

Topeka Aces baseball teams, 1966-1973

Section 10, Pages 271 - 300

This bound volume, entitled Aces: 1966-1973, is one of two written by Topekan Lee Dodson documenting the activities of youth and semi-pro baseball teams that he managed from the late 1960s through 1981. Each of the teams included one or more of his three sons (Jim, Dick and Steve) as participants, whether as player, field manager, coach, or batboy. In this volume are Dodson's annual reports about the Topeka Aces youth teams that competed in the Suburban League (1966-1970). Age brackets for these teams ranged from 8-10 for the youngest team to 14-16 for the oldest. The volume also includes reports on the Topeka Aces teams in the Jayhawk Connie Mack League for 16-18 year-olds (1971 and 1972), and the Aces in the semi-pro Sunflower Stan Musial League (1973). The report on the 1966 team is brief, containing statistics only. All of the other team reports include not only individual player statistics, but detailed narrative accounts of every game played by each team. The companion volume covers the period 1976-1981 (see Kansas Memory ID 309527). Throughout his adult life, Lee Dodson was a leader in Topeka's baseball community who became known as Topeka's "Mr. Baseball." A former minor league pitcher, Dodson founded and managed several leagues in Topeka, and managed and/or coached countless teams. Digital reproduction of the volume was accomplished through a joint project sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society and the Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame.

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double to hold the Salina Nine scoreless. We made nothing in our seventh as we went in order. Peterson had relieved Boyer in the third for the western lads, and he gave us only one base hit over the last four frames. Holding a precarious one run lead going into the bottom of the seventh, Scott struck out the first two hitters, then gave up a blast which went for a triple and nearly an inside the park homerun. Scott blew his neck hard and got Hyde to ground back to him to end the hard fought game, 3-2, ACES. We really are in the hitting doldrums again. Tonight we had only four, and we were fortunate to escape. Only Scott's clutch hurling saved us. He was supreme when necessary as he fired his highest strikeout record ever, 15 in all while walking 4 and giving up 7 hits. It was his third win against one loss and our 18th win against 9 reversals. Only Ron and Dick had their hitting shoes on tonight. Each of them had a single and a double.

GAME NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

On July 2 we returned to Big Shunga Park where we sent Lefty Jim Dodson in a league game assignment against the Shawnee Mission Amos nine. Bruner was on the mound for them. Jim struck out a pair in the first and held them down 1-2-3. We wasted two good hits by Ron Zarazua and Jim, as we left them stranded at 3rd and 2nd. Jim gave up a run to Amos in their second when a walk and an error were followed by a base hit to plate one. Frank Everett's single was to no avail as we failed in our second. Jim had no difficulty in their third, and we went to work in our third. Ron Swann led off with a sharp single. A quick throw nailed him on first for out number one. Dick Dodson banged a hit to right, Roger walked. Big Jim creamed a drive off the wall at the 340' sign to score Dick and Rog. He scored later on a passed ball for our third tally, 3-1 ACES. Jim went to work and fired his portsided aspirin tablets past them in the fourth and fifth. We drove Bruner out in our fourth when John Redmon singled, followed by walks to Ron and Dick to load the sacks. Downs came in to relieve for Amos and shut the door in

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our face as we couldn't score. Gary Conwell singled in our fifth, but to no avail. After five we had 3-1. In the Amos sixth, Halihan walked and Downs unloaded a blast deep over Charlie Lord's head in center to score one. Jim now faced full jeopardy with the tying run on third, none out. He struck out Shikles and got Cline to hit a soft liner to Ron, who speared it and gunned it to Mike Custenborder at third to double Downs off third to end the tension packed inning. In our sixth, we threatened when Bobby Tompkins walked, went to third on Ron Swann's life on an error, but the next three hitters failed and we went into the seventh and final frame leading precariously, 3-2. Jim by now sniffing victory at a short distance began by striking out the first two hitters but faltered momentarily with a walk, a ground ball went through Gary C's legs to make it more heart-throbbing. With two away and two on, Jim blew a third strike past Minoen to end the game, 3-2 ACES. We had won our ninth league contest opposed to five losses and our 19th total victory against nine setbacks. Big Jim won his fourth against no reversals. He struck out 12 Amosmen, walked five and allowed just two hits (one good one). We had eight bingles ourselves. Jim had two of them while Ron, Dick, Roger, Frank, Gary Conwell, John, picked up one each. Our hitting is not good, particularly with runners on bases. Charlie is yet in his slump and his r.b.i. loss is rough to take. This was our third one-run win in a row.

GAME NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

On July 4 we headed northward to play the return match with Marysville American Legion. We started Lu Wright against their Youngepers on the hill. Mike Custenborder dumped a single to left in the first frame, but that was our only serious effort. Lu ran into a walk, two wild pitches and a base hit followed by another wild pitch to score two for Marysville. We came back in our second when Dick Dodson unleashed a long blast that bounced against the 365' sign in the huge

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Marysville ballpark fence in right-center for a two baser. Bill Swengel's grounder moved Dick over to third, and Gary Conwell slapped a line shot for a double to score Dick for a run. Lu walked the Marysville leadoff hitter, uncorked three more wild pitches to score one, walked the hitter, wild pitch, two more walks and a wild pitch scored run four and Lu split the scene in behalf of Bobby Tompkins, who came on in relief. He retired the Legion men and after two we were down 4-1. In our third, Mike C. slashed his second hit, Charlie Lord walked and "Jarrin" Jim" Dodson bolted a single to center to score Mike C. Dick was plunked with an errant pitch to load the sacks with none out, but we blew the opportunity to unload as we stopped right there.

Bobby gave up a single and that was all, over the third and fourth innings. We had only a walk by Ron in our fourth frame effort. In our fifth, Jim drove a hit, his second, to right. Dick unleashed a liner to right to move Jim to third, and he moved to second on the throw-in. Bill Swengel strolled to fill the bases. Frank Everett blasted a shot down the right field line to score Jim, Dick and Bill. Gary C.'s single scored Frank to give us four tallies and forge us into the lead, 6-4. In the fifth, Bobby ran into a hornet's nest when he was greeted by a triple and two singles to tie it up 6-6. Tied up going into the 6th, Charlie Lord, fighting a horrible hitting slump, hit a high pop-up behind first base down the right field line. The Marysville first and second sackers both went after it, and the first sacker allowed it to fall safely in fair territory. Charlie, hustling all the way, slid into second base. It was an important exhibition of hustling as the next hitter - Jim - grounded to second, allowing Charlie to score. Charlie had moved to third on a previous passed ball. It was an important run. Bobby bore down in their sixth and capped them 1-2-3. In our 7th, Ron's walk was the only effort. In the Marysville 7th, an error put a man on but Bobby tightened and struck out the next hitter and got the last hitter to bounce

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back to him to end the game, our favor, 7-6. Bobby did another great job in relief earning his fifth win against no losses. He allowed just three hits over the 5 1/3 innings of relief, giving up only one walk, striking out five. Lu gave up four runs on five walks, striking out one. Wildness hurt him! We had ten hits with Mike Custenborder, Jim Dodson, Dick Dodson and Gary Conwell had two blows apiece. Charlie and Frank one blow apiece, came at strategic times.

GAME NUMBER THIRTY

On July 6, we went to Prussing Field in Shawnee-Mission to meet the K.C. Amos team. We sent our "man with a thousand curves", Dick Dodson, out to meet our steady diet for them, righty Bob Downs. We opened in our first by Ron Swann's driving a base hit to center, moving to second on a passed ball, stealing third and going home on a full effort of a short passed ball at home. Dick gave up a single to the leadoff hitter for them and then struck out the side to end the inning. In our second, Bill Swengel led off with a base hit followed by a blast off Frank Everett's bat. The ball caromed off the high left-center field wall, scoring Bill. Frank scored later on an error of John Redmon's grounder, 3-0 ACES. Dick struck out the side in their second for six in a row. We went down in order in our third. Dick was touched for a hit and gave up a walk in their third but escaped damage by striking out two more. John's single was wasted in our fourth, and Dick struck out three more in their fourth to give him 11 of the first 12 outs! In our fifth, we went down in order, and we led 3-0 as the Amosmen came to bat in their portion of the fifth. The first hitter walked and went to second on a passed ball. Dick's pickup throw got by both John and Charlie and the runner came all the way around to score. Dick K'd two more then gave up a base hit to Downs. Hallahan, Amos catcher, landed on one of Dick's pitches to drive a high flyball to center that Charlie could have caught, but the short field barrier prevented him to get it, and we were all tied up, 3-3. In our sixth, we went down

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again as Frank singled, followed by John's second blow, but we left them there. In the Amos sixth, Dick was touched for a hit, followed by a stolen base and two errors scored two more runs to make it 5-3, AMOS! We were really down as we went to the seventh. We opened by Ron's base-on-balls, Mike C. walked, Roger's grounder forced Mike as Ron moved to third. Jim struck out but while at bat, Ron raced home on a passed ball. Roger moved to third on the play. With two away and down 5-4, the Amos catcher elected to try and pick off Rog at third, who was scampering back and forth, the ball got away from the Amos 3rd sacker and Roger bolted home with the tying tally. Charlie walked and went to second on a wild pitch. Billy Swengel grounded to third and the ball went through the third baseman's legs for an error and allowed the oncoming Charlie to score, and we were in the lead, 6-5. Dick went into the seventh with a narrow margin and tired from throwing many pitches. The first two batters grounded out, Ron, making a terrific play on one of the ground balls. Dick suddenly was able to throw only balls for the homeplate umpire no matter where they crossed the plate. He walked two and had a 3-2 count on the next hitter when he slipped the final third strike passed the hitter to end the game. It was a hard win, but we got it! Lefty Dick struck out 16 more Amos hitters for a total of 33 in 14 frames against the Shawnee team. He won his fourth against two losses, and it was our tenth win against five losses in League play. We had only five hits opposed to their four safeties. Frank Everett and John Redmon had two hits each and Ron Swann had the other good one. Gary Jones turned in his uniform to take a job.

GAME NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

On July 10, 1971, we drove to Holton to meet their American Legion team. The manager attempting to insert everyone in the lineup became too zealous in the effort and pulled pitchers and players at times that hurt our effort in this Saturday evening contest. We started Loren Shufeldt on the hill against their



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Meyer. We scored one in our first when Ron Swann walked, stole second and came on around on a passed ball and a tagging-up of Charlie Lord's flyball to left. A walk and a double off Loren quickly tied it up for Holton. We threatened in our second when Dick Dodson singled and went to second on an error of Rog Zarazua's grounder. With two on, we went out 1-2-3. Loren throttled them in their second without difficulty and left after hurling two innings. In our third, Gary Conwell singled, stole second, moved to third on a passed ball and scored on a flyball by Charlie. Jeff Jones came on to hurl the third and fourth innings for us. He gave one run on an error and a base hit. Tied again, now 2-2. We did nothing in our fourth as Bill Swengel's base hit was lost as we left him stranded on base. Jeff struck their hitters out 1-2-3 in their fourth for a fine two inning stint, and we relieved him in their fifth with Howard Stice. In our fifth, we went down in order. Trouble brewed for us in their fifth as Howard was touched for a base hit, a wild pitch, two consecutive walks, followed by another hit before we could rush in some relief. Lu Wright came on and gave up another walk and a pair of wild pitches. Totally, three big Holton runs scored and we were down 5-2 after 5. Our attack was listless in our sixth only with a hit by Jim Dodson, and the Holton team took advantage by scoring two more as Lu walked two more and gave up a run before Charlie Lord came on to get them out. 7-2, Holton. In our 7th, Bobby Tompkins singled but that was it! We went home disgruntled, having lost 7-2. We had only 5 hits off Meyer, one each by Gary Conwell, Jim Dodson, Dick Dodson, Bill Swengel and Bobby Tompkins. Howard Stice suffered the loss, his first against no wins. It was our tenth loss against 21 wins. We are 10-5 in League play. Loren and Jeff pitched well and the manager felt confident that if either had been left there on the hill, the outcome would have been different. Chalk up one for the skipper!



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GAME NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

On July 12 we hosted the Kansas City Frank Waters team again at Big Shunga Park. Having suffered two losses against the League leading Kansas Citians, we were desperate to conquer those vaunted opponents. We fired our big left-handed gunner, Lefty Jim Dodson, against their bespectacled right-hander, Jones. Big Jim started fast by striking out the side in the first inning. We opened in our first by witnessing Ron Swann gaining first on an error. Mike Custenborder slashed a base hit to left-center and Ron steamed right on around third and headed home on the throw in toward home, the cutoff was fired to second base to nail the diving Mike C., who was plowing into second base. The ball was fired low and caromed off Mike's eye nearly knocking him out. We had to take Mike out and off to the hospital. Results showed 'he was to suffer from a black eye and a sore head for a few days. His base hit and hustling into second base were of the upmost importance as time went on. Mike Sturgeon was inserted to run for the injured Mike C. Speedy Gary Conwell placed a beautiful bunt down to move Mike S. over to third base. Big Jim blasted a line drive single to score Mike S. and we had two big ones.

Jim gave up a base hit in their second, but that was it. He was left stranded at first base. In our second, we went down in order, striking out all three times. Big "Left" retaliated by striking out all of their three hitters in their third. We went down in order in our third. Jim allowed a walk in their fourth, but that was all. Our effort in our fourth was another base hit by Jim, but we left him alone on the bases. In the fifth, Jim gave up a walk but a great play by Ron at short erased the runner when he fielded a short hopper, stepped on second and fired to first to complete a quick double play. We struck out again 1-2-3 in our fifth. The sixth turned out to be a real heart-throbber! Harvey led off with a walk. With only a 2-0 lead, any runner on bases was a threat! Jim struck out Glover, but Jones banged a long shot to left-center for a triple scoring

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Harvey and put the tying run on third, one out with the cleanup and fifth place hitting coming up. Jim dug deep and fired three past Colovich, dug some more and got Dressler on three more fireballs to end the narrow one. In our sixth, Roger Zarazua blasted a hit to right, but again we left him there. The crucial seventh began by Jones striking out. O'Bryan grounded out Conwell to Dick. Dusil hit a high fly to right into big Frank Everett's glove to end it and we won 2-1! Jim had won it on a two hitter, striking out 12, walking four. He was now 5 and 0, and we went to 22-10 and 11-5 in our Connie Mack wars. We garnered only 4 hits ourselves off Jones, two by Jim and one each by Rog and Mike Custenborder. Jones struck out 11 of us. It was a great game to win and made us all feel much better in beating the K.C. outfit.

GAME NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

Two days later we headed back to K.C. to meet the Frank Waters league leaders again. We sent our curve-ball artist to the hill against their ace, Nick Colovich. Dick was eager to gain revenge for the 2-1 loss he absorbed earlier down here. This game turned out to be one of the most unusual contests we would have. We started in our first by Ron Swann slashing a single to right, Ron stole second and scored on a ground ball by Jim Dodson. Dick walked Glover, but picked him off first to take care of the situation. In our second we were absolutely harmless. F.W. came on to tie it up when with two away, Colovich doubled and scored on Dick's pickoff play throw to second which eluded both Ron and John.

In our third, we went down in order and the K.C. nine scored three in their third when with one away, they exploded! Harvey singled, Glover singled, Dusil hit a high fly to left. Bill Swengel couldn't get to it in left and suddenly the ball disappeared. The umpires waved a circle as a homerun sign. We were dismayed because we did not see the ball go over the fence, bounce off the fence or did we see it anywhere! When asking Bill Swengel, he said it did not go over the

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fence but fell into a hole. The manager went to the umpires earlier in the game on three different occasions. When they were shown that the ball had fallen in a gopher hole and disappeared, they agreed it couldn't be declared a homerun after all. (Brilliant pair!) They ruled the ball a double and two runs scored on the play. Two walks and two more hits plated another run to give the K.C. boys three total in the frame and a 4-1 lead. The five hits altogether in the innings were the most ever off Dick. When visiting with him in the inning of turmoil, he mentioned his arm was "not right". A pickoff play helped in the inning and they left three on the bases.

We came to bat in our fourth, and Bill walked, followed by Big Jim Dodson's line drive shot out over the right field barrier for a homerun to make it 4-3, F.W. It was hit like a bullet! Dick went down further to almost side arm and retired the enemy without any trouble over the next three innings. In the fifth, a beautiful heads up play helped considerably. Dusil led off with a gain of first via an error by Ron at short and as the ball was retrieved and in exchange, Big Jim was forced to leave the sack to go after the ball and the throw in was made to Bobby Tompkins, who alertly covered the first sack and slapped the ball on the runner for the out. We simply could not muster any sort of an attack against Colovich. Roger Zarazua doubled in our seventh but with two away and that was it. We had only three hits in this tough loss - Jim's Homer, Ron Swann's single and Roger Zarazua's double. Dick gave up eight hits, striking out eight and walking five in absorbing his third loss against four wins. Two of them by one run (2-1) (4-3) to this same F.W. Club. More importantly, this was the last game of the season for the young lefthander as his "not right arm" was actually a pulled muscle in the shoulder and a complete rest of the area was the only answer.

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GAME NUMBER THIRTY FOUR

Probably more than any game or games during the year, our ACES team looked forward to the match with the Topeka American Legion Post #74 team. The reasons for such eagerness to meet them are many. To begin with, most of the players on each team know one another, through previous games, being former players as teammates, other sports participants and rivals, plus rumors heard, that the Legion team was going to tear the ACES apart. An article in the TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL written earlier in the year played up the merits of the Legion team as being a great team in the state. This served as necessary motivation on the part of the ACES players to want to prove to all in the Kansas area which team was superior. We started this big doubleheader on Saturday evening, July 17, at Big Shunga Park. The weather was extremely hot and humid. Bobby Tompkins was assigned the first game and the task of stopping the Legionnaires. Martinek, a right hander, was on the hill for them. The 74 boys started fast when Morrissey singled and scored on Heptig's double. A hit by Billy Crooks scored Heptig with another run. Bobby settled down after delivering a hit to Peterson. We came back in our first determined. Ron Swann walked, Gary Conwell singled, Roger plated Ron. Jim Dodson stepped to the plate and picked on a Martinek fastball and ripped it 345' away over the left field fence where the ball bounced off one of the light poles. Three more big ones and four total for the frame. 4-2 now! Bobby took them 1-2-3 in their second. We grabbed another in our second when Bobby walked, moved up on the walk issued to Gary Conwell and an error at first of Jim's hard ground ball. The Legion team came back in their third for a pair when Morrissey singled again followed by Kruger's double. Heptig plated them both with his second hit. Now 5-4. We failed to score in our third as only John Redmon's threatened. Bob gave up a double to Mudge in their fourth, but we got them out. In our fourth, we scored when Ron Swann doubled, moved to third



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on Gary's single and scored on Jim's base hit to right, 6-4 now after 4! Bobby was in slight trouble in their fifth by issuing a walk and a hit but escaped. Charlie Lord's single was to no avail in our half of the fifth. Bobby had thrown many pitches and the weather was working on him by now. The Legion team had relieved Martinek with Noble in the second and sent Lee in the sixth. In their sixth, Bobby gave up a pair of walks, a hit batsman and a base hit to make it 6-6. We rushed big lefty Jim Dodson to the mound. He struck out Heptig and got Peterson on a pop-out to end the inning. We went down in order in our sixth. Jim struck out two and allowed a walk to stop the Legion in their seventh. Jim Dodson, enjoying a big evening already, led off by blasting a Lee pitch to deep center for a double. Frank Everett's grounder moved Jim to third. Charlie Lord walked. Bill Swengel stroked a flyball far enough to centerfielder, Mudge. Jim took off as the ball folded into his glove, and sped home to cross the plate with the deciding run. We won it 7-6 in a thriller! Jim took on his sixth win against no losses as Lee felt the loss. Bobby gave up 11 hits, two walks and struck out two over the hot and humid 5 1/3 innings. Jim struck out three, while walking three and giving no hits. We had eight hits in all. Big Jim had three including five runs batted in on his homerun, double and single. Gary Conwell ripped for a pair as Ron, Roger, Charlie had one each. It was a hard fought, emotionally packed contest, and we were both fortunate and happy to have won it. We are now 23-11 overall and looking forward to the next game.

GAME NUMBER THIRTY-FIVE

The weather was still extremely hot and humid so we headed into the second game. We sent Scott Hall to the hill to face their Foster. We were the visitors in this contest, thus we batted first. Ron Swann led off by being plunked with an errant Foster pitch. Dick Dodson lined a shot into right-field to send Ron with our first blood. Mudge doubled and Kruger walked in their first, but



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Scott got out of the frame without their scoring as he got Morrissey on strikes and Heptig on a ground ball back to himself. In our second, Gary Conwell walked and was forced at second on Mike Custenborder's ground fielder's choice. Scott blistered a single to left scoring Mike C. after Mike had stolen second base. We are now up 2-0. Scott walked three in their second but got out of it on a K and two force outs. Jim got on by an error and Bill Swengel in our third, but that was it for the frame. In the Legion third, Mudge tripled. Scott got tough and struck out Morrissey and got Kruger on a slight tap to Mike C. at 3rd. With two away, Rod Heptig singled in Mudge with their first run, 2-1, ACES after three. We went to work in our fourth when Gary C. led off with a base hit. Mike C. forced Gary C. at second. Scott's ground ball was fumbled by Billy Crooks at third to allow Mike to move to third while he moved up to first safely. Ron crashed a line drive down the right field line for a two baser scoring Mike and Scott. Dick Dodson unloaded a long shot that ripped against the right field wall for a double to score Ron. After Rog bounced out, Jim Dodson shot a line drive single to right to score Dick with our fourth tally of the frame and sent us into a 6-1 lead. In their fourth, Scott retired them 1-2-3. In our fifth, we started in where we left off. Gary C. walked, Mike C. belted hard to left for a one-baser. Scott forced Gary C. on a fielder's choice. Ron K'd but Dick kept up his hitting barrage with another drive into right-center to score Mike and Scott. Dick scored later on Jim's base hit to give up three more and a beautiful 9-1 lead. Scott began struggling in their fifth when he was tagged for three hits and a walk to score three for them. At the end of five, we held a 9-4 lead. In our sixth, we added another tally when Gary C. walked again, his third of the game, and rode all the way home on Ronnie's second two base blast of the contest. 10-4 now. In their sixth, Scott, by now tiring very fast, gave up a walk and three straight base hits. Three more Legion tallies, 10-7 now with men on. Big Jim

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Dodson was called to duty again to squelch the fire. In one of the most unique and certainly unusual plays ever, Big Jim fired a fastball past the hitter Peterson and it went on by catcher Bill Swengel's mitt and shot toward the distant backstop, which at Big Shunga Park with the distance between the plate and the backstop, is an automatic run for any runner at third attempting to score. The ball banged against a 4" diameter steel pole and shot back by Bill, who was headed for it to retrieve and at least make the attempted play. The ball rebounded like a shot toward Big Jim, who was covering home plate, he gloved it and laid it on the runner sliding in from third, Heptig, for the final out. What a play! It took us out of the big inning they were having and disheartened them to boot. In our seventh, Roger led off with a double but was forced at third on Jim's fielder's choice. Jim was forced at second, Bill walked and Charlie Lord singled, but we couldn't score. Going into the last of the seventh, we led 10-7. Jim walked Foster and Zerngast, struck out Brooks and Mudge, 2 out. Morrissey hit a little sure-out grounder to Lu Wright at first which should have ended it, but Lu kicked it to allow Foster to score and put the tying runs on the bases. Jim walked Kruger and thus the sacks were loaded. The cleanup hitter, Heptig, at bat. Big Jim went to work and blew his fast balls by Heptig to end the game in a heart stopper, 10-8, ACES. Whew! Jim saved us again. Scott won his fourth against one loss. He pitched $5 \frac{2}{3}$ innings, giving up 7 runs, 8 hits, 8 walks and struck out 5. Jim fired $1 \frac{1}{3}$, allowing no hits, one run, 3 walks and struck out three. We had 14 big hits. Dick had a great night with three. Rog and Ron contributed a pair of dandies to help our cause. Jim banged a pair with 3 RBI's; Rog had three RBI's, as did Dick. Bill, Charlie, Gary C., Mike C. and Scott had a hit each. Coach George and Umpire Pringle had some differences and George got the old bounce early in the game. We had a huge crowd which helped the players immeasurably. The double sweep was so sweet to accept. The ACES were really up after these games and from this point on through the remainder



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of the season, the ACES were nearly unbeatable! We are now 24-11 overall.

GAME NUMBER THIRTY-SIX

The next day, Sunday, July 18, we traveled to Bonner Springs to take on the Bonners in another twinbill. We sent Loren Shufeldt to the hill in the first game against Allen for our opponents. Ron Swann started off for us with a base on balls. Bill Swengel strolled also. Jim Dodson loaded the sacks with a walk and Charlie Lord, still suffering from his month long slump, slashed a shot for a single to score Ron and Bill. Gary Conwell walked and Charlie scored later on a fielder's choice. 3-0, ACES. Loren gave up a single in their first, but that was all as he enjoyed a good inning. In our second, Ron walked, Dick Dodson strolled, Bill was walked to load the bases. Jim walked again to force in a run. Allen was replaced on the B.S. hill by Mathias. Charlie emerging from the long lack of hitting, banged out a two-base shot to left-center to clear the sacks. Frank Everett's one-baser later scored Charlie to bolt us into an eight-nothing lead. Loren, with such a nice padding, gave up only two hits over the next four innings and no runs. Two snappy double plays via Ron-to-Gary C.-to-Jim helped. We grabbed run number nine in our fourth when Jim singled, stole second, moved to third on an error of Gary Conwell. Mike Custenborder's ground ball, forcing Gary C. allowed Jim to score. In our sixth, Jim doubled a blast to right, followed by Charlie's second double in a row. Gary C. bolted a base hit to score Charlie. Mike C. sent Gary to third with his base hit. Frank Everett drove his second hit to score Gary for a total of three more runs and a 12-0 lead. The opposition scored their first run of the game in their sixth when Loren was tagged for a pair of hits. We added three more runs in our seventh when Ron walked again, his third of the game; Bill Swengel unloaded a two base slash and Big Jim unloaded a torrid shot to the home plate area of another ball field approximately 400' from home plate in the right-field direction. It was his

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ninth round-tripper of the season. Loren, now leading 15-1, toyed with the Bonner Springers, giving up two tallies on an unusual streak of wildness, for Loren, 3 walks and an error. We won 15-3. Loren earned his third victory against no losses. We won our 12th win in League play against six losses and our 25th win opposed to 11 losses overall. Loren gave up five hits, walking six, striking out five. We had 11 hits total with Jim and Charlie stroking three big ones for us. Frank had two while Bill, Gary C., Mike C. had one apiece.

GAME NUMBER THIRTY-SEVEN

In the second game of this twinbill, we selected Lefty Jeff Jones to hurl for us to face the slants of their Phil Johnston. We failed to score in our first as did our opponents. In our second, Charlie Lord started in where we had left off, putting wood on the ball, led off with a base hit. John Redmon lined a base hit to left. Mike Sturgeon walked, to load the bases. Rick Schmidt lined a single to left to score Charlie. Jeff hit a flyball to center which was dropped by the center gardener. Gary Conwell shot a single to center to give us a total of six big tallies for the inning. Jeff gave up a walk and a single, but that was all. In our third, we tallied another when Charlie walked and scored later on Mike Sturgeon's line drive base hit to left. Jeff walked a pair in their third, but struck out three to stop the Bonner Spring batters. We went down in order in our fourth, and they followed suit. In our fifth, we picked up run number eight as Charlie, by now enjoying hitting again, singled and scored later on "Mighty Mike" Sturgeon's double. Jeff K'd two more as he sent the enemy down in order. In our sixth, Gary C. singled, followed by Dick Dodson's one baser. Roger Zarazua lined out a shot to score Gary C. Jim blasted a double to right-center to score Dick and Roger. Charlie smacked another double to score Jim. Dee Morgan's grounder forced Charlie and Dee scored later on Mike Sturgeon's third straight blast, a shot which actually carried over the left-field barrier but was ruled a



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double by the umpire, who said the ball went through the fence. (He, the outfielder, admitted later that the ball went over.) Rick Schmidt belted his second hit, but he and Mike S. were left stranded. We scored five more to make it 13-0. In their sixth, Jeff allowed a pair of hits and a walk, but a K and a grounder to first stopped their "rally". In our seventh, we went wild! Gary C. singled, his third hit of the game. Dick blasted a long shot over the right-center wall for his third 4-baser of the season. Rog slashed a two-base shot, Charlie ricocheted another two-base blast off the left field fence, Dee Morgan sent a long shot to center for a double. Mike S., having a terrific night, belted his fourth straight shot; Rick walked, Gary C.'s grounder was booted; Dick creamed a shot to right, and we had eight more big ones! Now 21-0. Jeff, working for a shutout, set the host team down on one harmless single to leave the mound a 21-0 victor. It was his second win against one loss. Our team total was now 26-11 and our league record changed to 13-6. We had 21 hits in this hitting performance. Hitting heroes prevailed everywhere. Mike Sturgeon gave notice to everyone he was going to hit, had four for four. Charlie, now feeling exuberant, shot out four for four also. Gary C. had three big ones, Ricky Schmidt, Dick Dodson, Roger Zarazua had two big ones each as Scott Hall, Jim, Dee, John had one apiece. Four games in two days is not hard to take and we took them!

GAME NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT

On Wednesday evening, July 21, we journeyed to DeSoto where we met the Connie Mack representative from that area. We started Lu Wright against their Krumer. Our ACES started off with a bang as Ron Swann walked; Dick Dodson, Roger Zarazua walked, Charlie slapped a single to left scoring Ron and Dick. Bill Swengel blistered another double to right-center to plate Rog and Charlie. Gary Conwell walked and Mike Custenborder bolted a base hit to right-center, Lu grounded to left. Dick creamed a two base drive to right, Roger backed him with



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another two base shot to left, and Jim Dodson shot a drive to right to score Rog. When the smoke had cleared, we had scored ten big ones. Lu ran into problems immediately in the DeSoto half of the first, a hit batsman and a homerun made it two for them. In our second, we scored one when Bill Swengel got on via an error and was forced later at third base. In between the error and the force, Gary C. lifted a single to left. Stolen bases by Gary C. and Mike C. plus a wild pitch scored one. Lu could not stand the prosperity of a 11-2 lead and quickly got into a jam in their second when he gave up three walks, a hit batsman and a base hit to score three more for DeSoto. Charlie Lord was summoned from center-field to take over for the faltering Lu. Charlie retired them without further damage. Both teams were scoreless in the third though we loaded the bases in our half on walks to Jim and Bill plus an infield hit by Charlie. Charlie gave up a harmless single to them in their half. In our fourth, we scored one on two slashes by Mike C. and Dick. Charlie retired them in order 1-2-3 in their fourth. 12-5, our favor after four full ones. In our fifth, Big Jim lead off with a shot again to right. Charlie moved Jim to third with his third base hit of the night. Gary C. walked. Mike Sturgeon singled to left, Ron and Dick walked and we had three more. Charlie sent them down in order in their fifth, and we were now comfortably in the lead, 15-5. In our sixth, Big Jim unloaded a cannon blast, long and deep over the center-field barrier for his tenth homerun of the campaign. Charlie, now really clipping the old rock, unloaded a hit, his fourth of the game, Bill walked, John Redmon singled, Rick Schmidt lined out a base knock and we had three more tallies. Now 18-5. The DeSotoans came back to get three off Charlie in the sixth on two hits, two walks, and a hit by batter. We failed to register in our seventh and the opposition tallied one more in their final chance on a couple of hits and a pair of walks. Jim came on to retire the last batter. We won this marathon 18-9. Big Charlie won our 14th against six



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losses and our 27th opposed 11 losses overall. We had 18 hits overall. Charles took on four, Jim had three and Dick and Mike Custenborder had two each. Solo shots were struck by Roger, Bill, Gary C., John, Rick, Lu, Mike Sturgeon. This was our fifth win in a row and gave us a total of 71 runs scored in the five games, 17 against the Legion Post #74, 36 on Bonner Springs and 18 tonight.

GAME NUMBER THIRTY-NINE

On Friday evening, July 23, we headed northeast to Kansas City, Kansas, for a scheduled doubleheader at Heathwood Park located at 10th and Chelsea Trafficway. Each game being played in the league is crucial and if we are to have any chance at all we must win all of our remaining games in league play. We sent Big Jim Dodson our fireballing lefthander to the hill to hurl against the hard-throwing K.C. Friedman team's Parker, another lefthander. We started by being retired 1-2-3 in our first. Jim gave up a lead off single, a wild pitch, a move up on a fly ball and a run on a tag up of another fly ball. We went down in order in our second as Parker's curve ball mixed with his fastball gave us trouble. Jim warmed to his task by taking them 1-2-3 in their second. In our third, Mike Custenborder led off with a single, John Redmon unleashed a shot to center for a base hit. Bobby Tompkins sacrificed the runners over to third and second. Ron lifted a shallow fly to right and Mike C. tagged up and scored to tie it up 1-1. We failed to score more in the frame. Jim shut the door in their face in their third. In our fourth, we made no niche nor did they, as Jim struck out the side in order. We went down in order in our fifth. In the Friedman fifth after two outs on strikeouts, Jim gave up a walk and a hit to Parker followed by a good hit by Randall to put our opposition into the lead, 2-1. Down now and time narrowing in on us, Ron led off with an infield base hit, Dick shot a grounder to first who pulled the shortstop off second on the attempted doubleplay throw. Roger popped out to second. With the tying and winning runs on

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and one away, Big Jim came up and he blasted a line shot to right for a three base slash to score both. After Charlie grounded out 1-3, Gary C. lined a shot to left to score Jim with an insurance run, now 4-2. Mike C. singled after Gary C. but we left them there. Jim by now really firing struck out two more in their sixth and gave up nothing to the Friedmans. In our seventh, we went in order. Jim feeling the distinct throb of victory within his grasp, struck out two more in the 7th to end the game 4-2, ACES. It was a great one to win! Jim earned his seventh win against no losses, and we had won our 15th victory in the Connie Mack League and our twenty-eighth overall win opposed to 11 losses. Jim allowed three hits, four walks and struck out 13 in his fine effort. We had six hits off the good job performed by Parker. Mike Custenborder was our only multiple hitter with two hits and one hit each was struck by Ron, Jim, Gary C. and John. Parker struck out nine of us. We heard alot of "Fire hard - Parker!"

GAME NUMBER FORTY

The second game of the doubleheader was assigned to our steady and reliable right-hander Scott Hall. The Friedmans countered with Carruthers, a righthander. We wanted this one in order "to split the scene, man". In our first, Dick Dodson walked and scored on Roger Zarazua's tremendous smash over the leftfielder's head which went for a double. Scott had no problems in their first or second as he gave up only a single. In our second, we unloaded for four more when Gary Conwell singled, Mike Custenborder shot a double to left-center. Scott Hall blasted a long shot to deep right to score Gary C. and Mike C. Dick unloaded a two base smash to score Scott; Roger walked and Big Jim rapped a double to right to give us the 4 and a 5-0 lead. In our third, we failed to score though Bill walked and Mike C. singled. The Friedman nine scored one in their third on two walks and one hit. In our fourth, we added three more when Dick unloaded a long shot to right-center; Roger blasted his second double to left,

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Jim sent one long and deep to left-center to score two more and he scored a moment later on a ground out of Gary Conwell's. Scott gave up a run to the enemy. When Lane slashed a homerun. We didn't threaten in our fifth and sixth nor did they off Scott. In our seventh, Gary C. singled, went to third on Scott's double and both scored on ground outs. 10-2, our favor. Scott was touched for a double, but that was it as he tightened the cork on their bottle to lift us to our second win of the evening. It was another display of good hitting. We have now won seven in a row! It made our League record 16-6 and the overall, 29-11. Scott won his fifth against one loss. He was really effective, allowing five scattered hits while striking out 11 and walking only two. We had 14 hits in this one, three for three by our Roger Zarazua, who is starting to stroke the old apple with authority. Ron Swann, Dick Dodson, Jim Dodson, Gary Conwell, Mike Custenborder and Scott Hall all had two blows apiece. Only Charlie and Bill failed to connect and seven ACES had multiple hits. It was a great effort under pressurable conditions and Coach Tompkins and I are extremely proud of these young men.

GAME NUMBER FORTY-ONE

Riding our seven game winning streak, we headed home to entertain the Shawnee Optimists on Monday, July 26, in another doubleheader. Actually, the games were scheduled for Sunday, July 25, at Prussing Field in Shawnee-Mission, but a heavy summer downpour nearly drowned us all by the time we got to Lawrence, and we had to return to Topeka when we learned that the games were called off. There had been no rain in Topeka, and we agreed to host them up here. Thus we played the role of visitors in our own ball park. We pitched Bobby Tompkins, our hardworking catcher-pitcher, against Wozniak for the Optimists. Ron started by being plunked, Roger walked, Jim forced Ron at third and Rog scored our first run a short while later on a wild pitch. Bobby retired them in order in their



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first. We blew the lid off in our second when Mike Custenborder walked; John Redmon lined out a single; Ron Swann strolled to load the bases. Dick Dodson walked to force in Mike C. Roger Zarazua's ground ball was kicked by the Optimist first sacker and John tallied. Jim Dodson lashed a shot to right to score Ron, Dick and Roger, and we had five big ones and a 6-0 lead. Bobby gave up a single, but it was erased in another fine doubleplay started by Ron to John to Jim. We scored two more in our third when Mike C. led off with a line drive bingle to center; John walked. Bobby's sacrifice moved them both over. After Ron's infield pop up, Dick banged a base hit to left to score both Mike C. and John. Now 8-0, ACES. Bobby experienced a base hit, an error and a walk, but got out of the inning unscathed by striking out a pair of Optimist hitters. We failed to score for the first time in our fourth, though Charlie Lord singled to center and Mike C. got via an error. Our opponents did not score in their fourth as Jeff Jones allowed a single after two away. We had removed Bobby after three innings in order to pitch him in one of the crucial oncoming games with Ottawa American Legion. Lefty Jeff Jones, who had fired a shutout his last outing, came on in the fourth. In our fifth, we added another run when Jeff walked, Dick singled him to third followed by Jim's base hit to center, giving Jim 5 RBI's for the game. The Optimists combed Jeff for four big runs with three hits and a pair of walks, but Jeff held tough and got them out. We made no niche in our sixth nor did the Optimists. In our 7th, a walk to Dick followed by singles issued to Rog and Jim; Jeff took our opponents out and gave us run 17 with no difficulty to gain credit for a save and Bobby gained his sixth win against one loss. He gave up just two hits in three innings while walking one and striking two. Jeff gave up four runs on four hits. We had nine hits in arriving at our ten runs. Jim had three and Dick two. Roger, Charlie, Mike C., John all had one hit apiece. Runs batted in were divided among Jim with 5, Dick 3 and Rog, one. We were now 17-6 in our League play and 30 wins, 11 losses overall.



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GAME NUMBER FORTY-TWO

In the second game of the doubleheader, we sent our "Quiet Man", Loren Shufeldt to the mound to face the efforts of Yates for the Shawnee Mission Optimists. Again as "visitors", we batted first. We started off with four big runs in our first when Ron Swann shot out a hit, Dick Dodson fractured a smash off the right field wall, Bill Swengel walked, Jim Dodson's grounder went through the second baseman, Gary Conwell lashed a drive to left, Mike Custenborder bolted another hit to center.

Loren set the Opts down after giving up a single in their first inning. In our second, we went right back to work by scoring five more. Loren walked, Ron singled, Dick singled, Bill got by an error and Jim singled, Charlie singled and the score was now 9-0. Loren gave up two runs on a hit, a walk and an error. We pounded out two more runs in our third when Mike C. walked, Ron singled and Dick walked. The opposition scored two more in their third on an error, a walk and a double. Neither team scored in the fourth though Gary C. singled. In our fifth, we added four more to the total as Loren singled, Ron singled, Dick walked to fill the sacks full of ACES. Bill walked to force in one run, Jim bombed a shot to center to score all three. The Optimists came back and scored two more in their fifth on an error at short, a walk and a two base hit, 15-6, ACES, after five full frames. In our sixth, we added misery to woe by grabbing five more tallies; Loren singled, Ron walked and with two away, Jim bolted another blast for a double. Charles drove Jim home with his liner to center. Gary C. unloaded a shot to left to score Charlie, 20-6. In the 7th, a pair of hits scored one more for the Optimists to end the game 20-7. We had won the doubleheader and our 18th League win against six losses and our 31st win overall opposed to 11 losses. Loren won his fourth victory against no losses. He allowed seven hits, struck out five and walked two. It was our 9th win in a row! Ron

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Swann had a great game with four hits and a walk. Jim Dodson and Gary Conwell had three hits apiece while Dick Dodson, Mike Custenborder, Charlie Lord and Loren Shufeldt belted out two each, 18 hits in all! Jim had five more RBI's in this game for a total of ten in the doubleheader. Dick had three, Gary C. picked up two as did Ron.

GAME NUMBER FORTY-THREE

On Tuesday, July 27, we hosted the DeSoto aggregation at Big Shunga. We sent Long and Lanky Jim Dodson to the slope to face the little lefthanded curveballer, Rick Caldwell. Jim struck out the side in their first inning, and put them down in order in their second on a pair of K's and a grounder back to himself. Jim led off our second inning with a resounding double, but we stranded him there as the next three hitters went down harmlessly. Jim gave up a walk and a hit in their third, but no runs as he struck out two more to retire them. In our third, John Redmon led off with a single, Ron blistered a hit to right to send John to third. Ron stole second, Dick Dodson lined out a single as did Roger Zarazua. Jim unloaded another double! This one to left and we had three runs on five hits. The DeSotoans bounced back in their fourth when they scored one on a one base hit and an error. We added two more important runs in our fourth when John lashed his second hit, went to second on a passed ball and scored on Ron's second hit. Ron went to second and third on a passed ball and a wild pitch and scored later on a strikeout that forced the catcher to throw to first on a missed third strike. Jim set them down in order in their fifth. Jim's third hit in a row and Charlie's one baser put a pair on, but we stranded them. In the sixth, with a 5-1 lead, the DeSoto club scored a pair on a walk, followed by a hit, an error, another hit, a walk and a hit. A strikeout ended the threat, 5-3 now. We scored no one in our sixth and in the seventh, Jim walked the first hitter followed by a strikeout. Caldwell singled and a ground

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out scored a run, 5-4. An attempted steal ended it as we won narrowly 5-4. Jim won his 8th victory against no losses, and we won our 32nd against 11 losses and 19th League win versus six reversals. The victory was our 10th win in a row! We had ten hits total off the curveballs of Caldwell. Jim gave up seven hits to DeSoto. He struck out 13 and walked five. We struck out ten times. Jim enjoyed a big night at bat, three for three. John and Ron banded a pair apiece as Dick, Roger, and Charlie had one each. It was a tough one again!

GAME NUMBER FORTY-FOUR

The game scheduled for Thursday, July 29, was with the Kansas City Friedman team at Big Shunga Park in Topeka. A telephone call from their management asked that the game be called off and forfeited to us as their team was not able to make the trip. As a result our ACES accepted the forfeited victory to us as their team was not able to make the trip. As a result our ACES accepted the forfeited victory as win number thirty-three overall and 20 in League play. We now enjoy an eleven game win streak.

GAME NUMBER FORTY-FIVE

Wednesday, July 28, we hosted the highly touted Ottawa American Legion team at home. We sent Scott Hall to the place of decision and he was opposed by a big swift-throwing right-hander, Cheney. Scott was tagged for a hit and a walk in their first inning, but Scott strengthened and retired them without further damage. In our half of the inning, Ron Swann led off with a base on balls. Dick Dodson did the same, a walk. Roger Zarazua forced Dick at second. Jim Dodson thumped a hit to center to score Ron and we led, 1-0. Scott had no problem in their second as he struck out a pair. Ron's walk was our only serious effort in our second. In the Ottawa third, Scott gave up nothing. In our third, Rog led off with a hit and went to third on the error made of Jim's high flyball.

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Charlie Lord forced him at second, but Rog was able to score on the play, 2-0 now. Scott gave up back-to-back singles in their fourth but again stopped them when he had to do it. We added another run in our fourth as Mike C. was hit by a pitched ball; he moved to second on a ground out of Scott's ball and scored moments later on Dick Dodson's line base hit to center. 3-0, ACES. The Ottawans got a run, their only one in the fifth as a pair of hits and an error plated the tally. We wasted Charlie's single and Bill Swengel's walk in our fifth. Scott gave up nothing to them in their sixth as he retired the side on three consecutive ground-balls. In our sixth, Scott unloaded a tremendous smash that bounced off the left field wall for a resounding double. Ron singled by beating out an infield hit. Dick creamed a single to right; Jim, continuing his hitting spree, shot a single to center. Charlie forced Jim. Bill walked and Gary Conwell singled. Scott was masterful again in their seventh, allowing nothing to happen. We won 6-1. It was Scott's greatest effort and he spun a beautiful game, his sixth against one lone reversal. We won our 34th win against 11 losses and we are 20-6 in League play. Scott allowed only five scattered hits, walking two, striking out two. We had nine hits. Jim and Dick had two each. Ron, Roger, Bill, Gary C. and Scott all had one hit apiece. We are riding a twelve game winning streak.

GAME NUMBER FORTY-SIX

On Friday evening, July 30, we journeyed to Ottawa for a return match with their Legion team. We started Bobby Tompkins, our curveball artist from the starboard side. Ottawa assigned a right hander, Fisher, to oppose us. We started with a rush. After two outs, Roger Zarazua singled. Big Jim Dodson blasted a long drive over the centerfield fence for his 11th homerun of the season. Charlie Lord singled, but we left him and Bill Swengel, who had walked, stranded.

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The Ottawa team roared back in a hurry as Bobby gave up a pair of walks and three hits, including a triple and three runs poured across the plate. We went out in order in our second after a walk. Bobby, obviously not right, gave up a hit by pitcher and single, and we relieved him with Big Charlie Lord. Two more Ottawa runs scored and we trailed 5-2. We failed to register anything in our third and fourth, going down in order. Meanwhile, Ottawa got two more in their fourth off Charlie on a single and a homerun by Grogan, their catcher, 7-2, Ottawa. In our fifth, we tallied two more as Scott Hall slashed a hit, followed by a walk to Ron Swann. Dick Dodson crashed a shot to deep right to score two. Loren Shufeldt came on to hurl the fifth and sixth Ottawa frames, giving up only a single. In our sixth, Frank Everett unloaded a real shot but tried to stretch his two base hit into a triple and was thrown out. We could not injure their reliefer, Drumwright, in our seventh and we lost 7-4. Bobby took the defeat, his second against six victories. It was the end of our long winning streak, 12 in a row. We were now 34-12 and 20-6. We had eight hits in all, two by Scott and one each by Ron, Dick, Roger, Jim, Charlie and Frank.

GAME NUMBER FORTY-SEVEN

On Sunday, August 1, we hosted the Olathe team in an extremely crucial doubleheader. We learned the evening before that there was no chance for us to win or tie because the standings as of Saturday, July 31, among the three leaders stood as follows:

	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>
K. C. Frank Waters	23	5
Olathe	22	4
Topeka ACES	20	6

Frank Waters had ended their season by accepting a doubleheader forfeit on the part of DeSoto to them. Had the DeSoto team played out the games and in the event had won one of them, a clean sweep of the August doubleheader would



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throw us into a three way tie among Olathe, K.C. Frank Waters and ourselves. We were quite disappointed that DeSoto forfeited. Their claim as reason was a Babe Ruth tourney held in Paola took away their manager. He was managing both the Connie Mack team and the Babe Ruth team. We were also somewhat perplexed over the request by the Olathe team's manager to forfeit our two games to them, thus allowing them to eke out a one game margin over Frank Waters. The Olathe management was informed that the ACES never forfeit. We could be the last team in the League standings and we would not forfeit! As a result of such events and attempted maneuvering, our ACES knew they could not share in the crown, but they felt they certainly could shape some destinies by making a 100% effort in this doubleheader. We took the field with essentially the exact lineup and pitcher that we had opened the season with the previous month of May, and ironically the same opponent - Olathe. Big Lefty Jim Dodson climbed the mound and fired to his long standing target, Bobby Tompkins. The two of them had been playing this role since they were nine years, and it was to be the last time as Big Jim Dodson had signed with the New York Yankees and would be reporting to the spring training site in Hollywood, Florida, in February or March of 1972. Bobby's plans were to go on to play college ball and Stan Musial League in the summer. These games also were to be the last for Scott Hall, our second game pitcher; Lu Wright, pitcher; Dee Morgan, second baseman; and Bill Swengel, one of our catchers. Ron Swann, although eligible to play another season, notified us that his family was moving to Washington, D. C. on September first. We hate to see him go and are certainly going to miss our graduates. Jim, Lu and Bobby are three of the longest standing veterans and their leaving will be sorely felt as is true with the more recent ACES - Scott, with three years' tenure, Bill with one and Dee with one.

Jim Dodson started as usual by firing his portside smoke past three hitters in one-two-three fashion. We grabbed a quick run in our first, when with two away,



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both on strikeouts, Rome, a crafty and fast lefthander on the hill for Olathe, gave up an error to Roger Zarazua, a stolen base moved him to second and Big Jim plated with a line drive single to left-center, 1-0, ACES. It was to be the only run we were going to get off Rome as he really slammed the door tight on us the remainder of the way. Jim struck out three more in their second, and he was in full charge. The next fourteen hitters went out in order for us as we were stifled by Rome's offerings. Jim walked two in their third but that was all. In the Olathe fourth, Jim struck out Findley and was performing beautifully. Suddenly he walked Harris and then gave up three straight hits to Harris, L. Kincaid and P. Kincaid to score two. He then went back to his usual pattern of striking out hitters and we were trailing 2-1 now. Jim experienced no difficulty in the Olathe fifth inning. In the sixth, two hits and a costly error scored another run and we were down 3-1. In our seventh, we made our first effort since the first inning when Roger Zarazua led off with a base hit, Charlie moved Rog to third with a base hit but that was it as our next batters went out and we succumbed 3-1 in a sad loss. Jim suffered his first loss of the year on the last day of the season to match his eight victories of the year. He allowed six hits, struck out nine, walking four as he pitched a fine game, but we couldn't score against Rome, who set us down superbly. We had only three hits. Jim had two and Roger the other. Rome struck out nine of us also. It was our seventh loss in the League opposed to 20 wins and our 13th loss, overall, against 34 victories. The Olathe team was blissful over the win as the victory assured them of at least a tie with the Frank Waters team from K.C. If they could win the next one, they would win the Pennant. The entire Frank Waters team management and fans were on the scene hoping we could win the next one to juxtapose them with Olathe. We were going to try!

GAME NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT

The final game of the year! Two games during the season, Seneca at



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Seneca and Lawrence at Topeka had been rained out and in both cases the two Legion teams stated they did not want to make them up, thus we did not play our full fifty games. This 48th game was to be still another severe test for us. We were for the most part unhappy with the Olathe outfit, particularly over the "forfeit request" issue and, of course, they had just won over us in a smarting 3-1 game. They were now ahead 2-1 in our series. If we could take them in this one we would at least split over the season and additionally, it would throw us into a second place position in the final League standings. Obviously, the win would throw Olathe into a tie for first place with Frank Waters of Kansas City.

We opened with Scott Hall seeking his seventh win. The Olathe hurler was Paul Kincaid, another portsider. Scott set them down in order, 1-2-3, two of them via the strikeout route. In our first, we hustled to a pair as Ron Swann led off with a smash hit to right. Roger Zarazua got on via an error and "Jarrin' Jim" blistered a base hit to left to score both runs and we were in the lead 2-0. Scott was magnificent as he set the Olatheans down in order, inning after inning. Over the first five innings, only a walk in the fourth marred an otherwise perfect performance. Meanwhile, our own efforts were being thwarted. Ron crashed a double following Scott's gain of first via a walk but both runners were stranded. We were all struck out in our third, two more in our fourth. Dick Dodson was hit by a pitched ball in our fifth, and Roger shot out a single to right, but they died on the sacks. In the 7th and with a 2-0 lead, Scott ran into his first trouble. Harris banged out a long 3-base slash to deep left-center followed by a L. Kincaid single to right scoring Harris. A walk and a sacrifice moved a runner to second. A passed ball moved the runner to third and he scored the tying tally by tagging up on a flyball to right 2-2, and Scott was upset as he had thrown a real masterpiece. He was the first hitter in our seventh and when he struck out, he was incensed, the Umpire bounced him from the game and we hastily warmed up Loren Shufeld.. We did nothing in our 7th as we



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went down in order, 1-2-3 including two strikeouts. Loren, coming into the game under pressurized conditions, going into the 8th and extra inning, got the first two Olathe hitters on two popups and when Findley singled, he was gunned out at second on an attempted steal as Roger fired to Gary, who slapped it on him. Now our turn in the bottom half of the 8th. With two out and nobody on, Charlie Lord hit a little popup just behind second base, the Olathe shortstop went over, called for it and dropped it! Gary Conwell hit a little ground ball to the same shortstop and he kicked it! Two on now with two out. Mike Custenborder rose to the heights of the challenge by picking on a Kincaid pitch and rifled it into left center while Charlie was off and running to score the winning run, 3-2, ACES! How sweet it is! We moved Olathe into a final standing of tie for first with K.C. Frank Waters. The Frank Waters people went wild with delight! They were pounding backs and shaking hands of happy congratulations all over the field and dugout area. The Olathe team played K.C. two days later and lost, sending K.C. to Springfield, Illinois Midwest Regional Tourney play. It was a great game to win and ended our season on a happy note. Loren won his fifth in relief against no losses. . We ended 21-7 in the League and 35 and 13 overall. A good year! The manager stated before the seasoning's opening that if we could win 30 it would be a good year. We won 35! To say that Coach George Tompkins and I are extremely proud of these young men would be putting it in a very trite context. It is absolutely impossible to express our feeling when discussing them. Scott pitched seven innings of great ball, allowing only two hits, striking out 13 while walking only two. Loren, of course, did a superb job. Our hitting was not too robust, but Kincaid is quite a pitcher. We had six hits in all, Roger Zarazua, Jim Dodson and Mike Custenborder all had one hit apiece. We struck out 16 times! Everyone in our lineup was K'd twice except Ron. There is always a moment of sadness when the baseball curtain falls and we felt the pangs sharply.