

SPORTS GOSSIP

PANAMA BASEBALL LEAGUE IMPROVES WITH BETTER IMPORTATIONS

UMPIRE SITUATION ACUTELY SERIOUS

The Panama Professional Baseball League, in its fourth year of operation, is making a serious bid to occupy the number two slot in Latin American baseball, as far as good baseball is concerned.

Cuba is the possessor of the top rating due to her better than Class "AAA" league, which is comprised of the best Cubans, stars of the Negro Baseball Leagues and outstanding players from the top minor league teams in the United States.

A serious problem, nevertheless, continues to exist in the League's refusal to provide for umpires of greater efficiency. Anyone that has been a regular patron of the League will agree that the "Premier" Checa, Karamanites, and Hinds are not really equal to the job. Their basic knowledge of the game is definitely not enough for them to cope with the League. Why weren't qualified umpires from Class "AA" or "AAA" leagues imported?

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS AT EACH POSITION

With a comparatively weak defensive and offensive team behind him Pat has compiled an astounding record. He has won eight games and lost one so far for the season. His earned run average is the lowest thing in the leagues, and if he continues to be as stingy in allowing runs his ERA will be a league record. Pat has shown considerable class over the other teams.

Doug Lewis, Carta Vieja firstbaseman, and Quincy Barbee of Chesterfield, are the leading candidates for this position.

The second sackers present a problem. As far as regular good fielding is concerned, Chesterfield's Manito Bernard and Carta Vieja's Dale Lynch are both good. But when it comes to outstanding plays at that position, both of these will have to yield to Orlando Moreno of Spur Cola.

The third base situation is a wide open affair when you consider it carefully. Al Leap of Carta Vieja and Luis Suarez of Cerveceria are doing a fine job so far, while Humbert Arthurs of Spur Cola, is not favored only because of his regular wild throw to first base that generally pulls the first sacker off the bag.

Frank Austin, although not as consistently brilliant as last season, is to be given the nod over Frank Sturn and Cookie Vasquez.

In left field, Oscar Garmendia of Cerveceria Nacional and Fred Bell of Carta Vieja are the best performers at this position, with Bell to be given the edge on account of his magnificent throwing arm.

The center field honors are divided between Leon Treadway of Chesterfield and Luis Baez of the Beer team. Of these two Baez is definitely the faster.

In right field Fitz Roberts and Victor Barnett of Cerveceria Nacional and Spur Cola respectively, are the best consistent performers at this position.

The best catching being done so far is to be credited to Leon Kellman, Spur Cola's manager, and Duke Doolittle of Carta Vieja.

It is very probable that within the next few weeks there might be better performances by other players, so it is not to be considered that our choices will continue to perform in an outstanding manner.

PUBLICITY OF LEAGUE IS POOR

It is strange that the Canal Zone League, playing an inferior brand of ball to that of Panama, as well as to practically empty stands, receives much better publicity from the daily papers, especially the Star and Herald, than does the Panama Loop.

Manager Stanford Graham, according to reports, has signed pitchers Bill Jefferson and Theolic Smith to the already over-crowded Chesterfield roster. Reports also have it that he is interested in a hard hitting rightfielder. I wonder whether Graham is convinced that he can't win the league with the team he has.

UNION TEAM ENTERS LEAGUE

The Pacific area of Local 713 has entered a team in the Red-Tank-Paraiso Softball League. The team is comprised of Union members and a few dependents of Union members. The team will meet the hard hitting Eagles in its first encounter on Tuesday, February 15th. President Pascual Ampudia and other CIO officials will be on hand — some to play and others to participate in the opening ceremony.

CLIFFORD LONEY HEADED FOR U.S.

Clifford Loney, one of Panama's best sprinters, was awarded a scholarship from the Southern University at Baton Rouge, La. Loney participated in the Caribbean Olympics at Barranquilla, Colombia, as a member of the Panama sprint team.

ALL CREDIT UNIONS OCCUPY OFFICES IN CLUBHOUSE

Cooperation of Clubhouse Director Cited

The five Federal Credit Unions, operating in the communities of Balboa, Cristobal, Gatun, Gamboa, and Red-Tank Paraiso, have all been granted office space in the clubhouses of their respective communities.

Through the cooperation of Clubhouse Director W. H. Crook all of these offices are equipped with adequate office furniture. A safe is also installed in each of these offices.

Credit union officials have expressed their gratitude to the Clubhouses for their granting of these facilities at very low rates which should permit economical operation of the credit unions.

HOGAN WINS FIRST PLACE IN BALBOA CONTEST

Marine Division Stewards Place High in Close Competition

Two Marine Division Stewards, Brothers Oswald Hogan and Cutbert Maner, led the field in the 4th Quarter 1948 Balboa Stewards Contest. Hogan was high steward with 74 points while Maner took second place with 70. In Third place was Sister Edith Harper with, 52 points a steward from Balboa Commissary.

The contest is based on the amount of organizing a steward does in his or her area and their attendance at steward council meetings.

Other high ranking stewards for the 4th quarter period were Cleveland Green with 49 points, L. A. Pennycook (45 points), Aura Stanford (44 points), Kenneth Sealey (40), A. Cozier (39), A. Ramboa (38), and McKin Alcide (37).

JOSE STAMP . . .

(Cont. from Page 1)

professionals, are needed in my country, which has thousand of miles of highways to be built, bridges, constructions and other engineering work to be done before real progress can be achieved. I shall try to make an outstanding scholastic record in my studies and fulfill the expectations of all the people who are helping me, both in the United States and Panama".

In his first visit to Howard University, Jose was welcomed by Dean Lewis K. Downing of the School of Engineering. Dean Downing remarked that he was glad to know that the United Public Workers had decided to establish such a scholarship.

The Scholarship check, for \$1,000, won by Stamp, was presented to him by UPW repre-

Local Rates Belong . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the workers there and fight and agitate until their wages have risen substantially. This, you will all agree is absurd course, but no less so than the theory from which it springs.

The heart of the "local rate" theory seems to be that the Republic of Panama will not be sympathetic to any increase in salaries here above the level in that nation. At least, the maintenance of "silver" wages at a low level must be for some good reason, and if the reason is the fear of disrupting the Panamanian economy then it is also the fear of alienating the Panamanian people.

But who would be alienated? Surely it would not be the workers. The unions in Panama have gone on record time and time again for the higher wage demands of Local 713. That they will stand to benefit from higher wages in the Canal Zone is so obvious that it needs no argument. Will the employers be alienated? It is common knowledge that the "silver" employee spends a considerable portion of his salary in the Republic of Panama—much more than does the "gold" employee. If the "silver" employee receives higher wages, a good part of the increase will serve to stimulate the commerce in Panama, enrich the merchants, and create jobs for the unemployed. It should be crystal clear that higher wages for the "silver" employees mean prosperity for Panama and not the dislocations, disturbances, and irritations that the "local rate" theory implies. We feel confident that the vast majority of the Panamanian people are in favor of a decent living wage for the "silver" employees.

The "local rate" theory would imply that the Panama Canal, as an employer, is merely following the established wage scale which, in this case, is in Panama. This line of arguing accomplishes the neat trick of placing the cart before the horse.

The government is the largest employer in this area. It, alone, employs nearly as many people as do all the factories, stores and businesses in Colon, Panama and the whole surrounding area. Is it then logical to state that the United States is following the established wage scale? The answer in our opinion is decidedly no! Since the United States is the largest employer, it exerts the most influence on wage scales, and we suspect that the cart is in Panama and the horse in the Canal Zone.

This strikes at the very heart of the "local rate" argument. Is then, the Panama Canal following around its own shadow, with the only result that the "silver" employee is getting dizzier and hungrier from the futile chase?

Moreover, the United States is the mightiest and richest nation on the earth. Panama is one of the smallest and is poor economically. Is it correct, logical or fair that the mightiest and richest nation in the world should pay its employees in accordance with the wage scales of one of the smallest and poorest?

Finally, is it in the interest of the United States to adhere to the obsolete "local rate" theory? It has been pointed out time and time again that ill feeling has existed against the United States because of the discrimination practiced against the "silver" employees. The abandonment of the "local rate" theory and the adoption of a just, modern wage principle which will provide for decent wages for the "silver" employees will do more to cement the bonds between the Canal Zone and the Republic of Panama than a hundred after dinner-speeches.

The need is urgent, the time is now—the discriminatory "local rate" theory must be tossed in the garbage can. Cost-of-living statistics, budgets for a "decency" standard of living and other important standards must replace the archaic local rate theory. When that is done, "silver" wage rates will be freed from their present anchor and will rise to a proper and liveable level.

It is the task of the union to continue exposing the fallacies of the local rate theory as it must continue relentlessly to expose all discrimination in the Panama Canal. We will struggle against these outworn theories until the very force of our logic and the weight of our numbers shall cast them into oblivion.

representatives in the presence of leading officials of the University.

Jose has registered for four subjects which are, namely; advanced surveying, hydraulics, strength of materials, and railroad and highway curves.

Stamp, in a letter to International Representative Joe Sachs expressed great pleasure over having met the Richardsons, who he qualified as "very nice people." He also stated that he would strive to do his best regardless of the circumstances.