

# Baseball Image Scarred

By W.W. EDGAR

The baseball players strike that put an abrupt end to the training season and cast a shadow over the opening day festivities may leave a permanent scar on what often has been referred to as the national pastime.

Ever since the game was invented by Abner Doubleday way back when it has enjoyed popularity from high and low and nothing in the athletic world outranked it in prestige.

Even in the Congress of the United States--the last word in legislation--it has been granted privileges unknown to any other group.

It has been as American as apple pie and even the most stubborn players in the past have capitulated to the thought that by their actions they were hurting the youth of the land.

THERE WAS A time, some years ago, when even the Mighty Babe Ruth, then at the top of his career, yielded to the pleadings of the country's youth to give up extra curricular habits and act like their idol should act.

The late New York Mayor Jimmy Walker took "The Babe" in hand and reminded him of the thousands of freckled faced kids he was letting down.

Meanwhile many things have changed in baseball. No longer is it a game in which the lads from the hills and the small towns make all sorts of sacrifices just to get a chance to make good. They walked to training camps with little thought of such a thing as a bonus.

Today's ball player, in most instances, is a college grad who reports for work with a portfolio.

They realize the value of money. More than that, they realize that their careers are short at best and they have only a few years to earn "big" money and they make every effort to get it.

THIS IS the reason they have been stubborn in their demands for increased pensions. Their bodies burn out much quicker in the world of athletics and they are hopeful of setting up funds to care for them in old age.

Meanwhile management has changed with the players. No longer are the club owners the real fans they were in the days of Frank J. Navin, of the Tigers, Charles Comiskey, of the White Sox, Barney Dreyfuss of the Pittsburgh Pirates; Connie Mack of the Athletics; and Clark Griffith of the Washington Senators.

First, they set up a "reserve clause" that literally makes slaves of the players. Once a player signs with any of the major leagues he becomes their chattel to be

sold or traded at will until the end of his career.

This is considered a violation of the anti-trust laws of the land. But baseball was granted the exception by order of the United States Congress.

Next television came on the scene and dumped untold millions into the game in the way of sponsorship of the major classics.

So money became so available that a question often

has been asked, "Is baseball a business or a sport?"

All the while the game lost none of its prestige until a few years ago when professional football entered the scene. The pro football game became "poor man's college games" and jammed every stadium in the country.

Because of this trend baseball's right to be rated the "national pastime" has been challenged.

Now the baseball players

strike may turn many fans away from the game and the ranking will be lost.

Likewise, should the U.S. Supreme Court rule against the reserve clause in a case brought by Curt Flood, former St. Louis Cardinal outfielder, the managers will lose their hold. Players no longer will be "slaves".

So, the entire face of the game could be changed all because of the baseball players strike that is bringing matters to a head.



**DON'T FRET LITTLE GIRL-THEY'LL PLAY** - Not all those concerned with the baseball players strike and the possibility that things won't get started properly were grown-up fans. This little lady is wiping away tears in the hope her favorites will get started promptly. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)



## Farmington's Durham Wins Pole Vault Title

By TOM DONOGHUE  
Observer Sports Editor  
It might have been snowing outside but inside Jenison Fieldhouse the Observerland representatives at the ninth annual Spartan Relays were warming up for the track season.  
Ann Arbor Pioneer won the team title with 27 points followed by Lansing Sexton failed.

with 23 but Observer cindermen left their mark.  
Farmington's Nat Durham stole the show in the pole vaulting with a leap of 13'9".  
Ed Kulka, of Grosse Pointe South, also recorded of height 13-6 but collected more misses.  
Durham and Kulka went after the meet mark of 14-1 but

Farmington Coach Jerry Young feels Durham will be able to clear 15 feet by the end of the season to better the state record.  
Plymouth's senior Hooker Wollman placed sixth with a vault of 12-6. This bettered his old mark of 12-4.  
**FARMINGTON HARRISON'S** Dan McConeghy im-

pressed the crowd of 3,120 when he took a third place showing in the 70 yard low hurdles at :08.2.  
Rockford's Paul Sherd and Detroit Northern's Luray Cooper stepped one better at :08.1.  
Borgess senior Greg Battle captured a fourth behind McConeghy with a time of :08.3.

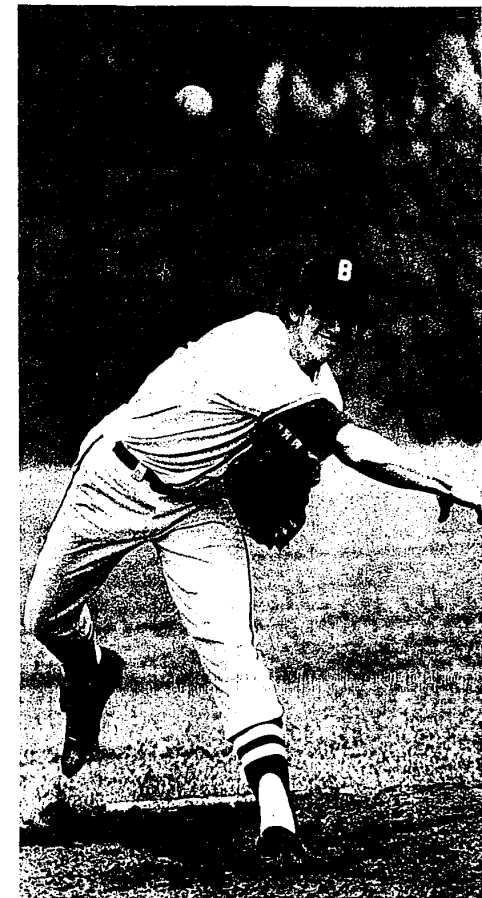
The Borgess shuttle relay squad which fared so well in the Huron Relays was disqualified in the trials.  
**BORGESS COACH** Steve Strauch was impressed with Neil Falls' '06.9 performance in the 60 yard dash and junior Jim Bearden with a 10:31 time in the two mile.

Plymouth scored an eighth place finish in the two mile relay with Greg Worsnop, Eric Weber, Scott Dunson and Tom Mathews clocking 8:30.3.  
Brother Rice finished at 8:42.2 and Birmingham Groves at 8:42.5. An Arbor Pioneer captured honors with a time of 8:01.6.

There were 10 Observerland schools in the running of the sprint medley relay with Garden City West showing the best time of 2:37.7. This was good enough for 13th place with Detroit Cooley in the No. 1 berth at 2:32.5.



**UP AND OVER** - Farmington's Nat Durham clears the bar at 13 feet and 6 inches to win top honors in pole vaulting at the Spartan Relays in East Lansing's Jenison Fieldhouse. (Observer photos by Tom Donoghue)



**OPENING PITCH** - Bishop Borgess hurler Gary Percha delivered the first pitch to kick off Observerland baseball, and Lutheran West responded with a 3-2 win. For the complete story, turn to Page 3B. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

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This is how the 10 area schools stacked up with one another in the sprint medley relay:  
Garden City West - 2:37.7  
Redford Union - 2:38.1  
Plymouth - 2:38.7  
Birmingham Groves - 2:40.2  
Farmington - 2:41.5  
John Glenn - 2:40.2  
North Farmington - 2:49.0  
Brother Rice - 2:51.1  
Bishop Borgess - 2:51.7  
Farmington Harrison - 2:58.8

The three heat two mile run saw a meet record of 9:19.0 set by Detroit Cooley's Nick Ellis. Farmington's Mike McGuire placed seventh in 10:00.5 with Don Custard, of Garden City West, ninth in 10:09.5. Redford Union's Rick Kritzman finished 10th in 10:19.4.

**DAN MADDEN** of Bishop Borgess placed 14th with a time of 10:31.0 and Southfield Lathrup's Tim Bell was 17th in 10:42.1.

Mark Timmons of Farmington and Tom Burke of Redford Union qualified for the semifinals in the 40 yard dash with times of :06.6 and :06.8 respectively but failed to make the finals.

North Farmington recorded a :30.8 time in the shuttle hurdle relays with Plymouth and Brother Rice each coming in at :33.4.

But it was Durham who stole the show for Observerland with his first place 13-6.

Next comes the Ohio Mansfield Relays and a full swing into dual competition.