

BATTER UP

(By LARRY STANWOOD)

There is all kinds of news in Prince Rupert baseball circles today.

First of all, last night's game between Abel & Odowes and Commercial broke their three-game tie, with the Clothiers in the lead. It was solid baseball all the way and featured for the first time on the Roosevelt Park mound, Ray Zacharely, lean righthanded pitcher newly signed by Abel & Odowes.

Meanwhile, Gordon & Anderson, who are behind a couple of games, have signed a new pitcher, star of last year's league, Billy Robinson. The tall righthander, Stan Cornwell says, is going to make a lot of difference to their game.

However, Robinson is still out fishing and probably won't get into the league until July 1, and that's when an all-star Prince Rupert team will face the best ball players of Ketchikan.

Prince Rupert league is flying the Alaska team in for two games, one on Sunday, the next on Monday. And, because the local league is bearing the brunt of the expenses involved, admission to the game is going to be doubled.

But even so, that isn't very much to pay to see a good ball game, and for a "bushy" bush-league, it shouldn't be bad. All told, Prince Rupert players can round up two all-star teams and still play a sound brand of ball.

And that's just what they're going to do. The second best of Prince Rupert will travel to Smithers July 1, to meet head on the best that interior town has developed.

While this column is devoted to impartially appraise and evaluate baseball in Prince Rupert, a little fact-finding has made it obvious that unless some changes are made, Gordon & Anderson will not be much in the running for league championship this year.

True, the team has good ball players, but the old slogan, "you can't have your cake and eat it," still holds true, and playing softball and baseball at the same time doesn't mix well.

Spectators have taken note that most of the errors permitted by Gordon & Anderson fielders in the last few games they lost were made by those who are active in the softball league.

Baseball doesn't seem to be an honest game unless everyone playing is in there to do their level best. It just isn't real baseball any more. Timing in the two different ball games is completely divorced, as well as judgment of a travelling ball and the size of the ball.

A few "skull sessions" with his men might do Manager Cornwell and his team a lot of good. It is a sad affair, but it doesn't look as though junior baseball in Prince Rupert is going to get a start this year—perhaps never.

Ian McHardy, Civic Centre summer playground director, began a practice with the juniors a few weeks ago, and the response was good at first.

"Of the 25 boys that showed up Sunday mornings, a lot of them would make darn good ball players." But Ian was disappointed last Sunday morning when only seven lads turned out.

"Gosh, when I was a kid, there was a ball team around every corner. I can't understand it here," Ian lamented. "We've had

New Pitcher Stars as Clothiers Assume Lead

A new pitcher blazed his team to almost a shut-out win as Abel & Odowes broke the baseball league tie and defeated Commercial 6-1 last night.

Tall and lanky Ray Zacharely, strictly a side-armed, hurled some of the fastest balls across the plate this season, giving up five hits and one run.

Another homer by Dave Abel, hard-hitting catcher for the Clothiers, started the scoring for A&O in the fourth.

And that's where the closest scramble to fight began as the hotelmen flared up when Umpire Stan Cornwell called the Abel slide to home plate safe.

McDonald, tall bespectacled pitcher, came bounding off the plate at the call and bumped Umpire Cornwell around a bit, disputing the safe decision. The fiery manager of the other team in the league, Gordon & Anderson, was ready to upset the charging pitcher. But with a warning to put McDonald out of the game, Cornwell resumed the game.

With second and third bases loaded by Pope and Pavlikis, Abel picked one coming dead over the plate and hoisted it far into centre field. Miner Simundson came in on it but it fooled him and went careening over his head towards the edge of the field.

Abel took off with perhaps the fastest running he has ever done. Two runs came in ahead of him. The ball was in the infield and the catcher knew it would be close and hit the dirt. It was close. Morgan at the plate had the ball just about the same time that Abel hit. The decision was strictly one for the umpire and he made it: Safe.

The Clothiers' centre fielder, Pavlikis, with three hits to four times at bat, not only topped the hitting of the game with one two-sacker, a three-base and a one-base hit, but won a new hat as well.

Johnny Odowes announced that the man making the most hits in the game would get the choice of hats in his store.

Mr. Odowes also said he would give a nylon shirt to the pitcher who would strike out Abel and, if the home-run hitter wasn't struck out, he would get the shirt.

Abel got the shirt. Commercial, despite only bringing in one run, played a good field game and accounted for two double plays and three errors. Simundson again came in for a big cheer, diving for a long fly by Giordiano and making the catch in spite of hitting the dirt.

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Miner later, "but it's worth it." McDonald, to whom was attributed the loss of the game, showed good control but had little on the ball. Clothiers were hitting them left and right for a total of seven. He gave up only two bases on balls, and struck out three.

Zacharely gave up four bases on balls, balked once, threw one wild pitch and struck out seven. Hardest hitting for Commercial was Catcher Morgan with two singles. Manager Simundson made the only two-base hit for his team and the only run in the fifth, knocked in by Benny Windie.

Larry Warner, veteran pitcher for Commercial, didn't get to the mound, but was placed as pinch-hitter in the last of the ninth. He got on by a walk and advanced by an error by third baseman Lavigne. Warner stole third and tried to get home on short dribble by Windie, but was thrown out in a double play from Zacharely to Dahl to Abel, ending the last try of Commercial for any more runs.

Lineups:

Commercial	A	B	R	H	E
M. Simundson, ss	4	0	0	0	0
M. Simundson, cf	4	1	1	0	0
Gunn, lf	3	0	1	0	0
Desonner, 1b	3	0	0	1	0
Windie, 2b	3	0	1	2	0
Mathews, 3b	2	0	0	0	0
Morgan, c	3	0	2	0	0
Linney, rf	3	0	0	0	0
McDonald, p	1	0	0	0	0
Total	25	1	5	3	

A&O	A	B	R	H	E
Pope, lf	2	2	1	0	0
Pavlikis	4	1	3	0	0
Dell, rf	4	0	0	0	0
Abel, c	3	1	1	0	0
Dahl, 1b	3	0	0	0	0
Giordiano, ss	3	0	0	0	0
Lavigne, 3b	3	0	1	1	0
Arney, 2b	3	1	0	1	0
Zacharely, p	3	1	1	0	0
Total	27	6	7	2	

AUCKLAND, N.Z. (Lloyd's of London can find no record to equal that of Captain D. R. Paterson who has relinquished command of the oil tanker Paua after 23 years. He took command when the Paua was launched and continued as master until the vessel went to the wreckers.

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good weather and we've been able to get equipment, but I guess the boys just don't care to play ball."

Looks like a lot of youngsters are throwing away an opportunity they may regret later. Maybe it's a little more interesting to stay in bed late Sunday morning, but if these kids ever want to play ball now is the time to start. The great thing about organ-

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