Now With Peoria

Sheffield Negro Hurler Signs Pact With Cards

A Sheffield Negro southpaw pitcher has signed a non-bonus contract with the St. Louis Cardinals and is currently performing with the Peoria Chiefs of the Three-I League.

He is Hiram Allen Gaston. He signed the contract July 19 for a bonus which was under the legal limit of $4,000 and thus isn't classified as a bonus performer.

Gaston attended and was graduated from Sterling High School in 1946 and enrolled at Alabama State the following year. He received his degree there in 1953.

While at Bama State he played baseball and football. He was All-Conference in football and baseball and after graduation began his professional career with the Birmingham Black Barons and held down a first string pitching job.

He later entered the Army and served in the European Theatre of operations. While in the Army, he played with the 866 Engineers and led the team in hitting and pitching. He was voted the outstanding performer in the Army area and made the All-Star team.

While with the 866 Engineers, he acquired the nickname of "Mike" and was the strikeout artist in the league.

He received offers from several professional teams upon his service discharge last month. Among them were the New York Giants, Brooklyn Dodgers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Baltimore Orioles, the Kansas City Monarchs and the Cardinals. He chose the Cards, after some long deliberation.

Hiram reported to the Peoria Chiefs July 23 and left with the team for a road trip to Cedar Rapids. The Three-I league is the oldest Class B League in baseball.

Gaston is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gaston, 1109 East 20th Street in Sheffield.

* * *

At Alabama State, he won the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity award and in 1951 he led the team in victories with four against one defeat and hits.400.

On June 10, 1953, he stopped the K. C. Monarchs with a five hitter in giving up five hits. This was one of his early starts in professional baseball.

HIRAM GASTON

Majeski Will Become Scout For Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP)—Hank Majeski, all-around infielder, was ready today to give up playing major league baseball after more than 12 seasons and become a Baltimore Oriole scout.

Majeski, who will be 39 in December, was placed on waivers for the purpose of being given his unconditional release. As a 10-year veteran he has the privilege of refusing to report in case any other American League club chooses to claim him.

It is Majeski's intention to do so and take an Oriole scouting job.

The Orioles got Majeski on waivers earlier this season from Cleveland which bought him in 1952 from the Philadelphia Athletics. He also played for Chicago and New York in the American League after starting in the majors in 1941 with Boston of the National.

Loop Leaders

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING—(based on 250 at bats) —Kaline, Detroit, .355.

RUNS—Kaline, Detroit, 90.

RUNS BATTED IN—Kaline, Detroit, 77.

HITS—Kaline, Detroit 140.

HOME RUNS—Kaline, Detroit, 23.

STOLEN BASES—Rivera, Chicago, 15.

PITCHING—(Based on 8 decisions)—Byrne, New York, 9-2, .818.

STRIKEOUTS—Score, Cleveland, 154.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—(based on 250 at bats) —Campanella, Brooklyn, .332.

RUNS—Snider, Brooklyn, 87.

RUNS BATTED IN — Snider, Brooklyn, 104.

HITS—Aaron, Milwaukee, 124.

HOME RUNS—Snider, Brooklyn, 35.

STOLEN BASES — Boyer, St. Louis, 17.

PITCHING—(based on 8 decisions) — Newcombe, Brooklyn, 17-1, .944.

STRIKEOUTS — Jones, Chicago, 128.

SPORTS

Hamner, Taylor Slug

All-Stars Defeat Weeden In Lauderdale Encounter

By CHARLES GRAINGER
Sports Staffer

The Lauderdale County All-Stars carried a bunch of big bats to Central last night and carried away a 10-8 win over Weeden Heights in a real "old fashioned slugfest."

John Hamner and Wendell Taylor provided the large crowd with circuit clouts when Taylor parked two out of the park and Hamner blasted a grandslam knock that broke the backs of the Weeden team of Sarge Tanner.

Hamner's blast came in the fourth inning after Weeden had wrested a 5-4 advantage after three. With three Star mates occupying the sacks big Hamner picked on a fastball served up by Weeden's Conner, who had walked the bases loaded, and planted it over the distant centerfield fence for the charmed blast.

But Taylor's two clouts also found their mark. Swift Windy, who had four-for-four for his evening's work, sent the home team out front in the opening inning when he boomed one out with Bill Goodwin on base for a 2-0 advantage.

Then after the Stars had taken a 4-3 margin in the second on singles by Don White and Clay Grisham plus three infield errors the big boy stroked the long one once again. In the third with two on Taylor connected for another four-master to give the losers a 5-4 lead.

* * *

But the lead was short lived. For the chap named Hamner blasted his loud noise in the fourth and Allen Richardson's Stars were on their way.

After Star starter Gresham had been replaced by Ernest Gooch after the usual three inning tenure Gooch struck out the side in the fourth. An infield miscue did the only damage in the fifth after the Stars had added one to their collection of runs on back-to-back doubles by Nelson Word and Don White.

Tony Wade tripled in the sixth and then moved home when he outlegged a Lucy Hunt peg to the plate on Bobby Green's grounder to tally the All-Star's tenth run. The losers reached Gooch for one in the sixth when Taylor bunted out a bunt and marched in on Harold Hargrove's two-baser. Two more in the seventh for Weeden ended the scoring for the evening with Topsy Cox and Glendon Jackson each firing shut-out ball in the final two frames.

Gooch, who fanned five in three rounds, was the winning mounds-man while Cox caught the loss in relief.

Don White provided the fans with some smart baserunning in the second when he pilfered home for the Stars tying run at 3-3. The losers had eight hits—the Stars 12.

Box score—

ALL-STARS—10

Player	AB	R	H
Brocato, 2b	3	1	1
Stewart, 2b	2	0	0
Lack, ss	4	0	1
Robinson, p	1	0	0
Jackson, p	1	0	0
J. Gooch, lf	2	1	1
Heathcock, lf	2	0	0
Hamner, 1b	3	1	1
Wade, 1b, 3b	2	1	2
Green, 3b	3	1	0
Darby, ss	2	0	0
Pardue, cf	3	0	0
Dupree, cf	2	0	0
Word, c	3	2	0
Hipps, c	2	0	0
White, rf	2	1	1
Wheeler, rf	2	0	0
Grisham, p	2	2	1
Gooch, p	0	0	0
Bush, 1b	2	0	0
Totals	40	10	12

WEEDEN HEIGHTS—8

Player	AB	R	H
Garner, 2b	2	1	0
B. Goodwin, lf	1	1	0
Tanner, if	3	2	1
Hunts, ss	5	1	1
Taylor, rf	4	3	4
Cox, cf, p	5	0	2
Hargrove, 3b	4	0	2
A. Goodwin, 1b	3	0	0
Green, c	4	0	0
Biggers, p	1	0	0
Conner, p	2	0	0
Flippo, lf	2	0	0
Totals	35	8	8

Score by innings—

All-Stars	040 411 000	—10
Weeden	203 001 200	—8

VICTORS—Members of the victorious Lauderdale All-Stars are (l to r)—sitting—Ed Robinson, Nelson Word, James Gooch, Shorty Dupree, Donald White, John Hamner and Randy Pardue. Second row—Neal Hipps, J. G. Stewart, Tommy Brocato, Billy Darby, Johnny Wheeler, Dean Heathcock and John Bush. Back row—Tony Wade, Clay Grisham, Ernest Gooch, Glendon Jackson, Tut Walker, Scotty Lack, Bobby Green, Allen Richardson, manager, and Peanut White, manager. (Staff Photo).

Hal Boyle's Notebook

From Navy Airman To Super Sod Salesman

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — William Mitchell, who is 43, flew ten different types of aircraft as a Navy flight instructor during the last world war and is now one of perhaps 15 men who design America's golf courses.

He is also one of the nation's top sod salesmen. He sells golfers grass — turf for putting greens.

It is a highly specialized field. The firm Mitchell heads has sold some three million square feet — 75 acres — of golf greens grass since 1923 and now has a fourth million square feet growing in a valley near North Sutton, N. H.

"We feel we have the world's largest golf greens nursery," said Mitchell.

"If all the turf we have produced were unrolled in a strip it would make a highway 1,000 miles long — and that's a helluva long putt."

The entire four million square feet has sprung from a four-square-inch patch of velvet bent, a south German variety of grass planted by Bill's father, an agricultural teacher, 32 years ago.

The grass, which grows swiftly and chokes out weeds, makes the kind of thick emerald carpet golfers like. The sod matures in two to three years, then is harvested — by being cut into strips a foot wide and four feet long.

The strips are rolled up like rugs, rushed to distant golfing greens by trailer truck. Mitchell's workmen go ahead by plane to prepare the site.

Golfing is a big industry now, enjoying its biggest boom since the 1920's. Surveys show more money is spent on it than any other sport except fishing.

Mitchell, like many men in the business, credits President Eisenhower for spurring the revival of interest in golfing but feels the boom is really just getting under way.

"There are only about 7,500 courses in the country," he observed. "About four million people play golf regularly, but there are four million more who would like to."

Bill, who has modernized some 30 old courses, is now building his sixth new course — it's for the Putnam Country Club at Mahopac, N.Y.

"Golf is one thing that hasn't increased in cost," he said. "It used to take 200 men two years to build an 18-hole course. With modern machinery we can do it now with a dozen men in a year."

Because of the increased use of the steel - shafted club and the sprightlier ball, golf courses now stretch a minimum of 6,500 yards compared to 5,800 yards in the old days.

The price tag for a new golf course? From $100,000 to $200,000.

But designing a golf course is not for amateurs.

To be a good golf course architect," said Mitchell, "you have to be first of all a golfer, then an artist, a civil engineer, an agronomist, a hydraulic engineer, a businessman, a field commander, a drainage expert, a landscaper and a meteorologist."

Bill feels knowledge of the weather is important since he was hit by three hurricanes while building one course — but still managed to finish it on schedule.

He has a 9-hole course on his 500-acre New Hampshire farm. How about his own game?

"At 14 I could shoot in the 80s," he said. "At 25 I was in the low 70s, but when I was 29 the Navy upset my life a bit. Right now I can respect the problems of the golfer who worries bout breaking 100."

Deer Hunting At Air Port

OMAHA, (AP)—There may be some deer hunting soon on the greens of the Omaha airport.

The airport is located north of the city and adjacent to the lowlands of the Missouri River. In the cool of the evening the not-so-shy but quite hungry deer come up from the river bottoms to graze on the airport greens.

That gives pilots fits.

So the State Game Commission today is considering sending in some expert riflemen from its forces.

MODIFIED and SPORTSMAN CAR RACES
SATURDAY NIGHT
TRI-CITIES SPEEDWAY
TIME TRIALS 8:00 P.M.
Finish by 10:00 P.M.
HAVE YOU ENJOYED THE PAST RACES?
LOOK — THIS WEEK
We will have many of the fastest cars in the South . . . from Huntsville, Chattanooga, Nashville, Birmingham and the Tri-Cities.
The Management promises even greater thrills at this big events
Admission $1.00 Per Person—Children Under 12 Free
PLENTY FREE PARKING SPACE
REMEMBER OUR
CHAMPIONSHIP RACE
SATURDAY NIGHT, JULY 30th
$750.00 GUARANTEED PURSE PLUS $100.00 IN LAP MONEY
SEE TROPHY IN ROGERS WINDOW NO. 6
The racers you will see this week will be here July 30th—plus other out-of-town cars.
COME TO THE RACES
EACH SAT. NITE . . . YOU'LL LOVE THEM!

Inside Sports With Abramson

By RUDY ABRAMSON

We know you get tired of the proverbial tale, bu time it's true, "We wuz robbed." From beginning t everything in the state BRL tourney was against the ence entry . . . not any one certain person, but the certainly pointed to someone besides the boys who tra further than anyone else to enter the meet.

First off we had to drive all night Monday—ba Jasper to pick up some extra ball-players . . . another team . . . after we found that only four of the original All Stars were eligible. The ruling on birth certificates had been completely haphazard without the slightest knowledge of the Florence officials. Prior to this year the verification from the county health department or birth certificate from the hospital had been accepted without any questions asked, but this time nothing was accepted except the original certificate or a photostatic copy . . . we had four.

So Monday night we spent driving to Jasper to pick up men who had ample proof that they weren't hatched. Tuesday morning Mr. Quillen and Staggs drove to Montgomery and secured photostatic copies for all the boys who were born in the state of Alabama. This completed the roster of 15 which is the number of boys who must be eligible before the team can take the field.

If the Florence league had been the only one to pull the blunder, we might have wondered. However, the Greenville nine was declared ineligible and Birmingham and Shades Valley had to go to Montgomery for birth documents. After the Greenville nine was declared ineligible, they whipped the Birmingham entry in a practice tilt . . . a real pity.

One big thing that held all the players back was the living conditions . . . two hundred boys in one room. And asking two hundred 13, 14, and 15 year-olds to be quite is almost as futile as drawing blood from a turnip. This gives full account for the Florence boys running out of gas in the fifth inning of the first tilt in the tourney. They blasted Shades Valley off their feet for the first four, but the Florence pitcher tired and so did all the rest.

The Valley nine did their damage in the fifth inning and were going strong in the sixth when the rain stopped the proceedings. Several of the coaches who didn't slumber nor sleep during the first night laid down the law to the athletes and kept the noise down to a roar during the second night. On Wednesday the Florence nine was tired, but the task of getting seven runs in only three outs was a little too much.

* * *

State Babe Ruth League officials have already expressed their favor of Florence for the tourney site for next year.

From the standpoint of size this is an ideal spot for the meet. Union Springs was entirely too small . . . a city like Birmingham or Montgomery is too large . . . Florence could provide all the recreational needs for the visitors while having adequate housing space for them. The only drawback to Florence is the lack of funds in the local league and the business of a lighted field. However something could surely be worked out either with the Fair Park Board or Central to use their ball garden before another year rolls around.

One final gripe . . . the tourney is going to have to be changed from a whole "hodge podge" of entrants to playoffs between winners from various districts and areas. Fifteen is entirely too many teams for a tourney even if it is a single elimination. If Huntsville or Decatur would organize Babe Ruth Leagues then the northern half of the state could hold area eliminations before they plunge into the state tourney.

Then the field in the state meet would have only four or five teams which would allow for the brass to plan a double elimination meet . . . give the better teams a better chance. Many times the better clubs have lost in single elimination tourneys . . . an off day . . . sleep . . . another team . . . and that's over their head . . . and more. A double elimination . . . sure to eliminate the poorest in the opening round and l . . . things for an all round meet.

* * *

Of all things . . . having . . . to talk about the American . . . and what did we tell y only we didn't think they wo lead in each volume—mu predict it. Next week they the state meet in Montgom the lesson they got from th Ruth Leaguers should be fa ing to them. . . . Before th of time flow too far, we'll g the low down on the Flore glon. THIS SHOULD BE YEAR . . . don't you think

But before we leave y should hasten to remind the fine job and unceasing behalf of the Babe Ruth which some of the Floren zens have turned in . . . Quillen, Arlon Staggs, Mar ers, Harlon Hill, Elgie Bren many others . . . not to mentio ate Phillips who spent much summer at College field . Babe Ruthers. Phillips c special thanks from the la getting out of bed and dr Jasper to bring us the ext ers . . . besides he had Mr. Roger's secretary f certificates from his offic up several boys' mothers, a Tuesday after he spent the behalf of the Florence Ba League.

Yanks Cal Up Larsen From Den

By ORLO ROBERTS

NEW YORK (AP) — The N Yankees, battling for the American League pennant years trail the parade Chicago White Sox by two pe points today. They are desperate.

And well they might have frittered away a 7 lead since the All-Star G 2 and, in addition to the White Sox, hold only a bulge over the Cleveland three over Boston and Detroit.

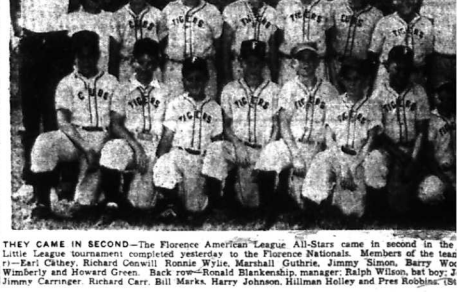
The hitters are not hi the pitchers are not pit but they are not gold ning ball. Manager Case has received just five games from his hurle starting their latest Western trip July 14. four of them were victo Stengel has admitted h nothing about his hitter perhaps put the eight be lineup, regardless of the they play, and hope for That would mean Bill 340, Elston Howard, .30 Mantle, .301; Bob Cerv McDougald, .277; Yogi Be Gerry Coleman, .258; a Carey, .250.

As for the pitching, s taken yesterday to corr Don Larsen, a right-hand recalled from Denver of t ican Assn., where he h record and has hit sev runs. Larsen, who cam Yankees in the deal tha Bob Turley from Balti winter, couldn't make t at the start of the se Stengel is hopeful he ha something in the minors

To make room for La Yanks are expected right-hander Tom Stur Denver. Sturdivant has a with the Yankees. Bob the disabled list since may be available in tw But he hasn't looked li game winner of 1954. He record.

There also are run Stengel and General M George Weiss have other the fire with veteran shor Rizzuto and Ed Lopat, southpaw pitcher, likely t coaching status in the re

Classified Ads Get Results!



THEY CAME IN SECOND—The Florence American League All-Stars came in second in the Little League tournament completed yesterday in the Florence Nationals. Members of the team (l-r)—Earl Cathey, Richard Conwell, Ronnie Wyle, Marshall Guthrie, Jimmy Simon, Barry Wimberly and Howard Green. Back row—Ronald Blankenship, manager; Ralph Wilson, bat boy; J. Jimmy Carringer, Richard Carr, Bill Marks, Harry Johnson, Hillman Holley and Pres Robbins. (St