

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1963

# Babe Ruthers Carried Klamath Basin's Banners Well In '63

By JERRY WAGGONER  
Herald and News Sports Editor

A group of young and

fine ball players worked their way through a Babe Ruth League season, a district tournament, a state tournament, a regional tournament and on to the World Series. It took tremendous desire by the players themselves and the unselfish attitude and work of some of the adults of Klamath Falls and the Basin to put the team into the biggest tournament in Babe Ruth baseball.

It was a long, hard road for itself. They learned sportman-ship in the highest. They learned it so well that they also won the Sportsmanship award of the World Series and that alone makes the entire summer program of Babe Ruth worth its weight in gold. They also won the trophy for being the best coached team in the tournament—a tribute to head coach Bob Moore, Dave Saks and Harold Howard.

A lot went into the program itself to help the team. The city realized the value of the team, the lessons, and got behind it wholeheartedly. A group of men went so far as to offer assistance and money in getting the team plane fares to the tournament. It went for naught as the state Babe Ruth group supplied the transportation. But it was a good thought and the coaches and team appreciated it.

The citizens sent the team off with a bang when it left for the big tournament and greeted it even better in defeat upon its return. The boys felt as if they had let the community down, but found that they were the toast of the town—even in defeat. The citizens, likewise, deserve an award.

The team left to the shouts and cheers of about 200 early Thursday morning, Aug. 15. It took its time and saw some of the country along the way and arrived in Farmington Saturday night to a reception of 50 cars or more and were treated like kings.

This seemed to be the key word of everyone in Farmington, a small community about the size of Klamath Falls, as they set out the welcome mat to every player, fan, visiting working men and their dogs, if they had them. They went to extremes to make sure that the stay in Farmington was a good one. And it was, for all.

The boys arrived to the big welcome as did every team. Sunday was the big day when most of the celebrities were there and the big Sunday dinner was held after which the celebrities took over and made speeches, such as Mrs. Babe Ruth, Left Gomez, Bob Feller and others.

The Oregon group sat together at a table during the dinner. A man tried to sit amongst the Oregon group and one of the young Klamath players told the gentleman that the spot was reserved for Oregon people. The man obligingly left. The boy later found that the man trying to sit beside him was none other than the great Bob Feller of Cleveland Indian fame. He felt badly about this and later Feller said that it didn't matter. "Now if it had been Sandy Koufax or Don Drysdale, he would have known me," Feller said, once again showing his greatness.



**THIS WAS WORTH THE TRIP** — Mrs. George Brosterhouse, who had two sons playing on the Klamath Basin Babe Ruth team, greeted her eldest, Rick, with joy after the Klamathites had defeated Joplin in the first game of the series, 3-1. Her other son, Greg, the youngest player

in the tournament at 13, drove in the two big runs with a double to give Klamath the win. Her joy was typical of the fans and coaches of the team over manners of the boys on and off the field.



**SCOUTS VISIT GOVERNOR'S HOUSE** — Five professional baseball scouts were part of the crowd which dined and camped at the house of New Mexico's former governor, Tom Bolack. Bolack also is a world renowned hunter and this photo was taken in his trophy room. The scouts are (left to right) Dick Johnson of the Houston Colts; Ray Boone of the

Boston Red Sox; John Donnelly of the Philadelphia Phillies; Dave Garcia of the Giants; and Bill Capps of the Chicago Cubs. The man in the apron is Bolack, talking with the executive director of the National Babe Ruth, Dick Case of Trenton, N.J.

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The boys were housed with families in Farmington. But the hospitality didn't stop there. Al Keck, Klamath Union basketball coach and his family, the Bob Mezgers and the Duke Badleys all drove down, camping along the way. Upon their arrival the trio of families went to the parks and recreation department to check on camping out in the local parks.

About the time they arrived, so did a man from Farmington. He heard of their plight and, without hesitation, said, "come camp in my back yard." The group did just that. They pitched three tents in the back yard of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Reeves. There they stayed for the remainder of their visit.

This was typical of the hospitality there. The boys and coaches were utterly amazed. "I've never seen anything like it in my life," said Coach Moore.

Then began the games. Klamath drew a Joplin, Mo., team in

the first round and wiped them out, 3-1, behind the three-hit pitching of Bob Moore Jr. The Klamath fans were joyful over it. Several of the sportswriters said that Moore was the best pitcher yet seen in the tourney. The players did themselves and Oregon credit in the game.

It didn't stop there. They did themselves credit in every game, although they lost the next two. They were unfortunate in getting Tulsa, Okla., in the second round. The Tulsans beat the Klamath nine, 9-2, as the local kids just simply had one of their bad days. Tulsa finished by winning the World Series title, blanking Puerto Rico's flashy team, 9-0, two runs worse than they beat Klamath.

The Basin team lost the third game and was eliminated by Oakland, Calif., in a heartbreaker. Moore breezed through the first couple of innings with only one man even touching the ball. Then his offerings began missing the corners ever so slightly and he hit a streak of wildness which he could do nothing about. The pitches weren't missing that far and he couldn't get the umpire to call a corner for anything. But Moore took that in stride and it probably helped the team win the sportsmanship award.

The Klamath aggregation played wonderful ball considering the tremendous amount of tension that rides a youngster's back when he is only 13-15 years old. The Klamath team was superlative under the pressure and showed real poise and rallied in both the losing causes. That probably helped them win the "Best Coached" award.

There were several gatherings for the working press and the pro scouts, also. One such gathering was given by former Gov. Tom Bolack. Bolack was governor for only 30 days. He had been the lieutenant-governor when the governor left for a higher office and he was appointed governor until election which was only 30 days away. Three days after the new governor took office, Bolack was in India on a hunting safari.

He is a world renowned hunter and has an unbelievable trophy room to prove it, and is building another the same size to house more trophies. His stuffed conquests include everything from a mountain goat to polar bears. He killed every specimen in the room himself. He is a country boy at heart and he even helped serve the food.

Some of the scouts present included the former Cleveland infield great, Ray Boone. He is now scouting for the Boston Red Sox. Some of the others were Dick Johnson of the Houston Colts; Dave Garcia of the Giants and a former Cleveland player; John Donnelly of the Phillies; Bobby Goff of the Cleveland Indians and Bill Capps of the Chicago Cubs.

Boone told us about Dick Stuart, the big first sacker for the Boston Red Sox who now is in a mad scramble with Harmon Killebrew for the home run title of the American League. Stuart once hit 60 home runs when he was in the Rocky Mountain League, playing for Lincoln, Neb.

"Stu is a great guy and a very good ball player. He looks clumsy around first base but he gets the job done. And he has

a very big bat. He will openly admit that he is the greatest home run hitter in the major leagues and he honestly thinks he is. He is cocky but he also has a great sense of humor and is well liked in the majors," Boone said.

A Klamath resident, Kenneth Pound, even hit the news in the Farmington newspaper. Pound, a brakeman for one of the railroads here, had been driving the team all over the country for about a month and hadn't worked. Howard

Graves, Associated Press writer and former Oregon resident from Lake Oswego, wrote the story. Ken had a son playing and another son as bat boy. He wouldn't have missed a minute of it, he said.

That pretty well sums up the season for everyone connected with the Babe Ruth program here. They wouldn't have missed a minute of it. And apparently neither would the Farmington folks. They had a new attendance record set at the tourney

this season and it was described as the best ever.

With the records also went good ball playing. Many, such as Dick Case, the executive director of Babe Ruth nationally, thought the caliber of playing was better than ever.

So the Sultan of Swat can rest easily. The worthwhile program which carries his name and the sport which he made the national pastime it is today, is thriving and his wife is carrying on. Thanks Babe, from everyone.

**OREGON FANS GATHER AT GAME** — This group of Oregon fans gathered in one spot in front of the Oregon state flag before the start of the first game in the Babe Ruth World Series. There were over 30 Oregon fans at the tournament, a good showing considering the distance. Some were not present for this picture.



**STATE OFFICIALS MAKE TRIP** — The Oregon State Babe Ruth officials made the trip to Farmington with the Klamath team and praised the boys for their sportsmanship, playing ability and good manners while on the trip. At left is Will Hutchins, a backer and official of state program. Center is Floyd Markham, the state Babe Ruth director. He also is the regional director of the Pacific Northwest. At right is Ward Walker, secretary-treasurer of the Oregon State Babe Ruth. They attended the dinner given by Governor Bolack. The polar bear behind them is nine feet tall and only one of Bolack's many trophies. Bolack is a well known big game hunter.



**ROGUE'S VILLAGE IS HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR FANS** — Three families from Klamath Falls set up housekeeping in tents during the Babe Ruth World Series in Farmington, N.M. The three families were the Al Kecks, Bob Mezgers and the Duke Badleys. The photo at left shows "Rogue's Village," as Keck called it, before getting up time with the tent flaps still closed, although the coffee pot is on the cooker. The cen-



ter photo shows a group of kids and one of the adult hosts. She is Mrs. Ken Reeves (far left). It was in her backyard that the families were camped out. Her daughter Margaret (center, in middle blouse) was the princess for the Pacific Northwest Regional champs from Klamath Falls. Mrs. Reeves had two other children in the photo, a daughter sitting next to her and Paul, second boy from right. The little boy on the



right is Danny Keck. Sitting at the left of the princess is Kaye Badley and to the right, Peggy Mezger. Third from left is Janet Keck. The photo at right shows three of the girls getting ready for bed inside a tent. They are (from left to right) Janet Keck, Peggy Mezger and Kaye Badley.