureau of The Guardian

The King's County Baseball League is still growing. The addition of Iona St. Mike's makes it an eight team league. All the teams from last year are once again ready to resume operations.

The top four teams last year are not planning any great changes for the coming year. Garth Affleck is gone from the Mount Pleasant club while Gerry MacGurgh boys may be added to the Morell squad. Georgetown and Peabody don't appear to be much in the way of changes.

St. Peters and Souris will have a number of line-up changes made necessary by players leaving the province. It was just heard that the Peters will continue in the league, and don't know how the changes will affect them. The Souris changes should make them stronger defensively but weaken them at the plate. Canadian are not planning too many changes, but with a year's experience on their belts, should do much better this year.

Iona is reported to be strong at the plate, average defensively and good average on the field. They don't expect to set the league afire, but they do expect to do okay during the second half of the schedule. It does, in all, look like the league should be much more evenly balanced than it was last year. On paper, the finish looks something like this: Norman Stewart; Georgetown, Souris, Peabody, Morell, St. Peter's, Charlottetown, St. Peter's and Iona.

WPM MVP AWARD
At the League's Annual Meeting, the votes for MVP were tallied. Player award were awarded and the winner was Iona's MacGurgh. Those who reported the meeting, we neglected to mention this year's award for MVP, but congratulations to winning this year's MVP.

Eng and Tops Switzerland

The league also decided to have statistics this year. That's a sure sign that the league is growing up. It is highly probable that a trophy will be presented to the league's leading hitter. It might be a good idea to have other trophies awarded to be given to the top pitcher and the top batter. Some of the top sports-and-sportsmen firms (hitting about 41. Another sign that the league is growing up is the fact that the most sports-minded conduct.

Last year, the winners of the first playoff game were the first winner representing the young St. Michael's players.



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MAKES IMPRESSION WITH SENIORS

Stanley Matthews' Son Promising Tennis Player

By PAUL WESTBROOK
LONDON (CP)—The name Stanley Matthews may continue on sports pages for another generation.

Tipped for the top in the tennis world is a shy 16-year-old with a punishing backhand. He is Stanley Matthews, son of Britain's evergreen soccer ace. Matthews junior is just back from touring the sunny courts of southern France with a squad of teen-agers the British Lawn Tennis Association is grooming for international honors. Meanwhile his father was dribbling his way up wings in the equally agreeable climate of the Caribbean with an English soccer team.

Why did the son of Britain's most famous footballer become a tennis player?

Offer Made Billy Martin By Japanese

ST. PAUL, MINN.—(AP)—Decision on whether to accept a Japanese "big money" baseball contract—a second offer—is an expected today from

one of the young Lacrosse stars now a special agent for Minnesota Twins. Martin, who Tuesday turned down the first bid from the Chunichi Dragons, said the Japanese club has come back with a more lucrative offer.

"They're talking pretty big signs, but I'm not sure about the offer," explained the Dragons ace, who is a three-year contract good for \$105,000.

Martin said he will hear from Dragons representatives in New York today and will wait until then to make his decision. He did not identify the Dragon contract.

Yankees Top Down Boston Sox 4-1

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Yankees came up with four runs in the seventh, setting back Boston Red Sox 4-1 Wednesday. Rookie Tom Seaver led the Yankees to victory after pitcher Bill Monbouquette held the Boston Sox to one run.

Monbouquette retired the first 13 Yankees to face him before he walked Guy Berry in the fifth. Then he made Elston Howard hit into a double play. The Yankees had no more hits but they had a leadoff runner. Seaver pitched 7 2/3 innings, allowing only four hits and three runs.

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Stars In Softball Too

Congrats to the Summer-side badminton players who did so well at the provincial championships in Charlottetown last week, and especially to Miss Nancy Coffin, who was three times, the five sets singles champion, ladies doubles champion with Barbara

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- Girl's Bk. Sneaker 4-5 1.99
Girl's Bk. Sneaker 6-11 1.99
Blue and Bk. Striped 4-10 2.69
Green and Grey "Canadian" 4-10 3.25

Alton Palmer's Favoured To Cop National Invitation

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP)—Muscular Arnold Palmer, master of almost everything but the outdoors, today heads a field of 58 into the first round today of the \$40,000 national invitation to play golf.

Palmer, the tour's leading money winner and holder of five major titles, will be seeking his third straight crown and first-place money of \$7,000.

Winner of the Texas Open and Las Vegas Tournament of Champions on successive weeks, Palmer is favored to make it three straight against the strongest field in colonial's 17-year history.

Paired with South African Gary Player in the first round, Palmer will be seeking his first

championship here in eight appearances. The man with the faded finches moved into contention through 45 holes last year but wilted in the final round and wound up in a tie for sixth place, his best showing yet over the 7,123-yard par-70 Colonial course.

Another pairing seeds defending champion Doug Sanders and five-time winner Ben Hogan out together in what Colonial calls its "honor foursome."

The field includes all of the top 25 money winners. There are no amateurs this year. Most of the field participated Wednesday in a pro-amateur which offered the touring prize \$5,500 in prize money. Palmer, with \$5,500 in official earnings this year, passed up the extra curricular activity to take what he called a much needed rest.

Palmer Register Tonight For City Baseball Loop

The baseball committee of the Charlottetown Playground and Recreation Commission will be in charge of this year's City Baseball League, announced last evening that this year's league will consist of four teams. Stars, Flyers, Dodgers and Jesters.

All players 15 years and over are welcome and all registering will be assigned to teams for Wednesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. in the games room of the Charlottetown Armories.

Some of the officials promised the league will be on hand to explain this year's plan and will be available to answer any questions players may have concerning the season set.

Coaches and managers have been lined up to look after all teams and practice sessions will get underway next week with the first game slated for Tuesday, June 15th.

MINORS TO BE ACTIVE
Don Larson, senior pitcher who is also going to see to it that the Little League of the Armories is able to get underway next week with the first game slated for Tuesday, June 15th.

Officials in charge are pleased that so many of the city's young players will be able to participate in the Little League of the Armories, which will be held on Tuesday, June 15th.

BASEBALL SCORES

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
American League
Boston 000 000 100-1 7
New York 000 000 000-8 1
Montreal 0-3; Red Sox 5-2; Detroit 3-1; Cleveland 3-1
National League
Chicago 000 000 111-3 8
Washington 2-1
St. Louis 2-1
St. Peter's 2-1
Milwaukee 0-1
Pittsburgh 1-0
Philadelphia 1-0

Jolley Denies Ridan Injured

CHICAGO (AP)—It will be three or four days before Moody Jolley, one of Ridan's owners, decides whether the beaten favorite of the Kentucky Derby will be shipped to Pimlico for the Preakness May 19, he said Wednesday.

Jolley said that he knew of no "scuff" or any other injury to Ridan, adding: "I don't know if it's a little sore, but it's not a wound."

"All this talk about the horse hurting his foot is a lot of newspaper talk. He looks all right to me."

"As for the Preakness, it's a long way off. In three or four days we plan to gallop and break the horse. Then we'll decide whether we will ship him overnight to Pimlico."

Representatives were present from four of last year's teams: Vernon River-Gerard Gill, Fort Augustus, Gerard MacEachern, Johnson's River-Lorne Keough, Tracarde Cross-Ed Lu and two new teams were welcome and representatives were Fanning Brook, John Rogers and Cherry Valley—Vernon Docherty.

The newly elected executive consists of: Norrie Fraser, president; Victor Keough, vice-president; Mervin McNally, secretary; plus one representative from each team in the league.

It was decided that the league should commence on May 22 with three games scheduled as follows: Fort Augustus at Vernon River, Cherry Valley at Fanning Brook, and Johnson's River at Tracarde Cross.

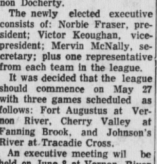
An executive meeting will be held on June 8 at Vernon River hall.

Probable Pitchers

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Probable pitchers for today's major league games, won and lost records in parentheses:

American League
Cleveland (Perry 1-0) at Minnesota (Lee 2-1)
Chicago (Wynn 1-1) at Washington (Daniels 1-3)
Kansas City (Pfeiffer 0-1) at Baltimore (Estrada 1-3)
Detroit (Rossi 2-3) or Gallagher 0-2) at Los Angeles (McGuire or Chance 2-1). Only games scheduled.

National League
San Francisco (Pierce 4-0) or Perry (2-0) at St. Louis (Gibson 5-1) (N)
Los Angeles (Drysdale 4-1) at Houston (Bruce 1-0 or Stone 2-1) (N)
Milwaukee (Hendry 2-3)
New York (Lachusa 1-3) at Chicago (Ellisworth 2-1). Only games scheduled.



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