The **Fearless Spectator**



Charles McCabe, Esquire

The rookie pitcher complained to umpire Bill Klem that every time Rogers didn't swing at one of his pitches Klem called it a ball.

"Son," replied Klem, "when you pitch a strike Mr. Hornsby will let you know."

He was the greatest right-hand hitter in baseball. There were those, including John McGraw, who called him the greatest hitter in baseball, period. He made the Hall of Fame. But when Rogers Hornsby died he was a failure—as Organized Baseball judges failures.

He was a great baseball player, but a lousy baseball man. He failed as a front office man because he was thorny, and incorruptible and couldn't stand the trompe l'oeil and general humbuggery of baseball as a business. He thought of it, to the day of his death, as a

Nothing could underscore the difference between baseball the game and baseball the biz more than the famous confrontation in the '30s between Hornsby and Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the first baseball

Landis was a preposterous old Chicago phony with a great mane of white hair who was called The Windy City Solomon. Heywood Broun said of him, "His career typifies the height to which dramatic talent may carry a man in America if only he has the foresight not to go on the stage."

Landis, after the Black Sox scandal, was fetichistic about gambling by players, especially betting on the horses. Hornsby played the horses and made no secret of it; unlike most of his confreres who played them and made a secret of it.

Landis summoned Hornsby to headquarters in

As Hornsby told it in his "My Way With Baseball," the office looked like a federal court, and some guy

was taking a transcript.

The judge waved a bony finger and said he had heard rumors that the Rajah had been playing the

"Well, Judge Landis," answered Hornsby, "they aren't just rumors. I bet on the horses. That's my only recreation."

"Then I'm ordering you to stop," snapped Landis. "It's gambling."

"I know it's gambling," said Hornsby, "and baseball and gambling don't mix. That's why I never play cards in the clubhouse with the other players. They're playing for money. I wait until later and maybe pick out a horse."

"That's some excuse," the Judge said. "And you're

going to stop.'

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"Look at it this way," the Rajah said, "I don't drink, smoke or go to the movies. Don't even read anything but the baseball boxscores. Don't even go to the races over once or twice a year. I can relax by betting a horse now and then."

"It's gambling," said the Judge, shaking his finger again. "It's gambling."

Hornsby got tough. "I know it's gambling. But so is the stock market. You can't tell me it's worse to gamble with my own money than it is to gamble on the stock market. Like you putting money that belongs to baseball in the stock market and losing."

As Hornsby said, "That ended the conversation real quick." And he added that, after the interview, "Needless to say, people didn't see any pictures in the paper of the Judge and me hugging each other in the

For it was well known that the Windy City Solo-mon had diddled with funds from the baseball commissioner's reserve fund, and had dropped a sizeable bundle in the 1919 Wall Street crash. As Red Smith recalled it, "The Commissioner had bought something called Kelsey Wheel, or something like that, which had dropped out of sight."

And it's perfectly true that playing the horses was really no different from playing Kelsey Wheel, or what-ever. The only difference was one of scale. And that Hornsby used his own money.

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Little Leaguers Open Season With a Bang As Schedules Begin

Several leagues opened their seasons during the past weekend and most of the other circuits are expected to hold opening-day ceremonies within the next two weeks. Tordondo Little League opened its year with a full slate of games. In their first start, Jerome Kurtik, Tom Middleton and Gary Norman combined to pace the Braves to a 15-1 triumph over the Dodgers. Kurtik gave up only a first-inning run then hurled shutout ball the rest of the way. Middleton homered for the winners while Norman clubbed two hits.

winners.

THE RED SOX, a winless

West Torrance

Pacific Coast

Ruth Loop Opens

North Torrance Babe Ruth League will open its season with brief ceremonies at noon.

with brief ceremonies at noon.
City Councilman George Vico
will witness a queen contest
and a 1 p.m. contest between
the Giants and the Cardinals
and a 3 p.m. battle between
the Dodgers and the Cubs.

Top Field Of Cycles

At Ascot

There'll be no favorite to night at Ascot Park when a loaded field of current and former national motorcycle Tr champions take off over the twist and turn course in the first under-the-arcs AMA steeplechase of 1963.

First of 16 races is at 8:30 p.m. with practice laps at 7 p.m over the hexardous eight.

lechase of 1963.

First of 16 races is at 8:30 p.m. with practice laps at 7 p.m. over the hazardous eight-turn course that includes a hair-raising obstacle jump in front of the main grandstand.

Racing director J. C. Aga janian reports a record of 142 riders will participate.

WINNER OF the expert class 15-lap "main" figures to come tally.

15-lap "main" figures to come from a group that includes Sid Payne and Clark White, Bakersfield; Dick Dorresteyn, San Pablo; Skip Van Leeuwen and Dick Hammer, Lakewood; Jack O'Brien, Santa Monica; Ralph

O'Brien, Santa Monica; Ralph White, San Diego and Dave Bostrom, Daly City.

Both Dorresteyn and Hammer won national AMA races in 1962, Payne won the April daylight TT at Ascot, Van Leeuwen the 100-lapper in Marhc and O'Brien, the oval track king, won the January ppener.

opener.
OTHER TOP rated experts are Jack Simmons, Artesia; Eddie Kretz, Monterey Park; Dave Palmer, Bakersfield; Ron

Dave Palmer, Bakersfield; Ron 'Nelson, Palmdale, and Mert Lawwill, Gardena. Lawwill is fresh from capturing the Northwest TT championship last weekend at Boise. Ida.

The amateur division features Eddie Mulder of Burbank, first of his class to win an Ascot open trophy dash since 1960, Bob Bailey, Torrance, and Paul Bostrom, Daly City. Barry Hyde hurled one-hit ball in the second game and his Redleg teammates backed him up with nine hits to gain a 16-0 triumph over the Dod-

City.
Separate races will also be held for the more than 70 novice riders entered.

Hollypark Will Open Thursday

Fred W. Hooper's potent pair of Crozier and Winonly, sprint champions of the past Santa Anita and Hollywood Park meetings, today topped a list of 19 nominees to the \$20,000 added Hollywood Premiere Handicap which will highlight the track's opening day pro-gram Thursday

the track's opening day program Thursday.

The six-furlong Premiere, and the oldest stakes race in Hollywood Park history, is the first of five added money events scheduled for dash stars during the 55-day session.

Cozier and Winonly, recent arrivals from the Alabama farm of their owner, were in cluded on the nominations roster, which was released by Racing Secretary John Maluvis, along with such speedballs as along with such speedballs as Testum, Revel, Tomy Lee, Na-tive Diver, Doc Jocoy, Valen-tine and Double Lea. Two of Crozier's four Ar-cadia stakes wins came in dash

cadia stakes wins came in dash events. The brilliant son of My Babu annexed the six-furlong Palos Verdes in 1:09 1/5 and won the \$61,100 San Carlos, richest sprint offered in the nation thus far in 1963, in 1:21 1/5 for the seven furlongs.

West Nine Will End Loop Play

West High will play its final scheduled Pioneer League baseball game of the season on Tuesday as the Warriors host Beverly Hills at 3 p.m.

The Warriors currently boast a 7-7 mark while Beverly is a 5-9 for the league cam-

On Thursday, the Warriors dropped a 6-5 decision in eight innings to Palos Verdes. Third baseman John Marsden and center fielder Jerry Colen each belted three hits, but it was not TOM FISCHER hurled the Cubs to a 2-1 triumph over the White Sox although Pale Hose catcher Bob Hornaday belted a four-bagger. Gary Jackman drove across the winning Cub enough to overcome the Sea lally.
In the Minor League, the

THE REDSKINS jumped Palos Verdes starter Ron Butcher for three runs in the

In the Minor League, the Stars took advantage of a two-hit, nine strike out perform-ance by Ed Miller to gain an 11-5 win over the Beavers. Dan Russell slammed two doubles and a single and Larry Taylor belted a two-bagger for the winners. Butcher for three runs in the opening stanza, and appeared on the way to moving ahead of the fifth-place Sea Kings in the league race.

PV came back strong in the top of the third to knot the game at 3-3 before Marsden clobbered a four-bagger to bring the lead back to West. Palos Verdes went ahead with two runs in the fifth and the Warrios knotted it again when Colen singled in the tying run team last season, started the new year off on a different foot with a 10-8 victory over the Pirates. Bob Dunn gave up seven hits but whiffed 15 men to hold the Pirates, Mark Wilkie garnered two of the four Red Sox hits. colen sing. Colen singled in the tying run

TWO ERRORS and a single TWO ERRORS and a single gave the Sea Kings their winning run in the eighth inning. West mentor Max Lomas took advantage of three hurlers, but it was freshman Dave LaRoche who absorved the loss, Two tilts were played last Sunday as the West Torrance Pony League officially opened In the first fray of the sea-son, the Braves tallied early and managed to hold off a late Cub comeback to gain an 8-4 his fourth of the season with

out a win,
Coach Lomas will go with
sophomore chucker John Marsden on Tuesday.



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