

Sports

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The Fearless Spectator

By

Charles McCabe, Esquire



Today we address ourselves to another of those marvelous ethical dilemmas which seem to inhabit baseball: How to be lousy and still remain popular.

This is something the Los Angeles Angels, the Mets of the American League, seem to have achieved with altogether admirable success.

We are familiar with the thrilling tale of the Mets, and the madness in their Method. The Mets have been so crassly awful, so purposeful in their drive toward the tenth place in the National League, that they have been taken to the hearts of those ironists, the losers of New York.

So Heady has been the team's progress that it's manager, an old vaudeville hand named Casey Stengel, has dyed his hair a golden brown, as against the purest whiteness a half-century in the national pastime gave him.

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The Angels came into major league baseball at the same time as the Mets, when the two leagues expanded to ten teams a few years back. Their record has been approximately the same: they have been terrible, and are now, like the Mets, engaged in a race for the cellar position in the American League.

You would think the Angels would have shared the Met's panache, and their stirring appeal to the hearts of the misbegotten of the West Coast.

You would think this, but you would be wrong. The Angels can't draw enough for a good argument at home, and are not much better abroad. The rumor afloat is that the team has been quarantined in Los Angeles.

The Angels are frankly terrible yet they are about as popular as a parson in a pothouse. On opening day this year the Dodgers drew 50,000 in Los Angeles, and the Angels might just as well have been playing in Minsk.

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The Angels' fortunes are at such a law ebb that there is quite serious talk of moving the team to Anaheim, the town which gave Disneyland to the world. Should this happen, it might well be a case of water meeting its own level.

Yet any student of Loserdome can tell you in a minute the cause of the Angels' plight. Or, Why Losing Just Isn't Enough.

The cause, or rather causes, are two-fold: the Angels aren't bad enough, and they have the misfortune to represent a no-class town.

Last year the Angels failed in their drive to the cellar, and failed a bit too widely, alas. They ended the season in ninth place, with the Washington Senators tenth, a solid 14½ games behind. The Mets, on the other hand, were cleanly in tenth, 15 games behind the Houston Colts.

These statistics are not negligible, or to be dismissed lightly. To become the cynosure of the loser's eye you must not be merely bad, you must be all bad.

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Ninth is nowhere, as clearly as anything can be nowhere. It's like being Liz Burton's third husband, whoever he was. Or the vice consul of Ghana. Or the man who wrote the lyrics to "Moon Over Miami." But nowhere.

But even if the Angels had bucked up last year and put their shoulders to the wheel and had made the exertions needed to achieve Tenthhood, is it doubtful if the good peasantry of Los Angeles would have got the point.

In the country of the blind, they tell me, the one-eyed man is king. This explains the Mets, to a degree. New York is a city of winners, or is thought to be. It's the capital of the world, the place to which the ladies from Washington run for advice when they are in trouble.

In this ambience of success, the loser can be appreciated. He stands out, almost a relief against the prevailing tone of high achievement.

Whereas, in Los Angeles... But words fail me.



FINAL TOUCHES... Workmen apply the finishing touches to the west-end bleacher section of South High's new \$96,000 athletic stadium. The stadium, which housed over 1,000 for Thursday's graduation exercises, is now completed except for bleachers on the east side. Completion of

construction on stadiums at South and West highs will give each of the four Torrance public high schools complete football and track facilities. Previously only Torrance and North high schools had stadiums. (Herald Photo)

OUTSTANDING HURLING

John Marsden, Jay Baker Pace Two Bullet Triumphs

Tremendous pitching by John Marsden and Jay Baker paced the Torrance Bullets to a pair of South Bay Connie Mack League baseball triumphs last weekend.

Marsden hurled 8½ innings of no-hit ball and wound up with a one-hitter in the opening loop game of the year as Torrance hung a 5-0 loss on Long Beach. With two out in the ninth inning, a right-field double by Don Alverson ruined Marsden's no-hit bid.

The West High ace struck out 13 men and walked four. He also paced an 11-hit Bullet

attack by tripling and accounting for a pair of RBIs.

Baker was next on the firing line and he kept Torrance unbeaten with a five-hit, 4-3 win over Westchester. The ex-North High chucker fanned 14 men and walked but three in nine innings of work.

Torrance trailed Westchester 3-2 going into the final stanza but shoved over two runs to pull out the decision.

A bases-loaded walk to Marsden on four pitches, forced Mike Brooks across with the winning run. Earlier in the inning Hoagy Wong singled

Rudy Perez home from third base to knot the count.

Against Long Beach, Wong, Brent Nickoloff, Marsden and Jack Crist rapped two hits. Marsden and Crist each accounted for two RBIs.

The Long Beach tilt was one of Marsden's top mound efforts. Only three balls were hit out of the infield, including Alverson's spoiler double.

Baker almost let Westchester off the hook in the seventh inning. He allowed two of his three walks and two hits while his teammates were committing a pair of errors to give Westchester three unearned runs. Baker finally retired the side on strikeouts.

Nickoloff, an All-League third baseman the past year for North High, went 3 for 4 at the dish against Westchester. He also chalked up another RBI, Marsden, with a double, was the only Bullet to pick up an extra base hit.

Melchert Snares Win for Cherubs

Steve Melchert hurled a four-hitter and slammed a home run the past week in leading the Torrance Colt League Angels to a 5-2 triumph over the Twins.

Melchert allowed only one walk and broke open a scoreless gall game in the fourth inning with a bases-empty circuit clout.

The remaining four Angel runs came across in the fifth frame on two walks and singles by Greg Strayer, Charlie Villegas and Larry Vocke. Steve Sibley banged a triple in the second inning but his Cherub mates were unable to bring him around.

All of the Twin tallies came in the sixth inning on a fielder's choice by Larry Patterson, a triple by Bob Woods and a sacrifice fly by Rick Engle.

Engle opened on the hill for the Twins and lasted three innings, giving up only one hit. Steve Rarick finished up and

allowed five runs on seven hits and three walks.

The Tigers continued their winning ways with a 6-2 decision over the Braves. Mike Tuffley went the route to notch the victory with a five-hit, five-walk, nine strikeout performance.

Wayne Wood collected the loss, giving up six runs on seven hits and six walks.

Three Tiger runs scored in the fourth stanza on a walk and hits by Dan Graham, Bob Sharpe and Mike Bobards. Christ Smith singled in the fifth inning and came home by stealing second, going to third on a wild pitch and crossing the plate on another wild toss.

The final two Tiger runs came in the seventh on two walks and back-to-back singles by Graham and Sharpe.

Wayne Woods drove over Gary Grubbs in the third inning for the first Brave run. In the seventh, a walk and a safety by Steve Combs finished the scoring for the losers.

Area Lady Sinks Rare Golf Ace

Mrs. Delta Matheson, 3412 Garnett, has become the first woman to shoot a hole-in-one on the New Horizons-South Bay golf course.

Another ace, by the head groundskeeper, Robert Stewart, was fired on the same day at New Horizons. Mrs. Matheson, who has been playing golf only five months, aced the third hole, using a seven iron. Stewart has been golfing for 45 years and it was his first hole-in-one. He formerly played professionally in both Canada and the United States.

A hole-in-one trophy was recently presented to Mrs. Matheson by the course.

The New Horizons golf course is located at the New Horizons-South Bay development on Sepulveda Boulevard between Crenshaw and Hawthorne boulevards in Torrance. It is for the exclusive use of New Horizons residents and their guests.



RARE TROPHY... Recreation director Gordon Gauley (left) presented a hole-in-one trophy to Mrs. Delta Matheson, 3412 Garnett as the first woman to record an ace on the New Horizons-South Bay golf course. Looking on is sales director Bob Norton.

Explosive Kegs Keep Loop Lead With 2 Triumphs

Turning in their top defensive performance of the year, the Taft-Allen Tappa Keggas hung a pair of defeats on the El Monte Blackhaws Friday night to remain atop the West Coast Slo-Pitch Assn. standings.

Chuck Schoendienst and Chuck Ryan each turned in two-hit pitching performances as the Tappa Keggas boosted their circuit mark to 18-2 and their season record to 21-2.

The Kegs shoved over five runs in the opening frame of the first game and finished with a 5-0 triumph. The first six Keggas at bat hit safely and from there on out only five other Torrance stickers got hits.

Mick Ryan, Schoendienst and Ray Magnante put together singles in the first inning to force the initial Keg tally across. Gib Matthews poked another one bigger for the second run.

Consistent Jim Reynolds forced Magnante and Matthews around with a double and then scored himself on a single by Charley Williams.

REYNOLDS AND Magnante paced the 11-hit Kegga offensive with 2 for 3 performances. Reynolds wound up with two RBIs.

Schoendienst allowed only solo hits in the third and fifth innings to earn his seventh win in eight decisions. The Kegs backed him up by playing errorless ball. El Monte committed only one miscue.

The second game was much tighter than the first but a two-run outburst in the fourth inning gave the Keggas a 2-0 win. Chuck Ryan limited the Blackhaws to a pair of hits while the Kegs were collecting six safeties of their own. Ryan now owns a 9-1 loop record.

In the fourth inning, Mick Ryan opened with a single, went to second when Schoendienst grounded out, and came all the way home on a double by Magnante. Matthews then singled Magnante across.

NEITHER BALL club committed a bobble in the second encounter. During the two games, only four El Monte runners got on base and only one man went as far as second.

Next for the Tappa Keggas will be a league doubleheader with El Segundo Friday night at Torrance Park. In the first round, the Kegs hung 3-0 and 11-5 defeats on the beach city club.

Tappa Kegga manager Chuck Ryan has announced his team will meet two squads of West Coast Slo-Pitch Assn. All-Stars in a July 4 doubleheader at Gardena's Recreation Park. The Kegs, champs of first round play will tangle with East and West All-Stars.

Bums Fall To Injuns In LL Play

A two-hit mound performance by Mike Weatherman propelled the Tordondo Little League Indians to a 3-1 triumph over the Dodgers the past week.

The only Dodger hits off Weatherman came on Gary Largent's double and Ricky Hon's single. Hon split mound duties with Steve Voisin for the losers.

Bob Headley and catcher Paul Miller paced the Indian offense.

RICKY BERWICK flipped shutout ball for the Yankees as they chalked up a 7-0 victory over the Senators. Bruce Netherly and Gary Palmer supplied the hitting punch for the winners.

Wayne Larson and Craig Tuttle shared mound chores for the Senators.

In other Major League action, the Yankees snared a 12-inning, 3-2 decision over the Cubs. Larry Brown attempted to pull the contest out for the title-contending Cubs with an early two-run homer.

THE MARATHON game came to an end when Brian Donovan singled to left field, bringing Mike Netherly home from third base.

Each team used three chucksers. Lanny Wiessman, Mike Netherly and Brad Hamblin toiled for the Yanks while Robert Blackburn, Larry Brown and John Nance worked for the Cubs. Gary Palmer caught the entire game for the winners while Tim Fischer and Robert Blackburn shared catching duties for the Cubs.

Grunion To Finish Local Run

A four-night grunion spawning run on Southern California beaches will end early tomorrow at 1:30 a.m.

Where the elusive grunion will run is anyone's guess. Any quiet, sandy beach between Morro Bay and Baja, Calif., is a likely prospect, but the tiny, silver fish may not run on every beach.

Grunion may be taken on the beach or in the surf by hand only. No device of any kind may be used and it is unlawful to dig holes in the sand to trap the fish. Anyone 16 years of age or over must have a California sportfishing license.

THERE IS NO bag limit on grunion, but in the interest of conservation the Department of Fish and Game urges sportsmen to limit their take to the number of fish they intend to use.

Perseverance often pays off in grunion hunting and many a seeker who remained on the beach after everyone else has given up has been rewarded by a late run and the making of a delicious dinner. Grunion are tasty morsels when sealed and fried fresh.

Recreation Results

TUESDAY LEAGUE	
SLO-PITCH	
Warriors 8, Touchables 0	
Morris Union 7 3, T.E.S.P.A. 2	
Firefighters A 13, Mobil #1 2	
WEDNESDAY LEAGUE	
SLO-PITCH	
Rick's Bar 5, Falcons 5	
King's Men 5, Edison Co. 7	
Firefighters B 14, Mobil #2 6	
THURSDAY LEAGUE	
SLO-PITCH	
South Torrance Lions Club 6, Throwaways 4	
St. Lawrence 5, Redondo Angels 4	
Torrance Lions Club 7, Torrance Kiwanis Club 0 (forfeit)	
EL NIÑO LEAGUE	
SLO-PITCH	
Tigers 7, Eagles 5	
Time Out 7, Torrance Police Officers Assn. 3	
South Bay Church of God 13, North High Faculty 0	
INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE	
SOFTBALL	
Magnavox 11, R.C. Mahon 2	
Soule Steel 9, Harbor Hornets 5	
AllResearch 14, Harvey Aluminum 2	
OPEN LEAGUE	
SOFTBALL	
Falcons 4, Douglas 1	
King's Hardware 13, Frederick's Realty 2	

THREE STAKE RACES

Hollypark Slates Big Week

The \$50,000 added Inglewood Handicap on Saturday will climax a big week of thoroughbred racing at Hollypark in Inglewood.

The mile and one-sixteenth event, a significant stepping stone to the \$102,100 Hollywood Gold Cup on July 18, is expected to again match steadily improving Mustard Plaster and hard-hitting Mr. Consistency, 1-2 finishers in the recent \$115,500 Californian.

Mustard Plaster, a Washington-bred son of Mr. Mustard, ran the greatest race of his life in defeating Mr. Consistency in the Californian, with such nationally prominent handicap aces as Kelso, four-time "horse of the year," and Admiral's Voyage in his wake.

Also expected to contest the Inglewood Handicap are such talented handicap runners as Bond, South African champion; Colorado King, third in the Californian; Quita Dude, runner-up in the Los Angeles Handicap; Drill Site, 1962 Hollywood Derby victor and a two-time winner this season; and Native Diver, who won the Inglewood 'Cap last year.

Lending zest to the 24th running of the Inglewood 'Cap will be the presence of Hollywood Park's sprint champion, Sledge, victor in his last three engagements, including the Premiere Handicap and the Hollywood Express. The Anyoldtime gelding who had heretofore been considered just a sprint specialist, showed that he could sustain his speed around two turns when, in his last start at a mile, he whipped a good field with ease in 1:35 3/5.

Speed specialists will be spotlighted Tuesday in the \$20,000 added Coronado Handicap at six furlongs. Prominent contenders include Viking Spirit, Double Lea, Typhoon II, Lazovich, Turloc and Big Raff.

On Thursday, the finest fillies and mares in the West will vie at a mile in the \$25,000 added Milady Handicap, final stepping stone to the \$50,000 added Vanity Handicap for the distaff championship on July 3.

Likely entrants in the Milady 'Cap include Curious Clover, winner of the Sequoia Handicap this season.