

Topeka Aces, Braves and 7Uppers baseball teams, 1976-1981

Section 11, Pages 301 - 330

This bound volume, entitled Aces: 1976-1981, 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 (1976-79), the Topeka Pepsi-Cola Braves (1980), and the Topeka 7Uppers (1981). The 1976 and 1977 Topeka Aces teams competed in the Eastern Kansas Mickey Mantle League, and were composed of players aged 15 and 16. The 1978 and 1979 Aces played in the senior Babe Ruth division for players 16-18. Both the Topeka Pepsi-Cola Braves and the Topeka 7Uppers were semi-pro teams that were members of the Kaw Valley Semi-Pro Baseball League. Reports on the six teams include not only individual player statistics, but detailed narrative accounts of every game played by each team. The companion volume covers the period 1966-1973 (see Kansas Memory ID 309526). 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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It was determined we would not enter into the State Stan Musial Tournament with such a weakened lineup & the threat of even more players being unable to come.

We sent Du. Dickson to the hill in the first game of the doubleheader against their Dickson by the same name - no relation. In their first they scored one, and in our first we came back on a triple by Rick Taylor and a RBI sacrifice flyball by Dan Hypse and we were tied up 1-1. In their second they did nothing; in our second we scored two on a walk to Steve Dodson, a walk to Kevin Carr, a fielder's choice and a single by Tim Grillot. In their third they did nothing; in our third we scored one more when Dan Hypse singled and scored later on a sacrifice fly by John Roberts. We were ahead 4-1. In their fourth they plated two on a single and a pair of walks, but we did nothing in our fourth. In their fifth they moved into the lead by the score of 6-4 on four consecutive hits off Dickson, followed by still another single after two outs. We did nothing in our fifth. In their sixth they scored one. In our sixth we scored one when John Roberts singled, Steve Dodson singled, Kevin Carr singled and we now trailed only by the score of 7-5. They scored one more in their seventh, making them 8-5. Duane Dickson took the loss. It was his third loss against three victories. It made our overall record 16 to 34. We had eight hits in all: two by Tim Grillot, one each by Greg Murray, Rick Taylor, Dan Hypse, John Roberts, Steve Dodson and Kevin Carr. Near the end of the game Steve Dodson was badly injured on a play at first base as he was spiked heavily and taken to the hospital, and he was declared unable to play in the second game which was the remainder of the season.

GAME 51

In the second game we sent to the hill Kevin Carr against their Dan Walker. In what turned out to be a good ball game, we went down to still another loss as we ended the season with a win/loss record of 16 wins and 35 losses.

In our second inning we scored two hits on four runs when John Roberts

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singled, Dan Dickson singled and Tim Grillot doubled, and we continued to lead going into the fourth inning when they tied up the ball game on a pair of hits off Kevin, 2-2. In their fifth they scored still another run on a pair of singles sandwiched around a walk, and we trailed 3-2 as we did nothing in our fifth. In their sixth they scored still another run on a single and a double making the lead 4-2. It was at this point the ball game ended as neither team did anything the rest of the way and Kevin took the loss giving him a total of two wins and seven losses and us of course a 16/35 overall. We had totally in base hits seven as follows: one by Rick Taylor, one by John Roberts, one by Dan Dickson, one by Kevin Carr, one by Tom Langer, one by Steve Hennessey and one by Tim Grillot, a double. Thus the season came to a close after a **fried** chicken picnic was held at Ripley Park and the boys departed, going their different directions.

Overall the season was considered a good one as many of the boys improved their playing. It was disappointing as to wins/losses, but our Topeka team did so much better than the previous Pepsi Cola teams had done since the original team was fielded. We had some outstanding performances during the year. I would like to acknowledge the following for what I consider having had a good year and look forward to their playing in the future.

On the mound Jim Dodson, although his win/loss record was not outstanding, his earned run average was good and he exhibited an outstanding performance level showing perhaps the best fast ball for a left-handed pitcher in the league.

Kevin Carr at times pitched good ball, particularly the latter part of the season. Steve Dodson in the early part of the year when we used him regularly pitched some fine games, and we did not use him after the tenth of June because we put all of his efforts into catching. Duane Dickson showed two outstanding performances. Other than those pitchers, we were relatively weak on the hill.



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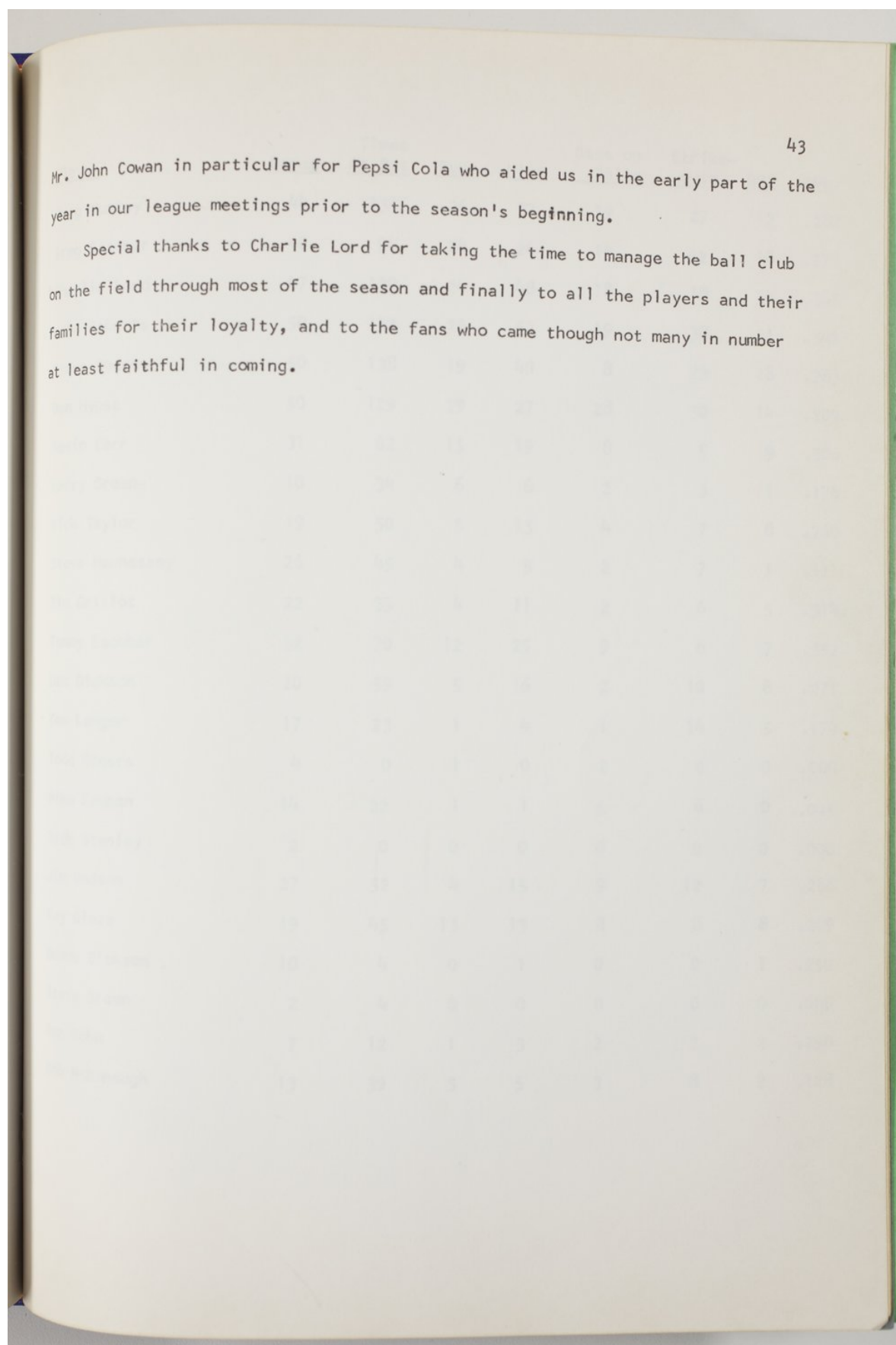
Behind the plate Steve Dodson did a yeoman's job for us hitting at .282 and we were very pleased with his steady catching and leadership though only 19 years old. At first base in the early part of the year we were very strong with the fielding of Jim Dodson. Our fielding let up with a different first baseman in the latter part of the season. At second Greg Murray settled into being a steady second baseman after we finally located him there after using him in other spots in the earlier part of the season. Greg Escobar made some fine plays at third and at short John Roberts came on as he became more accustomed and acquainted with the position.

We were always strong in the outfield as far as fielding and when we had Dan Hypse, Charlie Lord and Rick Taylor in the outfield we had as fine an outfield as there is in the league as far as fielding is concerned. Dan suffered from hitting in the early part of the year but beginning with the Hutchinson tournament, showed what he really could do, and I feel will have a better year in 1981. Charlie Lord had an outstanding year, hitting .345 leading the team in hitting as a regular player, but we did not enjoy his many long balls as we had expected, but I think that will come out of Charlie. Rick Taylor came on strong after missing spring training in the early part of the year. I think Rick being with us all year would make one of the better outfielders in the league.

The other fellows by and large need more experience and did not enjoy the kind of season that I am sure they would like to individually enjoy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Pepsi Cola Bottling works for sponsoring the team. It is becoming more and more a serious obstacle in trying to find enough finance to field a team to play semi pro baseball, especially fifty games, because of the rising costs and the inflationary conditions. It is hoped that we will be able to find more funds in the future as many times we were not able to do some things that we should be doing with the caliber of ball players of this age and experience. Additionally, I would like to thank

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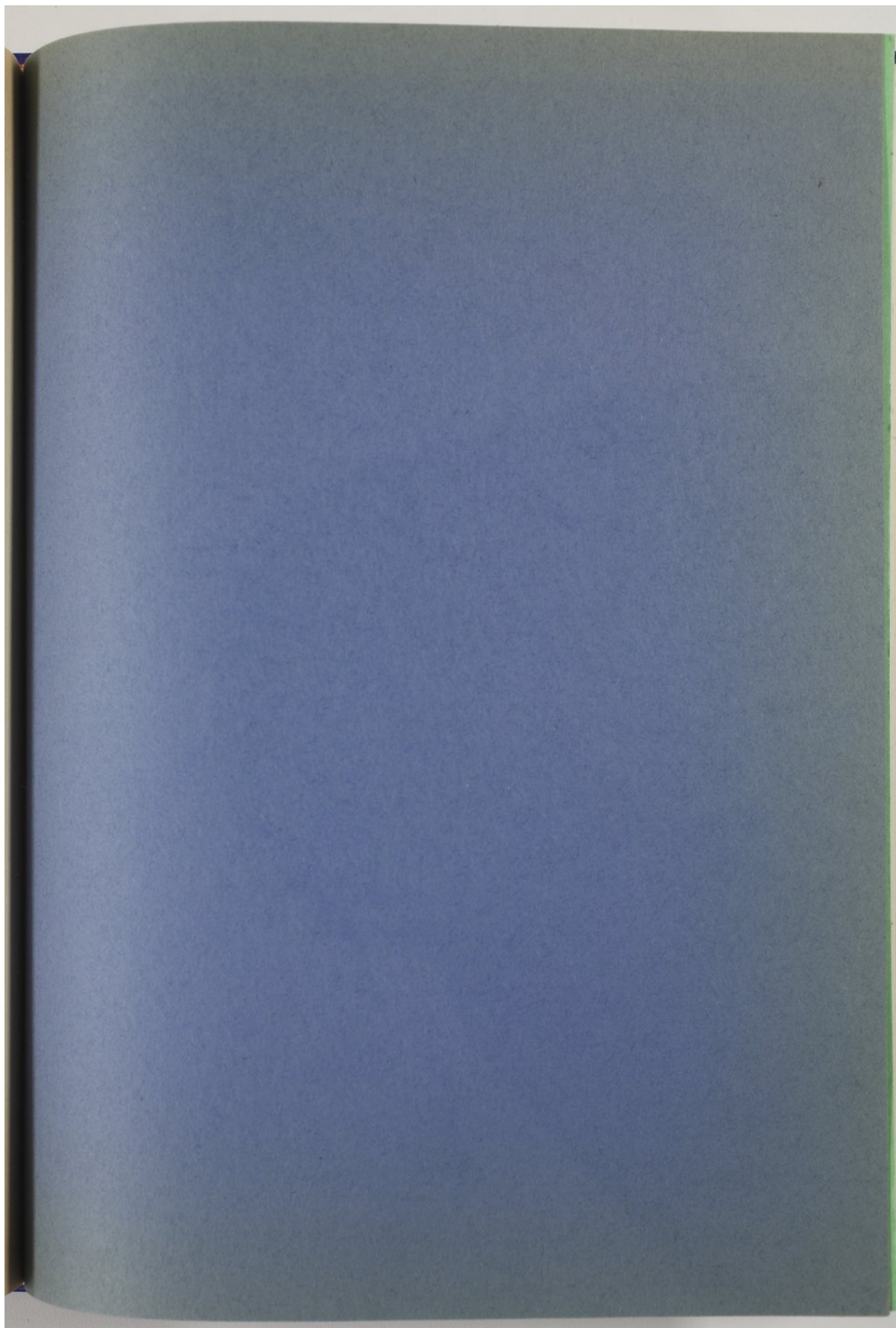
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<u>Player</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Times At Bat</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Hits</u>	<u>Base on Balls</u>	<u>Strike- outs</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>Ave.</u>
Greg Murray	44	131	26	37	19	27	12	.282
Greg Escobar	40	94	24	26	14	22	18	.277
Charlie Lord	47	139	24	48	18	18	34	.345
John Roberts	50	152	29	52	19	38	31	.342
Steve Dodson	50	138	19	40	8	29	18	.283
Dan Hypse	50	129	29	27	28	30	14	.209
Kevin Carr	31	62	15	19	8	5	9	.306
Larry Greene	10	34	6	6	2	3	1	.176
Rick Taylor	19	50	5	13	4	7	8	.260
Steve Hennessey	26	45	4	5	2	7	1	.111
Tim Grillot	22	35	4	11	2	6	5	.314
Tommy Escobar	32	70	12	25	9	6	7	.357
Dan Dickson	20	59	5	16	2	10	8	.271
Tom Langer	17	23	1	4	1	14	5	.174
Todd Rogers	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	.000
Mike Keenan	14	22	1	1	6	6	0	.045
Rick Stanley	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Jim Dodson	27	52	4	15	9	12	7	.288
Ray Glaze	19	45	13	13	8	8	8	.289
Duane Dickson	10	4	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Steve Braun	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Ron Kohn	7	12	1	3	2	2	2	.250
Rob McDonough	13	39	3	5	3	8	2	.128

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TOPEKA PEPSI-COLA PITCHING RECORDS								
	<u>GAMES</u>	<u>INNINGS PITCHED</u>	<u>HITS</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>EARNED RUNS</u>	<u>WON</u> <u>LOST</u>	<u>ERA</u>
Kevin Carr	14	61 2/3	73	24	50	39	2-7	4.43
Jim Dodson	9	64 1/3	57	42	51	23	3-6	2.50
Duane Dickson	15	71 1/3	77	28	28	48	3-3	4.74
Steve Dodson	5	29 1/3	42	13	14	16	3-2	3.82
Steve Hennessey	17	37 1/3	58	14	14	35	2-3	6.56
Rick Stanley	6	16 1/3	36	7	16	15	0-4	6.44
Rick Taylor	6	12 1/3	17	20	8	19	1-1	10.74
Greg Escobar	6	19 1/3	49	3	7	38	0-4	13.77
Mike Keenan	3	3	4	3	1	5	0-1	11.66
Todd Rogers	13	29 2/3	22	22	16	19	1-2	4.48
Dan Hypse	4	6 2/3	14	9	1	9	0-1	9.45
Charles Lord	4	13	16	1	7	10	1-1	5.38
Total							16-35	

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The 1981 season as to media coverage was seriously damaged when the TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL-JOURNAL sports division elected to not give daily coverage of the semi pro games played the evening or afternoon before the newspaper's daily distribution. Although we had not been given much coverage for many years, at least the two to four inches with minimum description of the game had been given. When confronted with the question as to why the coverage was dropped, editor Bob Hentzen and writer Pete Goering stated they had been receiving considerable complaints over recent years by the softball teams, in particular the slow pitch softball personnel, asking for similar coverage of their games as given to semi pro baseball. In light of the fact there are over 500 teams, men and women slow pitch, in Topeka they, Hentzen and Goering, stated there would be no way CAPITAL Sports Section could give the coverage heretofore given. Thus it was determined that no coverage of any kind other than the minuscule print of the scores which only in effect tell absolutely nothing about a game would be printed.

Concerted action was taken by both American Legion and Stan Musial followers questioning such action by the CAPITAL but it was to no avail as the policy prevailed throughout the year. We were given some "feature" articles, but they were few and far between and really gave no meaningful information about the league and the daily progress of the teams. Rather they were brief descriptions of what managers felt about their chances in a given series or a tournament. Very few player features were made.

Thankfully, as if it were a blessing, the major league teams began a strike on June 12, and as a result the news media had no baseball to cover. WIBW-Channel 13 TV requested that they be given the rights to cover our Stan Musial and American Legion games, which indeed did take place until the end of the strike on August 3. Therefore, we were given their coverage as to the spoken word although certainly not in the written. General interest grew as a result of the radio coverage, and we had more people attend our games than ever before.

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We wish to express our sincere appreciation to WIBW, Jim Deines, Steve Physioc, Brad Stauffer, WREN and Ron Bramalage and to the efforts of KTSB - Channel 27 and Duke Frye for their aid in covering and publicizing our baseball action.

We shall continue to push for the coverage we once had which the CAPITAL had given to semi pro baseball for over sixty years. We sincerely hope that the DAILY CAPITAL-JOURNAL Sports Desk staff under the leadership of Mr. Hentzen will re-examine the policy and make efforts to re-establish the policy that was so successful for so many years and to so many generations of readers. When one views the coverage given to semi pro and American Legion baseball in other cities throughout the state and the Middle West, it becomes glaringly obvious that Topeka is woefully remiss in giving coverage to its young athletes.

Through the efforts of Mr. Ted Weddle of the Topeka Weekly Review we received a weekly column coverage which presented brief accounting of our games, though they were usually 7-10 days after the games were played. We are extremely thankful to Mr. Weddle.

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The 1981 baseball season for the Topeka 7UPPERS opened with a notification sent to prospective players on February 20, 1981. The notice revealed that the team would probably play a 45-55 game schedule and that an organizational session would be held shortly thereafter to determine who would comprise the 7UP roster. Notification was sent to: Fred Biesemeyer, Kevin Carr, Alan Edwards, Mark Elliott, Kerry Golden, Robin Golden, Steve Hennessey, Dan Hypse, Dave Ireland, Alan Joy, Brian Joy, David Lord, Greg Marney, Greg Murray, John Roberts, Vern Siegel, Bob Speake, Jim Speake, Rick Taylor, Gregg Smith, Karl Stanton, Ricardo Bonnar, Steve Dodson and Charlie Lord. On March 16 an additional notification was sent to the above named in addition to: Kenneth Bunton, Craig Colboch, Cris Hamilton, Ron Jurgensmeier, Jon McCormick, Dirk Nicklin, Mike Sheahon, Steve Sheahon, Mark Taylor and Dennis Watkins. It was at this point in time that as General Manager the writer informed the prospective players that Jim Dodson would serve as the manager of the Topeka 7UPPERS and attend league meetings representing the team.

On April 14 a notice was sent by Jim Dodson as manager to interested prospective 7UP players announcing the planned practice sessions, dates, times and locations (see attached).

Manager Jim Dodson began practices April 25, and the early practices were attended only by players who were not in college and playing college ball. The practice sessions as scheduled were successful due to cooperating weather. Topeka, Kansas, during this period was in the throes of a drought condition and no rain of any measurable amount had fallen for many weeks. It was not until the end of the practice sessions and the beginning of the season that the drought ended and rain began to fall with regularity and continued throughout the oncoming months during the baseball season.

The players who came to the sessions and gave strong indications they would be playing on the team were the following: Mark Elliott, Steve Dodson, Steve Hennessey, Greg Marney, Alan Edwards, Craig Colboch, Bob Speake, Charlie Lord,

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Mike Krueger, Ron Jurgensmeier, Mark Gomez, Dave Ireland, Bob Bernard, Mark Taylor, Jon McCormick and Wayne Warner. Manager Jim Dodson experienced some difficulty in determining the final roster as some players who had indicated their interest in playing with 7UP began vacillatory movement stating they were going to be on the team one time and the next time they were going to play with Pepsi Cola or Security Benefit Group Blues. Jim finally determined that he would go with the players who had made firm stands as to their intentions and went with: Mark Elliott, first base, along with Wayne Warner to be used by interchanging them as designated hitters including playing Mark in the outfield. Jim settled on Jon McCormick at second who had experienced an excellent year with the Washburn University team; the two Sheahon brothers - Mike an experienced baseball player at third base and Steve at shortstop, who had played outfield for Bethany his senior year. In the outfield he elected to go with Dan Hypse, just graduated from Bethany, Alan Cunningham finishing his junior year at Kansas State, Charlie Lord a veteran outfielder in Topeka baseball circles, Bob Speake, also a veteran, and Craig Ladwig who had played the 1980 season with Silver Lake. Behind the plate he determined to go with Steve Dodson who caught for Washburn University the past spring and for the Pepsi Cola Braves in 1980. He planned to use both Craig Colboch, finishing his freshman year at Kansas University and a member of the Topeka Babe Ruth team of 1980, and Bob Speake who could catch as well as play in the outfield. On the mound he felt somewhat secure with veteran right-hander Alan Edwards, Mark Gomez, Dave Ireland, Greg Marney, Mark Taylor, Gregg Smith, Mike Krueger who threw during the 1980 season for Silver Lake, and with an unproved left-handed core of rookie Ron Jurgensmeier, who had hurled for Post #74 in the 1980 season, Steve Hennessey who threw somewhat rarely during the 1980 season for Pepsi Cola, and Bob Bernard who had experienced problems with control for 7UP in 1980.

During the planning months it was learned by general manager Lee Dodson that the Security Benefit Group Blues team, under the leadership of Ken Hobart and

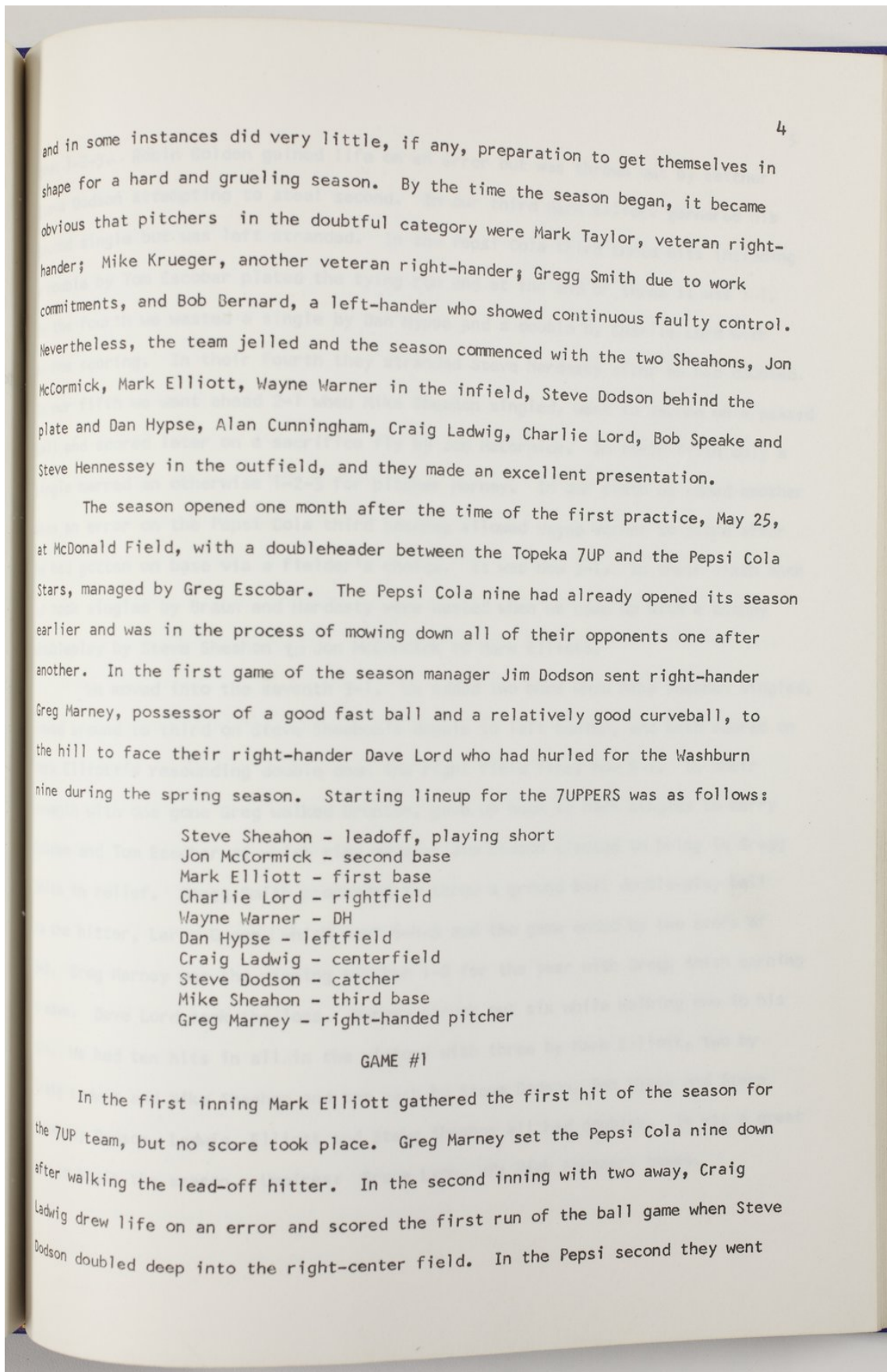
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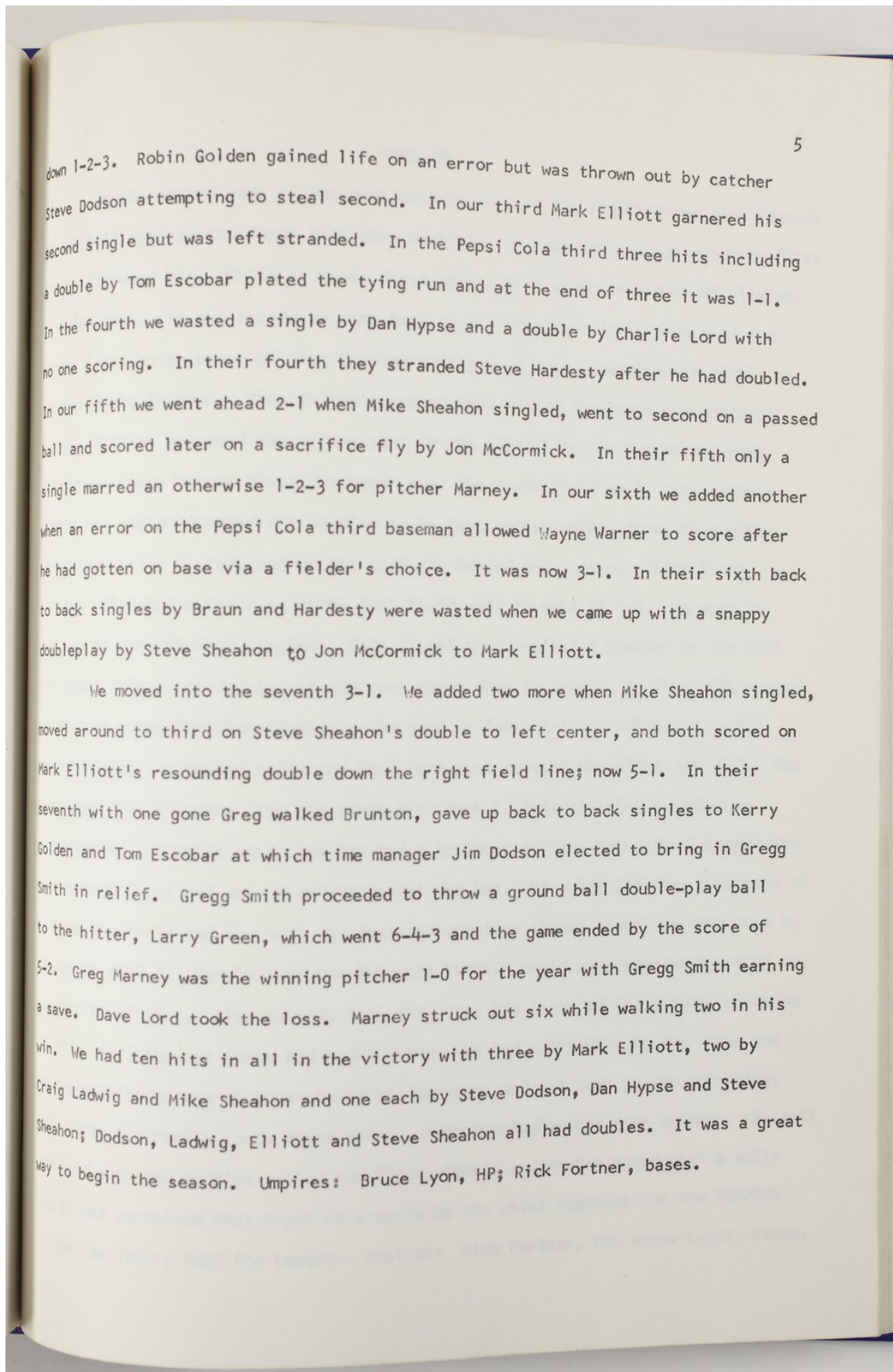
Harvey English had been meeting with the manager of the 1980 Silver Lake Jayhawks team, Ken Martinek. They had planned a merger of the two teams to arrive at one stronger aggregation, and they were planning to enter into the Kansas Jayhawk NBC, which in turn would afford them an extremely strong and competitive challenge. The Jayhawk League was to have been composed of Clarinda, IA, Hutchinson Broncs, Dodge City A's, Hays Larks, Beatrice, Nebraska Bruins and the Liberal BeeJays. In addition to these teams other entries were to be made from teams in South Dakota, Colorado and possibly Wellington, Kansas and a team in Arkansas. However, Mr. Martinek learned that his firm where he was employed was transferring him to Denver, Colorado, and that he would not be available. Additionally, Mr. Hobart suffered illness culminating with open heart surgery; Mr. English due to personal commitments of family and work would not be available. The original intention of the 7UP ball club would be to play 30 league games in the Kaw Valley Semi Pro League and possibly another ten games with teams within short distance from Topeka. However, with the withdrawal of the SBG/Silver Lake agreement and the requests of Mr. Hobart and Mr. English along with the Jayhawk League people to as much as possible fulfill the schedule prepared earlier, the 7UPPERS took some games with Clarinda, IA, Hutchinson, Beatrice, NE, and Hays which created a more demanding schedule. In actuality it meant that a larger pitching staff would need to be on hand with a 55/60 game schedule. The original schedule as finally completed showed that the 7UPPERS would play 64 games plus tournaments or the possibility of 70 in all. Obviously, this number of games with young men who for the most part were working and going to school called for dedication above and beyond the normal.

Problems began to amass almost immediately as beginning of season time neared as some players planned by manager Jim Dodson to be a part of the roster elected to go different directions, and we were suddenly confronted with a rather shallow pitching staff for an extremely difficult schedule. Some of our veteran pitchers elected to either not come to practice at all or chose to come late to practices

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down 1-2-3. Robin Golden gained life on an error but was thrown out by catcher Steve Dodson attempting to steal second. In our third Mark Elliott garnered his second single but was left stranded. In the Pepsi Cola third three hits including a double by Tom Escobar plated the tying run and at the end of three it was 1-1. In the fourth we wasted a single by Dan Hypse and a double by Charlie Lord with no one scoring. In their fourth they stranded Steve Hardesty after he had doubled. In our fifth we went ahead 2-1 when Mike Sheahon singled, went to second on a passed ball and scored later on a sacrifice fly by Jon McCormick. In their fifth only a single marred an otherwise 1-2-3 for pitcher Marney. In our sixth we added another when an error on the Pepsi Cola third baseman allowed Wayne Warner to score after he had gotten on base via a fielder's choice. It was now 3-1. In their sixth back to back singles by Braun and Hardesty were wasted when we came up with a snappy doubleplay by Steve Sheahon to Jon McCormick to Mark Elliott.

We moved into the seventh 3-1. We added two more when Mike Sheahon singled, moved around to third on Steve Sheahon's double to left center, and both scored on Mark Elliott's resounding double down the right field line; now 5-1. In their seventh with one gone Greg walked Brunton, gave up back to back singles to Kerry Golden and Tom Escobar at which time manager Jim Dodson elected to bring in Gregg Smith in relief. Gregg Smith proceeded to throw a ground ball double-play ball to the hitter, Larry Green, which went 6-4-3 and the game ended by the score of 5-2. Greg Marney was the winning pitcher 1-0 for the year with Gregg Smith earning a save. Dave Lord took the loss. Marney struck out six while walking two in his win. We had ten hits in all in the victory with three by Mark Elliott, two by Craig Ladwig and Mike Sheahon and one each by Steve Dodson, Dan Hypse and Steve Sheahon; Dodson, Ladwig, Elliott and Steve Sheahon all had doubles. It was a great way to begin the season. Umpires: Bruce Lyon, HP; Rick Fortner, bases.

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GAME #2

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In the second game of the doubleheader we sent big right-hander Alan Edwards to the hill against the Pepsi Cola Mike Wiebler. Jon McCormick singled in the first but we stranded him. While in their first they gained a run on a pair of hits and a stolen base. In our second we came back to tie when Charlie Lord doubled and scored later on an error of Alan Cunningham's ground ball. We wasted a single by catcher Craig Colboch. Then in their second they filled the bases but could not score. Nothing happened for either team in the third. In our fourth we moved ahead when Wayne Warner blasted a homer over the right field wall, but in their fourth the bottom dropped out on Alan as he gave up two walks, three hits with three runs being plated, and we are suddenly behind 4-2. In our fifth Craig Colboch unleashed a homer over the left field wall to make it 4-3. We were on our way as Mike Sheahon singled. Vern Siegel then replacing Wiebler on the hill for Pepsi Cola proceeded to cut the next three down in order. In the fifth everything went wrong for Alan Edwards as he gave up four hits including two costly errors himself on bunted balls and four more runs crossed the plate; now 8-3. The undaunted 7UPPERS moved into the sixth with Mark Elliott slashing a double to right center. Charlie Lord then bounced a grounder off the shortstop Schemmel and with men on first and second and Warner at the bat, the skies loosened a barrage of rain on the field and the game was declared complete though short; we went down by the score of 8-3. Nearly everyone felt the 7UPPERS could very well have gotten up, weather permitting. Alan Edwards took the loss, his first of the season, allowing 11 hits, striking out three and walking two. We had eight hits in the loss, two by Craig Colboch, one of those being his homerun, and one each by Jon McCormick, Mark Elliott, Charlie Lord, Wayne Warner, Alan Cunningham and Mike Sheahon. Elliott and Lord each had doubles. Thus the first night's activities ended with a split and it was perceived that Pepsi Cola would be the chief opponent for the 7UPPERS in the Kaw Valley Semi Pro League. Umpires: Rick Fortner, HP; Bruce Lyons, bases.

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GAME #3

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On May 26 the Topeka 7UPPERS hosted the Kansas City Shawnee Saints managed by John Dow. The game was scheduled for one nine-inning game at Ripley Park. Due to the score and the lateness at which the game began, the game ended after seven innings. Ron Jurgensmeier, the young left-hander, began on the hill for 7UP. In the Saints first only a single marred an otherwise 1-2-3 setting, while in our first Steve Sheahon led off with a resounding double followed by a walk to Jon McCormick. Steve later scored on a passed ball, and Jon McCormick came home on a Charlie Lord single. They went down 1-2-3 in their second. In our second we plated six big ones on the strength of six hits including singles by Steve Dodson, Mike Sheahon and Dan Hypse and doubles by Steve Sheahon and Jon McCormick, and a homerun blasted by Wayne Warner; 8-0 at the end of two.

In their third Jurgensmeier gave up two singles, but we eluded further problems. In our third we put the game away when we scored eleven runs on ten hits including two in the same inning by Steve Dodson and one each by Steve Sheahon, Jon McCormick, Mark Elliott, Wayne Warner, Charlie Lord, Dan Hypse, Craig Ladwig and Mike Sheahon. Two-base hits were struck by Steve Sheahon, Jon McCormick and Mark Elliott while Craig Ladwig bombed his first round tripper of the season. Mike Krueger, hard throwing right-hander, took the hill and set them down in order. In our fourth we scored one run on a pair of walks and a sacrifice fly. In their fifth Bob Bernard, left-hander, assumed pitching chores and struck out the side although giving up a harmless single. In our fifth we did nothing. In their sixth they scored for the first time when Bob Bernard gave up a pair of singles and a walk. In our sixth we scored another on three consecutive walks and a wild pitch. In their seventh we sent left-hander Steve Hennessey to the hill, and he gave up an unearned run after walking one man when an error at short allowed the run to score. We ended the game with a score of 21-2 the victors. Our second win and one loss overall. We had 18 hits, three by Steve Dodson and Steve Sheahon and

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two each by Mike Sheahon, Dan Hypse, Charlie Lord, Wayne Warner and Jon McCormick; one each by Mark Elliott and Craig Ladwig. Ron Jurgensmeier gained the pitching win giving him a record of one and zero. Doug Drolett worked behind the plate and Dan Samuels on the bases for umpires. Steve Sheahan had five RBI's and Wayne Warner four as a result of his homer.

GAME #4

We met the Kansas City Raiders in a doubleheader at McDonald Field and the evening turned out to be a devastating one for us as we lost both ends. It was Windy Johnson Night, and we proceeded to honor Windy who was a former minor league pitcher for many years and a manager of the old Topeka Owls in the Western Association. He and his family all came from Burlingame, Kansas, his home, to take part in the activities. A plaque was presented to him at game time.

In the first game we assigned Dave Ireland to the hill and in their first Dan set them down in order while we wasted a two-base hit by Jon McCormick in our first. In the second they broke scoring ice when Dave gave up a walk and a pair of singles, and it was 1-0. We did nothing in our second. In their third they added a pair on the strength of four singles, while in our third we wasted a single by Steve Sheahon. In their fourth they did nothing. In our fourth we acquired a score when Mark Elliott walked, moved to second on a passed ball and scored on Charlie Lord's single; 3-1. In their fifth Ireland allowed only a single, but in our fifth we did nothing although Steve Dodson walked. In their sixth a homer by catcher Mike Allen with one man on plated two runs and gave them a 5-1 lead. In our sixth Jon McCormick led off with a walk but the next three went down in order. In their seventh we sent in Ron Jurgensmeier, and he set them down in order. In our seventh with two away we made a weak threat when Steve Dodson walked and Mike Sheahon walked, but then the next hitter went down and that was the end; final score of 5-1. Dave Ireland took the loss, his first. We had but three hits off pitchers Waggoner and Ezel; one each by Steve Sheahon, Jon McCormick and Craig Ladwig. Umpires were Samuels, HP; Drolett, bases.

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GAME #5

In the second game of the doubleheader we sent big right-hander Alan Edwards to the hill to face their Ray Fosburg who was relieved in the fourth by Dave Anderson. They went down in order in the first as did we. In the second they did nothing, and we did likewise. In their third they plated three big ones on four straight hits. In our third we scored once on Bob Speake's single and later RBI single by Mike Sheahon. In their fourth they added another on a pair of walks and a wild pitch. In our fourth Jon McCormick unloaded a homerun, and we stranded Charlie Lord's single, Craig Colboch's walk and Bob Speake's walk. In their fifth Mike Krueger took the hill and gave up a run on a pair of hits coming up. In our fifth we came up with one on a pair of walks and a single by Mark Elliott. At the end of five, 5-3 Kansas City.

In their sixth they blasted Mike Krueger for four runs on four hits, one a homerun, and suddenly now we trailed by the score of 9-3. We did nothing in our sixth. In their seventh Steve Hennessey took over, and walked one and then a double-play got him out of the inning; no scoring. In our seventh we added one on a walk and a single by Jon McCormick plus a RBI sacrifice by Mark Elliott, and the game ended 9-4 Kansas City. We had but six hits in this one. Two by Jon McCormick, one of them a homerun, and one each by Mark Elliott, Charlie Lord, Bob Speake and Mike Sheahon. Alan Edwards took the loss, his first against no victories. We ended up the evening 2 and 3. Umpires: Doug Drolett, HP; Dan Samuels, bases.

GAME #6

On the evening of June 1 the 7UPPERS hosted Security Benefit Group Blues and sent Greg Marney to the hill to face Ron Arnold the left-hander for SBG. In their first SBG with two down and no one on proceeded to break the scoring ice when Greg Marney walked one, gave up a single and then a homerun to Mike Frye for three quick runs. We seemed to play catch-up from that point on. In our first, a walk

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to Jon McCormick netted nothing. Greg settled down and set them down in order in the second. In our second with two away Steve Dodson walked, Mike Sheahon singled and Alan Cunningham walked to fill the bases, but we could do no further damage. In their third Marney gave up back to back singles but no runs scored. In our third a single by Jon McCormick and a walk to Warner went for naught.

They did nothing in their fourth. In our fourth we roared back when with two outs and none on, Alan Cunningham doubled, Steve Sheahon walked followed by a free stroll to Jon McCormick. With bases jammed Mark Elliott proceeded to unload a long double that scored all three runs, and we were tied. Brian Scheve relieved Arnold for the Blues and proceeded to set us down over the next 3 1/3 innings with but two hits and one run; Dan Hypse's single and Charlie Lord's single wrapped around a walk to Steve Dodson, and we went down by the score of 5-4. Greg Marney took the loss, his first against no victories, and Scheve got the win. We had but six hits, one each by Jon McCormick, Mark Elliott, Charlie Lord, Dan Hypse, Mike Sheahon and Alan Cunningham. Elliott and Cunningham each had doubles. Two and four overall. Umpires: Gene Wilson, HP; Doug Drolett, bases.

GAME #7

In the second game of the doubleheader with the Security Benefit Group Blues we salvaged the evening when curveballing Mark Gomez took the hill against their left-hander Don Jahnke, and Mark was superb allowing but three hits - all scattered - and two runs; both of these were unearned. Meanwhile we blasted out nine hits in our scoring four runs including a big third inning in which we scored all four runs on the strength of a double to Jon McCormick, back to back walks to Elliott and Lord, a three RBI double to Mike Sheahon and singles by Wayne Warner and Dan Hypse. Other than that our hits were spread throughout the innings.

Jon McCormick, Wayne Warner and Dan Hypse each had two hits while Mark Elliott, Mike Sheahon and Steve Sheahon had one each. Jon McCormick and Mike Sheahon each had doubles. It made Mark Gomez' record 1 and 0 and gave us an overall of 3 and four. Umpires: Doug Drolett, HP; Gene Wilson, bases.

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GAME #8

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On June 4 the 7UPPERS met the SBG Blues in a doubleheader at McDonald field and as the visiting team in the first game the 7UPPERS sent Dave Ireland to the hill to meet Chris Hamilton, a left-hander for the Blues. In our first inning Jon McCormick walked and that was it while Dave set them down over the first four innings - 12 men up and 12 men down. He was pitching magnificently. Meanwhile Chris Hamilton was doing very well, giving up only two hits over the four innings and no runs. We wasted a single by Alan Cunningham, but that was it.

In our fifth we threatened when Mike Sheahon singled, but he was forced on a fielder's choice, Wayne Warner walked and Steve Dodson singled, but we left the runners stranded. In their fifth Dave Ireland gave up his first hit when Mike Frye blasted a long homerun over the right field fence, and it was 1-0 SBG. In our sixth we went down 1-2-3 again and Hamilton was stifling any attack we had. In their sixth Dave held tough and set them down in order. In our seventh and last chance Mark Elliott led off with a walk and then with three balls and one strike, Charlie Lord unloaded a tremendous smash over the left field wall that brought in Mark and himself with the tying and go-ahead runs, 2-1. The SBG management used three pitchers for the next three hitters; Randy English on Mike Sheahon, Brian Scheve on Wayne Warner and Mike Lineback on Steve Dodson. We went into the home half of the seventh 2-1. Dave Ireland proceeded to walk Mark Hobart, and then Dave tightened and got Ward on a ground ball and struck out Proctor. With two down and one one, Mike Frye was given a free stroll on a 3-2 count then Dan Bervert lined out to Charlie Lord in right to finish the inning and the game. We won a thriller, 2-1. Dave Ireland pitched beautiful ball allowing but two hits, one of them a homer while we garnered but four hits ourselves, one each by Charlie Lord, his homer, Mike Sheahon, Steve Dodson and Alan Cunningham. It was Dave's first victory against no losses as he walked but two and struck out three. It made our record 4 and 4.

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GAME #9

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Again we showed that we were not as hungry as we should have been as we faltered in the second game of the doubleheader having won the first one. We sent young Ron Jurgensmeier to the hill and he began having trouble after the first inning, as he gave up seven runs on five hits including six walks and two homeruns - one by Merrill Dean and one by Dan Bervert. Thus trying to catch-up we were forced to play a come-from-behind role. We did very little over the first four innings and Jon McCormick singled and was left there. After the departure of Ron Jurgensmeier, Bob Bernard took over and pitched relatively well although giving up one run every inning the remainder of the game on three hits and two walks. Meanwhile through the combined efforts of Kevin Ward, John Mahler, Randy English and Dennis Watkins we were able to garner six runs on six hits. We scored two in the fifth when Jon McCormick walked, Mark Elliott singled and both came home on a single by Charlie Lord. We tallied four big ones in the seventh as we had a big rally. Charlie Lord singled, Dan Hypse singled, Mike Sheahon singled, Bob Speake walked, Craig Colboch singled and Steve Dodson singled, but we went down by the score of 10-6 with Ron Jurgensmeier taking the loss - his first against no victories. He gave up six runs on five hits while Bob Bernard gave up four runs on four hits. Ron Jurgensmeier walked three and Bob Bernard walked two. Ron K'd one while Bernard got six via the strikeout route. That left us with a record of four and five. We had 11 hits, two each by Charlie Lord, Mike Sheahon, Craig Colboch and one each by Jon McCormick, Mark Elliott, Dan Hypse, Bob Speake and Steve Dodson.

GAME #10

On June 6 we made the trip to Hutchinson where we met the Hutchinson Broncs in a doubleheader on a Saturday evening. We sent Alan Edwards to the hill against the vaunted Bronc attack. We opened quickly in our first when Steve Sheahon walked, followed by a single to Jon McCormick who is exhibiting a hot bat. A passed ball moved the runners up and Mark Elliott's sacrificed bunt scored Steve Sheahon.

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Charlie Lord then punched a single off the first baseman's glove; Wayne Warner walked and Steve Dodson unloaded a single into left center. We had three runs. Wayne Warner scored on an error of Charlie Lord's grounder and it was 4-0. But the Broncs roared back on a single and a homerun to score a pair, and it was 4-2. In our second we scored another when Jon McCormick got still another hit and came around on Charlie Lord's two base blast to make it 5-2. In their second Alan Edwards gave up a homerun to Schlink, and it was 5-3. We did nothing in our third, however, they picked up still another homerun by Pete Dalena, and it was 5-4. In our fourth we built a little more lead when Steve Sheahon singled, followed by the third straight hit of Jon McCormick. Both runners moved up on a flyball and Steve Sheahon scored on a tagup of a flyball by Mark Elliott; it was now 6-4. In their fourth they tied it up on the second homerun by Schlink and a double by Baker, scoring Bright who had walked. It was now 6-6 and Alan was waivering desperately on the mound. In our fifth we forged ahead when Dan Hypse singled, Steve Dodson walked and Charlie Lord plated Hypse with a double down the left field line; now 7-6. In their fifth they moved into the lead when Alan gave up two hits wrapped around a walk and a pair of errors and it was now 9-7 their favor. In our sixth we wasted a double by Mark Elliott and a single by Charlie Lord and at the end of six, still 9-7 their favor. In their sixth inning Edwards started off by plunking a hitter but Steve Dodson threw him out attempting to steal second. Alan then walked the next hitter at which time Lee Dodson, serving as manager, elected to remove Edwards and replace him with Steve Hennessey. Steve got the next two hitters on fly balls to the outfield, and we finished the inning without scoring damage. At the end of six the score remained 9-7, Hutchinson. In the seventh and our last chance, Dan Hypse led off with a walk, Steve Dodson drew a base on balls and then Charlie Lord hit into a snappy doubleplay. With two gone and one man left on it looked rather dismal. But no! Mike Sheahon unloaded a long blast into right center for a double, scoring Dan Hypse to make it 9-8 and Mike being the tying run. Steve

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Sheahon walked and with two gone and the score 9-8 and two on, Jon McCormick plunked a long homerun over the centerfield fence, and it was suddenly Topeka 11, Hutchinson 9. We rushed in Greg Marney to hold the Broncs in their seventh although he had an automobile accident that morning and suffered bruised ribs and had some difficulty in breathing. He was able to hold the opponents to one hit and one walk and no score, and we won by the score of 11-9 in a wild one. It was our fifth win against five losses. It was Steve Hennessey's victory in relief, his first win against no losses in pitching 2/3 of an inning. He gave up one hit and no runs while Alan Edwards pitched 5 1/3 innings and gave up nine hits and six earned runs. Alan Edwards walked five, struck out one. We had 14 hits in all with a big, big night by Jon McCormick with four hits, one a homerun, and three by Charlie Lord, one a double, and one hit each by Steve Sheahon, Mike Sheahon, Mark Elliott, Wayne Warner, Dan Hypse, Steve Dodson and Craig Ladwig.

GAME #11

In the second game of the doubleheader, still another wild one, but all the wildness was exhibited by the Broncs as they ran merrily around the bases. We sent Greg Marney right back to the mound after his relief pitching but his injuries bothered him too much, and he gave up two runs on two hits and was complaining. We took him out; with but three pitchers with us we sent Steve Hennessey back to the hill and Steve fired for the next 2 and 2/3 innings and was successful until the fifth when the bottom dropped out as he gave up a pair of walks and a pair of homeruns to give them a 5-3 lead. We sent in Mark Elliott who gave up two hits and four walks. When it was all over the Broncs scored 11 runs on 8 hits due to the many walks. Meanwhile in our first we scored two runs on three hits including singles by Steve Sheahon and Jon McCormick and then a single by Charlie Lord. Mike Sheahon singled in the second and scored later on his brother Steve's single, and that was the only scoring we did the rest of the game. We wasted a single by Steve Dodson in the seventh. In our seven hits we had two by Steve Sheahon, and one each by Jon McCormick, Charlie Lord, Steve Dodson, Mark Gomez

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and Mike Sheahon. Steve Hennessey took the loss, his first against one victory, and he had the experience of winning one and losing one the same night. Marney allowed but two hits, Steve Hennessey five and Edwards two. We are now 5 and 6 overall.

GAME #12

On Sunday, June 7, after an overnight stay in the Scotsman Motel, we met the Hutchinson Broncs in a twilight game scheduled for nine innings. We sent right-hander Mark Gomez with his fine curveball to the hill and in our first inning Jon McCormick continued to blast away at the bats by getting another homerun. They did nothing off Mark in their first. In our second we went down peacefully 1-2-3 but in their second they scored five big runs on three hits including a homerun and an error. In our third again we could do nothing. In their fourth they scored another run. In our fourth Jon McCormick garnered his second homerun of the ball game and third of the series, but they countered with a homerun themselves in their fourth sandwiched around two singles and an error; it was now 8-2. In our fifth we got back in the game when Steve Dodson doubled off the left field wall; Mark Sheahon singled him home; Steve Sheahon got on via an error and the runs came across the plate when Charlie Lord singled, and it was now 8-5. In their fifth they did nothing off Mark. In our sixth we did likewise, but in their sixth the sides caved in as they scored nine runs on eight hits as Mark Gomez' effectiveness left and homeruns were shooting out of the park like rockets. We relieved Mark in order to preserve his health by sending in Craig Colboch and Charlie Lord; they were also besieged by the bombardment but the game mercifully ended after we went down in order in the seventh 1-2-3 by the score of 17 to 5. It was obvious that Hutchinson was truly blessed with a tremendous hitting ball club particularly the long ball as they blasted us for a total of 11 homeruns in three games. Our highlight was Jon McCormick's hitting as over the three game series he had seven hits including three homeruns. It was Mark Gomez' first loss against one victory and our seventh loss against five victories. We felt somewhat relieved to leave town!

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GAME #13

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On Tuesday, June 9, we assembled at Ripley Park for a doubleheader against the Topeka Flyers, a new team in the league and considered to be rather weak since it was their first time in semi pro baseball. We sent Mark Taylor to the hill. Mark pitched the first inning and 2/3 when he was injured, and we rushed Dave Ireland in who pitched the next 1 1/3. Jurgensmeier pitched two and Edwards one. All in all the four pitchers gave up six hits, and one earned run - that off Dave Ireland. Mark Taylor was given credit for the victory, relieved with a 7 to 1 lead. We scored five in our first as Steve Sheahon doubled, Mark Elliott walked, Charlie Lord was hit by a pitched ball, Dan Hypse singled two runs across, followed by a walk to Steve Dodson and a two RBI single by Alan Cunningham. In our second we scored two more as Steve Sheahon walked and Jon McCormick unloaded still another homerun, and it was now 7-1. Dan Hypse homered in the third to make it 8-1, and Jon McCormick homered again in the fourth along with a walk to Charlie Lord and a single by Dan Hypse. We scored our last run in the sixth when Jon McCormick singled and came home on an error. We won by the score of 11-12. We had eight hits, three by Jon McCormick, two of them homeruns; three by Dan Hypse, one of them a homerun; and one each by Steve Sheahon and Alan Cunningham. It was Mark Taylor's first win against no losses and our sixth win against seven losses.

GAME #14

In the second game of the doubleheader Bob Bernard took the hill and pitched the first four innings giving up two runs on one hit. He was wild, however, walking seven. Greg Marney fired the last three and gave up no hits and struck out four while walking two. It was Bob Bernard's first victory against no losses and put us into a 500 for the year and 7 - 7. We had nine hits including two by Steve Sheahon, Mike Sheahon and Jon McCormick and one each by Mark Elliott, Bob Speake and Craig Ladwig.

GAME #15

On June 15 at McDonald Field the 7UPPERS met the SBG Blues and assigned

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Alan Edwards to the pitching chores. He responded beautifully by throwing one of his finest games of the year. His shut-out spaced out nine hits! He had men on in every inning but pitched his way out of the problems. Lefthanded Chris Hamilton threw for SBG. We opened up with one run in the first when Steve Sheahon walked, followed by a walk to Mark Elliott and then Steve scored on an error of Charlie Lord's ground ball. The Blues came back with two singles in their first but no scoring. We did nothing in our second. Al gave up a walk in their second. In our third we plated two more big ones when Jon McCormick singled, Mark Elliott singled and Charlie Lord filled the bases with an infield single; Mike Sheahon dropped a one base infield single down the third base line to give us our first run of the inning, and then Steve Dodson plunked a single up the middle to score Mark Elliott. We were now ahead 3-0. The Blues filled the bases in their third on two hits and a walk but Alan escaped by getting Jahnke to pop up in the infield and Bervert to fly out to left. We did nothing in our fourth, and they came back with two more hits in their fourth but were left stranded. In our fifth we went down 1-2-3. Alan gave up a single in their fifth but no scoring. In our sixth we went down in order and in their sixth Alan gave up a base hit but no runs. In our seventh we added another when Steve Sheahon drew life on an error, moved to second on a passed ball and scored on Jon McCormick's single; 4-0. Al gave up a walk and a single in the seventh but a snappy doubleplay, Steve Sheahon to Jon McCormick to Mark Elliott and the game ended, and we won 4-0. The SBG Blues out-hit us 9-6 but Al was stingy at the right times. Our six hits were divided among two by Jon McCormick, and one each by Elliott, Lord, Mike Sheahon and Steve Dodson. It was Alan Edwards' first victory against two losses and made us 8 and 7 overall. Alan struck out six and walked three.

GAME #16

In the second game of the doubleheader again we proved we were not truly desirous of continuous winning as we went down to defeat by the score of 7-2. Dave Ireland took mound duties against their Randy English. Dave was superb

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over the first four innings allowing no hits and walking but one, while we were gaining one run over the same period on five hits. We wasted a single by Steve Sheahon in the first and gleaned one run in the second inning by a walk to Wayne Warner, a single to right by Dan Hypse; Mike Sheahon pumped a single to center and an error of Steve Sheahon's ground ball. Wayne Warner was left stranded after singling in our third as was Alan Cunningham in our fourth. At the end of four it was 1-0. But in the fifth very few things went right. As manager, Jim Dodson could not get Dave Ireland out in time with the relieving Mark Taylor to escape a horrendous siege. Dave gave up six hits sandwiched around one error and when the smoke had cleared the Blues had scored seven big ones. Mark Taylor came in to put the fire out, but too late. In our fifth we were weak leaving Charlie Lord on first after his single. We did come back in the sixth and score another on a pair of walks issued to Mike Sheahon and Craig Colboch followed by Alan Cunningham's RBI single but that was the extent of our damage. We did nothing in our seventh and we lost by the score of 7-2. Ironically, the only hits garnered by the Blues were in the fifth inning when they got all six. We had seven hits in all, one each by Steve Sheahon, Charlie Lord, Wayne Warner, Dan Hypse and Mike Sheahon and two by Alan Cunningham. It was Dave's second loss against one victory. Eight and eight overall now.

GAME #17

On the 16th of June we moved over to Ripley Park where we met the Kansas City Shawnee Saints. This game though it turned out to be a loss was a pivotal one for us as it brought some things together and a greater understanding between the management of the 7UPs and some of the players. The foe was the Kansas City Shawnee Saints whom we had met back on May 26 and had literally massacred by the score of 21-2. Most of our players felt this would be a ho hum game and took it very lightly. Additionally, the attitudes of the players seemed to be one of disdain which obviously created a feeling of desperation on the part of the management. The visitors jumped on our starting lefthander, Bob Bernard, in the

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first inning with Bob giving up a walk, a double and two runs scoring on an error. In our first Mark Elliott singled, but we could not score him. In their second they went down in order. We wasted a walk to Dan Hypse and Wayne Warner in our second. In their third they plated two more on two walks and two hits, and it was 4-0. We came back with a run in our third as Craig Ladwig doubled and he later scored on a fly ball hit by Mike Sheahon. Craig had been out most of the season with an ankle injury. In their fourth the Saints came back with still another run on a pair of walks and a single. In our fourth Wayne Warner and Jon McCormick each singled but we could not score them.

We were down 5-1. Bob Bernard got into trouble in the fifth, and we sent in Mark Taylor to put out the fire. They scored one more on a walk and a single; 6-1. In our fifth Mark Elliott pumped a long shot over the right field fence, and gained a walk to Mike Sheahon; Steve Dodson singled to right but we stranded them. At the end of five, 6-2. In their sixth with Greg Marney on the hill they did no damage. In our sixth we picked up one run when Charlie Lord walked, and who later scored after Steve Dodson singled and Steve Sheahon singled; 6-3 at the end of six. In the seventh they did no damage nor did we in ours. In the eighth they plated two more when after two outs, Greg gave up a bunt, a double and a single, and it was now 8-2. We made efforts in our eighth to come back when Charlie Lord singled, Craig Ladwig walked and Mark Elliott hit a two RBI double, and it was now 8-5. They did no damage to us in their ninth, and we stranded Steve Dodson at first after a walk. We went down ingloriously to a team that we had certainly underestimated by the score of 8-5. The important events of the evening were not so much the loss, which was now 9 losses against 8 wins, but rather some of the remarks made during the course of the game by players including some negative statements made by one on how to play the position to another player who in turn, of course, reacted by stating, "You play your position and I'll play mine." These kinds of statements coupled with the humiliating loss resulted in a brief but meaningful after the game session in which it was stated

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that perhaps the players on this team who exhibited such cock-sure attitudes were not as proficient as they would like to think they were. The dialogue seemed to set the stage for what was to happen to the team in the future as they now needed to go out and prove they were a good ball club.

Bob Bernard took the loss, his first against one victory, making our total nine losses against eight wins. We had ten hits: three by Mark Elliott including a homerun and a RBI double; Craig Ladwig had two hits, one a double, and we had one each by Steve Sheahon, Steve Dodson, Wayne Warner, Jon McCormick and Charlie Lord.

GAME #18

With a feeling of a need to prove themselves, the 7UPPERS met the Pepsi Cola Stars expected to be the strongest team in the league in a doubleheader at McDonald Field on June 18. We fired up Greg Marney on the hill against their right-hander Davey Lord. As the home team the Pepsi Cola Stars went down in order 1-2-3 in their first. We came up in our first and Steve Sheahon singled and Jon McCormick bombed a homerun over the left field fence and we were up quickly 2-0. Kevin Brunton doubled in their second but Greg stranded him.

We went down 1-2-3 in our second. In their third Robin Golden singled but no scoring. In our third we added two more when Steve Sheahon walked, Jon McCormick singled and Charlie Lord singled. Now 4-0. They went down in order 1-2-3 in their fourth. In our fourth we added two more when Craig Ladwig walked, followed by a pair of back to back doubles by Steve Sheahon and Jon McCormick, 6-0. In their fifth they had a single but no score. In our fifth Charlie Lord singled but was forced at second on Wayne Warner's grounder. Steve Dodson unloaded a double to right center, but we could not score him. In their sixth they scored their first run on a single, a move-up on a ground ball and a pair of sacrifice flies, 6-1. We wasted a single by Charlie Lord in our sixth. In their seventh they went down 1-2-3 and Greg was the winner, his second against one loss, allowing but four hits and striking out four while we had nine hits, three by Jon McCormick, including a homerun and a double and two each by Steve Sheahon and Charlie Lord and one each by Steve Dodson and Craig Ladwig. 9-9 now overall.