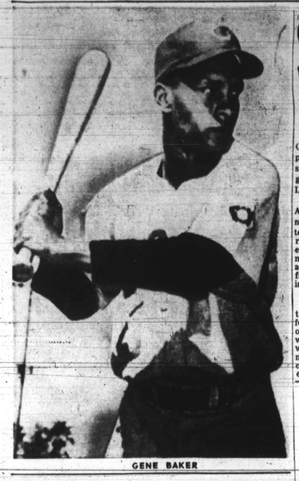
# Gene Baker to join 'Chi' Cubs Sept. 14



GENE BAKER

By SAM LACY

NEW YORK — The Chicago Cubs on Tuesday announced the purchase of the contract of shortstop Gene Baker from Los Angeles of the Pacific Coast League.

The 28-year-old former Negro American League will join his new mates at Chicago on September 14, manager Phil Cavarretta told the AFRO Tuesday afternoon. "We will have 11 remaining games on our schedule at that time." Cavarretta said further, "and Baker will be used in them."

**First For Cubs**

Gene thus becomes the first tan player to don a Cubs uniform. He spent the better part of the spring training period with the club at Mesa, Ariz, but was given little opportunity to make good. It was this fact that caused the writer to file several stories that were critical of the treatment accorded him. In each was a strong hint that Cavarretta and general manager Wid Matthews were not altogether impartial.

Whenever he was used in an exhibition game, Baker fielded well and proved himself adequate at bat, invariably, though, all questioning by the writers was dismissed by the Chicago brass with the assertion: "He's not ready."

**Cited "Weaknesses"**

Pressed for a more detailed explanation in the spring, and reminded that neither Roy Smalley, Tommy Brown nor Eddie Miksis had filled the job satisfactorily over the past four years Cavarretta declared:

"He has trouble making the play from deep short. When he learns to do that, he won't have any trouble in the field. His arm isn't strong but he gets the ball away quickly, and that helps."

Commenting Tuesday, the Cub pilot reviewed what he had said earlier, and added:

**Improvement Noted**

"When we had him at Mesa, he showed the need for improvement in his hitting. From what I hear now, he has come along tremendously.

"If Baker can play up here, I want him. I don't care about a man's color. If he's good enough for the big leagues, I want him."

**That's what the man said.**

Efforts to contact Matthews were unavailaing. He left the team here Monday night to return to Chicago.

**Writer Polls PCL Managers**

Following the AFRO conversation with Cavaretta, Jim Enright, a Chicago baseball writer traveling with the team, revealed that he had polled the Pacific Coast League managers on Baker's qualifications.

"Every single one of those queried," said Enright, "expressed the belief that he is ready. I didn't poll Hack (Stan Hack, Los Angeles manager) for obvious reasons. He's in the Cub organization and if I had questioned him on the matter, I'd be putting him on the spot."

It is known that Chicago fans have long wanted to see colored players with the Cubs, especially since Jackie Robinson became a Brooklyn Dodger star in 1947, and Minnie Minoso doing so consistently well across town with the White Sox.

**Formerly With Monarchs**

Baker, a native and still a resident of Davenport, Iowa, was 28 years old last June 15. He bats and throws right handed, is six feet one inch tall and weighs 155. He was in military service from 1943 to 1946 and played with the Kansas City Monarchs in 1948 and 1949.

Baker go into the Los Angeles lineup on July 8, 1950, and never left it until August 31, 1952, when he was taken out for a rest, a Los Angeles record of 420 consecutive games.

According to the latest official figures, Baker had played in 128 games, had a batting average of .287, including eighteen home runs, of which two were grand slams. He had batted in eighty-eight runs.

## Mid-Atlantic open scheduled at Carroll

Under the sponsorship of the Monumental Golf Club, the 15th Mid-Atlantic Open will be held at Carroll Park for three days beginning Saturday.

As an added attraction, Ted Rhodes and Bill Spiller will play Walter Stewart and Clyde Martin in an exhibition.

The Mid-Atlantic Open will feature four flights for men and three for women.

## Lucky Strikes . . . by JOE BLACK

Charlie Dressen is a great one for making predictions, and he's usually right about them. At spring training this year he predicted that the Dodgers would accomplish three specific feats. One prediction was that we would win a hundred or more games this year. Another was that we would win the pennant again, and the last was that we would finally win a World Series.

The last National League team to win a hundred or more games was the St. Louis Cardinals in 1945. They won 105 games to win the pennant. So far, we have a good chance of turning the trick.

If we can win the pennant again this year, it will be the first time in modern baseball history that a Dodger team has won two straight pennants. If—and this is another big "IF"—we can go on to win the World Series, we will be the first Dodger team ever to win a World Series. And don't think Mr. Dressen doesn't want to make a little history this year!

Dressen is a determined man. He set his sights on these three goals and he has gone all out to reach them. He's just as determined about the cigarette he smokes, too. He's a Lucky Strike smoker, and here's what he says about 'em: "There's only one thing I want in a cigarette, and that's a taste I can really enjoy. As far as I'm concerned Luckies taste better—a lot better!" So, friends, try a carton of Luckies and see for yourself. Be Happy—Go Lucky . . . today!

## Shoulder injury sidelines Minoso; Boyd takes over

CHICAGO (ANP) — A sore shoulder has sidelined the Chicago White Sox' leading hitter, Orestes (Minnie) Minoso.

Bob Boyd has replaced Minnie In leftfield. Minoso said the shoulder injury has been bothering him for several weeks.

The injury occurred in Washington last July on a base sliding play in a game with the Washington Senators. It has been plaguing him off and on since. This noted in the marked decline in his batting average which dropped from .325 to .315 within the past few days. Before the injury Minoso was one of the hottest hitters in the league.

The graveness of Minoso's shoulder ailment is reflected in the Sox present league standing, and may well throttle the club in the hot League race. The Palo Honers are missing Minnie's valuable clutch hitting. The outfielder's drive for the American League batting championship may also suffer as a result.

In five times at bat in Sunday's doubleheader with the New York Yankees, he got only one hit.

"My left should hurt me very much," said Minnie referring to the game Sunday. "The last time I came to bat in the first game (Sunday) my arm pained badly when I swung. I don't know, but I might miss a couple of games until my arm is well again."

**Praises Club Spirit**

Minoso was high in his praise of the White Sox and expressed optimism in the club's chances in the American League race.

"We fight all the time," he explained. "We don't give up until the game is over."

Regarding his relationship with the other members of the club, Minoso answered with a smile and one word—"good."

He reportedly received radiation treatment for the arm ailment here Monday.

## Baseball aces show class

Four colored pitchers hurled their way to victory over the Aug. 29-30 weekend.

Ruben Gomez of the New York Giants whipped the second place Milwaukee Braves and Joe Black of the leading Brooklyn Dodgers halted the Cincinnati Redlegs in the National league, and Dave Hoskins of the Cleveland Indians halted the Boston Red Sox, and Connie Johnson of the Chicago White Sox defeated the Red Sox.

**Wilson On Top**

In the minor leagues, Artie Wilson of the Seattle Raniers is third in the Pacific Coast league in batting with an average of .339 but Tom Wilson of the San Diego Padres, batting only .281 is considered the PCL's top major league prospect. President Bill Starr of the Padres values him at $100,000.

Among the other top youthful prospects in this loop are shortstop Gene Baker of the Los Angeles Angels and lefty Johnnie Heard of the Portland Beavers.

Alston is 21 years old and needs more finesse around first base before being moved up to big time baseball.

Ed Amoros of the Montreal Royals is the batting leader of the International league with an average of .339. Bob Trice is the league's winningest hurler with 19 victories against nine defeats.

Vic Power of the Kansas City Blues continues to top the American Association with a .353 batting mark. Bob Wilson of the St. Paul Saints is third with a .330 average. Sam Jethroe of the Toledo Braves leads the league in runs scored with 125. He is clubbing the ball with a .315 average and has pounded out 27 home runs.

San Antonio gave catcher Charley White a night, awarding him an automobile. Bus Clarkson, hitting .330, and Willard Brown, batting .316, are leading the Dallas Eagles a sure first place finish in the pennant race.

## Jethroe aims for return to majors

TOLEDO, O. (ANP)—Outfielder Sam Jethroe of the Toledo Sox strengthened his bid for All-star honors and most valuable player consideration with hitting spurees last week that increased his average from .306 to .322.

Jethroe, on option from the Milwaukee Braves, standout all-around play with the local American Association club, may earn him a much-desired major league fling next season.

Outstanding defensively with glittering catches from his centerfield position, Jethroe may have overcome his greatest weakness displayed during his three-year stint in the majors. With Boston in the National league, Jethroe was frequently guilty of glaring misplays in the outfield.

Jethroe is Toledo's leading hitter and has stroked 27 home runs, 9 triples and 27 doubles. Only Luis Marquez, like Jethroe, on Braves, had driven in more runs than Sam. Marquez, who has contributed defensive games in outfield, has sent 74 runners across the plate.

## Clowns, All-Stars play in Salisbury

The Indianapolis Clowns, who Saturday begin a tour with the All-Stars on Saturday, will play a Labor Day game with the All-Stars at Salisbury, Md.

The Clowns and All-Stars meet in Salisbury, Monday afternoon, then swing over to Milford, Delaware for a night contest.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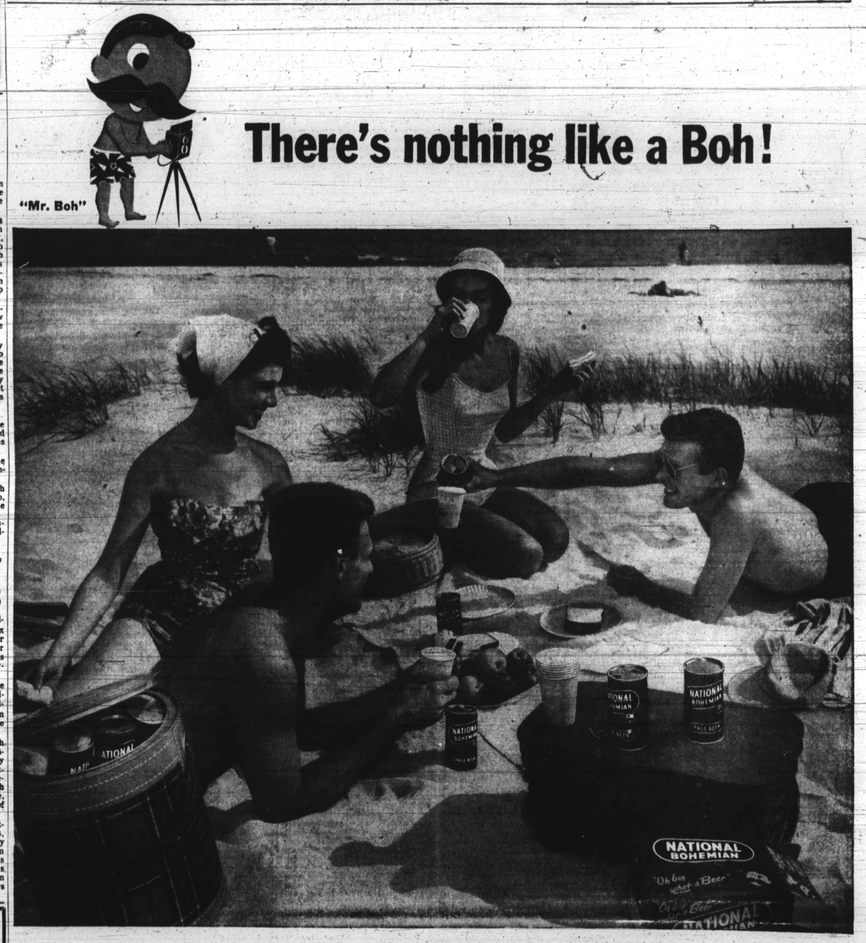


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JIM PENDLETON

## Rookies steal week's show

### Gomez, Pendleton thrill NL fans

NEW YORK — Two freshman National League performers, pitcher Ruben Gomez of the New York Giants and utility star Jim Pendleton of the Milwaukee Braves, stole the spotlight from their older teammates here Wednesday, each leading his team to hard-fought victory.

Gomez, the Puerto Rican screwball artist, wrapped up his 13th win of the season against seven losses in whipping the Cincinnati Reds, 4-3, in an afternoon contest at the Polo Grounds, scattered eight alien hits over the route and whiffing six.

**4 Hits Includes Homer**

Pendleton collected four hits, a home-run double and two singles, to pace the second-place Braves in their one-from-behind, 9-8 triumph over the league leading Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field, the same night.

Given a 3-0 lead in the first inning of his test with the Reds, Gomez hurled smoothly until the ninth when he ran into a precarious situation. Ted Kluszewski singled to open the frame and was propelled the rest of the way when the ever-dangerous Willard Marshall clouted his 16th homer of the season.

**Settles Down**

When his margin thus suddenly reduced from 4-1 to 4-3, the slim righthander settled down to the issue at hand. He eliminated Jim Greengrass on an easy infield roller, fanned Andy Seminick, and made Bob Borkowski, batting for Rocky Bridges, to pop up.

A few hours later, in Flatbush, with the Brooks ahead, 7-2, with the aid of homers by Billy Cox and Roy Campanella, the Braves put on a spurt that carried them to the win. Pendleton was the key man in the rally.

Jim slammed a three-run homer in the top of the fourth to close the gap to 7-5, it coming off Joe Black who had relieved Jim Hughes the inning before.

**Fourth In 3 Days**

Two frames later, Pendleton delivered the Braves' insurance tally with a single to center.

Pendleton, sent to the Braves by the Dodgers in the midwinter deal that netted Russ Meyer, has been used by manager Charley Grimm in a utility role all season. He has replaced leftfielder Sid Gordon at times has filled in for shortstop Johnny Logan, and on this occasion was playing in place of Andy Pafko in right field.

His circuit smash was the fourth in three days. Two nights earlier, Pendleton contributed three round-trippers in a wild display of slugging that gave Milwaukee a record in home-runs by one team in a game—LACY.

## Monarchs, Barons play here Sept. 15

The famed Kansas City Monarchs, long time champions of the NAL and popular with baseball fans everywhere, are listed for a game in Baltimore, on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

The Monarchs who next week swing this way for a tour of the East will meet the Birmingham Black Barons in a night game at Westport Park on Sept. 15th. The Flynn Nesbits, a crack acrobatic team from Washington, D. C., will entertain between innings.


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## Recreation News

The Little League movement has come in for much comment over the past several weeks and many persons with whom I have contact have asked me my reaction to the varied opinions.

I think the answer given by a college classmate when asked what he thought of the Christian religion, is an excellent summation of my feelings in the present controversy. The classmate was of Chinese origin. This is the way he phrased his reply:

"We Chinese love the Christian religion as you teach and preach it, but we hate it as you practice and live it."

The American public is rabidly sports conscious and constantly bent on winning.

Regardless to what we might think, this is no good for the youngster. To me, the Little League is like a whole class in school skipping grades one after the other. They miss something along the road.

**Too Many Weakness**

I surely agree that the sports is good for the youngsters but there are too many weaknesses. First, foremost and of the most vital importance is that too many work with and for too few.

Theologians tell me that to be of great good a thing must be lasting. At the age of thirteen, in most communities, a Little Leaguer has no more wares to sell and is soon forgotten. We must always leave the youngsters with something to look forward to and enjoy.

It has been wisely stated that "the little ships stay close to shore — bigger ships they venture far." That is why it seems all out of proportion when these little tots, twelve years of age and under, are paraded to the station in their home town through lines of admiring hometown folk led by the local band and big wigs, travel first class to some far distant city and are met by cheering throngs, and again led by brass bands and big wigs, paraded to the finest hotels.

Then they play under pressure equal to big leaguers, which I believe is far too great for their delicate nervous system.

**Normal Growth Urged**

It is my opinion that these youngsters should be allowed to mature normally, but backed by our unpredictable adult public the Little League is like the Hot House plant under forced growth whose blossoms soon fade.

Good common sense decrees that we should take more time to produce a healthier growth. So I say let them travel from playground to playground, or to the neighboring town two or three miles away, and make sure that it is just a part of the normal recreation program.

When they have completed playing as midgets they can advance to a junior circuit and so on step by step until they are well rounded seniors.

There are many other dangers agreed upon by our leading physical educators such as commercialism, exploitation, excessive physical and emotional strain, plus the excitement, confusion and frustration of many communities long before the occasin should warrant it.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS N.S.T.A.—Class A—Joe Graves, Detroit; Class B—Dr. H. B. Hollis, Detroit; Class C—Dr. Frank Saubders, Baltimore; Dr. L. R. Dabbs, St. Louis; Class E—Nathaniel Dixon, St. Louis. The above gunmen will be out to retain their coveted honors at the Shoot to be held at the Falcon Rod & Gun Club Grounds at Waterloo, Md., Sunday and Monday, Sept. 6 & 7.

## National skeet meet held at Falcon Rod, Gun Club

The Falcon Rod and Gun Club is host to its fellow members of the National Skeet and Trap-shooting Association, Sept. 5-7, as the 3rd National Championship Trap and Skeet Shoot starts on the home grounds at Waterloo, Md.

Sportsmen from various eastern and midwestern states will appear to shoot for the various prizes.

On Saturday, the skeet shooting will be held with 100 targets. A championship trophy and brassard will be given to the winner.

Sunday morning at 9 a.m., the singles, with 100 targets begins. Championship and brassard will be given to classes AA, A, B, C, D, and E.

**Women's Championship**

At 3 p.m., Sunday, the doubles take off with 25 pairs and at the same time the woman's championship shoot with 25 targets.

The handicap shoot with 100 targets is the first item at 9 a.m. Monday and at 3 p.m. the team shoot with East and West shooting qualifying on 25 targets.

Added trophies and brassards include the Hi-Gun, for total on 16 yards and handicap, the Ho-Over-All, for total of 16 years, handicap and doubles; and the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, for all-round, with a 16-yard handicap, doubles and skeet.

**Dinner At Morgan**

On Sunday, Sept. 6, a dinner will be held for the guests of the National Association at 8:30 p.m. in the Morgan State college Refectory.

Sheduled business meetings include the Comittee on By-Laws, Mr. Walter E. Turner, Arbutus, Md., chairman: 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5 in the Falcon Gun Club clubhouse.

The Committee on Classification, Dr. H. E. Clark, Cincinnati, Ohio, chairman, meets also at the same time in the clubhouse.

The adoption of by-laws and election of officers will be held during the dinner meeting Sunday.

Officers of the NSTA include Leyton Weston, president; Dr. E. B. Wetmore, vice-president; C. E. Sampson, secretary; Dr. S. L. Carson, treasurer and John H. Murphy Jr., chairman.

## Johnson tops Sox on four hits

CHICAGO (ANP)—Thanks to a one-pitch relief job and a triple by rookie Connie Johnson, he stched the Chicago White Sox to a 5-to 1 victory, Saturday, over the Boston Red Sox.

In eight full innings Johnson struck out eight men, including the great Ted Williams, and gave up only four hits as he outdueled Mel Parnell, a 17-game winner in 90-degree temperature.

**15,000 See Game**

Johnson weakened in the ninth, giving up a hit and a walk, and had to be relieved by the Chicago ace, Virgil Fire) Trucks. Trucks in two pitches retired the side on a triple play to preserve Johnson's victory.

Connie now has a 2-3 pitching record for the season. A crowd of 15,253 fans came out to see the game.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**

A trustee's sale of a brick dwelling at 1203 Ashburton st., will be sold on Sept. 15 at 3 p.m. Subject to an annual ground rent of $96 the property will be sold with a deposit of $300.


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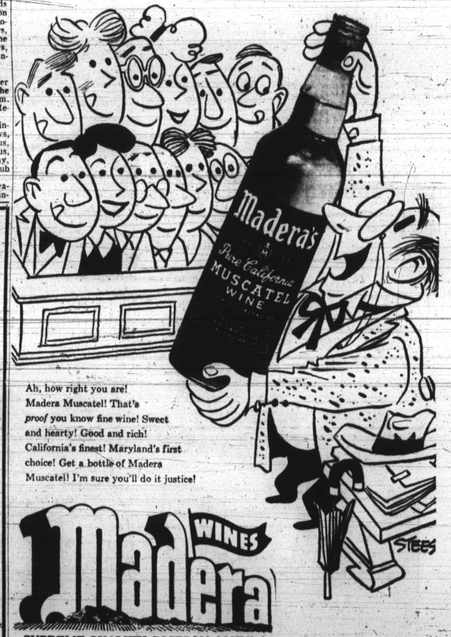


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