

THE WHIRL OF SPORTS

by Sfc Tom Brennan

The 1957 major league campaigns are just getting underway as we reach you with this brand new edition of your Kagnev Gazelle. In this issue we hope to give you a comprehensive rundown on the American League picture, and will cover the National League in our next edition which is expected to reach you at the end of the month.

The average baseball fan is beginning to ask the same question annually. Will the Yankees do it again? Most devotees of our national pastime felt, with skepticism perhaps, that Casey Stengel would lead New York home again in '57. The addition of pitchers Art Ditmar and Bobby Shantz has certainly strengthened those feelings particularly since both men were extremely effective in the grapefruit league. Mantle, Berra, Martin, Ford and company are considered to be at their peak or just reaching it. Therefore the conclusion is that the battle in the American League will be, once again, for the runners-up spot.

The Cleveland Indians, under rookie skipper Kirby Farrell, still have the strong pitching staff which has become a Cleveland trade mark. The Indians have two glaring problems to solve, however, to make them strong contenders. The shortstop situation is critical with on-again-off-again Chico Carrasquel the number one candidate. While over at third base there can be no ands, ifs or buts. Rocky Colavito has to come through this year. Colavito was the offensive standout of spring training but should he fall through when the chips are down it will necessitate Farrell pulling Al Smith from the outfield to hold down the hot corner. Should that move become necessary a damaging hole would exist in the outfield. Cleveland must depend largely on a few successes from their rookie crop.

Ted Williams and Mickey Vernon are both old men from the baseball standpoint but both can still furnish the Hubtowners some lusty hitting. The Red Sox, loaded with money they can't seem to be able to spend, are in dire need of infielders. Youngsters like Ken Aspromonte and Frank Malzone are rated highly but are, of course, unproven. When Vernon is rested neither Zauchin nor Gernert can fill the vacancy capably. The mound crew has outstanding potential in Sullivan, Nixon, Brewer and a few others but Bob Porterfield will have to click this season. The Yawkeymen must also come up with a top-flight southpaw. Mel Parnell is often shelved with ailments many of which the Boston writers consider mental and Leo Kiely and Frank Baumann have never been able to regain their pre-Service form.

The Chicago White Sox are loaded with ifs. If Larry Doby comes through, if Billy Pierce gets help, if Sherm Lollar has a good year, etc. Pilot Al Lopez could also use a first baseman. Walt Dropo's hits are getting fewer, it seems, with each passing season. Minnie Minoso and Nellie Fox will carry a great deal of the offensive burden but Doby and Lollar could greatly alleviate their load.

Expectations remain high in the Motor City that the Tigers will be in the thick of the pennant fight in the Junior Loop. Jim Finigan's acquisition from Kansas City should solve Jack Tighe's infield headache while the pitching should be stronger than it was a year ago. The outfield of Al Kaline, Billy Tuttle and Charlie Maxwell would be the best the League if Maxwell repeats his 1956 success and Tuttle ups his batting average 20 points. The Detroit team could raise havoc during the coming season if they can strengthen their bench.

That about sums up the American League picture. As for the three teams we didn't mention, well, let's see. The Washington Senators have Charlie Dressen. The Baltimore Orioles have Paul Richards and Gus Triandos, and the Kansas City Athletics have Vic Power. Off hand I can't think of much else.

EAGLES WIN AGAIN

Dix Burros Win Army Hoop Title

Ft. Monmouth, N. J. — The undisputed Army basketball champions are the Ft. Dix Burros. The powerful Burros have swept all opposition, winning 30 in season play, five games in the First Army tourney and four more in the All Army Basketball Tournament just completed here.

The Presidio of San Francisco team, representing the Sixth Army, provided both semi-final and final opposition for the Burros, Dix taking the title game 72-57. The two straight tournament losses for Presidio were more than they lost all season, as they came into the tourney with a 36-1 record.

The Ft. Dix scoring attack was led by Si Green, former Duquesne All-American, and Tom Gola, La Salle collegiate great who was added to the Burros after the First Army meet. Other standouts on the star-studded Dix quintet included Al Ferrari of Michigan State and the St. Louis Hawks, Al Cronk of the Harlem Globetrotters, and Dan Manix, former All-East college choice in his school days at St. Francis. (AFPS)

Fighter Wears Khaki "Crown,"

Ft. Dix — Harold Carter, ranked third among those seeking the world's heavyweight boxing crown, is wearing a «crown» of an Army garrison cap these days. The Linden, N. J., blockbuster has been assigned here for basic infantry training.

Carter's pro record shows he won 23 of 26 fights, losing two and fighting one to a draw. His first professional loss was to Wayne Bethea, New York heavyweight, but Carter twice avenged the defeat. His other loss was to Johnny Summerlin, and the New Jersey heavy later gained revenge for that one, too.

In 1952 Carter lost the New York City Golden Gloves to the present world's heavyweight champion, Floyd Patterson. The next year Hal went on to Chicago and won the national Gloves tourney, with Patterson not competing. (AFPS)

Lose Only One Contest To Gain Second Crown

The Eagles of Operations Company repeated their fall-winter league performance by sweeping through a twenty game schedule with only one setback to annex first place in the recently completed spring-summer softball league.

The pitching of Hal Pond was the predominant factor in the success of the Birds as the heavy bats of Shan Harr and Rog Radeck turned cold during the latter part of the second half of play. Pond, pitching himself into trouble and then out on many occasions, was the most effective hitter in the line-up throughout the majority of the season. Time and time again timely hits by the redhead paced the Eagles to victories. An outstanding feature of the success of the winners was the sensational third base play of the Big Moose, Radeck.

The Cobras made it a 1-2 finish for Operations Company by running up a 16-4 record, edging out a strong Navy team's 15-5. The team of John Carroll, strengthened by the addition of pitcher Gene Schmidt, came on strong in the stretch drive to eke out their second place win. Timely hits by Schmidt, McGowan and Cravotta paced the Cobras offensively while Caito and Whitaker stood out defensively.

The fortunes of the Navy nine depended entirely on the right arm of Leo Decker. When the big guy was right he was easily the most effective pitcher in the league. However, when Deck was troubled by control problems Navy was usually in for a rough seven innings.

Finishing out the top four was Dave Sam's Knights who really tightened things up by trailing Navy by only one game. Although the 14 and 6 re-

cord of the Security Company entry is evident of a successful season, many of the local fans looked for a higher finish from them. An objective look at the Knights' roster immediately denotes strong pitching by Dale Livengood who was effective all season, a fine defensive unit and an awesome offensive potential. But, for some reason, the boys in red had occasional difficulties in getting all three elements clicking simultaneously.

The fifth place finish of the Cardinals of Headquarters Company rounds out the first division. The problems of manager Bill Kimball were usually defensive. Paul Maaske's pitching was generally commendable while the hitting, led by Jim Aucreman, was stronger than was expected. However on numerous occasions the fielders suffered mental lapses or overshot their mark. The Cards are still expected to be damaging in the forthcoming championship playoffs.

The bottom five teams in the loop, with the exception of the Dik-Diks, can attribute most of their difficulties to lack of pitching strength. The Dik-Diks received excellent pitching from Jim Jacobs but the defensive unit seldom gave him the support necessary for victory.

The Barons, Relays and Medics had fine moments on occasion but not nearly enough to threaten the first division clubs.

The Clowns? What can a guy say?

Baseball Vets Teach Rookies How

The Boston Red Sox fans may be surprised to hear that oldtimer Gene Mauch is making a strong comeback in the Hub. His second basing during spring training was nothing short of sensational. After a successful season as manager of the Atlanta Crackers and another as an infielder with the Los Angeles Angels, Mauch decided to give the "big time" another crack. The Boston press reports he will definitely spend the season in Boston...

Ageless Satchel Paige says he is going to cause a lot of headaches for rivals of the Miami Marlins. Satch says he has developed a "humbug" pitch. According to Paige it drives the hitters buggy. Satch was quick to point out that the new pitch is nothing like his "dipsy doodle" pitch.