



IN THIS CORNER George Beahon

"People who don't say 'ain't,' just ain't eatin' regular, so I ain't gonna change."

On the very first of 15 nights of Monday Night TV Baseball, Jerome Herman Dean gave us fair warning. He would continue to corrupt grammar. On prime time.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on how you rate Dizzy Dean as a network sports commentator, this was a one-shot deal for the old righthander.

NBC, desperately striving to boost ratings for baseball, has adopted a new format for the Monday Night Series.

One new, special celebrity each show, to work in with craftsman Curt Gowdy and his dull sidekick, Tony Kubek.

This time it was Dizzy Dean, one of the great greats of the pitching legions. Dizzy didn't disappoint those who remember him from years back on Game Of The Week appearances.

The reviews on Dean would be mixed, to be sure.

At times, it seemed we were being subject to 2 1/2 hours of The Life And Times of Dizzy Dean.

Dizzy was motor-mouth from start to finish, some good, some bad. Always alive.

NBC tried first to get Teddy Boy, Baseball Joe, Williams. Nay, said Teddy, who had fishing dates. There was talk of getting Cosell, but Cosell had knocked baseball on a recent show. How about Pearl Bailey? Joe Namath?

Well, said NBC, it would try.

First of all, it should be noted that the show will open with a winner every night, when Joe Garagiola presents his pre-game feature. There will be another interesting special — a new manager's first trip into New York; baseball in Japan, with ex-American players spotlighted.

There were several names mentioned as definite future guest celebs on the microphones. Joe DiMaggio, who probably will be as quiet as Dean was glib. Casey Stengel, who may have us all mumbling with disbelief. Bobby Riggs, a likely winner. Dave DeBusschere, a certain winner. And, a late, late bulletin, Howard Cosell, from that OTHER network, from that OTHER Monday night sport, yes the same guy who's been knocking the Pastime.

The new format may not guarantee NBC any Emmys in its quest of the front-running ABC. But it will create interest, which translates to viewers, which means higher ratings, which is what baseball and football are all about. NBC moves way up with its new Monday Night deal. Ironically, its greatest ratings of the season will come on the night it borrows Humble Howard from ABC.

Not surprisingly, but no less painfully, we had to hear those terrible lines, among the all time bottom ten sports baddies:

1 — "Records is made to be broken."

2 — "Ballgame's never over until that last man is out." (Cross my heart, he said it.)

We got the Dean rendition of "The Wabash Cannonball," and we got too much of the 1930-vintage dugout humor, some of it corny, some insincere-sounding, all of it quaint, at best.

Pivot man in all conversation, nine innings long, Dean eventually was prevailed upon to

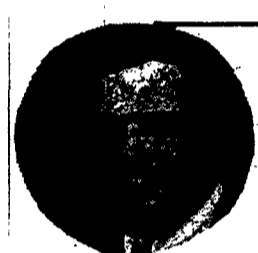
name his all time major league all star team. This included every player he ever saw or played against.

Since baseball, according to Dean, was not as good today as in his day, it was not surprising that he failed to name one active player. For the record: Lou Gehrig, 1b; Rogers Hornsby, 2b; Honus Wagner, ss; Pie Traynor, 3b; r-1, Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams; Mickey Cochrane, c; Walter Johnson, rhp; Lefty Grove, 1hp.

NBC and baseball are jealous of the Monday Night Football Series in which Howard Cosell keys a team including straight man Frank Gifford and middle man Don Meredith. Thus the celebrity-guest special for the baseball set.

Cowdy was openly against it when first announced. Kubek does not take stands. There was talk about bringing in non-sports, show biz-celbs.

Would Julie Andrews sing? Would Don Rickles dismember The Establishment? Would Senator Buckley enlighten us all?



SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK John Doser

The annual Inter-Diocesan track meet scheduled for Albany, Saturday, June 2, will again be ignored by the Diocese of Buffalo schools according to Chuck Korbar of the Buffalo Evening News.

There are, however, some Buffalo Catholic high schools which plan to enter, without the blessings of the diocese.

Jerry Stockman, executive secretary of the Msgr. Martin Catholic High School Athletic Association (the Buffalo Catholic League) said the diocese won't participate because it's not an "authorized" state meet.

Stockman points out that only three of New York State's eight dioceses participate and when they all get together, he says, Buffalo will be there too.

The Buffalo Diocese also ignored the Carter-Sammons basketball tournament which includes schools from the Dioceses of Albany, Rochester and smaller schools from Syracuse. (The larger Catholic schools from Syracuse compete in the Section 3 public school tournaments there. Section 5, Rochester area, will not allow Catholic schools within its boundaries to compete in public school tournaments.)

While Section 5 continues to sit on its hands, the state continues to move toward a unified organization into which the New York City public and parochial schools plus the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (of which Section 5 is a member) would merge, according to Marty Lewis of the New York (City) Public Schools Athletic League.

Lewis reports that the PSAL is virtually assured entry into the NYSPHSAA cross country meet this fall which would pave the way for indoor and outdoor competition as well — and, eventual creation of a real, genuine New York State track and field meet.

The PSAL has already joined the National Federation, a pre-condition to membership in the NYSPHSAA.

Right to Life Meeting Scheduled

The 1973 Annual National Right to Life Convention will be held at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel in Detroit June 8-10, according to James L. Ryan, convention chairman. Ryan is a Circuit Court Judge in Detroit and president of the Michigan Citizens for Life, host for the convention.

Detroit was selected as the convention site in recognition of the Michigan electorates' overwhelming rejection of abortion-on-demand in the November election.

Reservations will be accepted by the Convention Registration Committee, P.O. Box 900, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48103, telephone: 313-641-8884.

Attendance fee is \$25 per person with spouses of registrants admitted at no additional cost. In order to encourage participation of younger citizens, the fee for those under 21 years will be \$7.50.

Delegates will represent Right to Life groups and allied organizations from throughout the country and attendance is open to any other concerned citizen, Judge Ryan explains.

Kearney High Fathers Club Plans Dinner

The Bishop Kearney High School Fathers Club has scheduled its annual Sports Dinner for June 5 at Valle's on Ridge Road in Irondequoit.

Walt Patulski, former Notre Dame star now with the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League, will be the featured speaker.

Outstanding Bishop Kearney athletes, boys and girls, will be honored at the dinner and an Athlete of the Year will be announced. Academic excellence is a prerequisite for the award.

For reservations, contact Marty LaFica (342-2000), John Canepa (266-5225) or Florian Wesley (544-5355).

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FOOTNOTES — Cardinal Mooney, nearing another City-Catholic baseball league title, has much to thank Greg Weston's bat for... against Batavia Weston tripled twice, singled once, knocked in one run and scored two others as Cards took Churchville-Chili tourney crown with 8-3 win over the Blue Devils... against Franklin, Mooney gained 12th win in 14 starts overall and 10th straight without a league loss with Weston bombing two homers over left field fence at Franklin, adding two singles and a double for a perfect 5-for-5 performance. He also knocked in four runs and scored three more.

McQuaid's Tim Meyers fanned 11 Aquinas hitters in Knights' recent 4-1 win, hiking his K-record to 50 in four starts... Aquinas' Jeff VanderEl won his first game in three starts by throwing a no-hitter at Monroe... Irish won 9-0... VanderEl's whiffed 12... Earlier this season teammate Ken Lelek pitched a no-hitter for AQ against Charlotte.

Chris Horton helped McQuaid win the Aquinas Relays with tremendous rallies as anchor man in the four-mile-relay and varsity sprint medley relay, giving the Knights their only first in the 11-event meet at UR's Fauver Stadium... Actually, CBA of Syracuse and Brooklyn Technical tied McQuaid for first, but CBA had only one first place and Brooklyn none... Team title was McQuaid's fourth since Aquinas began the relays in 1964... CBA was defending champ.

Mooney's Dan Panaggio and Aquinas' Greg Miller are headed for coach Mauro Panaggio's basketball factory at Brockport State... Al Cervi Basketball Scholarship winners included Frank Marconi of Aquinas, Joan DeMarle, a 14-year-old Mooney freshman, entered, didn't win, threw Coca-Cola's Harvey Anderson into a tizzel, won a case of Coke, and a promise that Cervi-Anderson would consider a girls' basketball camp for next year.

Tom Batchelor of Mooney outpointed Mike Swearingen of York, 6-4, at 147 pounds in recent Wayne Central wrestling tournament.