

THE BERLIN OBSERVER

Vol. 29, No. 31

U. S. Army, Berlin

Friday, August 3, 1973

OBSERVER THOUGHT
FOR THE WEEK

"Working is a way of keeping one's
self-respect."

— anonymous

AYA Senior League excels in tournament

by John Gregg

The AYA Senior League Baseball All-Stars represented Berlin well this year by going farther than any Berlin Little League team had gone in quite a few years.

The team consisted of Richard Allen, David Aura, Billy Bourbo, Venny Gore, Mitch Hancock, Kent Jenkins, Marvin Kelker, Doug Kincaid, Steve Kincaid, Kevin Lewis, Walter Nettles, Robert Popour, Tim Sheppard and Ron Steward.

Managing this team was ISG Robert Bourbo of 287th MP Company, who had help coaching the team from SGM Lee Rowe of C.E. Division and SFC Rufus Magee also of 287th MP Company.

Double elimination

For the first round of the playoffs, Berlin traveled to Bremerhaven—site of the District Two tournament. Teams in this tournament were Bremerhaven, Bonn, Berlin and Wuerz-

burg. This also was a double elimination tourney.

On July 15 they met a strong Bremerhaven nine and after a little rough going in the early innings came from behind to win 8-5. The winning pitcher for Berlin was Doug Kincaid, Kelker, Bourbo and Nettles were hitting stars in this game.

The next day Berlin faced their toughest opponent of the tournament, Wuerzburg. The much smaller Berlin team made winning a habit by running up a 7-0 score until the top of the sixth when Wuerzburg scored one run, followed by another in the top of the seventh to make the score 7-2.

Day off

Pitcher Nettles got the win and was helped by the hitting of Steve Kincaid (3 for 4), Bourbo (3 for 4), Kelker (2 for 4), Sheppard (2 for 4), and Hancock (2 for 4).

By winning that game the Berlin

Team got Tuesday the 17th off. During this free time the Berlin team was taken on an enjoyable tour of Bremerhaven by their AYA.

On Wednesday, July 18, Berlin faced Wuerzburg, who had eliminated Bremerhaven the day before. Wuerzburg found numerous holes in the Berlin defense with six hits and six Berlin errors to defeat Berlin 8-2.

By winning, Wuerzburg forced the "if necessary game" to be played the next day. Overnight the Berlin team regrouped and were determined to give their utmost. This hustle paid off as Berlin won a trip to Wiesbaden and the Germany Playoffs by beating Wuerzburg in a dramatic 3-2 game.

Wuerzburg scored their only two runs in the bottom of the fifth. But Berlin answered with a run in the sixth, so the Berliners needed a run desperately going into the top of the seventh.

Junior League fares well, too

by John Gregg

The AYA Junior League Baseball All-Stars also made a fine showing by winning the second place trophy in the District Two tournament at Wiesbaden.

The team consisted of Andre Cameron, Arnold Coville, Michael Crew, Jeff Flournoy, Hubert Herring, Robby Hotchkiss, Kenny Kubilins, Kelly Plastridge, Willie Ross, William Sewell, Derek Tremain, Alan Ward, DeLeon Willis and Eric Ziel.

SSG Bill Matthews of Service Company managed this team and SGT Larry McCallum of 287th MP Company and Dick Miller of Pan Am were the coaches.

Entered in this tournament were Darmstadt, Rhein-

Main, Wiesbaden, Berlin and Hanau. In their first game Saturday the 21st at Wiesbaden, Berlin defeated Darmstadt 7-1 behind the two hit pitching of Cameron and an excellent defense. Cameron also hit a towering homer run, knocking in two runs this game.

On Sunday, Berlin found Wiesbaden a little too tough and lost 11-6. Eight errors didn't help Tremain and

Ziel's pitching efforts.

The next day the best performance of the tournament was turned in by the Berlin All-Stars. Herring pitched only 42 pitches and two hits as they won 2-0.

The offensive punch was supplied by Cameron with an inside-the-park home run driving in Robby Hotchkiss. The Berlin team played errorless ball paced by Flournoy on second base, Hotchkiss at shortstop and Tremain on third.

By winning Berlin earned the right to play Wiesbaden again for the Championship. Cameron started for Berlin pitching, but developed a sore arm. After two hit batters and a couple of hits, Cameron was relieved by Ziel.

The Berlin All-Stars played good ball with only two errors, but the big bats from Wiesbaden came through as they beat Berlin 8-1.

The players and coaches are to be commended on their fine performance in the 1973 playoffs.



Senior League All-Stars

Left to right, first row: Billy Bourbo, Marvin Kelker, Robert Popour. Second row: coach SGM Lee Rowe, Kevin Lewis, manager ISG Robert Bourbo, Ron Steward, coach SFC Rufus Magee. Third row: Walter Nettles, Venny Gore, Richard Allen, David Aura, Kent Jenkins, Steve Kincaid, Mitch Hancock, Doug Kincaid, Tim Sheppard.

(Photo by William Satterwhite)

Kincaid got a base on balls and Sheppard followed with a single putting two men on as Nettles stepped up to bat. Nettles smashed a triple which put Berlin ahead by a slim margin 3-2.

Two put-outs by Sheppard at short stop and a caught fly ball by Jenkins retired Wuerzburg and gave Berlin the District Two Championship.

Four teams left

The Berlin All-Stars then traveled to Wiesbaden where the Germany Senior Little League Championships were held. There were only four teams left: Berlin, Hanau, Stuttgart and Wiesbaden. This was also a double elimination tournament.

In their first game played at nine o'clock the morning of the 21st, the Berlin All-Stars, still rubbing their eyes, lost to Hanau 8-3.

Eight Berlin errors led to this defeat. Kelker, Steve Kincaid, and Bourbo were all two for four but

their hitting wasn't enough. Faced with elimination the Berlin All-Stars came back the next day and played the much bigger Stuttgart All-Stars a valiant game before bowing 9-2.

Nine Berlin errors hurt the team in this game. Popour played a fine game at shortstop, and Kincaid laid down a beautiful squeeze-play bunt to score Popour. Then Allen stole home on a passed ball by the Stuttgart catcher.

Overall the Berlin All-Stars played outstanding baseball, considering that the other teams in the tournament had many more teams in their AYAs to choose from, plus the fact that we were a much smaller team than any team we faced.

Throughout the playoffs the team could only hold their heads high and be proud of the trophy from District Two and the consolation of being at least the fourth best team in Germany for 1973.