

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

### Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

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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score of 4-3. As we came into the bottom half of the seventh we put forth our most supreme effort, as Todd Bohannon led off with a base on balls. After Taylor's flyout, Mike Harmon moved Todd around to third on a slashing single to right. Mike soon stole second and we had the tying and winning runs at second and third with one away. Mike Griffiths came up and drew life on an infield error to load the bases whereupon Davey Lord came up and unleashed a tremendous smash to the right center field wall for a three base hit, scoring the two runs necessary to win the game and we won - going away by the score of 5-4. It was indeed a thriller.

Steve gained his fourth victory against one setback and we had won our tenth game against three setbacks. This was an important game as Post 199 appeared to be one of our stronger contenders for the league championship. Hitting heroes were of course Dave Lord with his tremendous triple in addition to a single earlier, Mike Harmon had two timely blows, Fred Palenske a single, and that constituted all of our hits which we received but five in all. Meanwhile Steve was holding the 199's to five hits himself.

### GAME FOURTEEN

In the second game of the doubleheader we had our right hand fireballer - curveballer Dave Lord on the hill and the Legionnaires began erupting early by gaining life on two errors and then Dave was successful in retiring the next two hitters whereupon still another error, the third, in the inning plated two runs and we were quickly down 2-0. In our half of the first Mike Harmon drew a base on balls and Fred Palenske strolled but both runners were left abandoned and no further damage done - no score.

As we moved into the second inning the Legionnaires led 2-0. Davey sent the opponents down in order 1-2-3. In our second we roared back and took the lead by scoring three runs as Dave Greene drew a base on balls; Yves Adams, a big black young man had joined our club this day, playing third base, singled into right field moving Dave Greene around third. Todd Bohannon grounded out but Greene

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scored on the play. Kipp Noe drew a base on balls and Mike Harmon forced Kipp; later Mike Griffiths unloaded a slash down the left field line for a base hit scoring Adams and Harmon and three runs were the result. In the Post 199 half of the inning Dave experienced no problems; nor in the fourth. Meanwhile we were doing nothing in our third and fourth - going down in order, with the exception of Mike Harmon's single. In the Legion's fifth they came back and scored two more runs on a walk and followed by a double and a single. The score was now Post 199 4 and our own Topeka Aces 4. In our half of the fifth we scored one as Mike Harmon singled and came around on single by Fred Palenske, a walk to Steve Dodson and a groundout. We led 5-4.

Dave experienced no problems in the sixth, setting them down in order. In our sixth we scored two more runs as with two away Mike Harmon laced a long triple, scored on Mike Griffiths' single and he later scored on a fly ball tagup. Dave experienced no problems in their seventh other than giving up a base on balls, and we won the ball game by the score of 7-4. Dave in winning his fourth victory against no losses gave us a win/loss record of 11 and 3. We had but seven hits in all ourselves; two each by Mike Harmon, one a triple, Mike Griffiths, one a double, two by Fred Palenske and one by Yves Adams. Davey struck out ten Legionnaire batters in posting his victory.

On June 15th we held a practice session game with Post #400 interchanging our players and no records were kept.

### GAME FIFTEEN

On June 27 we travelled to Eisenhower Field in Kansas City, Kansas, where we met the Kansas City Elliott Arms team in the first game of a doubleheader. We sent Davey Lord to the hill and he responded with a beautifully pitched ball game allowing but three scattered hits while we were hitting relatively well amassing a total of eight bingles, scoring five runs. In our visiting half of the first Mike Harmon, who has been on a hitting tear, led off with a double and



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scored moments later on Mike Griffiths' equally torrid hitting spree with a double and Mike scored later on a flyball to give us a 2-0 lead. Davey experienced no problems in the first inning, he gave up a run in the second inning due largely to two errors - a hit batsman and a walk. In our second inning we threatened with a single by the new player who joined our club, Brett Holtom, now playing second base. An error on Steve Conwell's groundball gave us two runners but no runs. In the third inning, we scored one run when Fred Palenske singled, stole second base, Steve Dodson walked, Brett Holtom singled to score Fred. In the third inning for the Arms' club they went down in order. In our fourth inning we scored two more when Bruce Benteman walked, moved to second on a single by Mike Harmon, bases became loaded on Mike Griffiths' free pass and a moment later Fred Palenske plated two of the runs with another base hit up the middle. We now led by the score of five to one. Davey continued to mow down the opponents until the fifth inning when he met brief trouble giving up a single and a walk but no runs. We did nothing in our fifth.

In our sixth, we did likewise. In their sixth, Davey sent them down in order. In the ACES half of the seventh we wasted a single by Steve Dodson and did not score. In their seventh the Kansas City Arms gave us somewhat of a minor scare when they had back to back singles coupled with an error to score one run but that was it as Dave settled down to strike out McMahan to end the game and we won by the score of 5 to 2. Davey won his fifth victory against no losses and we had won our 12th game against three losses. Dave struck out 13 Elliott Arms hitters while scattering the three hits off him. We had eight hits in all including two by Mike Harmon, two by Fred Palenske and two by Brett Holtom. One each was struck by Mike Griffiths and Steve Dodson.

### GAME SIXTEEN

In the second game of the doubleheader we sent big right hander Steve Dodson to the hill to face McMann as opposition. In our first inning our only threat was

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a wasted single to Mike Harmon, who led off, but was stranded. Steve gave up a triple to Pierce in their half of the first but he did not score. In our second inning we threatened again when Steve Dodson doubled, Dave Greene was hit by a pitched ball and both runners moved over by a fielder's choice but no scoring ensued. The Kansas City Arms erupted in their second by scoring four big runs in the following manner: a walk, a hit batsman, a double, another walk, a costly error in the infield and another walk. Before we knew it four tallies had scored. Trailing four to nothing we moved into our third inning and began our scoring when Mike Griffiths doubled and scored later on a single by Fred Palenske. In the bottom of the third Steve set them down in order. In our fourth a minor flurry took place when Dave Greene walked and Brett Holtom singled and Kipp Noe drew life on an error but no runs scored. In their fourth in what proved to be a costly inning for us in the game's outcome, Steve gave up a single and two hit batsmen followed by still another single and two runs scored to give them a 6-1 lead. We did relatively nothing until the seventh inning tho we had a single wasted by Rick Taylor back in the sixth and a walk to Brett Holtom wasted. Meanwhile Steve was having no more problems with Elliott Arms. In our seventh we made a valiant effort as Mike Griffiths led off with a single down the line, Dave Lord followed suite with a single past third, Palenske drew a walk to load the bases, Steve Conwell ran for him. Steve Dodson singled up the middle, driving home two runs and making the score more interesting now, 6-3. Dave Greene forced Steve at second tho Steve Conwell scored to now make it 6-4. Todd Bohannon gained life as a result of a fielder's choice and with two out Brett Holtom singled to bring to bat Gil Gonzales, who in one of his rare appearances, singled into right field to make it really interesting as Bohannon scored. Holtom rounding third on the play attempted to go all the way as Coach Charlie Lord sent him and he was thrown out in a close play at home and we went down by the score of 6-5 in a real close tough one to lose. Steve suffered the loss - his second against four victories - and we suffered our fourth against



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twelve wins. We had ten hits in all - including two each by Mike Griffiths, Steve Dodson and Brett Holtom. One blow was struck by Gil Gonzales, Rick Taylor, Fred Palenske and Dave Lord.

### GAME SEVENTEEN

Game seventeen we hosted the Lawrence American Legion team at Ripley Park on June 28th. Dave Greene took the hill against the right hand slants of Marson for Lawrence. The Lawrence team broke ice in the first inning when they scored two runs as a result of an error, a single and still another error. We came back in our first inning for a double by Mike Griffiths but no scoring. Dave gave up a harmless single in the second to Lawrence and we continued to trail 2-0. In our second we proceeded to tie up the ball game when Steve Dodson led off with a walk, followed by a stroll given to Davey Greene. Kipp Noe drew life on an error and Ricky Taylor singled to drive in one run and the score was now 2-2. Dave settled down in the third and set them down 1-2-3 as did their pitcher to us in our third.

In the fourth Dave gave up a run when he hit a batsman and walked a runner and gave up a single to their pitcher; it was now 3-2. In our fourth they changed pitching, relieving with Herrod. He walked Dave Greene but he retired the next three in order. In the fifth Dave gave up two costly runs when a walk followed by a single and a double plated two runs and we now trailed by the score of five to two. In our fifth we threatened when Mike Griffiths was hit by a pitched ball and Davey Lord singled. Steve Dodson walked to fill the bases but no runs were produced. In the sixth we brought in Brett Holtom to do the pitching honors and he proceeded to strike out the side of the Lawrence hitters. In our sixth we came back with two big tallies against their new pitcher Sinks when Dave Greene was pinch-hit for by Bruce Benteman and Bruce walked. Brett Holtom walked, Kipp Noe singled and Mike Harmon plated two runs with a line drive single to left center and we now trailed by the score of five to four. In the visitor's seventh they pro-



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ceeded to move ahead of us six to four when their leadoff hitter singled and scored later on a sacrifice fly after a walk. We trailed 6-4. Going into the bottom of the seventh the unbelievable occurred when we scored three big runs to win the game on no hits. With two away and nobody on and next to no chance of ever winning, Bruce Benteman walked; Brett Holtom then walked, giving us a slight flicker - remembering with two outs. Kipp Noe drew a base on balls to load the sacks yet with two outs. Todd Bohannon came up and likewise walked, forcing in a run making it six to five with the tying run on third. Mike Harmon coming to bat then was struck by a pitched ball in a convenient place giving us the tying run and the score miraculously became 6-6. And then Mike Griffiths hit a conventional soft popup to their second baseman Green, who of all things dropped the ball allowing Kipp Noe to score from third with the third and winning run. Three runs on no hits - a total of four walks, a hit batsman and an error plated the three runs and we won on a gift, the winning pitcher being Brett Holtom, his first victory against no losses and our 13th win against 4 losses as a team. We had but six hits against the combined pitching of the Legionnaires from Lawrence, the six being two by Davey Lord and individual shots by Mike Harmon, Mike Griffiths, Kipp Noe and Ricky Taylor.

### GAME EIGHTEEN

We met the Kansas City American Legion Post Number 399 team at McDonald Field in a doubleheader, June 30. To do the hurling honors of the first game was Davey Lord against the slants of Mark Blake for our opponents. Dave had no trouble in the first, striking our two of their three hitters. In our first we combed Blake for a total of no hits but gathered one run as a result of an error and three walks. Dave continued to experience no problems with the Legionnaires tho he gave up the only hit of the game to Kevin Bybee in the second inning to the 399's. Dave went on to mow them down almost 1-2-3 in every inning with the exception of the fifth and the seventh which were marred slightly by walks.



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Meanwhile our one run garnered in the first was enough for a victory, however, we began pounding away and in the third Mike Griffiths doubled, Davey singled, Fred Palenske drew life on a fielder's choice and Steve Dodson doubled to give us two more runs. In our fourth Kipp Noe singled with sacrifice to second and scored moments later on Mike Harmon's drive to right. In our fifth we scored four more big ones when after two away Steve Dodson singled, Dave Greene singled, Brett Holtom beat out an infield grounder and Kipp Noe walked. Todd Bohannon then singled and the four runs were across. In our sixth we had two more tallies, when Mike Griffiths walked, Fred Palenske got on as a result of an error and Steve Dodson walked, Bruce Benteman walked and an error gave us our total of ten runs. We had nine hits. Davey in his sparkling one hitter struck out a total of eight. Our hits were divided among the following: two by Steve Dodson, one each by Mike Harmon, Mike Griffiths, Dave Lord, Brett Holtom, Kipp Noe, Todd Bohannon and Dave Greene. Davey enjoyed his sixth straight victory against no losses and we were now 14 to 4 overall.

### GAME NINETEEN

Game Nineteen took place - the second half of the doubleheader - this time with a big new pitcher for us, Eric Alejos, a left hander, taking the hill against Bryan, a right hander for the Legion 399 team. Eric, a hard throwing left hander somewhat wild, had no problems in the first nor did Bryan for the Legionnaires for us. In the second they garnered a single off Eric along with two base on balls but no runs scored. In our second we broke loose with four big tallies as Fred Palenske singled followed by a single through the middle by Steve Dodson. Both runners moved around to third and second respectively on Kipp Noe's groundout. Todd Bohannon walked to fill the bases and Ricky Taylor gained life on an error allowing two runs to score, later Todd scored on another error on Eric Alejos' groundball. Mike Griffiths walked and a wild pitch plated the fourth run. We now led four to nothing. In the visitors' third only a two base hit threatened us; no runs scored. We did nothing of major effort in our third



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other than a walk to Steve Dodson. In their fourth they went down on strikes in order. In our fourth we had a walk given up to Mike Griffiths but no runs. In the visitors' fifth again three strikeouts after an error was their effort. In our fifth we threatened slightly on a walk to Fred and a walk to Steve Conwell but no runs scored. Fred Palenske came in and relieved and did well experiencing no problems in their sixth. In our sixth we went down in order and Fred wrapped it up in their seventh giving up one run on a base on balls and a double and we won by a score of five to one. The victory going to Eric Alejos, the hard throwing left hander, his first victory against no losses and we experienced our fifteenth victory against four losses. We had but two hits in amassing a total of five runs those being by Steve Dodson and Fred Palenske. Base on balls hurt their pitching and tight pitching by Eric and Fred helped us. Fred got credit for the save.

### GAME TWENTY

Game twenty was played at Ripley Park on the second of July where we met the Suburban A's for the third time of the year. Steve Dodson was assigned the task of hurling and was opposed by Blakely, a right hander for the Athletics. We opened with two quick runs when Mike Harmon walked, and Mike Griffiths drew life on an error. Both runners moved around on a passed ball and later scored on groundball and a flyout. The A's bounced back with a run on a single and a double and we led 2-1 at the end of one. In our second Ricky Taylor singled but was left stranded. In their second they tied it up on a walk and a stolen base plus an error. At the end of two it was two to two. In the third we began to break it open when we scored four big runs on six hits. With one away Mike Griffiths singled, stole second, Davey Lord plated him with a single to left, Fred Palenske bombed a double to deep left center. Todd Bohannon singled home Dave. Rick Taylor then drove home Fred with a single and Kipp Noe contributed by still another single up the middle and before it was over four runs had been plated. Steve had no trouble in the third. In our fourth we went down in order.

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In their fourth Steve gave up a harmless base on balls. In our fifth we added one more run when Steve walked, moved to second on a walk given up to Todd Bohannon and was plated later on a fielder's choice of Ricky Taylor's groundball. In their fifth no harm was done. In the sixth we scored our 3th run when Dave Greene walked, followed by a base on balls issued to Mike Harmon and Dave scored later on a flyball hit by Dave Lord to left which he was able to tagup.

Steve got into hot water in the seventh leading 3-2, he let up somewhat and gave up a pair of walks and a pair of hits along with an error and three A's scored before they went down on strikes, making the final score 3-5 our ACES. It was Steve's fifth victory against two losses and our 16th win overall over four losses. We had seven hits in all, two by Ricky Raylor and one each by Mike Griffiths, Davey Lord, Fred Palenske, Todd Bohannon and Kipp Noe.

### GAME TWENTY-ONE

We moved to Kansas City at Highland Park Field on the fifth of July to meet the Kansas City American Legion #199 team in a doubleheader. This turned out to be a long and discouraging evening for us as we ran into umpiring problems again in the form of Mr. Randall. In the first game we sent Davey Lord to the hill and he was opposed by McHenry for the Legion team. We did nothing in the first tho Mike Harmon walked and was thrown out at second attempting to steal. The Legionnaires began their half with a hit, a stolen base and a tag-up of a flyball to score and they led 1-0. We did nothing in our second other than a walk to Dave Greene. In their second they went 1-2-3. In our third we did have a hit, this one by Mike Griffiths following Mike Harmon's single but it was to no avail as we could not score. In their third they plated still another run on two solid base hits and an error, one a double, by Sostarich, and we now trail 2-0.

In our fourth we broke ice when with two away Steve Dodson singled, moved to second on an error and scored later on a RBI single by Rick Taylor. Now 2-1. In their fourth they did get one more hit off Dave with two away but no one scored.



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In our fifth we made it interesting again as we were trailing at the time 2-1 when we moved into the lead, with one away Eric Alejos gained life on an error and then after Mike Harmon went down on strikes Mike Griffiths singled, Dave Lord walked to fill the bases, Fred Palenske singled driving in two tallies and we were able to garner three big runs and the score was now 4-2. In their half of the inning they came back with two runs to tie it up at 4 all. Three errors in our infield around a hit batsman got us into trouble. No hits were garnered off Dave. As we go into the sixth tied up 4-4, a walk to Rick Taylor was the only thing we could do. In their sixth problems arose when with one away a single, a walk and a costly RBI single plated two runs and we were down by the score 6-4. We did not give up however and we went into the seventh. Mike Griffiths doubled and scored later on an error, Steve walked, stole second and as the tying run on with two away our last hitter went down on strikes and we ended the game losing 6-5. It was a frustrating loss. It was a hard fought difficult game to accept but we lost it. Davey Lord experienced his first loss against seven victories and it was our fifth loss against sixteen wins. We had a total of seven hits in the game - three hits by the hard hitting Mike Griffiths and one each by Fred Palenske, Steve Dodson, Rick Taylor and Todd Bohannon.

### GAME TWENTY-TWO

We move to game twenty-two, the second half of the doubleheader and we sent Eric Alejos to the hill, with umpire Randall behind the plate we were in for a long evening, and it turned out just that way.

In our first Davey Lord's single went for naught as he was stranded. In their first only a walk was given to ruin an otherwise perfect inning. In our second inning Steve Dodson unleashed a double in left center, followed by an error of Rick Taylor's groundball and with one away Kipp Noe singled through the center to score Steve and move Rick Taylor around to third. Eric then walked and Ricky Taylor scored on a fielder's choice of Mike Griffiths' groundball and we

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had two runs on the four hits in the inning. However in the second inning an unbelievable occurrence took place but explainable when one realizes that umpire Randall was behind the plate. A total of eight walks were issued by Eric Alejos in balls that both Eric and Steve Dodson, the catcher, could not explain as to why they were called as balls. Coupled with the only hit of the evening and a bad error and eight big Post 199 runs crossed the plate. Tho discouraged now, behind 8-4 we did not give up and Ricky Taylor gave us a single in the third tho we could not score him. In their third with Fred Palenske now on the mound they scored two more runs on a walk, an error and a single. We now trailed by the score of 10-4.

In our fourth we began to peck away as Kipp Noe singled and with two away Mike Griffiths bombed a long blast over the left field wall to make it 10-6 - a long homerun. In their fourth only a walk marred the inning - no runs. In our fifth we went down in order as the Post #199 team garnered only a walk and an error but no runs in their half. In our sixth we made it even more interesting, trailing 10-6 and one away, Steve Conwell beat out a slug bunt down the left field line followed by the walk issued to Bruce Benteman, thereupon Mike Harmon sent a shot over the right field wall scoring two runs ahead of him and giving us three runs in all to make the score 10-9. Mike Griffiths kept it up by getting the potential tying run with a single but Davey Lord's line shot to the shortstop who was coming over to cover second. Mike Griffiths' break to steal second, turned into a fast and snappy double play and took us out of the inning.

Now trailing 10-9 Fred experienced no trouble in their sixth other than a harmless walk. We came to the seventh with high hopes - they were stunted by the Post 199 hurler and they set us down in order 1-2-3, and we lost by the score of 10-9. Eric Alejos took the loss - his first against one victory and we took our sixth loss against sixteen wins. We had nine hits in all - two by Mike Griffiths, one his long homerun, two by Kipp Noe, one each by Mike Harmon, Dave Lord, Steve Dodson, Rick Taylor and Steve Conwell.



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### GAME TWENTY-THREE

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Back in Topeka at Ripley Park on the 7th of July we hosted the Topeka Suburban Reds under lead filled skies and threat of heavy rain. We sent Steve Dodson to the hill to do hurling chores, and he was opposed by Gomez, a right hander for the Reds. Steve gave up a hit to Scarlett on the first pitch of the game for a double to the Reds and it turned out to be the only hit of the game off Steve. Scarlett later attempted to score on an infield ground ball but was thrown out at homeplate and it turned out to be the only threat as Steve experienced no more hits off him tho he gave up two walks and a hit batsman later.

In our first we threatened with two away, Dave Lord singled, Steve walked, and Eric Alejos walked, but we could not garner a tally. In our second inning we did threaten again filling the bases this time with a walk to Kipp Noe, followed by still another walk to Mike Harmon, and an infield single to Mike Griffiths - but no runs. Steve had no problems in striking out the side in their second. In our third we came up with the two runs to be the only runs of the games when Steve led off with a walk and Eric Alejos bombed a long triple into deep left center field to score Steve and moments later Eric scored on a double to left center by Kipp Noe. Steve continued to mow the opponents down around a walk issued in the third and a hit batsman in the fourth. We did little tho in our fifth, Steve Dodson walked after Davey Lord singled but we could not score. Suddenly the skies unloaded so heavily we could not continue with the game and the game was called at that point giving us a two to nothing victory and Steve a one hit shutout. We had six hits in all ourselves - two by Davey Lord and one each by Mike Griffiths, Eric Alejos - a triple - Kipp Noe, a double, and Dave Greene a single. It was our 17th victory against 6 losses and Steve's 6th win against 2 losses.

### GAME TWENTY-FOUR

We move to Kansas City for a doubleheader on Saturday, July 9th, which turned out to be a long hot and frustrating day. In a game that was delayed for nearly a half hour due to the lateness of the umpire and lo and behold who could the umpire

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be when he does show up but Mr. Randall again. We had no choice but to go ahead and accept him as the umpire tho we were dubious about his abilities from the outset. In the first inning we sent Brett Holtom, our curveballing recent arrival, to the mound and he responded beautifully by hurling over the first six innings two hit shutout ball allowing a single in the second inning and a single in the fifth inning both not causing us any run problems. In the interim we were threatening and doing some scoring.

In our first inning Mike Griffiths doubled but was left stranded. In our second inning Steve Dodson walked, moved to third on a single by Brett Holtom and later scored on a groundball fielder's choice to give us a one to nothing lead. In our third inning we scored still another run when Mike Harmon doubled, scored on Mike Griffiths' single giving us a two to nothing lead. We did nothing in our fourth or fifth and only an error given up to Todd Bohannon on a groundball was accomplished in our sixth. As we moved into the 7th we remained ahead on the sparkling performance of Brett, 2-0. In the 7th Mike Griffiths doubled but was left stranded and we could not pad our lead. In the bottom of the 7th suddenly many of the pitches that Brett was throwing were balls with umpire Randall behind the plate, and he for the first time was 'guilty' of walks. He issued two walks and two singles and with the infield drawn in and the score 2-1 now, Burnett hit a soft single just beyond the outstretched reach of Kipp Noe's glove and the tying and winning run scored and we lost a heartbreaker by the score of 3-2. The umpire, as mentioned, was extremely poor but little can be do about it. Thus we suffered our 7th loss against 17 victories and Brett Holtom took his first loss. We had six hits in all while they had six hits. Mike Griffiths had three of our six including a triple and a double. The other hits were struck by Mike Harmon, Brett Holtom and Todd Bohannon.

### GAME TWENTY-FIVE

We move to game twenty-five, the second game of this doubleheader and all Hell broke loose. In the contest we sent Davey Lord to the hill to face the slants of Blake,



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for Post 399. In our first inning we opened with a flurry by scoring two quick tallies as Mike Griffiths unleashed a long triple and scored a moment later on Davey Lord's single. Davey stole second and scored on Steve Dodson's liner to center for a base hit and it was 2-0. The 399ers did nothing in their first and for that matter over the ensuing five innings did nothing - not even getting a hit tho Dave gave up a walk in the second inning to mar an otherwise perfect performance. We did more damage in our second when Davey Greene singled, was forced to second by Alejos' fielder's choice, Mike Harmon singled and Brett Holtom singled to score Alejos, Mike Harmon scoring later on a fielder's choice and an error on Davey Lord's groundball. We now had scored three more runs and led 5-0. We enjoyed this lead until the sixth inning. During those innings we were doing nothing at the plate.

In the bottom of the sixth with a 5-0 lead suddenly the 399 hitters began getting hits off Davey. Three consecutive singles, followed by an error and a double by Bybee brought in four runs and the score was now 5-4. Bybee moved to third and scored a moment later on a soft single by Pennock to make the score tied five all and we came to the plate in the seventh really upset. With one away Mike Griffiths singled, stole second base and as anyone in the ball park knew stole third but on the play umpire Randall again declared him out tho he was on the base before the tag was ever made. A hot conversation took place between the manager and the umpire and the manager was ejected from the game and before being given an opportunity to leave the field the umpire declared the game over upon which the ACES manager protested the game subject to the league's study for decision. Later the decision was made that the play was to ensue from that point on but due to the inability of the Post 399 manager Dale Gibson to declare a date, place and a time for the game, the game was declared the ACES' victory and placed in their column. Thus we had our 18th win against 7 losses. We had but four hits in the contest - two by Mike Griffiths and one each by Steve Dodson and Mike Harmon.

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### GAME TWENTY SIX

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We move to game number twenty-six and in this game we move back to Topeka on Sunday the 10th of July to meet the Topeka Suburban Cardinals, the top team of their league, at Ripley Park. We sent Eric Elejos, our hard throwing left hander, against Mike Perry, a right hander for the Cardinals. In the visitor's half they failed to score tho they had a base on balls and a hit batsman issued to them. In our half of the first with one away Mike Griffiths drew a walk and scored on Davey Lord's slash down the left field line for a double. Later Davey scored on Fred Palenske's single through the middle and we had two tallies. The Cardinals came back in their second when a walk was issued to Haefner and with one away he was able to score on a single by Besler, and the score was 2-1. In our second we wasted a single by Kipp Noe and a hit batsman issued to Eric Alejos. In the third the Cardinals did nothing against Eric tho they did fill the bases on two walks and an error. In our third we enjoyed another double by Davey Lord but it was to no avail as we could not score him. In their fourth Dixon tripled and later scored on a one baser by Besler to make the score two to three in favor of the Cardinals. In our fourth we had a walk issued to Steve Conwell and Mike Harmon but they were stranded. In their fifth Perry singled but he was thrown out attempting to steal. In our fifth we tied it up three all when with two away, Steve Dodson walked, stole second and scored on Todd Bohannon's one base punch to right center. Now 3-3 at the end of 5. We sent Dave Greene to the hill and the right hander responded by shutting the Cardinals down tho giving up three walks. He got out of the inning with no damage. In our sixth we did nothing. In their seventh tied 3-3 and one away Perry walked and moved to second on a groundout and with two away Dixon hit a dribbler just past the glove of our second baseman, Kipp Noe, to give them the go ahead run making the score 4-3. We came back to threaten in our half of the seventh when Mike Griffiths drew life as a result of an error, stole second, moved to third on a passed ball and with two away Steve Dodson was hit with a pitched ball and we tried our famous "blues" play and Mike was thrown out on the attempted steal



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to home and we lost by the score of 4-3 in a well played, hard-fought game. Davey Greene took the loss, his first against one victory, and we took our 8th loss against 18 victories. We had but five hits in all - two by Davey Lord, back to back doubles, and single shots by Fred, Todd and Kipp. Our opponents had but five off the combined pitching of Eric Alejos and Dave Greene.

### GAME TWENTY-SEVEN

We move to game twenty-seven and this first game of a doubleheader on Monday evening, July 11, at Ripley Park, we hosted the Kansas City Libby's team from northeast Kansas City, Missouri. We sent big Steve Dodson to the hill and he responded beautifully with a shutout scattering six hits and striking out eight. Meanwhile we were enjoying heavy hitting at the plate. Tho we did nothing in our first, as did our opponent, in our second inning with one away Steve Dodson blasted a long smash over the left field fence across the road and into the Santa Fe railroad shops to give us a one to nothing lead and an inspiration to begin hammering the ball. Todd Bohannon did that by singling, followed by Ricky Taylor's single. Bruce Benteman joined in the fun by singling and Mike Harmon walked, all along with a wild pitch gave us two runs and a 2-0 lead. Steve had no trouble until the third when he gave up two singles tho no one scored. We did nothing in our third other than walks issued to Fred and Rick Taylor - no one scored.

In our fourth we broke it open with four big runs on five hits when with one away, Mike Harmon walked, Mike Griffiths singled and Davey Lord drew life on an error whereupon Steve Dodson singled to drive in two runs and Todd plated him with another hit followed by Rick Taylor's second hit of the evening and it was now 6-0. Steve struck out the side in their fifth and in our fifth we had a hit by Mike Griffiths go wasted. No trouble in the sixth other than a single issued by Steve while we were adding three more big tallies in our sixth when Fred Palenske singled, Steve having a hot night at the bat singled, followed by a fielder's choice of Todd Bohannon's groundball. Ricky Taylor then singled, and we had three more

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runs giving us a total of nine runs and a 9-0 lead. The game ended mercifully in the seventh tho Steve issued a double they did not score, and we had the victory by the score of 9-0. It was Steve's seventh win against two losses, our 19th against 8 losses, we had thirteen hits - three by Steve Dodson, one of course his homerun, three by Rick Taylor, two by Mike Griffiths and Todd Bohannon and one each by Dave Lord, Fred Palenske and Bruce Benteman.

### GAME TWENTY-EIGHT

Game twenty-eight, the second game of a doubleheader, we sent big Fred Palenske to the hill to face the right handed slants of Hernandez. This turned out to be another lopsided game - even more so than the first game - as we scored 17 runs on but eight hits. Fred gave up a single in the first inning but no runs, and we came back in our first when Mike Harmon gained life as a result of an error and scored later on a grounder-fielder's choice. In their second inning they came up with a double but no runs while we came back with a hit but no runs. This time after Eric Alejos had walked and Brett Holtom had singled, Kipp Noe filled the bases on a walk but that was as far as we went. In the third inning the Libby's came to life and scored three tallies on a base on balls, followed by a base hit and a walk and an error around a fielder's choice and we now trail for the first time in the game three to one. In the ACES' half of the third, Mike Griffiths banged a single to center, Steve Dodson drew a base on balls as did Eric Alejos to fill the sacks. Dave Greene thereupon lined a single to left center to score both Mike Griffiths and Steve Dodson, moving Eric Alejos to third. Brett Holtom then pumped a single to right to score Alejos, moving Greene to second and Dave scored later on a groundball and a wild pitch, and we had four big tallies and took the lead again by the score of 5-3.

In the fourth inning for Kansas City no damage was done to Fred other than a single and we broke it open in our half of the fourth when we scored seven big tallies. Mike Harmon singled followed by Mike Griffiths' deep shot to left field,





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a triple, Dave Lord got on by an error by their pitcher, Fred Palenske grounded to third and he kicked it, Eric Alejos to make matters worse for their third baseman grounded right back to him and he again booted it, Dave Greene was plunked by an errant pitch, Brett Holtom grounded to short and he was guilty of a miscue, and when it was over seven big tallies had crossed the plate and we had taken the commanding 12-3 lead. We relieved Fred on the hill with Brett Holtom, who pitched the fifth inning, and Brett had no difficulty other than hitting one batsman. In our fifth we added four more runs to the total and to the misery of our opponent when Steve Dodson drew a base on balls as did Fred Palenske. Alejos grounded out but Dave Greene walked, filled the bases, when Brett Holtom doubled up the alley to score all three runs, Brett scored later on an error of Steve Conwell's grounder at third, and it was now 16-3. The sixth inning we sent Davey Lord out to throw and he gave up a double and a run as a result of an error when that runner scored later on a stolen base, a flyball tagup. Now 16-5. In our sixth we add one more to the total when Davey Lord drew a walk, moved to third on an error of Steve's groundball to short and moments later Dave scored on a flyball. Eric Alejos and Dave Greene drew two more walks but did not score. Now 17-5. In the seventh inning and final, Mike Harmon came in from left field to pitch and he gave up a base on balls to Hernandez who eventually scored on a groundout in the infield, and we won the ball game 17-6. Fred Palenske drew the victory, his second against one reversal and it was team's win number 20 against 8 losses. We had but eight hits in getting the 17 runs as most were scored on walks and errors. Totally, Mike Harmon had two, Mike Griffiths had two - one a triple - Brett Holtom enjoying a big day had three including a double, Dave Greene had one to round out the total.

### GAME TWENTY-NINE

On Thursday evening, July 14, we drove to Osage City where we met their senior American Legion team. We assigned Davey Greene to the hill and he was opposed by Schrader a right hander for the Osagers. In a hot sticky night on a

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mosquito infested field, we started early in getting runs. Mike Harmon led off with a single, Mike Griffiths singled but it got past the catcher and made it to first moving Mike Harmon to second. After Davey Lord moved both runners around on a groundball to short, Fred Palenske poked a double to left center, Steve Dodson then plated Fred with a shot single up the middle and we soon had three big tallies. Davey Greene in their half of the first gave up a leadoff single and a hit batsman and a walk but escaped without runs scoring. In our second Mike Harmon drew a walk but that was it. They did likewise in their second. In our third we went down in order. In their third they broke loose and scored their first run with a single and a costly error after a stolen base and it is now 3-1. In our fourth we went down harmlessly. In their fourth they did the same.

In our fifth we scored two more runs when Dave Greene singled, was forced to second on a fielder's choice but Mike Harmon punched a single and scored a moment later on a fielder's choice and a pair of walks given to Steve and to Todd Bohannon. We now enjoyed a 5-1 lead. However, the Osagers came back and scored four big runs off Dave who suddenly lost control and walked two and hit one sandwiched around a pair of doubles and four runs had scored and we were now tied up. We relieved Davey Greene with Eric Alejos as we went into the sixth, we came back and scored two runs on a walk to Kipp Noe and another hit by Dave Greene. Two wild pitches advanced them, one eventually scoring on a wild pitch, and a tag-up on Davey's fly out to left field scored the second go ahead run and we were now ahead 7-5. However, the Osagers came back in their half of the inning and scored five big runs on five walks off Eric and a hit credited to an interference call on our catcher's glove. We now trailed 10-7 and when we moved into the 7th inning things looked bleak until Fred Palenske drew a walk followed by another free pass issued to Steve Dodson and with one away Eric Alejos hit a towering ball over the snow fence in left field to give us three big runs and tie up the ball game at ten each. With this new life we moved into the bottom of the 7th. Eric was able to



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retire the opponent without damage and we went into extra innings.

In our 8th enjoying the new life, Mike Harmon tripled and Mike Griffiths pumped him home with a shot single, and later stole third and came home on a fielder's choice and we had a 12-10 lead. All we needed to do was hold them in their half of the eighth. HOWEVER, Eric not enjoying the comfort of a lead proceeded to fill the bases on three base on balls and Stewart, their catcher, pumped a shot up to right center field, all three runs came around to score and the ball game was over, we lost 13-12 in a wild one. We had a total of 11 hits in getting our 13 runs. Eric Alejos took the loss, his second against one victory, and we took our ninth loss against twenty wins. Our hits were distributed as follows: Mike Harmon had three, Fred Palenske two, Dave Greene two, one each for Mike Griffiths, Steve Dodson, Todd Bohannon and Eric Alejos a homerun.

### GAME THIRTY

We returned to Topeka to Ripley Park on July 13th where we encountered our rival for first place in the league, the Kansas City Elliott Arms Club. We sent Steve Dodson to the hill in the first game to face Kirby, righthander for the Arms nine. Steve encountered trouble early as he gave up a base on balls, a hit batsman and walk to fill the sacks. One run scored later on a fielder's choice and we were down 1-0. In our half of the first Mike Harmon blistered a double down the left field line, but was left stranded. No scoring. Steve settled down in their second tho giving up a single was not in trouble - no runs scored. In our second Steve Dodson led off with a single, Todd Bohannon walked but a fast double-play on Ricky Taylor's groundball took us out of the inning. The score remains 1-0, Elliott Arms. In their third they padded their lead by one run when a strikeout got by the catcher and gave the runner first and Kirby doubled, driving in the runner, 2-0. In our half of the third we nearly exploded. Brett Holtom singled into shallow right field, Mike Harmon flew out, Mike Griffiths blistered a single up the middle moving Holtom around to third. Dave Lord then sent a high flyball to



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center field that was misplayed by their centerfielder, Holtom scored, Griffiths moved to third. Palenske punched a single into left center, scoring Griffiths putting Davey all the way around to third. Steve Dodson drew a base on balls and Todd Bohannon loaded the bases with another walk. Dave Greene then punched a single between third and short to drive in two more runs and then to add to the excitement Rick Taylor bounced a single by the second baseman into right field for still more runs and when the melee ended, including Mike Griffiths' single, we had scored eight big runs on six hits and took a commanding 8-2 lead. In their fourth, however, the bottom dropped out for us and for Steve on the mound. Marquard.. led off with a double followed by Liston's single. After a groundout, Lindblad singled and Pierce doubled followed by Kriley's double. At which point we removed Steve and brought in Brett Holtom. Brett retired the side after giving up another single, and they scored six runs and tied us 8-8. In our half of the fourth we took a lead again when with one away Big Fred Palenske sent a towering drive over the left field fence into the street and we went ahead 9-8. In their fifth they quickly tied us up when Brett walked the first hitter and he scored later on another walk and single to Pierce, 9-9. In our half of the fifth our meager effort was a base on balls given to Dave Greene. Going into the sixth the score remained 9-9 tied. In their half of the sixth they came up with two big tallies when a pair of singles around an error and another single brought in two tallies. We were down now 11-9. However, in our half of the sixth with one away Mike Griffiths punched his third hit of the evening into left field, stole second and scored on Davey Lord's RBI single, now 11-10. Going into the seventh Brett gave up the leadoff walk but escaped further trouble and as we moved into the last half of the seventh we were down one run, at which point Lindblad in relief for K.C. shut us out 1-2-3, and we lost a run finisher 11-10. Brett Holtom suffered the loss, his second against one victory, and we took our 10th loss against 20 victories. We had 11 hits in pursuit of the ten runs. Mike Griffiths had another prime evening - 3



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hits, Davey Lord had two, one by Mike Harmon, Steve Dodson, Dave Greene, Rick Taylor, Brett Holtom; Fred Palenske had two including his prodigious homerun.

### GAME THIRTY-ONE

In the second game we sent Davey Lord with a 7-1 record to get us back on the winning track. Davey did that. We are facing the right handed slants of Engram. Lindblad led off for Kansas City and walked but a snappy double-play took him out from second to short to first and we escaped unscathed. In our half of the first our effort was a walk given up to Davey Lord, no runs. In the second after two away Clement's single was their first hit off Dave but he did not score. We went down in order in the second. In their third still another single - this one by Lindblad bothered us but he was left stranded. In our third, with two away, Mike Harmon singled but was thrown out attempting to steal second and the score remained scoreless after three. Davey was really heating up now and struck out the side in their fourth. In our fourth Davey singled, Steve Dodson walked, Todd Bohannon filled the sacks on a walk but we left them stranded.

In their fifth Davey was bothered only by an error made on Clement's groundball, no runs scored. In our fifth we decided to come to life and went to work. With one away Bruce Benteman sent a fly to center field that was dropped by their centerfielder. Mike Harmon capitalizing on the opportunity singled - his second base hit of the evening. Mike Griffiths then sent Benteman home along with Mike Harmon with a long one baser. Davey Lord then grounded out, moving Griffiths to third and Palenske, big Fred, punched the ball for a base hit through the middle scoring Mike Griffiths for our third tally. Fred moved to second with a walk issued to Steve Dodson, his second of the evening; Eric Alejos grounded to second, their keystone man kicked it and we had the fourth run of the evening. We now led 4-0; Dave had no problems with them in their sixth. In our sixth we came back with two more tallies when a walk was given to Brett Holtom, he stole second, scored on Mike Harmon's hit - his third of the evening - a powering double

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to left center. Mike Griffiths walked but our scoring stopped there and we led by a total of 6-0 after Mike Harmon scored on a wild pitch. Davey in the seventh gave up his only run when he began the inning by walking Kitterman and giving up a single to Clement. Marquard struck out but the ball got by the catcher Benteman and he made it to first. A walk to Engram and Lindblad forced in a run and we were in a little trouble tho not major. Thereupn Davey settled and struck out Pierce to end the game and we won it 6-2 to reclaim first place in our league. In six runs we had six hits while our opponents were given three by righthander Davey Lord. It was Davey's seventh victory against one loss and our 21st win against 10 losses. Our six hits were compiled three by Mike Harmon including a double, one by Mike Griffiths, Davey Lord, Fred Palenske.

### GAME THIRTY-TWO

We move to game thirty-two, we journeyed to Lawrence on Sunday, the 17th of July for a single game against their Legion team and we sent Fred Palenske to the hill to do our hurling chores opposed by right hander Gerty. As the visitors we did some damage in the first as Todd Bohannon walked and Davey Lord singled, but our tact stopped there and we did not score. In their first Fred gave up a pair of walks back to back coupled with a fielder's choice and another walk and one run scored. We trailed 1-0. In our second inning we quickly tied it up when Dave Greene walked, Kipp Noe followed suite with another free pass and Rick Taylor beginning an enjoyable day at the bat singled Greene home with the tying tally. In their second they quickly moved back into the lead when Fred gave up a single followed by an error and a sacrifice and we were behind again, this time 2-1. In our third a walk was given to Fred Palenske but that was our only effort. We relieved Fred, who complained of arm trouble, with Eric Alejos, our hard throwing left hander and he proceeded to give up two immediate hits tho Sinks who had doubled was not able to score as we threw him out at the plate. Eric went on later to give up a base on balls but no one scored and we escaped from the inning still behind 2-1. In our fourth inning with two away Rick got





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another hit followed by Harmon's base on balls but both were left stranded. In their fourth Eric set them down 1-2-3. In our fifth Davey Lord singled but was thrown out later at third. Fred Palenske pumped a long double into deep left field followed by a walk given to Steve Dodson and Dave Greene. Eric Alejos shot a two RBI single into right field and we took the lead by the score of 3-2. Dave Greene scored later on a fielder's choice and it was now 4-2. In their fifth they came back with a run when Sinks slashed his second double and scored on a single by Gerty. Eric gave up two more walks to fill the bases but escaped further trouble. We moved into the sixth with a four to three lead. In our sixth Mike Harmon walked but was thrown out attempting to lead off third in a questionable call and we did not score. In their sixth Eric gave up another double, this one to Kendall, and he did not score. In our seventh we got some insurance runs when Fred Palenske gained life on an error, Steve Dodson walked and Kipp Noe was plunked by a bad pitch. Ricky Taylor, continuing a hot hand on the bat, punched a singled into center field to score two runs - Steve Dodson and Kipp Noe being plated and we took a 6-3 lead. In their seventh Eric gave up two walks around an error but we were fortunate to hold them and they did not score and we ended the game winning 6-3. Eric Alejos picked up his second ACE victory against two losses and we won our 22 game against 10 losses. We had but 7 hits in all. Davey Lord had two, Ricky Taylor had three big ones, and we had one each by Fred Palenske and Eric Alejos.

### GAME THIRTY-THREE

Game thirty-three, a very important game, played at Eisenhower Field in Kansas City, we met the the Kansas City American Legion Post 199 team in a game that was cancelled earlier in the season as the second half of a doubleheader in Topeka due to the length of the game played by the Lobos and Kansas City Jayhawks before us.

We sent Davey Lord to the hill to hold the Legionnaires against the righthanded slants of Daniels for the Kansas City Club. In our first inning



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we threatened early when Davey Lord singled, moved to second on a single by Fred Palenske and a walk given to Steve Dodson to load the bases but we did not deliver - no scores. In their half of the first Sostarich doubled off Davey but he was left stranded. In our second we again threatened when walks were again issued to Kipp Noe, Mike Harmon and Mike Griffiths but we left the bases loaded as could not score, giving us a total of six LOB's in the first two innings. In their second Davey really went to work and set the first three hitters down all on strikes. In our third Fred Palenske gained life on an error by their shortstop. Ricky Taylor walked and both runners moved around on a passed ball. Todd Bohannon then shot a single past second base scoring Fred and Ricky and we enjoyed a 2-0 lead. In their third Davey gave up a pair of walks but no damage. In our fourth Davey slashed a double, moved to third on a wild pitch and scored on Steve Dodson's flyball to left. It is now 3-0. In their fourth they did their first damage when back to back singles coupled with an error gave them two runs and we were now leading precariously by 3-2. In our fifth Davey Greene punched a double into left center but we could not score him. In their fifth they tied up the contest when two singles and an infield error gave them another run. 3-3 at the end of five.

In our sixth we came roaring back when with one away Mike Griffiths singled, stole second and scored on Fred Palenske's tremendous three base smash into deep left field. Now 4-3, ACES. In the bottom of the sixth Davey gave up a tremendous triple to Daniels but he did not score. In our seventh we did not score tho we wasted another double by Davey Greene and a walk to Kipp Noe. Still ahead 4-3, Davey came into the bottom of the seventh. With one away he gave up a single to Voiles but then tightened to set down Fields and Calovich to end the game and we won 4-3. It was indeed a thriller. Davey gave up seven hits but scattered them fairly well. We had nine hits in all, three by Davey himself-one a double- two by Fred, including his big triple and two doubles by Dave Greene. One hit by Todd Bohannon and one by Mike Griffiths. This game left us in a strong position for the league title. We were now 23 and 10 overall and it gave Davey Lord his eighth



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Victory against one loss as a hurler.

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### GAME THIRTY-FOUR

We went to Emporia on the 21st of July for a doubleheader where we met the Emporia Babe Ruth All Stars. Steve Dodson went to the mound to face Miller for the Babe Ruthers. In our first inning Dave Lord was able to slash a long single into left field but he did not score. In their first inning Bolz doubled and scored on a triple by Warner and it was soon 1-0 Emporia. We did nothing in our second going down in order 1-2-3. In their second inning Steve issued two walks but escaped by striking out the last two hitters and the score remained 1-0. In our third inning we went to work. Kipp Noe led off with a single followed by a free pass issued to Rick Taylor. Mike Harmon loaded the bases on a walk, Mike Griffiths blistered a two base flash into the left centerfield gap scoring all three runs. Davey Lord walked, scored on Fred Palenske's long double to give us four big tallies. The score was now 4-1. Steve had no trouble in their third tho an error put one man on. In our fourth we wasted a singled by Kipp Noe, the second hit of the evening, and a walk issued to Mike Harmon. We did not score. In their fourth, Steve put them down in order. In our fifth Davey Lord doubled and scored on an error of a ground-ball slashed by Fred Palenske. Fred scored later on a single by Davey Greene and to top off the scoring, Todd Bohannon hit a long, high double into right center to score Davey Greene and we had three more tallies and a commanding 7-1 lead. Steve struck out the side in the fifth, and for that matter we had no more trouble the remainder of the game and the game ended 7-1. Steve picked up his 8th victory against two losses and we had our 24th win against 10 losses. Our hitting was distributed among seven hitters - two each by Davey Lord, one a double, and Kipp Noe, and one each by Griffiths, Palenske, Greene, and Bohannon.

### GAME THIRTY-FIVE

Game thirty-five, the second game of a doubleheader, we started and finished with Brett Holtom our curveballing right hander, facing Torres for Emporia. In our first inning as the visitors we quickly scrambled for activity but did not score..



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Mike Harmon singled, Davey Lord walked but we forced one run and another runner, Harmon, thrown out. Steve Dodson singled but we ended with no runs. In their first Brett Holtom, our right hander, struck out the first two but gave up back to back hits to Holland and Werner, Werner's being a double to drive in the go ahead run. 1-0 at this point. In our second we came back, Todd Bohannon bolting out a double, Kipp Noe walking and Holtom filling the bases with a walk. Harmon and Griffiths went down but Dave Lord's grounder escaped their shortstop on an error and we scored the tying run in the person of Bohannon. In their second Brett set them down in order striking out all three batters. In our third Steve led off with his second hit of the evening, Eric Alejos flew out, Steve attempted to steal third after having stole second and was thrown out. Bohannon flew out to their first baseman - no runs and the score remained 1-1. Brett set them down in order tho an error put a man on, he was thrown out attempting to steal second by our catcher Steve Dodson. In our fourth we broke the tie when a walk was issued to Kipp Noe. Brett Holtom singled him around to third and Kipp scored on a flyball to the outfield on which he tagged up - 2 to 1 the ACES.

Brett had no trouble in the fourth tho he gave up one walk. In our fifth we added insurance when Fred Palenske singled followed by still another single by Todd and Steve Dodson - Steve's being his third of the evening and we now led by the score of 3-1. Brett continued to have no problems the remainder of the game and we won finally by the score of 3-1 tho we earned only eight base hits. They were divided among three by Steve Dodson, two by Todd Bohannon, one each by Brett Holtom, Mike Harmon and Fred Palenske. It was our 25th victory opposed to 10 losses and Brett Holtom's second victory against two setbacks.

### GAME THIRTY-SIX

Game thirty-six witnessed Kansas City Auto Parts coming from Kansas City, Missouri, in a doubleheader on the 23rd of July at Ripley Park. We assigned big Eric Alejos to the hill and we were opposed by right hander Dietrich for Kansas



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City Auto Parts. The visitors offered a one baser in their half of the first but no runs; as a matter of fact the one baser, the leadoff man Harris gleaned the only hit of the game off Eric at that time. Meanwhile, our big guns were unloading starting in the initial stanza with four biggies on five solid blows. It went this way: Mike Harmon led off with a walk, Mike Griffiths pumped a single up the middle, Davey Lord jumped on a drive to left for a base hit, scoring Mike Harmon. After Fred Palenske bounced out to the pitcher, Steve Dodson unleashed a shot to left scoring Griffiths and moving Lord to third. After Bohannon's striking out, Eric Alejos, our pitcher, slashed to right a base hit followed by Kipp Noe's bunt over second base to give us the four tallies. Eric continued to mow down our opposition, 1-2-3- the remainder of the game. While he was doing such we continued to amass more runs. In our second inning Mike Griffiths' single followed by Davey Lord's single went for naught as we abandoned them on the sacks. In the third inning we did something similar by leaving Kipp Noe, who had arrived at first on an error, and the walking Rick Taylor. In our fourth we came up with two more runs on three hits as Mike Griffiths laid down his third consecutive base hit followed by Davey Lord's third consecutive base hit. Fred Palenske pumped out first single of the evening and later Eric Alejos walked and before the fun fest was completed we had two more runs and a 6-0 lead. In our fifth we had more activity as Rick Taylor gained life on an error followed by Mike Harmon's one base blow and Davey Lord's fourth consecutive hit, a walk issued to Fred Palenske and Steve Dodson added to it and it was now 7-0. In our sixth inning Eric Alejos gained life on an error, went to third on Kipp Noe's second hit of the evening and both scored on Ricky Taylor's double into right center. Whereupon Mike Harmon popped a triple to score Taylor and we now enjoyed a 10-0 lead. Eric of course setting our opponents down in the seventh with no problems, we won the game 10-0, a one hitter - a sparkling one by Eric Alejos - giving him his third victory as an ACE and our 26th win against 10 losses. We had 16 hits in all, four by Davey Lord, three by Mike Griffiths, two each by Mike Harmon, Eric Alejos, Kipp Noe and one by Steve Dodson, Fred Palenske and Rick Taylor. It was indeed a fun game for us.



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### GAME THIRTY-SEVEN

The second half of the DH was of course against Kansas City Auto Parts and we pitched Davey Greene, our curveballing right hander against their Osborn another right hander. Davey nearly duplicated Eric's masterpiece by holding the Hornets to four scattered hits and two runs while we were held somewhat more closely in our attack tho we did score 4 runs and winning the game 4-2. In their first they got a single but no runs. In our first we started quickly when Mike Harmon singled and scored later on a single by Davey Lord. In their second they came up with the two runs they were to score for the game when a double, a walk and a two RBI single plated two runs. We quickly tied up the game in our second when Dave Greene singled, came around to third on an error and came across on Mike Harmon's straight hit 2-2. In their third they did nothing other than a harmless single with two away. In our third we grabbed still another run when Davey Lord drew breath as a result of an error, moved to third on Fred Palenske's single, followed by Steve Dodson base on balls and Brett Holtom's run producing single and it was now three to two ACES. They did nothing in their fourth, but in our half Rick Taylor singled, Mike Harmon walked, Mike Griffiths singled and we had a chance to score, tho we left the bases loaded. In their fifth a walk marred an otherwise perfect 1-2-3 inning. In our fifth we scored again when Steve was plunked by a pitched ball, moved to second on a single by Holtom, to third on a passed ball and scored later after two walks and a wild pitch. It was now 4-2 in favor of the ACES. Davey Greene had no trouble in the sixth tho he gave up a walk and in the seventh he set them down in order; we had a walk to Steve again, his third of the evening, in the sixth and we won finally 4-2. It was Dave Greene's second victory against one loss and our 27th win against 10 losses. We ~~won~~ the doubleheader. We had nine hits in all, two by Mike Harmon, two by Brett Holtom and one each by Griffiths, Lord, Palenske, Greene and Taylor.



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

### GAME THIRTY-EIGHT

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On the 25th of July we journey to Kansas City, Eisenhower Field, where we met the Kansas City Elliott Arms with but a half-game lead over the Elliott Arms, obviously this doubleheader was 2 extremely important games to us. A split would leave us where we were, a double victory would pretty well assure us first place, a double loss would put us in serious plight.

We threw Brett Holtom, our right hander, the first game against their McMahan, a long time nemesis for our ACES. The game began quickly with both pitchers performing expertly. We did nothing in our first, Brett suffered a walk but that was all in their half. In our second we broke ice when with two away Brett Holtom singled, stole second, stole third and came across on an error of Bohannon's groundball. In their half of the first they scared us but did not score as they had two base on balls. Brett tightened and got them out. In our third we made a good attempt but could not take advantage. Kipp Noe singled but was doubled up on a groundball double play by Ricky Taylor. Mike Harmon then unloaded a long triple into deep right center field, but to no avail and did not score.

In their half of the third trouble began. With one away Brett walked Lindblad, Pierce singled followed by error that went through Bohannon's legs and both runners scored. Kirby singled followed by Marquard's single, a wild pitch and an error and before we could take a breath three runs had crossed the plate and we were now trailing 3-1. In our fourth we began to peck away and we scored one when Davey Lord doubled, moved to third on the error of Fred Palenske's ball and scored on Steve Dodson's single and Todd Bohannon finished the threat with a walk but one was the most we could get. In their half of the fourth Clements singled but was left stranded as we had a sparkling doubleplay from Lord to Moe to Palenske. In our fifth we went down in order. In their fifth Brett gave up a single to Pierce and a walk to Kirby but no runs scored. In our sixth we wasted a long double by Fred Palenske as we could not score him. In their sixth they went down in order though Mathews had walked we got him on our second doubleplay of the evening.