

Stan's Stand From the Stands . . .

By STAN THOMPSON

TO BASEBALL FANS

Baseball in our high school is a dying formality. There is no push behind it. Every season this national sport is shoved farther down the interest list. Some day there will be a motion made and seconded that Nyssa high school shall have no baseball season, and what is left of the baseball field will be turned back to the weeds.

Why is this? Nyssa is crammed full with baseball fans. With the enthusiasm generated in the summer Baseball for Kids program, it is surprising there is no follow up with this enthusiasm in high school. There are people in this town who had practically grown fast to the bleacher seats behind first base. Now those spots are empty. Only a skeleton crowd gathers to sit on the naked, dilapidated bleachers, and the games are quiet as Baseball Spirit sits weeping, unable to break through.

Basketball and football seem to be the big deals with our high school. The reason is obvious. They make money. Schedules are put in every window and signs are put up in the streets. The big gym is pampered and groomed until it shines. The football field becomes off limits all summer to grow a fine carpet of soft green grass. Programs are printed and season tickets are sold. A regular circus is put under way.

But come baseball season, heads are turned the other way. Boys desiring to play our national sport must suffer from this inattention and find themselves muddled in a dragging, limping baseball season. A scarred and beaten baseball diamond covered with knots of grass and surrounded by an aching patched and repatched chicken-wire backstop is a far cry from the polished gym.

The batting cage is just there for looks. It is so full of holes one could drive a beet truck sideways through it. Soon as someone gets hurt it might be mended. Weeds have made a playground out of our baseball field and travel about freely.

The only way to find out when there is a game is to call the school and ask, or hear a rumor. Then one isn't sure if it is a home game or not.

How did baseball fans in Nyssa let things get this way? This baseball field is the only regulation one in town. There are good ball players in school right now. There are potentially good ball games to watch. Of course for two years fans had to wait. The ball field was torn up and our team traveled out of town for their home games. Each spring and summer grass was planted in the outfield. What grass managed

to show itself was promptly crushed under come football season. This perpetuation could have gone on for a long time.

But the field has finally become available for baseball and if you haven't heard, Nyssa will play some home games this year. The field is run down and only faintly resembles the proud beauty it was in the past, but maybe with a little work here and there by the time the season is over it will be in halfway shape.

Why do conditions get this way? One lame excuse is that our high school baseball doesn't bring in money at the gate. If money is the answer, let's dig in our pockets and send a donation along with our tax money to help get our baseball field back together.

ADRIAN FALLS TO NYSSA

The Nyssa Bulldogs, loaded in passenger cars and strung out along the highway, headed for Adrian with freshly sharpened claws and a mean look. The Friday afternoon battle was the last practice game for Nyssa in preparation for a hopeful season.

Bulldog Dub Jones played catch with catcher Terry Thompson to lead the pack through a 7-1 victory while Butch Bingman gritted his teeth and banded out a two-run triple to help the cause. Antelope Butch McDonald, seemingly Adrian's only pitcher, fired to catcher Sparks and held the dogs at bay for five innings, then gave way to Haney when the Bulldogs began to growl.

Fernando Flores cracked an empty bases triple for Adrian, but it was only good for a pencil mark in the scorebook.

TRACKMEN GRAB SECOND

The Bulldog trackmen latched onto another second place in a four-way meet here Thursday. An enthusiastic crowd watched Moore place second in the high hurdles; McCrady, second in the mile; Bingman, Savage, Henrich and F. Walker, first in the 440-yard relay; Bingman, first in the low hurdles; Wahlert, Zobel, Danford and Schiemer, first in the medley relay; Zobel, first in the pole vault; and Sager, second in the high jump.

Stubborn Kinsey Keveren has no plans of maintaining a second place position, and that twinkle in his eye means first place honors are on the way. With some of the key men sidelined nursing bad legs, the team is struggling to keep its head above water.

ADRIAN HOSTS MEET

Today the Adrian high school will host an 18-school track meet beginning at 3:30 p.m. Track coach Roy Buhler stated the meet will be held under Oregon rules and each school is allowed two entries, excepting the one relay entry. The track will be geared for only top contenders, with trophies and ribbons waiting for a sweaty hand to clutch and carry home.

Being well organized, the meet is expected to go smoothly, and a running score will be kept for the benefit of attending fans.

BASEBALL BEGINS MONDAY

Monday evening the city park will be flooded by a sea of excited young boys from all over the surrounding area. Eager hearts will pound excitement through every fiber as wide eyes soak up the fact baseball season is here at last.

Dog fights and confusion will go 'round and 'round in a dizzy free-for-all when the jam-packed field resembles an ant hill being poked with a stick.

Little league coaches Jerry Myrick, Dick Wilson, Dale Bingman and Jack Anderson will be nursing ulcers and headaches as a stampede of young arms and legs stumble through the tryouts. Each young boy will have a "please let me make the team" expression on his face, making cutting day a nightmare.

Leuck's Signs Even Score With Emblem In Wednesday Play

Emblem club and Leuck's Signs bowling teams are tied with 29 wins and 19 losses in Wednesday league play. Other standings are Palomino cafe, 27-21; Courtesy Corner, 21 1/2-26 1/2; First National Bank of Ontario, 20-28; and Malheur Memorial hospital, 17 1/2-30 1/2.

Emblem club team was high single game winner with 792 pins and tallied 2197 points for high score in three game series.

Pat Oliver rolled a 200 for high individual single game score and Marie Moggridge was high score winner for three game series with 518 pins.

Hurry Up and Wait! We have noticed that the slowest moving individuals like to speed up all others.

Eagles Wish Bones Hold Top Position In Bowl Standings

Eagles Wish Bones continue to roll high score games to hold the top spot standing among Eagles bowling teams. They now stand at 33 wins and 15 losses in second half of league play.

Close behind are the Bald Eagles with 30 wins and 18 losses. Other standings are Renegades, 28-20; Wings, 24-24; Beaks, 22 1/2-25 1/2; Tail Feathers, 22-26; Near Misses, 20-28; and Claws, 11 1/2-36 1/2.

Members of the Wings team took top honors last Thursday evening with a scratch series score of 2410 pins and scratch game of 838.

Dale Bingman, a member of the Beaks team, was high man with top scratch series of 603 pins; top scratch game, 237; and high handicap series, 681.

Following league play on March 30, Renegades team rolled high

LITTLE LEAGUERS TAKE NOTICE . . .

An eternity has passed. Your baseball season is here. Beginning next Monday, April 17, at 6 p.m., tryouts combined with a spring training program will be held at city park.

All those, whether previously signed up or not and between the ages of 10 and 12 (cannot be 13 before Aug. 1) are eligible and welcome. Bring a glove, jacket and some of that peanut butter energy!

scratch series, 2431; and high scratch game, 867. Willis Bert-ram was high man with high scratch score of 608 and high handicap series, 695. Don Hatch was high scratch game winner with 221 pins.

Team standings at that time were Wish Bones, won 32, lost 12; Renegades, 28-16; Bald Eagles, 27-17; Tail Feathers and Wings, 21-23; Beaks, 20-24; Near Misses, 17-27; and Claws, 10-34.

Odd Balls Lead Lady Eagles Play

Betty Bowen was high score winner Thursday evening at Lady Eagles bowling session at Bye Lanes in Ontario. She bowled a 207 scratch game. High single games plus handicap were rolled by Betty Bowen, 245; Kay Brendle, 211; Bernie Ableman and Mable Fangen, 208. High series plus handicap were Betty Bowen, 599; Vera Wright, 573; and Bernie Ableman, 560.

Odd Balls are high in team standings with 29 wins and 15 losses; Happy Handicappers and Four Mrs., 27-17; Flying Eaglettes, 22-22; Gutter Gussies, 21-23; Four Foulers, 18-26; High Lows, 16-28; and Eight Balls, 15-29.

Formula for Success?

There are successful business men who take no exercise—either physical or mental.

Auxiliary Members To Tell Girls' State Delegate April 20

American Legion auxiliary members met April 6 at the community hall for their regular meeting, with Mrs. Ellen Richardson presiding.

Mrs. Willard Judd, district president, and Mrs. Stanley Deninger of Vale were guests.

Plans were made to select a

ATTEND BASEBALL MEETING

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Pounds and Larry Roberts accompanied Stan Millikin and his sister of Ontario to La Grande Sunday where the men attended a Junior Legion baseball meeting.

Girls' state representative from junior class members chosen by the high school faculty. Announcement of the delegate will be made at the next meeting, April 20.

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