

Newell-Williamson, Charles Town- Huntington in Semi-Finals

Errors Eliminate St. Albans In First Round by 7-5 Tally

*Jude, Zombro Win in Three-Hitters;
Charles Town Rally Nips R-W in 7th*

By George Holbrook

STARS once fell on Alabama but ol' Doug Greenlee's Huntington Central Pony Express (loyal amigos) pounced upon St. Albans' Red Dragons Thursday night and kicked the Kanawha county entry into the grandstand for its usual observation point for the conclusion of the fourth annual state high school baseball derby at Kanawha park.

Favored by the weatherman for the first time, the tournament clicked off its four opening round games in jig time Thursday afternoon and night and bobs up with Friday night's semi-finals with one of those promoter's "naturals"—unbeaten vs. unbeaten.

If a magnet such as that doesn't jam the ball yard then that thing called the New Look is here to stay, boys.

As Matchmakers Russ Parsons and Bill Fugitt open the doors at 7 p. m. this evening, Johnny Robinson's Wells Wonders from Little Newell 'way up nawth will meet not-so-Terrible Tony Gentile's Williamson Wolfpack. Newell has won 15 straight victories without a blemish while Tony's touted trumpeters hurdled their 13th here yesterday and will be reaching for No. 14.

In the second semi-final contest, Huntington Central, which didn't have to but did eliminate St. Albans, 7-5, clashes with Charles Town's Bulldogs, coached by the former WVU Mountaineer, Zip Lorenz, at about 9 p. m.

It took from 1:30 until 11 p. m. Thursday to determine that lineup but, overlooking St. Albans' sad plight, it looks like the 1948 state champion and successor to Wellsburg high will be a deserving one.

Thursday's two sessions, which drew approximately 1,000 persons combined, produced both good and bad baseball for a half-dozen major league scouts representing the Cardinals, Dodgers, Athletics, White Sox, Braves and Cubs but the efficiency wasn't quite up to state tourney calibre. There were a total of 38 runs scored on 44 hits and 27 errors.

In order, Newell blanked Beckley, 2-0, in the lid-lifted, Williamson trounced St. Marys, 7-1, in the most decisive contest, Charles Town staged one of those Ozark Ike windups to get the nod over a disappointed Clarksburg Roosevelt-Wilson nine, 10-6, and Huntington put the skids under Eddie Bartrug's excited Red Dragons, 7-5, in the finale.

with the best pitching performance, so important in a short tournament.

The lad's name is Stan Franczek and the fact that many Wells fans said the mate playing shortstop was just as good would throw strong support toward Newell making good on its printed assertions. He is Dick Dunlevy who is unbeaten in eight games and the Greenies' probable hurler this p. m.

It was simple for Franczek who ironically gave up five blows to four for the loser. Lefty Carl Legurski of Coach Larry Wiseman's Beckley brigade. Franny also whiffed seven Beckleyans.

A single tally in the first frame was sufficient. Bob Höffer, Beckley keystone, booted Jack Durham's grounder. Jackie was forced at second by Ron Eckleberry who took second after a foul fly that was caught by "Jeep" Lilly and scored on Husky Ron Stevens' hopping single to third. Singles by Del Jividen and Frank Gibas produced Wells' second tally in the fourth. The game was perhaps the best played of Thursday's four.

Locally, sentiment naturally was with St. Albans, even though the Dragons had bowed to East Bank in the Kanawha Valley conference race. A bad case of fumbleitis and wild throwing in the initial round let in five unearned Huntington runs and the Dragons, try as they did, never could quite close the gap.

Huntington scored its first five runs on one hit, four errors and three walks issued by Starter Bob

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Evidenced by the only white-wash job, Newell, which drove down here in a car bedecked with a sign reading "Headed for the state championship," was favored

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Dunlap and Jim Samples who relieved with two out in the first only to turn the mound chores back over to Dunlap at the start of the fourth after the latter had switched to right field temporarily.

Plenty of Dragon runners hit the hassocks in the third, fourth and fifth frames and five of them scored but Don Whitmore, who relieved Dave Caldwell in the fifth, took the last eight men in order. Samples' pair of hits led the S. A. attack.

The night session's first tilt was the most exciting and made spectators out of Coach Sam Mazzei and his Roosevelt-Wilson Presidents from Clarksburg.

A nimble elboweer named Melvin Zombro, who used a "calisthenic" windup, was made to suffer for six rounds as his Charles Town mates from the far eastern panhandle supplied porous support and at the end of four rounds, R. W. led by a "safe" 6-3 margin.

This was protected by Irish Chuck Kelly going into the top of the seventh when the Bulldogs batted around and nicked home plate seven times with the assistance of four base whacks and two enemy miscues.

The tying run (Mr. Zombro) roared in under the protest of Coach Mazzei who by that time, was stunned no less, but Umpire Johnny Howell flagged the runner safe.

Zombro, the happy winner, nevertheless had caught a lot of eyes by his fine stick work which left him the first day's outstanding batter. He pickled four-for-four, including a triple, and scored twice. On top of that, he allowed only three hits.

Gaston Jude, the strong-armed Williamson ace with the name of a French magician, was just as much of a puzzle to Les Ingram's St. Marys team which lacked both the fire power and ramparts to stop the Wolfpack which is the only club in the 1947 tourney to return.

Jude appeared to be coasting at times after an early 5-0 lead and the veteran Gentile may become the first southern mentor to capture the state diamond title.

Six St. Marys errors added to Jude's comfort. Bob Stultz got three of Williamson's nine hits off young Ted Cummings and Jude and Ken Stollings each maced a couple.

The championship contest is scheduled Saturday at 7:30 p. m.

—The Romans introduced the bagpipe into Scotland at the time of their invasion.