

Little League Branches Out

For 15 years Albert E. Houghton has steered Little League Baseball on the West Coast by means of telephone and typewriter from his tiny office space in the headquarters building at Williamsport, Pa.

Houghton, 67, was eligible for retirement on Jan. 1, but a few days earlier President Peter J. McGovern went across the hall to chat with Houghton and offered him the opportunity to move to California to open a branch quarters in the West.

When Al and his wife left Williamsport a couple weeks ago to attend the Little League Congress in Detroit, he was packed for the ride to San Bernardino.

Al Houghton arrives today to begin one of the most challenging projects of his 50 years in baseball. He will develop the Western Region Little League headquarters.

A 20-acre plot of ground on the outskirts of San Bernardino on Highway 395 is where the facility will be built. Little League has a 50-year \$1-a-year lease with the San Bernardino Water District.

Six or seven sites were considered in California. The selection of San Bernardino will help perpetuate the memory of the late Perry Winstead who organized the first chartered Little League in California in 1950.

A Regional Headquarters was opened four years ago in St. Petersburg, Fla., and other branches are on the drawing board for Ottawa, Canada; Chicago, Ill.; and Portland, Ore.

The quarters in San Bernardino will be utilized as a camp site for leadership training on the district administrator, president, manager and coach, umpire, and women's auxiliary level.

Two-week summer camps for also be available for boys 8 to 15 years old.

By the summer of 1970, playing of the Western Region Little League, Senior Division and Big League tournaments will be possible in San Bernardino.

Houghton, president of a minor league in organized baseball before joining Little League, has set a goal of \$300,000 for the essential phases of the Little League complex. Besides office facilities and playing fields, San Bernardino will have housing for eight teams, a swimming pool, recreation and dining facilities. A public junior high school and community park will be constructed adjacent to the Little League compound.

The three-story office building in Williamsport, which handles paperwork for more than 7,000 chartered leagues, was completed in 1960, but it bulging at the seams.

A \$300,000 concrete stadium for the World Series and other community programs was completed last August. Through generous contributions the cost was amortized in two years.

The practical use of a similar Little League complex in San Bernardino is even more favorable considering the weather factor.

Houghton says a number of pledges have been received for the new project. Grading and landscaping, supplies of lumber, steel, pipe, concrete, and roofing, have been promised.

Two district administrators who helped launch the Western Region Headquarters are John Schnepf of Upland and Dee Mullins of Colton who instigated a \$13,000 fund raising endeavor last summer. Half went to the World Series Stadium in Williamsport.

Despite inflation, Little League has been able to stretch the dollar to extremely spirited advantage. The policy that there be no pre-requisite for a boy to play Little League, for example, was reiterated at the recent Congress in Detroit, but only through more aggressive fund raising on a broad basis can such a policy survive.

This summer will be the 30th year since the first 45 boys were outfitted in Little League uniforms at the birthplace of Little League in Williamsport. The program has survived storms of criticism. Every year, parents flock to the local Little League field to sign up that promising young 8 or 9 year old "whiz kid." Little League will soon reach an annual enrollment of 2,000,000 boys and involve almost 2,000,000 adult volunteers.

What is needed most of all to escalate the quality of Little League is to provide leadership training for the adult volunteer. The Western Region Headquarters will play a big part in this service.

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Slo-Pitch Approaches

West Coast Slo-Pitch Association, the major league of 16-inch slow pitch softball, opens its 1969 season Friday night at Torrance Park-Torrance's Tappa Keggas and Wild Mustangs meet in a double-header at 8 p.m.

Other top notch slo-pitch teams in this year's league include the Los Angeles Oldtimers, El Segundo's Hughes Hustlers, Bo Polica's Lomita Old Pros, Upland Bombers, Redondo Beach, and Hawthorne.

Tappa Keggas have played in Torrance Recreation Department and West Coast Slo-Pitch Leagues for eleven years and boast an overall record of 404 wins and 101 losses. Last year they lost the final playoff game for the West Coast Championship to the L.A. Oldtimers, 4-3, in 20 innings.

In 1968 the Wild Mustangs won the Southern California Municipal Athletic Association SCMAF Championship in competition with some 28 teams from Los Angeles to San Diego. Victory came on a 1-0 win over the L.A. Oldtimers with Chuck Schoendienst, Loyola University baseball coach, pitching a two hitter.

This year the Tappa Keggas are managed by pitcher Jim Reynolds, a veteran of seven years of West Coast play. He takes over for Chuck Ryan who organized and successfully managed the Keggas for the past eleven years. Ryan has been appointed California director of the United States Softball Association to coordinate specifically 16-inch ball.

According to Reynolds, the Tappa Keggas expect to be stronger than last year with the addition of long ball hitter Gib Matthews and Terry Hanson of last year's Gardena Royals along with Skip Donnell, Dan Disrud, Dick Battaglia, and Bill Heisner.

Veterans returning to the Keggas include Ed Williams,

Mick Ryan, Tony Couch, Rick Swasser, Mike Heald, Rick Ryan, Bob Ryan, Mike Arnone and Charley Williams.

New players who have joined the Wild Mustangs this year are Dave Boyd, football star from El Camino, Terry Tierney, and Wally Divino. They are expected to provide extra hitting power.

Returning Wild Mustang long ball hitters include Russ Bierley, North High's basketball coach, Bill Reinert, Claude Ragsdale, Bruno and Steve Giacomini (father and son), and Forrest Hunt. They are joined by veterans Schoendienst, Cal Eubanks, Billy Price, Bob Haydock, Andy Meyer, Gino Barnett, Bob Williams, Stan Katz, and Al Everley. Team managers are Dr. Rod Stetson and Ragsdale.

Tappa Keggas have won several West Coast League Championships, their last one in 1965. They also won the West Coast Invitational Tournament in 1966.

Wild Mustangs moved up to the West Coast from Torrance Recreation League in 1967 and won the West Coast Championship in the team's first year of league play. The Mustangs were the upset winners over the Tappa Keggas in the 1966 Long Beach Navy's Invitational tournament. The Mustangs took the West Coast Invitational Tournament in 1968 and 1967.

On April 18, the Tappa Keggas play the L.A. Oldtimers at Torrance Park with the Wild Mustangs moving over to Alondra Park to play El Segundo's Hughes Hustlers.

The schedule calls for either Tappa Keggas or Wild Mustangs to play double headers each Friday night at Torrance Park through July 25. First game will start at 8 p.m. There is no admission charge, the league is sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department.

Wes Unsel Selected NBA Rookie of Year

Wes Unsel, Baltimore's first draft choice, has been named "Rookie of the Year" by the National Basketball Association. Unsel polled 53 votes to 25 for San Diego's Elvin Hayes.

Unsel completed the 1968-69 season as the second best rebounder in the NBA with 1,481 for a 18.2 per game average, second to the game's all time rebound king, Wilt Chamberlain, who won the crown eight out of the past ten years.

Unsel will receive \$500 for being voted Rookie of the Year.

Last season Unsel, together with his rival Hayes, was a unanimous choice for the college all-American team. Despite his splendid school record and the recommendation of scouts, the Baltimore owners were reluctant to draft Unsel number one, fearing he was too small to play big men in the association.

However, his agility, basket-

ball instinct and strength soon convinced his teammates and opponents that Unsel was a sound investment. Teammate Kevin Loughery summed it all up when he explained, "Wes is so strong and quick and gets the ball out on the break. When he goes to the basket, he gets there, it's that simple. He's almost impossible to stop and because he's so strong he doesn't lose control of the ball."

Coach Gene Shue adds, "the most important part of the fast break is the outlet pass and this is one of Unsel's greatest assets. We just had to improve with Westley helping us get the break started faster."

Informed of the latest award Unsel, who had previously been named the league's MVP, was more inclined to credit his teammates than himself.

Peterson to Coach Stars



Fred Peterson, who currently enjoys the winningest record in town, has been named to coach the West for the second straight year in the Lion's All-Star Football Game.

Peterson is head coach at West High School which won the Bay League title last year.

"Having a coach of Fred Peterson's capability assures us of another outstanding ball game on August 1," said Don Banker, game chairman. The East-West game will be held in El Camino Football Stadium.

Peterson will be out to avenge last year's loss to the powerful East team. The East won its first game in the four years of the classic.

Peterson, who coached in Nebraska before reporting to West High, led the Warriors to two conference championships and into two CIF playoffs in 1967 and 1968. His 13 year record as a coach includes 93 wins, 31 losses and 6 ties.

In four seasons at West, Torrance's newest high school, Peterson's varsity record is 28 wins and 10 losses. He coached the West High Bees to an 11-6-1 mark over two seasons.

In Nebraska, Peterson first was coach at Rushville High where his varsity team posted a 13-4-1 mark in two years. From 1956-61, he headed the Falls City High team to 41-11-4 record. Included were state championships in 1957 (9-1) and 1961 (9-0). Falls City was Twin Rivers area champion four of five years.

Peterson and his wife, Theola, have four children and live in Torrance. The children are Rick, 15 year old quarterback; Barbara, 12; Kati, 3; David, 2.

The West All-Star mentor is a former all-star football player himself, having played for Midland College, Nebraska. He was first-string quarterback for three years, earning all-Nebraska College Conference honors in 1953.

He was voted the college's outstanding Senior Athlete Award upon his graduation in 1954. Peterson lettered in football, baseball, basketball and track.

In the Lion's All-Star Game, Peterson will be coaching against Mel Mothershead, San Pedro High mentor.

The game is sponsored by the West Torrance Lions Club, with all proceeds going to charity.

APRIL 21 IS NIGHT OF GAME

Torrance Night at Dodger Stadium will be Monday, April 21. The night game will bring together the Dodgers and San Francisco Giants in a Western Division game in the National League.

Reserved seats in the Terrace Level will be \$2.50 and may be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Ave.

Tickets are also available at \$3.75 with round-trip bus transportation.

The Dodgers opened the National League season Monday with a 3-2 win over Cincinnati while the Giants lost to Atlanta, 5-4.

Hollypark Season Opens With Premiere Handicap

Rising Market, a leading contender for national sprint honors, heads a stellar roster of 18 speed specialists who have been nominated for the 29th running of the \$25,000 added Premiere Handicap, the opening program of the 1969 Hollywood Park meeting on Friday.

A series of 49 added money events for approximately \$1,565,000 will be run during the 75-day spring and summer campaign.

Racing Secretary Jack Meyers, who will weight the eligibles next Tuesday, released the list of nominees and all but five of the 18 are stakes winners.

Rising Market, who has

never been worse than third in 18 career starts at sprint distances, was two-for-two in dash competition at Santa Anita this season, having captured the \$50,000 San Carlos and the \$28,900 Pismo Verde Handicaps.

The consistent, red-coated son of To Market was beaten a half-length by Kissin' George in last year's Premiere and then went on to take a division of the Los Angeles and Long Beach Handicaps, finish second in the Inglewood and third to horse of the year Dr. Fager in the \$119,600 Californian at Hollywood Park.

The roster includes two other sprint stars of the 1968 Holly-

park season, Llangollen Farm's Racing Room and Miles Arnold's Speedy King. The former equalled the track five and one-half furlong record of 1:02 2/5 in beating Speedy King in the Hollywood Express.

Bryants Win in Basketball

After a 10-0 league record, the "Bryants" made it three in a row in Torrance's City-Wide Basketball playoffs to capture the city championship.

The Bryants breezed to the championship with a 114-96 victory over the Harbor Hornets Thursday in the Alondra Park gym, after slipping past VIP and South Bay Church of God by respective 74-72 and 56-50 scores.

Lee Smelser sparked the Bryants in the final game scoring 32 points, high for his team, followed by Rich Orr, 21, Jim Harrick, 20, and Don Albin, 17 points. Joe Green was high point scorer for the Hornets with 32 points.

The Bryants reached the finals by winning the Six-Foot and Under League, one of five Torrance Recreation Department leagues represented in the playoffs.

The Harbor Hornets were victors in the Industrial League, boasting a 9-1 league record. Other league winners in Torrance were VIP, Wide Open League, South Bay Church of God, Church League, and Mattel, Open League.

Soccer Clinic

A soccer clinic sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department and the Bay Area Municipal Athletic Association will begin Saturday.

The clinic will be held at South High School, 4801 Pacific Coast Hwy. from 9 to 11 a.m. The clinic is open for boys 16 and older.

All volunteers and leaders who wish to learn the basic skills of soccer to instruct youth soccer teams are invited to attend.

No fees will be charged. For additional information call Joe D'Alesio, 328-5310, extension 324.

MEETING PLANNED

The Torrance Library Commission will meet Monday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. The session will be held at the Walter Library, 3815 W. 242nd St.

Lakers Pleased With Draftees

Filling their needs perfectly, the Lakers selected Willie McCarter, a 6-3 guard from Drake; Rick Robertson, a 6-9 forward from Cincinnati; and Dick Garrett, a 6-3 guard from Southern Illinois in Monday's NBA draft.

McCarter, drafted 12th, averaged 23.8 and 20.1 in last two years and made the all-Missouri Valley team. He scored 24 points in NCAA semis against UCLA. Rated great passer. Shot 450 from the field, .766 from the foul line.

Robertson was drafted 15th on bonus selection from Detroit; all-Missouri Valley MVP last two years with 18-point average. Top rebounder in league three years. Converted pivotman with great size at 233.

Garrett, drafted 27, is rated better shooter than Walt Frazier, according to Jack Hartman. Averaged just under 20 points for three years and teamed with Frazier to bring S. Illinois the NIT title in 1965-66.

It took only 27 minutes to conduct the draft. Listening to the amplified telephone hookup in Jack Kent Cooke's lavish office at the Forum were members of the press, radio, and TV.

Tartars Beat Wilson, 3-1

Torrance High scored runs in the first, third and seventh innings Monday to beat Long Beach Wilson, 3-1, in a non-league baseball game.

Motorcycle Event Set For Ascot

More than 150 entrants are expected for the second American Motorcycle Association race meet of the campaign Friday night at Ascot Park.

An 18-event schedule has been arranged by managing director, J. C. Agajanian.

Included in the field are Cal Rayborn of San Diego, winner of the recent Daytona Beach 200-mile Nationals, the most important motorcycle race of the year, and Dan Haaby, 1968 Pacific Coast champion.

Other leading threats include Gene Romero, San Luis Obispo; Mert Lawwill, San Francisco; Mel Lacher, San Diego; Ralph White, Torrance; Sammy Tanner, Long Beach; Eddie Wirth, Manhattan Beach; and Keith Mashburn, Santa Susana.

Racing Starts Friday, April 11 - Hollywood Park

Action? You bet!

Champion Sprinters in Opening Day Feature

PREMIERE HANDICAP

Sat. April 12 - West's Best 3-Year-Olds

DEBONAIR STAKES

FREE! OPEN HOUSE DAY Sunday, April 13

Bring the whole family 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

* Morning Workouts * Thoroughbred Training Races * TWO BIG TRACKSIDE VARIETY SHOWS * Bus Tours of Stable Area * Racing Motion Pictures * Open House Tours of Plant * Free rides for the kiddies

Reserved Seats

NOW ON SALE for any day or days of the season, April 11-July 23, \$1.50 (includes applicable taxes)

Telephone: 678-1181 or 677-7151.

or write: Ticket Dept., Hollywood Park, Inglewood 90306.

9 RACES DAILY Tues. Thru Sat.

FIRST RACE: Weekdays 1:45; Sats. 1:15

HOLLYWOOD PARK

Century Blvd. At Prairie Ave.

Midway between San Diego and Harbor Freeways