

60 Operations to Make a Major League Baseball



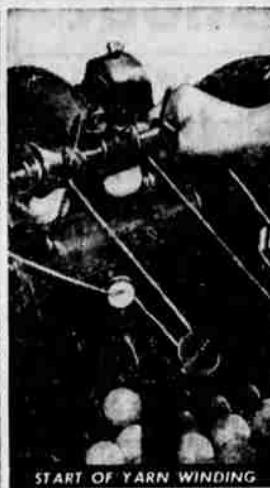
MIXING CORK CENTER



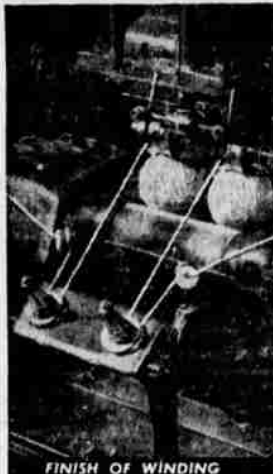
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FINISHED CENTERS



START OF YARN WINDING



FINISH OF WINDING



CHECKING HORSEHIDE COVERS



SEWING BALL BY HAND



THE FINISHED BALL

By FRANK ECK
AP Newsfeatures Sports Editor
Chicopee, Mass.—They kids! You might take better care of that baseball you've been scuffing around. A couple of dozen people worked on it with deliberate care. And it was hand-stitched by a girl who took a year to learn how.

About 400 employees work in the baseball section at A. G. Spalding's 13-acre plant here. They make all the major league balls.

All of them came off the same winding machines and are made to the same specifications—5 to 5 1/4 ounces and between 9 and 9 3/4 inches in diameter. They are stamped with blue or black ink, depending on the league for which they are destined.

The most fascinating part of the manufacturing process is the hand stitching by 185 girls sit-

ting at tables where vices hold the balls. An adhesive tape connection here would do a terrific business. Five mornings a week each girl tapes every finger with adhesive plaster to avoid getting stuck with a four-inch needle. This elaborate plant, opened last October, also includes a rubber refinery. Here the rubber is received in crude form from the Malay Straits. Often the refiner retrieves knives, tools and rocks after the rubber is boiled down.

There are 60 distinct operations in the ball itself, 39 of them in the cushion-cork center.

First step in making the baseball is the preparation of the center which is composed of cork and rubber. Added to the cork are two layers of soft rubber, one red and one black. Each layer, approximately one quarter inch in thickness, is stretched tightly over the cork.

Then the center is placed on machines which wind yarn several times the size of the original pellet. The first winding takes approximately 120 yards of yarn. A second winding adds about 45 yards of wool yarn and a third winding puts on another 50 yards. After all this winding, the machines stop automatically. The ball is removed and placed in a machine which covers it with approximately 150 yards of white cotton. The ball is then dipped into rubber cement for a thin coating. The ball now weighs about four and five-eighths ounces.

Next comes the horsehide cover. Although experts say cowhide is tougher than horsehide (cowhide is used to cover softballs) the major leagues still insist on leather from horses' backs. Each cover is in two parts and each is stamped out by hand.

An automatic machine then punches 109 stitch holes in each cover section and each strip goes through rollers to make certain it is the proper thickness. The heavy thread used for the stitching is treated chemically to withstand deterioration.

After this the ball is ready for the stamping machines. Finally two girls wrap tissue paper around each ball, place them in individual boxes and seal each box.

Ossie Savaria, major domo in the making of baseballs, at Chicopee, chuckles whenever he sees a major leaguer quoted on whether the National or American League ball is livelier.

"They're both the same," he says. "Only difference is the label. One has Ford C. Frick's name in black and the other bears the signature of William Harridge in blue.

Who Will it Be: Walcott-Charles? Take Your Pick

Momence, Ill., Jan. 20 (AP)—Who hits harder — Ezzard Charles or Jersey Joe Walcott? If you take the word of Gene Jones, promising young Camden, N.J., heavyweight, who has sparred with both men, the answer is Charles.

Of course, there's a catch. Jones is currently employed by Charles handily to help him get ready for Wednesday night's N.B.A.-sanctioned world heavyweight title bout at Chicago's Comiskey park.

Jones boxed with Walcott—a fellow townsman from Camden—when Jersey Joe was getting ready for Joey Maxim at Los Angeles, June, 1947. He helped condition Joe for his December, 1947, fight with Joe Louis. He also boxed with him several times in the gym at home.

"You stand back and let Walcott do what he wants and he'll make you look silly," said Jones. "Walcott never hurt me but Charles did the first couple of days I was in camp," he continued. "Erzy has a few tricks that are cute until you figure them out. He can hurt you before you find the answer. He punches harder than Walcott.

"I don't look for any knock-out, unless in the late rounds. Walcott won't trade punches with you. Despite the weight, I think Charles will wear him down, maybe with those body punches."

The U.S. amateur golf championship has twice been won by foreign players—Harold H. Hilton of England in 1911 and C. Ross Somerville of Canada in 1922.

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June 20	8:45 a.m.	5.8	3:08 p.m.	1.8
June 21	9:04 p.m.	7.7	2:45 p.m.	2.3
June 22	8:37 a.m.	5.7	4:01 a.m.	1.3
June 23	8:47 p.m.	7.9	3:34 p.m.	2.3
June 24	10:38 a.m.	5.8	4:51 a.m.	0.3
June 25	10:22 p.m.	8.1	4:28 p.m.	3.6

Lumberjacks Top Albany Juniors

The West Salem Lumberjacks of the Junior Baseball league won their first ball game by defeating the Albany Juniors by a score of 8 to 3. The game was played at Albany Sunday. Jim Rice paced the hitters with a triple and a single. "Heads up" baseball and a lot of good hustle behind Lenninger's pitching did the trick, says Coach Vince Genna.

Lumberjacks R H E
Albany Juniors 5 7 2

Lumberjack practice will be Tuesday at Leslie field at 5:30 p.m. sharp.

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Roseburg Man Named as Oregon Wildlife Prexy

Bend, June 20 (AP)—Bruce L. Yeager, Roseburg, is the new president of the Oregon Wildlife Federation.

He was elected after a surprise nomination from the floor at the quarterly meeting here Saturday. Ole Larson, The Dalles, was the regular committee nominee. Larson then was elected vice president. Alway Day, Hood River, was re-elected treasurer. H. C. Tobin, Portland, will continue as secretary until Yeager names a successor.

A resolution passed unanimously asked Governor McKay

to appoint an entire new game commission when the game department reorganization act goes into effect July 16.

Pheasant Players Top Linn Phoners

The Golden Pheasant club of the City softball league downed the Linn County Telephone team in extra innings at Lebanon Saturday night. Tied at 2-all at the end of regulation playing time the two clubs went 12 innings before the Pheasants scored three additional tallies to win, 5-2. A DeKypner of the Telephone club, struck out 15 and walked 11. Warren Miller was the winning pitcher. His battery mate was Jim Wenger.

Beavers Startle Second Division, Jump to Sixth

The Portland Beavers aren't exactly breathing on the necks of the Hollywood Stars, but they are stepping on a few in the second division.

Suddenly beginning to make noises like a baseball club, the previously inept Beavers just completed a highly successful home stand against San Francisco and Los Angeles. After soaking the Seals six games to one, the Portlanders gave the same treatment to Los Angeles, winding up the week with a double victory yesterday 7-1 to 7-2. The wins pulled the Beavers up into the stratosphere (for them) position of sixth in the league.

The only other club to manage a double victory for Father's day was the Oakland A's. The defending champs took a pair of boot-filled contests from San Diego's retired sluggers 7-6 and 2-1.

League-leading Hollywood split with Sacramento, winning 4-2 and losing 6-2. The Seattle Rainiers, who have come out of semi-oblivion in the past few weeks to give the Stars a chase, lost the opener to San Francisco 3-0 and then clubbed the Seals 9-2.

Official Box
(First game box)

Los Angeles	(1)	Portland	(2)
Twigg	4	Marques	3
Garrett	4	Shupe	1
Mauvo	3	Thomas	4
Maddern	4	Rucker	4
Mabon	4	Brovia	2
Ostwald	3	Mullen	2
Moran	1	Fernandez	1
Alfonso	3	Austin	0
McLish	3	DiBasil	4
Total	24	Total	24

(Second game box—7 Innings)

Los Angeles	(1)	Portland	(2)
Pavel	3	Marques	3
Garrett	4	Shupe	1
Moran	1	Thomas	4
Maddern	4	Rucker	4
Mabon	4	Brovia	2
Abernon	3	Mullen	2
Rutwick	3	Gladd	2
Alfonso	3	Austin	0
Carlson	2	Heiser	3
Mabon	4		0
DiDe	0		0
Emmrich	0		0
Glass	1		0
Damato	0		0
Total	27	Total	24

*Alfonso hit into double play for Alfonso in 9th.
*Glossop struck out for Carlson in 10th.

Los Angeles (1) R H O A E
Mits 11 11 1
Mits 11 11 1
Mits 11 11 1
Total 33 33 3

Portland (2) R H O A E
Carlson 18 4 4 0 2
Mits 9 2 2 0 2
DiDe 1 0 0 0 0
Heiser 27 2 2 3
Total 57 16 16 2 3

Short scores:
San Francisco.....000 100 25-3 4 0
Seattle.....000 000 000-0 8 1
Demsey and Jarvis; Bess, McCall (9); and Grassano

San Diego.....000 200 0-3 3 1
Seattle.....002 242 X-12 13 0
Greig, O'Brien (6) and Patten; Karpel and White

Sacramento.....020 000 000-3 1 0
Hollywood.....000 350 812-4 11 2
Hi and Balmoodi; Moulder, Malrean (7) and Unzer; Sand-jack (8)

Sacramento.....010 100 4-4 9 1
Hollywood.....000 011 0-2 7 1
Belio, Conner (7) and Plumbo; Kushe, Wood (7) and Sandlock

San Diego.....000 101 240-4 5 4
Oakland.....120 111 013-7 11 2
Linde, Mooty (7), Thompson (8) and Moeck; Candini, Kupp (6), Tok (9) and Padari

San Diego.....001 000 0-1 2 0
Oakland.....100 000 0-3 4 1
Adams and Nitzsche; Huxton and Kerr

Bob Warren is manager of the Pheasants.

To X-Ray Waitkus For Surgery Plan To Remove Bullet

Chicago, June 20 (AP)—Eddie Waitkus, star Philadelphia Phillies first baseman, undergoes more x-rays today to determine when doctors can remove the bullet fired into his chest by a lovesick girl.

Doctors said he was recovering "splendidly." He underwent a second operation Saturday for removal of coagulated blood in his lung and chest cavity that hampered breathing.

The .22 caliber slug is lodged in the rear wall of his chest. It passed directly through his right lung.

Nurses said Waitkus' morale was good, chiefly due to hundreds of letters from fans piling up on his bedside table. His room was banked with flowers sent by well-wishers.

Despite the fact that he will not be able to play in the All-Star game July 12, the fans went right on piling up votes to put him on first base for the National league team.

Waitkus held 107,254 votes to 104,963 for New York's Johnny Mize, who was in second place. Meanwhile, the girl who shot him, Ruth Steinhagen, 19, still was busy in county jail, writing her life story for psychiatrists.

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Hey Kids! Get In On the Fun!

Fill out the Entry Blank for the 1949 Cherryland Festival Junior Parade, Saturday July 2.

ENTRY APPLICATION
Cherryland Festival Junior Parade 1949

SECTIONS
1. Marching
2. Costume
3. Impersonation
4. Pet
5. Decorated Bicycle
6. Mounted (horses, etc.)
7. Floats

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..... Section

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