

GOLDEN TORNADOES WIN EASTERN SOFTBALL TITLE

Long Island Club Runner-Up for Second Year in Row

— By Emerson Romero —

Manager, Long Island Club of the Deaf Softball Team

(Editor's Notes: The bawling infant the EAAD spanked so lustily into life last year at Hartford, Conn., has in one short year attained maturity. The softball tournament sponsored by the EAAD is no longer an experiment. It is definitely a successful promotion, thanks to the Hartford Club of the Deaf last year and to the live-wire bunch in the North Jersey Silent Club of Paterson, N.J., which put over this second tournament.

Rocco Di Napoli of Clifton, N.J., who, while president of the EAAD, started the ball rolling for the establishment of the annual softball meet of the EAAD, did yeoman work as general chairman of the second annual edition for the Paterson club and came in for high praise from visiting teams. A net profit of some \$1,000 was realized for the host club. This was possible because of the fine cooperation given his committee by the Paterson Evening News and the City of Paterson.)

Amid perfect weather conditions, the youthful players of the Golden Tornadoes Athletic Club of New York City battled every inch of their way to the finals in the second annual softball tournament of the Eastern Athletic Association of the Deaf, held at Paterson, N.J., on August 23-21, 1952, and soundly trounced the more experienced players of the Long Island Club of the Deaf by a score of 6-2, to become the champions.

The Tornadoes played a smart game and although outhit, 6 to 1, their daring base running brought them the desired results. Jim Lorello was a human tornado all by himself, getting three walks and stealing bases like a scared jackrabbit. The three runs he scored were enough to win the game.

Allie Sussman, now a student at Gallaudet College, the Tornadoes' new right-hander, pitched a heady game and his change of pace had the Long Island sluggers swinging at his tantalizing slow balls with devastating results.

For the Long Island boys, it was almost a repetition of last year's tournament. After slugging their way through the preliminaries, their heretofore potent bats failed them in the final game and their defense went to pieces. In their anxiety to slug the ball over the fences, they were either popping up or sending harmless grounders to the infield, Myron LoMonaco, the star south-paw of the Long Island team, pitched a whale of a game and deserved to win. But, his mates behind him committed seven costly errors and with that went the ball game.

The Long Island boys, however, pulled two fine double plays, each time with the bases full and one out. Simon Hovancee at third base, scooped up hot grounders, threw to Charlie Goosk at the plate, who threw to George Satory covering first. The perfect, lightning fast execution of these

two double plays brought tremendous applause from the crowd in the grandstand.

Other highlights of the game were: the tight pitching duel: the daring base running of the Tornadoes, one being an attempted steal of home: Three of the four Lorello brothers playing in the game. (Carl was behind the plate, Jim was on first and Tom at short. Mike, a substitute pitcher, was on the bench; he has improved tremendously the past season and should be a starter next year.)

Before the start of the championship game, the crowd stood at attention in the grandstand and the players and officials stood on the field with heads bared while Miss Florence Thomas of Fort Lee, N.J., gracefully signed "The Star Spangled Banner." President Max Friedman of the EAAD started the game by throwing the first pitch from the mound for a perfect strike.

Short Stops

Pre-tournament predictions: The big, burly team representing West Penn. Athletic Club of the Deaf of Ambridge, was the "hot favorite" to cop the championship. Strangely, it finished with the worst record. It seems to me that the fault was with its pitcher not knowing the pitching rules. When my Long Island club met it, I noticed that its pitcher did not come to a full stop before taking one hand off the ball to throw.

I called this matter to the attention of the umpire-in-chief, who sustained my protest. He tried to show the pitcher how the rules apply. However, due perhaps to the pitcher's habit of raising both arms before pitching, he lost his effectiveness and had to be taken out as early as the second inning. Again I say: "Learn the rules." Rule 9, Section 1, of ASA rules and regulation, states: "Preliminary to pitching, the pitcher shall come to a full stop... with ball held in both hands in front of body... for not less than one second before taking one hand off the ball..."

(Mr. Romero had a lengthy article on softball rules in the June 1, 1952, edition of The AAAD Bulletin. —Ed.)

Personally, I thought the Pelicans and the Golden Tornadoes were the teams to watch. The Pelicans have one of the fastest pitchers in Fred Carter, but, unfortunately, an injury to his left arm while at work a few days prior to the tourney, rendered him unable to give his best. The Tornadoes, with their fast and hard hitting young team, became the threat.

Because of the fact that three of the all-star players of last year were unable to play, the Long Island club was not taken seriously, and was more or less the "dark horse" team. However, Rocco Di Napoli always said, "Never sell the Long Island club short."

Worcester, last year's champ, was knocked out of the tourney early. It took a drubbing from the Pelicans, 16-2

Eastern Softball Champions—Golden Tornadoes Athletic Club of New York City. Seated, left to right: Sheldon Plavsky, Allan Sussman, James Lorello, Thomas Lorello, Everett Trochelmann, Carl Lorello, Clifford Seifried, Stanley Kociuruba, Abe Israelowitz. Standing: Ralph Epstein, Seymour Barkola, Michael Lorello, Seymour Bernstein, Hugo Guidi, Herbet Rothenberg, Umberto Marinelli.

