

The Fearless Spectator

By

Charles McCabe, Esquire



For awhile there it was nip and tuck. But it appears that the New York Mets, those Death Wish Charlies of organized baseball, are securely settled in the cellar. Again.

As you don't have to be told, the Mets are the losingest team in baseball today. As such, they have generated in many hearts—including what's left of this one an unregenerated and perverse love.

Everybody's getting into the act. I read a piece about the Mets the other day by Max Lerner, a left-wing sociologist who usually extrapolates such matters as the Gross National Product. The Mets, said Max, are "an American phenomenon."

It's gotten so in New York that when the misbegotten squad wins two or more games in a row, their furious fans send up the cry, "Break up the Mets."

They've been murdering the Yankees at the gate, and the Yanks are the most fiendishly proficient team in baseball. Which is not too surprising. It's been said that rooting for the Yanks is like rooting for U. S. Steel or General Motors.

The Yank ownership has fought back in a characteristic way. They have gone Madison Avenue. For the first time in the club's history, they have taken local advertising spots to publicize the amenities of Mantle, Maris, Whitey Ford, and the rest.

Yet, as bad as they are, the Mets are not the worst team in National League history, although they lost 120 games last season.

This notable dishonor belongs to the Cleveland Spiders, a team owned by two Ohio tractor magnates, Frank DeHaas and Matthew Stanley Robinson.

Came the year 1899, these two archetypal owners got mad at the Spider fans. They didn't think the fans supported the team big enough.

They bought the St. Louis franchise in this vengeful mood and transferred the best Cleveland players there, leaving the Spiders a sorry lot indeed.

The Spiders won 20 and lost 134 games, for a percentage of .130, the worst record ever made in the majors.

Six different times the club lost 11 or more straight games, including one streak of 24. It finished 80 games behind the Brooklyn Pennant winners that year.

During its road games the hapless organization was known to the foreign baseball writers by such names as the Exiles, the Wanderers and the Barnstormers. And that loveliest of all baseball team names—the Forsaken.

On the last day of the season, in what must have been total despair, the manager deputized the clerk at the cigar stand of the Hotel Gibson in Cincy, one Eddie Koib, to pitch for the team. The Forsaken lost to Cincy, 19-3.

After that dismal contest the Forsaken players gathered in a hotel room and presented a little diamond locket to their traveling secretary, George W. Muir.

"We are doing this for you," a team spokesman said, "only because you deserve it. You are the only person in the world who had the misfortune—and the fortitude—to watch us in all our games."

Like the Mets, the Forsaken developed their own kind of fan. They even had their own philosopher, a baseball writer named Elmer E. Bates. He evolved a working *Weltanschauung* for losers. It has come down in baseball history as Bates' Rules. They follow:

1. There is everything to hope for and nothing to fear.
 2. Defeats do not disturb one's sleep.
 3. An occasional victory is a surprise and a delight.
 4. There is no danger of any club passing you.
 5. You are not asked 50 times a day, "What was the score?" People take it for granted you lost.
- To which you might add, if you care, McCabe's corollary: "If you're gonna lose, lose big."

NEW PARNELLI

Younger Jones Races at Ascot

Paul Jones, younger brother of Indianapolis champion Parnelli Jones, today signed to drive in Wednesday night's 30-lap California Racing Assn. big car race at Ascot Park.

Paul, who finished fourth in

Women's Softball Loop Underway

A Women's Night Softball League, under the sponsorship of the Torrance Recreation Department, is currently underway.

The women play on Tuesdays at El Nido Park and on Thursdays at McMaster Park. The first game opens at 7 p.m. with the second contest getting underway at 8:30 p.m.

In the first two games played, AllResearch earned a 19-5 victory over Tyros while the Esabs were capturing a 5-0 win against the Corkers.

a recent Ascot semi-main, will face rugged competition from the likes of veteran Ray Douglas who has recently climbed within the top five in CRA point standings.

Also coming up fast is motorcycle champion Don Hawley, who has switched over to the big cars and found them to his liking.

As usual, the real favorites are two vets, Billy Cantrell and Allen Heath, plus point leader Bob Hogle. Cantrell has three main events to his credit while Heath boasts a pair of triumphs.

The eight-race program will begin at 8:30 p.m. with qualifying laps beginning at 7 p.m.

CRA President Walt James has announced that a big double-header will be offered on Thursday night, July 4, at Ascot Park with fireworks and a 50-lap main event scheduled.

Hydro-Karts To Challenge New Domain

When the Go-Kart craze really got started several years ago, few of its backers realized it would extend as far as the rivers, lakes and oceans that abound in Southern California. A marine branch of the Go-Kart movement has grown up, or is at least in its infancy, spearheaded by Jack Ehlen of Torrance. Ehlen has suddenly found that his hobby of putting a two-cycle engine into an eight-foot-long, three-point hydroplane is becoming a fad.

Stock Car Point Title On Block

Control of the Figure Eight stock car point standings will be at stake tonight as Ascot Park in Gardena. A two-way battle for the lead shapes up between Ben Steele and Joe Drew.

Steele, with three main event wins this year, moved ahead of Drew last week by finishing third in the 15-lap main event. Steele currently has 690 points to Drew's 660.

Drew, winner of more main events than any other driver, has five triumphs to his credit, but was forced to the sidelines in his last start because of rear-end trouble during a heat race.

ANOTHER contender, in the person of Leon Garrett, has also moved into the picture. Garrett has won four main events and has 660 points.

Tonight's racing will be topped by a 15-lap main event for the 20 fastest qualifiers of the evening. Also planned is a 10-lap semi-main, four eight-lap heat races, and a four-lap trophy race.

DRIVERS entered from Torrance include Lee Lucer, Frank McEwen, Don and Nestor Silveria, and Lee Speaks. Nestor Silveria is sixth in the standings with 180 points, McEwan is eighth with 140 points, and Don Silveria is tenth with 120 points.

Racing will begin at 8:30 p.m. with time trials starting at 7 p.m.

Trio Make Ruth Loop Race Tight

Remaining on top of the Pacific American Babe Ruth League standings, the Athletics notched a 7-1 win over the Yankees last weekend to boost their record to 9-3.

The Red Sox, Tigers, and Yankees are deadlocked for second place with 7-5 record. The Orioles are third at 5-6 while the Indians are in the cellar with a 1-12 slate.

Craig Moore sparked the Athletics win as he allowed only three hits while whiffing eight batters. Ed Holmes suffered the defeat although he sent 12 opponents down on strikes.

DAVE THOMPSON, Larry Tyner, Jerry Dudley, Jim McPherson, Bob Lane, Don Greene, and Moore each collected a hit for the Athletics. Steve Parker got two of the Yanks' three hits.

The Tigers kept their bid in for a second-place finish with an 8-7 triumph over the Orioles. Steve Hertzog gained the victory with a six-hit, 14 strike out performance.

GERG LINNEMEYER led the Tigers with a double and a single while Gordon Mossman doubled. Steve French and Hertzog singled for the winners.

For the Orioles, Ron Driesler slammed two hits and Ron Hull, John Englehardt, Glenn Thompson, and Ricky Hynes clobbered one each. Englehardt and Thompson tripled while Hynes hit a double.

THE ORIOLOS fared better against the Indians, gaining a 7-6 victory.

Ron Hull struck out nine and gave up 10 hits in earning the decision. Gary Kent, John Englehardt, Emil Derdowski, and Ron Driesler collected two hits each for the Orioles. Kent and Englehardt were responsible for two RBIs each while Driesler boomed out a pair of doubles.

For the Indians, Bob Clark had three hits and Bob Lewin collected another pair of safeties.

Known as Hydro-Karting, the sport is becoming increasingly popular in Southern California, according to Ehlen, because of the abundance of suitable sites of water.

IN CONJUNCTION with several other devotees of the water sport, Ehlen has organized the National Hydro Karting Assn. to allow safe, sane racing conditions to prevail for the new hobby.

When the association held its first competition early in May at Hansen Dam, Ehlen fittingly enough walked away with top honors.

DRIVING a Fury Hydro-Kart, equipped with a McCulloch MC-70 air-cooled Kart engine mounted on a special outboard lower unit, the Torrance driver handily triumphed against 27 similarly equipped pilots.

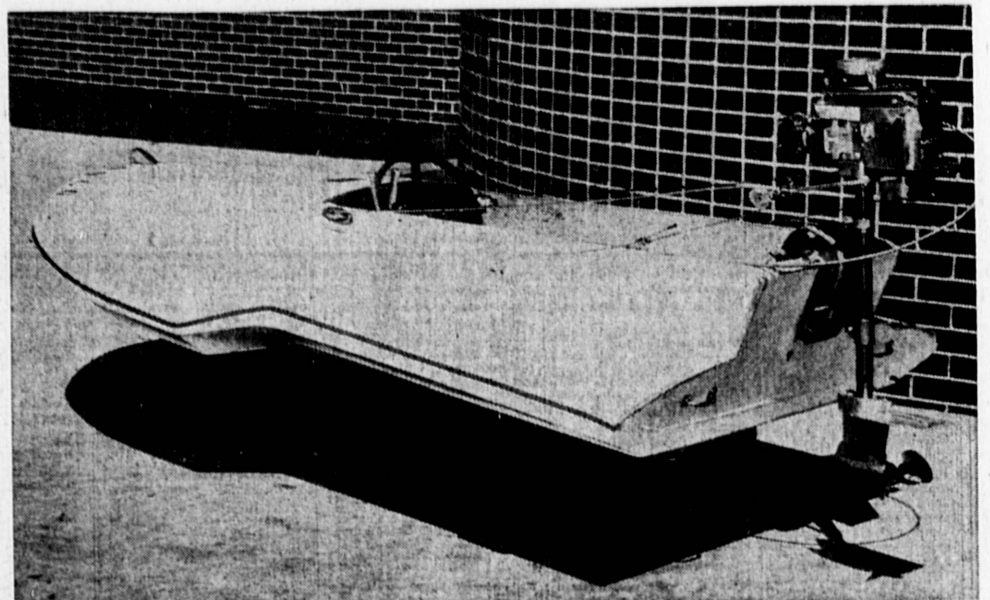
Ehlen, who has been promoting his hobby as a sport for the past two years, won both the single engine and unlimited engine races with a one-half lap lead over the three-quarter-mile course. Three laps were run around the triangular shaped course.

SINCE MAY the Hydro-Karts have competed at Lancaster and Ehlen is currently looking ahead to the Fourth of July weekend, for it will give his association a chance to compete in Redondo Beach's King Harbor during the annual celebration conducted in the neighboring city.

Redondo Beach is presenting the Hydro-Karts with a golden opportunity for recognition according to Ehlen. The race will be conducted while the bigger boats are on their annual jaunt to Catalina and trophies will be offered to the winners.

THE HYDRO-KART Assn. in the future intends to allow only air-cooled engines to enter competition and engine displacement will be limited in various classes.

Ehlen encourages those interested in obtaining further information about the sport to contact him at home at FRontier 5-7155.



GO-KART ON WATER . . . Jack Ehlen of Torrance has recently seen his hobby of Hydro Karting turn into a booming project. Suddenly the tiny boats, only eight-feet in length and powered by a two-cycle engine, have become popular and even a National Hydro Kart Assn. has been

set up. Ehlen recently powered the above boat to victory in a race at Hansen Dam in which he finished one-half lap ahead of his closest challenger on the three-quarter mile course. Next on Ehlen's schedule will be a run in Redondo Beach's King Harbor during the Fourth of July weekend.

TORRANCE HERALD Sports

6 GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor JUNE 23, 1963

Phillies Hold Off Dangerous Cards

Finally closing the margin on the Torrance National Little League-leading Phillies, the Cardinals captured two recent victories to pull into a virtual tie for first place.

The Phils currently hold down the top spot with an 8-2 mark while the Cardinals boast an 8-3 record. Trailing are the Cubs at 5-5, the Yankees at 5-6, and the Braves and Angels at 3-8.

Against the Angels, the Cardinals captured 3-1 and 2-0 triumphs. It took a two-run rally in the fifth inning to assure the Cards of a win in the first contest.

BOB JONES allowed only one hit, walked one, and struck out five to gain the win. Daren Vom Steig, Randy Bishop, and John Clayton collected RBIs for the winners.

Keith Glick drove across the only Angel tally. Collecting his second shut-out of the year, Jim Fox twirled a no-hitter, fanning 15

and walking two batters in the second game. Randy Bishop punched across two runs in the fifth frame with a single for the Cards.

THE PHILLIES managed to keep on top of the situation with a 4-3 win against the Yankees. Ron Clark homered with two men on in the third inning and Craig Preston stole home on the final frame to pace the winning run to pace the Phil's offensive attack.

Al Duran belted the only earned Yankee run across.

DESPITE A two-hitter by Ken Waters, the Braves managed to land a 4-2 triumph over the Cubs. Mark Marquard allowed only four hits, fanned 10 and walked five for the win.

Waters fanned 14 opponents and walked six. Only Steve Buckman and Ted Miller hit safely off Waters. Joel Freeman drove across one Cub run and Terry Waters belted a third inning homer for the losers.

Keggs Improve In 2nd Round

Coming back with a vengeance after a poor first half West Coast Slo-Pitch League showing, the Torrance Tappa Keggs moved into a virtual deadlock for first place on Friday with two wins over the Manhattan Beach Has Beens.

Torrance was forced to the limit in the first game of a doubleheader, relying on four runs in the final inning to pull out a 4-3 decision.

Limited to only five hits the entire game, the Keggs suddenly found the range and rapped six bingles in the last stanza to give reliever Rick Ryan the triumph.

RYAN CAME IN to hurl the last two innings and helped his own cause along by banging out two hits in two trips to the dish. Chuck Schoendienst, Chuck Williams, and Jim Reynolds each collected two safeties in three attempts.

Gib Matthews, Williams and Reynolds collected RBIs in the final innings and the final Kegg run came across on an error. Ray Magnante started the big inning off for Torrance

by bashing his ninth double of the season.

THE KEGGS made things easier for Ryan in the second game, rapping 12 hits and coasting to a 7-0 win. Ryan took his second win of the evening although he gave up nine hits to Manhattan.

Ray Magnante slammed his fourth home run of the season to account for two tallies as he enjoyed a two for three game at the plate. Matthews doubled and tripled, going two for three and accounting for two Kegg runs.

WILLIAMS ALSO went two for three in the second contest and earned one RBI. Magnante now leads the league in both doubles and home runs.

The Los Angeles Old Timers, winner of the first round championship, are 2-0 for the second round. Torrance and Gardena are tied for second with 3-1 records while Santa Ana, Redondo, and Manhattan have compiled 1-3 marks. El Segundo is 1-1 for the second round.

Torrando Solons Win Two Games

Close does not count in baseball, and although the Senators were close to defeat in two Torrance Little League contests the past week, they pulled out victorious in both encounters.

In a seven-inning overtime contest, the Senators nudged the Tigers by a 2-0 count, then came back to snare a 3-2 triumph over the Indians.

The Solon-Tiger contest developed into a tight pitching battle for the regulation six innings. Senator Greg Loney and Tiger Bruce MacEachern hurled shutout ball for six frames and both chuckers sent 12 opponents down swinging.

NEIL SORENSON threw the opening half of the seventh for the Senators and held the Tigers scoreless. In the bottom of the seventh, the Bengals succumbed to the pressure and allowed the Solons to win on errors.

Sorenson also gained the win against the Indians, needing only a little relief help from Dan Smith in the sixth inning to insure the victory. John Walker went the entire route for the losers.

THE CUBS combined the talents of ace chuckers Larry Brown and Tom Fischer to no avail as the Braves went all the way with Gary Hulsey and picked up a 2-1 duke.

Hulsey whiffed 15 batters while Fischer and Brown allowed only one hit. Tony Kelch doubled for the Braves after Mark Kurtiek had reached first on an error and Tom Middleton had walked.

FARING better in an overtime battle with the Yankees, the Cubs gained a 1-0 triumph in an eight-inning mound war. For six frames, Tom Fischer whiffed 13 and allowed only one hit for the Cubs while Yank Dean Gibson struck out 15 and also allowed only one safety.

In the eighth inning, Fischer allowed teammate Larry Brown to pick up the win by driving across the go-ahead tally. Brown fanned six men in his two innings of work.

Bill Kalvin singled and doubled while Tom Reece went all the way on the mound for the Minor League Braves as they took a 9-5 decision away from the Giants.

Gable Bowl Continues Top Games

Gable House Bowl in Torrance continues to record 200 games the past week. Bowling in the Early Show League, Bill Lindner has a 254 game and George Enoch a 276.

Among the women who tallied in the 200s were Alberta Castleman, 212; Bobbie Putmann, 223; Shirley Larsen, 202; Pat McClure, 248; Nancy Gesner, 208; Mary Asara, 204; Julian Dean, 218; Toney Murphy, 200; Betty Rogers, 211; Lorraine Buning, 212, 209; Kay Hoover, 211, 200; Ellen Jones, 204; Betty Donahue, 207; and Lil Fehring, 205.

Vic Williams carded a 254 game, Art Lindsey had a 254 game series of 864, Carmen Fuscarda shot a 610 tournament series, and Carol Wittan turned in a 117 triplicate.

Winners of weekly prizes for high series and high games in the Golden State Singles Classic were also announced by Gable House.

Winning from the Torrance Bowl in a Class A division were John Darling, 726, and Harry Gannon, 288. Kenneth Crabtree, 672; and Alan Klick, 235, won in Class B competition.

Class C winners were Robert Sudbrink, 579; and John Chomicz, 207.

