



I WUZ ROBBED

The popular Navy third baseman, Mike Shea, was robbed of two hits again last week. Mike, who is nursing a bad leg, has not been having his best season at the plate by any means.

Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed. Better luck next time Mike. I'll talk to the weatherman and make sure he cooperates. O.K.?

ANYTHING FOR THE CAMERAMAN

Well known George Adolphson amazed many spectators, along with myself, last Monday at the bowling alley. Putting all his skill into one careful throw, George sent the ball spinning around an object sitting in the middle of the alley to score a perfect strike.

I really have pity on the next camera bug that tries that same angle. George could decide to try the same thing again and not be quite as successful in getting the ball around his target. Oh well, that's life.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Is it an easy job to make up a softball schedule or arrange tournaments so that all trick workers will be able to make an appearance? Think so? It you do, I suggest that you talk to Sgt. Earl Gradwell or Cpl. Frank McClure of Special Services.

Sgt. Gradwell, NCOIC, and Cpl. McClure, Sports NCO, have done an excellent job on keeping all the sports-minded persons very busy and interested. I find it hard to believe that anyone on post realizes the amount of work done in the Special Services office.

I don't think that any more can be expected from the fine crew at Special Services. If you do, I'm glad I don't work for you. Simon Legree!!!

KILL THE UMP

That old familiar baseball saying, 'Kill the Umpire,' was brought to life at the Dust Bowl last week. The diggerence being that a player, instead of a fan, tried to do the job.

Sgt. Earl Gradwell, plate Umpire of the second softball playoff game was hit in the side of the head with a wild pitch. It may have been a controversial circumstance if there had been a disagreement on the previous play, but everything was going along smoothly when Gordon, starting pitcher for the Hilltoppers, let loose with a wild one.

I don't know for sure, but it seems to me that anyone who wanted to win a ball game would be a little more careful as to how they treat an Umpire.

WRONG WAY CORRIGAN

'Aw heck, we have to help out these little guys,' was the cry from Bobby Prince, after unconsciously scoring two points for the Eritrea 'B's' in the fourth game of the league.

WE HAVE MISSED YOU MAJOR

Major Minton, a well known sports enthusiast about Kagnew Station, was not present at the first softball play-off game with his familiar heckling. Just why I can't say, but when the Major passes up a chance to appear at the Dust Bowl and literally ride the pants off both teams, I will bet my last penny that something doggone important tied him up.

Statements such as, 'The umpire's blind,' or, 'What's your bowling average, pitcher?' or, 'I'll bet you a chocolate soda that you don't get a hit, Doc,' are just a few of the things that are routine with the Major. Many other fans try to compete with him, but I doubt if his wit and humor can be outdone.

Besides being an avid softball roofer, I heard (from reliable sources) that he is also quite the volleyball hero. It must be rough to be in the game and have someone else heckling you! Isn't that right Sir!!!

CONFUSION

Fred Koons hit what looked like the game-winning home run of the second playoff game and was called out a few seconds later. How? Easy. In his speedy trip around the bases the Hilltoppers' first baseman failed to touch third base. Then the ever sharp Major Minton brought it to the attention of his fielders and the ball was thrown to third and the runner called out.

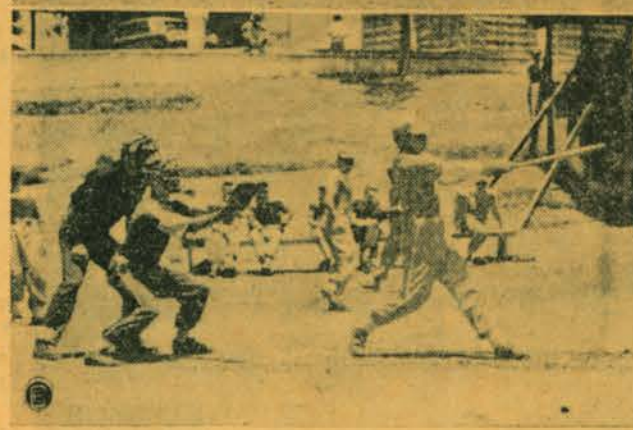
The crowd was alternately moaning and cheering. What I mean is the Relay fans were cheering and the Hilltoppers fans were moaning. It was a tough break but I'll bet that next time Koons hits a homer he'll touch every base emphatically. Any takers?

DOC'S SLOW - SLOW PITCH

I never could figure out why a batter, no matter how good or bad he is, couldn't hit a slow ball pitcher at least one out of three times at bat. After seeing 'Doc' Bellas perform for the Honchos I found my answer. Doc has a variety of three different pitches: as slow ball, a slow, slow ball, and one that is sooo slow that the batter can't hit a butt, take three drags and throw it at the umpire before the ball gets to him.

During a conversation with Doc I asked him what he had on the ball that keeps everyone from hitting. He explained that along with a natural curve, the ball came at the batter so slow that by the time it reached him he was usually 'all shook' and either swung early or cut under it. He also said, and I quote, 'The boys have learned to bunt me silly. After all, I'm not as young as I used to be.' Listen to him!!! You would think he were 150 years old from the way he talks. Take it easy, Doc. You're probably old enough to be my Dad, but that's not saying much...I'm still pretty young.

BARONS COP SOFTBALL TITLE



The Barons (upper left), Kagnew Station Softball League Champions, and the Relays (lower right), runners-up, pose for the photographer just before the final playoff game.

Relays, legs it to first, but Nees, Barons, has the ball for the out. Lamb and Chancy look on as Bailey calls the play. Thomas (lower left) connects with one, as Kramer and Gradwell watch.

The Barons scored a decisive victory over the Relays Monday to capture the Kagnew Station softball championship. Mel Pratt went the distance for the Barons, allowing only nine hits and two runs.

The game was a grand finale for a great tournament. Four, never say die teams were competing in the double elimination playoffs. In the first game the Navy team was upset by the Barons 7-2. The second game between the Hilltoppers and the Relays was the only game of the playoffs that went extra innings.

The third game was rained out and had to be replayed the next day. The fans were all keyed up for the game as well as the players-for the simple reason that the loser would be out of the tournament.

The fourth game found the undefeated Barons and Relays meeting for the first time. The Barons, behind the pitching of Pratt, scored in every inning, winning 14-5.

The fifth game found the Hilltoppers and Relays fighting to stay in competition, for once again the loser would be out.

The fourth game brought out all the Kagnew softball enthusiasts. The game started off as though it would be a pitchers duel from beginning to end, but the Barons let loose in the bottom of the third and kept on hitting the Relays pitching staff throughout the game.

Trophies will be awarded to all members of the winning Barons team. This is the second consecutive softball tournament that the Barons have taken. As you all remember, Pratt led the Barons to three straight wins over the Saints to win the last one.

Umpires for the tournament were Sgt. Earl Gradwell, Cpl. George Adolphson, Capt. Joseph Bellas, Mike Shea RMI and Sgt. William Bailey. Their decisions were quick and final. Only one game was protested and only in one other did any real arguments occur. It was a fine job and the men should be commended.

The Dust Bowl has been the scene of activity this past week, and not all of it was softball. A team consisting of Captain James F. Wilson, of the Engineers, and Captain Joseph A. Pignataro, 9434th Line Section, and their men have been installing the new lighting system for the Bowl.

The height of the poles vary from a 45 foot section behind home plate to 75 foot sections in the outfield. There will be a total of 6,500 watts on each of the five poles. An interesting note is that these large poles were laid seven feet deep and in such a manner that it did not necessitate guy wires.

Lights Added To Dust Bowl

It sounds like a large-sized order, but a great guy like Mel Pratt shouldn't have much trouble in accomplishing whatever he attempts. Keep punching, Kid, and best of luck from all of us at Kagnew Station.

Golf Tournament Near Completion

The annual Handicap Golf Tournament is well under way, with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th rounds having already been completed. The semifinals will be played tomorrow, followed up with the finals on Sunday.

Mrs. Baxter, with a 33 handicap, reigns champion of the women's tournament by holding Miss Sargentini's 14 handicap down to a 3-up lead going into the seventh hole.

All you golf enthusiasts who would be interested in watching Kagnew Station's best golfers show up at the golf course Saturday and Sunday to watch the semi-finals and finals.

Clean Sweep

The Spartans and 9434th Relays made a clean sweep of the Eritrean Basketball Association this year. The Spartan team, consisting of Grimm, Norton, Snea, Peterson and Kilmark, took the 'A' league. Chancy, Kilmain, Prince, Maitner and McGuire sparked the Relays to the 'B' league championship.

Besides the Spartans and Relays, Kagnew Station was represented in the Eritrean league by the Hawks and Africans, which also showed the Eritrean spectators a good Brand of basketball.

The two winning teams will be honored in an award banquet given by the Association, to be held at the Hamasian Hotel in the very near future. All the boys will receive individual medals, and team trophies.

Sports Personalities

The honor of being the first sports personality in the new Kagnew Gazelle goes to a very deserving lad by the name of Cpl. Lenard M. Pratt of Operation's Detachment, 8604 DU.

Cpl. Pratt, who is better known as 'Mel' around post, was born in Corinth, Mississippi, twenty-seven years ago. He is the oldest son of a very proud Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Pratt. His parents have continued to reside in Corinth.



MEL PRATT

'Mel' was an all-round sportsman from the time he entered Corinth High School. He played football and baseball all four years that he was in high school. After hours he played semi-pro baseball for Corinth and finished his last season with a very impressive 29-7 record. Upon graduating from school he turned down offers to play ball for the St. Louis Cardinals, the Detroit Tigers and the Chicago White Sox.

Upon graduating in 1952, Mel joined the Army. Before coming to Kagnew Station he served at Camp Breckenridge and Fort Devens.

During his tour at this post, Mel has been the spark of the Barons softball team. In fact, he has entered nearly every sport on post, along with being Umpire-in-Chief of the softball league. He is well recognized as the best pitcher on post. His record of the last season does not show his ability in the least. He finished with a 3-2 record. The previous season he truly showed his wares and finished with a 35-7 record and a .448 batting average. Who says pitchers can't hit?

After being discharged in August, Mel plans to return to college to get a Master's Degree in Physical Education. Then he hopes to land a teaching-coaching job at Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee and settle down with his wife and little daughter.

Keep punching, Kid, and best of luck from all of us at Kagnew Station.

ADOLPHSON STEALS SHOW as Bowling Tournament Ends

The Post Bowling Tournament, featuring both a scratch and a handicap division, was rolled off last week at the Kagnew Station Bowling Alley, with fourteen teams and ninety men competing.

The scratch division included team, doubles and singles events of four games each. In addition to trophies for first and second place in these three contests, trophies will go to Cpl. George Adolphson for posting the highest total (2215) for all events, and to Cpl. Bill Robertson for rolling the highest single game (265 pins) for the tournament.

Sgt. Bruce Higham's team captured first place in the team events with a pinfall of 3517 for the four games. Members of Higham's squad were Sgt. John Brown, TEL Freddie Cepulski, SFC Winston Hodgkins, Cpl. Bernard Chaney and RMI Matt Zawacki.

Second place went to SFC Niel Welton's team, which rolled a 3422 series. Combining talents to drop a total of 1465 pins, SFC Winston Hodgkins and TEL Freddie Cepulski won first place in the doubles event. Following up in second place were SFC Gene Cline and Cpl. George Adolphson with a score of 1431.

In the singles, Cpl. George Adolphson rolled 780 and Cpl. Jack Collins rolled 770 to take first and second places, respectively. Adolphson's individual scores were 182, 223, 184 and 191. At one time, Collins was thought to have tied Adolphson for first, but a ten-pin error was discovered in his score.

Cpl. Adolphson also took the all-events trophy with a total for the entire tournament of 2215. Runner-up in second was Cpl. Robertson, with 2162 pins. Robertson rolled the high single game of the tournament with 256.

In the handicap tournament Capt. Bernard Reynolds walked away with the trophy for high single game with 264 pins to his credit. Welton's won first with 3657 and Fisher's second with 3624 in the team division of the handicap tournament.

White suffered the injury during a league game between the Honchos and the Relays on 5 April. Ms fortune struck as the speedy shortstop tried to stretch a single into a double. Anticipating a slow throw from the outfield White sprinted for second base. The relay from the third baseman was fast and accurate forcing White to slide around the bag or under it. Unfortunately White's spike hooked onto the bag and the angle and speed combined snapped his leg. Captain Bellas, who also plays for the Honchos, was on the scene and administered immediate treatment right on the field and sent for the ambulance.

Within a few short minutes the ambulance arrived and White was removed to the hospital. After xrays were taken, a temporary cast was put on and Gordie was put to bed. Last Wednesday more xrays were taken and another cast put on.

Honchos' Shortstop Hospitalized

The past softball season at the Dust Bowl has been cursed with frequent injuries. Although many were minor cuts and bruises, three or four were more serious. One particular case involves a broken leg, the unfortunate victim being Pvt. Gordon 'Gordie' White of the Medical Section of 8604 DU.



GORDIE WHITE

PHOTO CREDIT

Lt., Harvey Rice (2), bot., Ty Curtis (2); Lt., P.H.M. Artler Najrobl, bot., Ty Curtis; 3-Lt., Ty Curtis, bot., Official U.S. Army Photos; 4-Lt., Official U.S. Army Photo, bot., Ty Curtis.