

GEORGE BEAHON
**"In This
 Corner"**



Which major league ball club will be first to employ a black manager?

That question has been kicked around in press boxes and in print from Anaheim to Boston, and nobody's yet come up with anything even approaching sound speculation.

The president of the International League, George Sisler Jr., is a confidant of nearly all big league front office people.

He doesn't hesitate when he answers. "Maybe two or three years. Perhaps just about when Frank Robinson decides he doesn't want to play any more. Robby certainly is qualified.

"And not because he's a super star. The trend actually is away from great ball players. Even away from just plain ballplayers.

"What they are looking for now is no longer the big box office name," says Sisler. "Rather, now they are looking beyond any physical success as a player, but toward an established ability to handle men. I think Robby, for one, has already displayed he can do that."

Sisler was referring to Robinson's established leadership qualities when he helped Baltimore to three successive pennants, as a leader not only on the field, but in the dugout and in the clubhouse. Also, Robinson established himself as a handler of men as a winter ball manager in Latin America.

"There are other blacks besides Robinson who could cut it right now," adds Sisler. "The handicap has been that few black players have had the advantage of having managed in the minors, or even coached on major league staffs.

"That trend I mentioned is pretty well established, not looking any longer for ex-players, even though Robby certainly is outstanding as an athlete. I am thinking about major league managers of today, like Chuck Tanner of the White Sox, Earl Weaver of Baltimore, and now Paul Owens of Philadelphia.

"These men didn't even play major league baseball, but they fit the new order. The front offices, aware of the changed nature of today's players, look now, first and foremost, for men who can handle men."

Sisler does not buy one line of thinking among baseball's front office hierarchy.

Some of the most important and most influential executives in the major leagues were approached with the lead question. "Which club will be first?"

Two of these were in the minority of those interviewed, but their replies were tragically alike.

"It may be a long, long time," they agreed, insisting on anonymity.

"Lots of clubs would like to be first to put a black manager in charge of a big league ballclub.

"But they think a little beyond that. They think about the fact that the man has not yet been born who was hired to manage and eventually had to be fired.

"Sure, people like Frank Robinson and Maury Wills and Ernie Banks and others probably are better choices than many whites. But the big hang-up remains. You'd like to hire the black manager, and it certainly would be a popular move today.

"But then who wants to be the first organization to fire the black manager? That day must come. And that's why it's going to be a long, long time before some organization has the guts to face not the first question, 'Which club will hire?', but to face the inevitable fact that the day must come when the man must be fired. That's a terrible thing to have to say, but that's why it'll take a long, long time. That's why we may never see it in our time."

JOHN DOSER
**Scholastic
 Notebook**



Father Nicholas Wegner, the director of Boys Town, has informed John "Doc" Herring and John W. Molinari that he will be unable to attend their Baseball-Basketball Oldtimer's Reunion Sept. 30 at the Mapledale Partyhouse.

So, the two chairmen went shopping for a substitute and came up with a biggie. In fact, if they limit Father Michael Hogan, pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Church, Honeoye Falls, to a mere benediction, it'll be a shame.

In a letter accepting the invitation, Father Hogan said he might be "too cryptic . . . for popular taste, but I hope the Oldtimers will like me and I would like to tell them a joke, if I could."

THE ONLY way we know of finding out how good a storyteller a priest is, if you've never heard him, is to ask his housekeeper.

We did. And Mrs. Mary Egan, who joined St. Paul's last November, has to be Father Hogan's No. 1 fan!

"He has the greatest sense of humor of any man I know," Mrs. Egan said. "He would be tops at that dinner," she added.

"Even in church on Sunday he'll have an anecdote to tell and the people get a kick out of it. Of course he can be serious, too. I really think he has an awful lot of humor."

Mrs. Egan is the former Mary Maloney whose brother was the late Father Joe Maloney at Our Lady of Lourdes in Brighton.

Mrs. Egan, a widow, worked at Strong Memorial Hospital in the medical records division before accepting the job as housekeeper at St. Paul's.

"I was told Father Hogan was

looking for a housekeeper and I thought he had many of the qualities of my brother so I just couldn't say no," Mrs. Egan explained.

She says it's wonderful to have the first Mass at 9 a.m. instead of at 7 a.m., because she can

get up and tackle a 7:30 breakfast where a 6 a.m. breakfast would be just about impossible.

Father Hogan's serious side performs in different ways.

During the flood he helped direct traffic downtown for two hours and last week he took a dozen altar boys to Silver Stadium to watch the Red Wings.

"Father Hogan has only to ask for something to be done and he has no trouble getting volunteers. Now he's training the fifth graders how to be altar boys. He keeps them right through high school," Mrs. Egan said.

THE OTHER day Father Hogan walked into a roomful of visitors, wearing huge sun-

glasses which were so extraordinary, according to Mrs. Egan, that the people laughed. But when he pushed the battery in his hands and the sunglasses produced windshield wipers, they really broke up, Mrs. Egan related.

The new deacon at St. Paul's is Deacon Darling. "Remember," Father Hogan reminded his flock, "that's 'Deacon Darling.' Not 'Darling Deacon!'"

Father Hogan isn't as tall and is possibly a little slimmer than

his brother, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

But we suspect, despite these "shortcomings," Mrs. Egan is quite right. "You'll not be disappointed to hear him. He's terrific, honestly," she said.

CURSILLO INFORMATION

General information about the Cursillo Movement of Rochester may be obtained by writing to the movement at P.O. Box 9568, Rochester, 14604, or by calling Father Raymond Booth at (716) 232-1133.

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