

GEORGE BEAHON

## "In This Corner"



Sports writers equipped with portable typewriters and credit cards have long since scrambled back from spring training. Even before they launched their tours of baseball exercise camps they were equipped with the all-important "winter book" out of Lost Wages, Nevada.

Most of them studied the "line" and went with the chalk before releasing their selections to their devoted subscribers.

Forget the winter book and forget the experts' graded selections. It's a Whole New Ballgame.

All the figures are changed, thanks to the 13-day player strike (or was it an owners' strike?) that finally earned baseball the authentic sobriquet of National Pastime — going on strike.

When the athletes checked their double-knit uniforms and lunch pails, Vegas had the World Champion Pittsburgh Pirates on top in the National League at 2-1, and the American League champion Baltimore Orioles favored at a generous 8 to 5. On the bottom in the AL were Milwaukee, Cleveland and Texas, all at 100 to 1. In the NL, the dogs were Philadelphia at 50 to 1, San Diego and Montreal at 100 to 1 each.

The wizards of odds had everything else — an assortment of 16 other clubs — somewhere in between, varying from 5 to 2 down to 15 to 1. Now Vegas has cut down its line, and many a baseball writer would like to buy back his predictions.

The odds, incidentally, someone somewhere figured out, against playing the board, or picking every possible

combination, are a modest 2 trillion, 149 billion, 908 million, 480 thousand to 1. Less the vigorish, if you can find anyone willing to book your action.

The Whole New Ballgame is created by the new, unbalanced schedule which simply wiped out matchups that are now cancellations, not postponements.

Suddenly, some of the dogs in both races found themselves picking up some very solid advantages.

Prime case is San Diego, almost everybody's pick to be lucky to finish the course, much less finish ahead of anybody. The Padres were relieved of nine assignments — eight of them on the road, and four of these against a contender, San Francisco. Now, when San Diego plays at San Francisco, the bookmakers don't even put up a price like 10 to 3, which is extravagant. Instead, they spot the Padres 2½ runs, like a default win for the opposition.

From the opposition viewpoint, how do you think Harry Walker, resident genius of the Houston Astrós dugout, felt about blowing four home dates with these same Padres? Four "gimmees" is what Houston lost.

Ralph Houk is one of 14 brave souls who announced they could win pennants this year, which means that at least 12 guys are going to need all the help they can get from their speech writers next banquet season.

Houk took an edge in the reduced schedule when his Yankees "lost" three dates with Detroit, a good solid club, and four with the Orioles, who are the best.

The St. Louis Cardinals, who stumbled and fell coming out of the gate, might not have hurt so much had they not blown four home dates, three of them with the sick Phillies.

The LA Dodgers, considered by a consensus to be the most logical club to upend the Pirates in the NL, blew six games to the strike. Minnesota and Cincinnati, both rated contenders, lost seven and five respectively.

So a reappraisal is due, with the added advantage of knowing now that San Francisco can't play heavyweight slugger Willie McCovey — not with a recently broken arm.

It says here they'll do it this way, now that conditions are changed. NL East: Chicago, Pittsburgh, New York, St. Louis, Montreal and Philadelphia. NL West: Los Angeles, Houston, Cincinnati, Atlanta, San Francisco and San Diego.

AL West: Chicago, Oakland, Minnesota, Kansas City, California, Texas. AL East: Detroit (no chalk here); Baltimore (no F. Robinson here); Boston, New York, Milwaukee, Cleveland. As the man in the slouch hat would say, if these horses get beat, don't panic. We'll give you more next year.

JOHN DOSER

## Scholastic Notebook



It's good to hear George Beahon's typewriter humming again.

When Mr. B. wrote his sports column for the Democrat & Chronicle a few years ago, he didn't have an equal in his peer group.

Few sports stories broke in town which didn't break in his column first. His colleagues acknowledged his departure to Finger Lakes with a nice party but no sportswriter in Rochester came close to filling the Beahon void. Not then, not since, not now. It's nice to have him back.

WATCHING Mooney go against East High in baseball was veteran coach Dan Murray, now athletic director of the Oriental's East Main St. Campus.

Don said he really gets burned up when he reads about the exploits of Monroe County League athletic teams, generally speaking, in comparison with City-Catholic League teams.

"The county is so great that last year in the baseball sectionals they went up against our third best team," Don said.

"The county League ignores the best the City-Catholic League has in baseball. They're tougher in basketball, that I'll concede, but who do they think they're kidding when it comes to baseball?"

"Our best last year was Cardinal Mooney, and very likely it'll be Mooney again, but they won't let Mooney in the sectionals. Last year Jefferson, our second best team, went into the Class A sectionals, so we sent our third best team into the Class AA tournament.

"Why don't the county schools give up in this Catholic boundary stuff and get down to the brass tacks of playing the best schools they can?" Don asked.

He explained that when the City and Catholic leagues merged a few years ago the City was prepared to take its lumps, and did.

"The first time we played the

Catholics finished 1-2-3-4. But you know something? We've gotten better for it. Last year Mooney won but city teams were 2-3-4. We're playing better ball because we're playing a better brand of ball.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the City-Catholic League is a tougher, all-around league than any of the county divisions," Don said.

"After all, how tough are they when the best they can do is knock off our third best!"

MURRY had other interesting news too. The C-C football league will expand to 12 teams with Charlotte and Monroe returning next year on a "reorganized-reorganization" basis. Both will schedule games against some county schools as the latter's ninth game.

Murray also said the C-C basketball league has adopted a solid 18-game schedule — leaving absolutely no room for non-league games, including participation in Christmas Tournaments.

The C-C will divide into Big City, Small City and Catholic Divisions, with the Bigs and the Catholics playing each other twice and the Smalls once. The Smalls play each other twice and the Bigs and the Catholics once. The Smalls will have room for some non-league games. Four games to be exact.

## Square Fair In 19th Ward

Aberdeen Square, at the corner of Aberdeen and Post Ave., will be the site on Saturday, May 13, of the fifth annual Square Fair organized by the 19th Ward Community Association. Rain date is Sunday, May 14.

There will be arts and crafts boutiques, a book booth, baked goods, flea market, games and music, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. A pancake and sausage breakfast will be served from 7 until 11 a.m. Michael and Susan Orem of Melrose Street are chairmen.

## To Honor City Police

Rochester will be noting National Police Week from Sunday, May 14 through Saturday, May 20. The week has been specially authorized by President Nixon in public tribute to police officers across the nation.

Highlight of the local observance will be Peace Officer Memorial Day on May 15 to honor officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty.

Special exhibits are planned at the plaza level of the Public Safety Building throughout the week until special services at 2 p.m. Friday, May 19.

## Spring Concert Set At Mercy High

Mercy High School's annual spring concert will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 18.

The orchestra, directed by Sister Marie David, includes in its program "Gentle on my Mind" by John Hartford, "Jesus Joy of Man's Desiring" by Bach, and a modern arrangement of Bach's work by Tom Parker.

The glee club, directed by Sister Mary Barbara, will sing "Hosanna" and "Everything's All

Right" from the rock opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, and a medley from Carousel.

Seniors Catherine Bezek and Judith Welch are soloists.

The glee club and chorus will join voices on "Up, Up with People" and two other selections.

The chorus, also directed by Sister Barbara, will sing "Shalom" and selections from Fiddler on the Roof.

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