

Bart Signs Baseball Contract

The Chicago White Sox have signed Bart Johnson of Torrance to a professional baseball contract.

Johnson, 18, is scheduled to report to Appleton, Wisconsin, to begin his career in the minor leagues. He was signed to a contract by scouts George Noga and Doc Bennett.

A 6-6 Torrance High graduate, Bart led the Tartars to three basketball championships and two baseball titles. He was All-CIF in both sports.

Johnson enrolled at Brigham Young University last fall, but dropped out of college early this year.

Bart is married and the father of a month-old baby.

Since the start of the baseball season Bart has been playing semi-pro ball with the Paramount Angels at Sawtelle Field.

When he reports to Appleton, a rookie league, this week, the team is scheduled to play an exhibition game against the White Sox at which time the youngster may get an opportunity to make his professional pitching debut against the parent organization.



SIGNS CONTRACT... Bart Johnson, former Torrance High athlete, has signed a professional baseball contract with the Chicago White Sox.

Baseball Is Here To Stay

(This is the first in a series of articles about baseball in Torrance.)

By HENRY BURKE
Press-Herald Sports Editor

Fifteen years ago the only place in Torrance where you could play or watch a game of baseball was Torrance Park.

The ball diamond has always been the home of Torrance High School, a multitude of softball and slo-pitch leagues, semi-pro baseball teams, and in recent years has been used by the Connie Mack, Stan Musial and American Legion teams.

Makeshift ball parks now exist at West High, North High, and South High and a new ball diamond is under construction at Torrance High.

Besides Torrance Park, the Recreation and Parks Department has developed lighted

ball diamonds at McMaster Park, El Nido Park, and Walteria Park.

The city "sanctions" 10 softball leagues that involve 64 teams or an aggregate of 1,000 adults. The bulk of players come from industrial plants, business establishments, churches, military units, fire and police departments, school personnel, and service clubs. Torrance is the softball hub for the entire South Bay. Everybody from the "Redondo Angels" to "Fort MacArthur" plays one game a week in Torrance. Some are also involved in leagues outside of Torrance so that they can play more than one night a week.

ANOTHER 4,000 youngsters from Torrance make up the 250 Little League teams and 80 Pony League, Babe

Ruth League and Senior Division teams in the city.

It was just 15 years ago when the first Little League was organized in Torrance and the number has swelled to nine groups.

The fact is that interest in Little League Baseball, teenage baseball, and high school baseball is gaining momentum, it is evident that baseball is here to stay.

The Recreation and Parks Department is aware that ball parks are vital for its own softball and baseball recreation programs, for picnicking, and for the organized volunteer baseball programs.

The recreation department is currently making a study of the problem of providing ball diamonds for more than 300 Little League and graduate teams engaged in 600 games and 1,000 practice sessions from February to July.

The survival of the leagues has been predicated on the limited leases negotiated for private and public property on a year-to-year basis.

Some of the leases expected to be terminated at the conclusion of this summer include the sites of Southwood Little League, North Torrance West, Felker Field used by Torrance National Little League, the airport property used by Pacific Coast Little League and West Torrance Pony League and the one-year quarters for Torrance Central Little League.

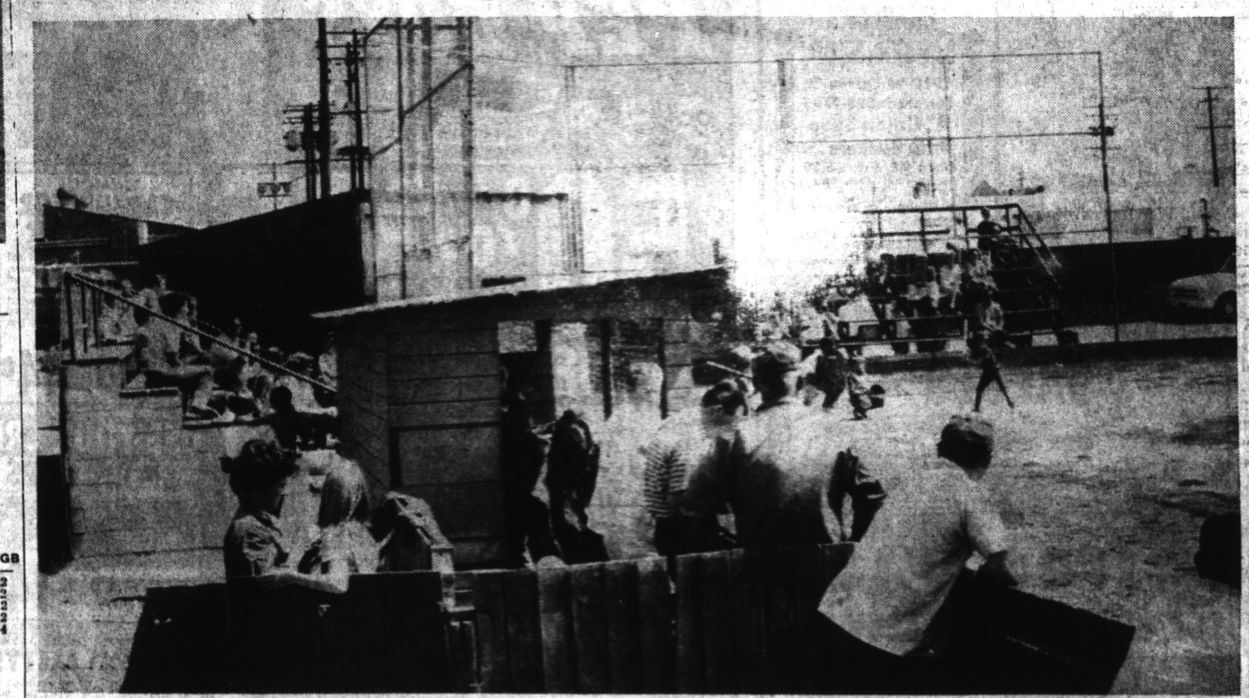
North Torrance Babe Ruth League had to go outside of Torrance to Alondra Park to make it this year. North Torrance Pony League and North Torrance East Little League are going through their first summer of ball on the valuable industrial land near

190th St. and Van Ness. Progress at Garrett Corporation forced them to move to their new home.

A swarm of leagues in central Torrance and south Torrance are headed for another industrial site owned by the Southern California Edison Company near 235th St.

A Senior Division Field has already been erected there by Torrance American Little League. A master plan of the site to serve four or five leagues has been coordinated by the Recreation and Parks Department.

It's a step in the right direction, but one of the most important studies that can be made in the best interest of the community is to determine the practicability of making more public land available for baseball when nothing else is available.



FELKER FIELD... The Little League ballpark on Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance is expected to be removed at the end of the baseball season to make room for industrial progress. A study is under way

to determine the future use of land in Torrance for thousands of baseball players who lack permanent facilities.

(Press-Herald Photo)

Press-Herald SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1968

D-1

Basketball Drills To Begin Monday

Four groups of outstanding graduated high school basketball aces begin training Monday morning for the first annual Southern California All-Star Prep Basketball Classic to be played Wednesday, July 10, at the Forum in Inglewood.

Forty-eight squad members, plus a dozen alternates, comprise the Los Angeles City, C.I.F., Southern Section, 3-A, 2-A, and 1-A teams. They will report at 10 a.m. in the Forum for physical examinations, issuance of equipment, photographs, etc.

The long-awaited confrontation of the Southland's top prep basketball performers is a doubleheader, the featured attraction pitting the L.A. City all-stars against the C.I.F. Southern Section 3-A all-stars. The companion game matches the C.I.F. Southern Section 2-A standouts against their 1-A counterparts.

Proceeds of the games, co-sponsored by the Manhattan Beach Lions Club and Southern California Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association, will go to the Lions' program of providing aid to blind children and assisting in sight conservation.

Game co-chairmen Tom Schott of the Lions Club and Ken Brown, varsity basketball coach at Aviation High in Redondo Beach representing the S.C.I.B.C.A., have announced that all arrangements for training and equipping the four teams are virtually complete.

The L.A. City team, coached by Jim Ryan of Crenshaw High (nee of Manual Arts), will conduct its drills at East Los Angeles College and California State College, Los Angeles.

Ryan, whose Manual Arts team won the city championship last season after finishing in the runner-up spot the year before, will be assisted

by Lew Silverman of Taft High and Willie West of Crenshaw.

The C.I.F. 3-A hoopers, coached by Bill Armstrong of Compton High's undefeated (32-0) A-A division champions, will work out at Compton College initially, then switch to California State College, Fullerton.

Armstrong, whose coaching record stamps him as the "winningest" in Southern California—with an unprecedented four C.I.F.-S.S. titles, will be aided by Jim Newman, his assistant at Compton; Lyle Newcomer, coach at the new Miraleste High; and Allan Blankenship, coach at Antelope Valley College.

The 2-A all-stars, directed by Dave Benedaret, who steered Bishop Montgomery (Torrance) to the 2-A division crown and is now moving up to the assistant's post at Loyola University, will train at Hawthorne High and Loyola U.

Benedaret will be assisted by Noel Smith, coach of Hawthorne High.

Under the supervision of Chuck Cluska, highly successful coach at Harvard School (North Hollywood), the 1-A team will be practicing at several locations—Valley Christian High (Artesia), Moorpark Junior College, Los Angeles Valley College, and Harvard.

Assisting Cluska will be Harold DeBie of Valley Christian and Dave McCullough of Santa Ynez.

Each team is required to hold a minimum of 12 days of pre-game practice.

Riviera Little League

MAJOR LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Tigers	5	1	.833
Indians	3	3	.500
Angels	3	3	.500
Yankees	3	3	.500
White Sox	3	3	.500
Orioles	5	1	.833

MINOR LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Angels 6, White Sox 3	1	0	1.000
Tigers 13, Yankees 0	1	0	1.000
Indians 5, Orioles 2	1	0	1.000
Yankees 8, White Sox 7	1	0	1.000
Indians 8, Orioles 1	1	0	1.000
Angels 24, White Sox 2	1	0	1.000

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Tigers	9	0	1.000
Indians	5	3	.625
Angels	4	4	.500
White Sox	4	4	.500
Orioles	3	5	.375
Yankees	1	9	.100

THURSDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Techni-Ecol Prod.	2	0	1.000
S. B. Ringers	2	0	1.000
Sweet Rive	2	0	1.000
Torrance Rotary	2	0	1.000
Fun House	0	4	.000

THURSDAY SLO-PITCH AT EL NIDO			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Whiz Kids	0	1	.000
Daily Breeze	1	1	.500
T.E.R.P.A. Tigers	2	0	1.000
Indians	3	0	1.000
Four Square Church	1	4	.200
Pencil Pushers	0	5	.000
Schedule: Helms vs. Torrance T.E.R.P.A. Tigers, 7 p.m.; White Kids vs. Daily Breeze, 8 p.m.; Pencil Pushers vs. Torrance Rotary, 9 p.m.			

THURSDAY SLO-PITCH AT WALTERIA PARK			
Team	W	L	Pct.
So. Tor. Lions	1	1	.500
Helms	1	1	.500
Helms Men's Club	2	0	1.000
Balmer	2	0	1.000
Torrance Kiwanis	3	0	1.000
Redondo Angels	0	5	.000
Schedule: Helms vs. Torrance Kiwanis, 7 p.m.; So. Tor. Lions vs. Redondo Angels, 8 p.m.; Helms vs. Balmer, 9 p.m.			

FRIDAY SLO-PITCH AT WALTERIA PARK			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Benedict Arnold	2	0	1.000
Burke Bandits	2	0	1.000
C.E.R.A. Bandits	3	0	1.000
Four Square Church	1	4	.200
R. Hills Covenant	2	4	.333
Good Shepherd	1	5	.167
Schedule: Rolling Hills Covenant vs. Benedict Arnold, 7 p.m.; C.E.R.A. vs. Good Shepherd, 8 p.m.; Four Square Church vs. R. Hills Covenant, 9 p.m.			

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY CHURCH SOFTBALL AT McMASTER PARK			
Team	W	L	Pct.
SB Church of God	1	0	1.000
Lavandale Church	4	0	1.000
No. Red. Chapel	1	1	.500
First Lutheran	2	0	1.000
Calvary A.M.	1	1	.500
Pacific View	0	4	.000
Four Square Church	1	4	.200
Schedule: Friday: Pac. View Bapt. vs. Calvary A.M., 7 p.m.; First Lutheran vs. Four Square Church, 8 p.m.; Saturday: N. Red. Chapel vs. Lavandale Church, 8 p.m.; Pacific View vs. SB Church of God, 9 p.m.			

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY INDUSTRIAL SOFTBALL LEAGUE AT TORRANCE PARK			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Cont. Device	6	0	1.000
Hapca	4	2	.667
Harbor	4	2	.667
TRW Semi-Cond.	4	2	.667
Machavox	3	3	.500
Aerospace	3	3	.500
Harbor Hornets	0	6	.000
Tri-Dair Ind.	0	6	.000
Schedule: Tuesday: Hapca vs. Harbor, 7 p.m.; Aerospace vs. Machavox, 8 p.m.; Thursday: TRW Semi-Cond. vs. Cont. Device, Harbor Hornets vs. Tri-Dair Ind., 7 p.m.			

TUESDAY SLO-PITCH AT McMASTER PARK			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Firefighters	2	1	.667
Gold Key	1	1	.500
H. R. Sportman	1	1	.500
Saturn and Koshin	2	0	1.000
Sopwith Camels	1	1	.500
Successors	1	1	.500
Schedule: Tuesday: Hapca vs. Harbor, 7 p.m.; Aerospace vs. Machavox, 8 p.m.; Thursday: TRW Semi-Cond. vs. Cont. Device, Harbor Hornets vs. Tri-Dair Ind., 7 p.m.			

TUESDAY SLO-PITCH AT McMASTER PARK			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Firefighters	2	1	.667
Gold Key	1	1	.500
H. R. Sportman	1	1	.500
Saturn and Koshin	2	0	1.000
Sopwith Camels	1	1	.500
Successors	1	1	.500
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Firefighters	2	1	.667
Gold Key	1	1	.500
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Saturn and Koshin	2	0	1.000
Sopwith Camels	1	1	.500
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Recreation Standings

THURSDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE
