

September 8, 1960



Sport Slant



By JIM EASTERWOOD

The cinderella story of the Military District of Washington baseball team turned into a triumph on the last day of the tournament held here at Fort Meade August 27 as a gallant band of Colonials bowed to the Fort Lee Generals, 5-2.

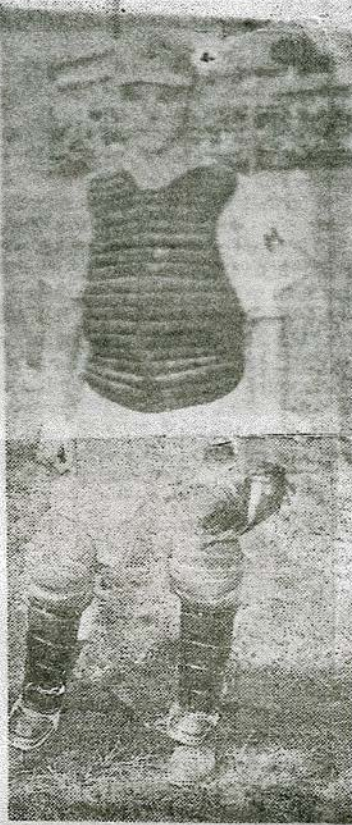
The upstart Colonials, despite the lack of the draw going against them, seemed destined to grab the 2nd Army flag when they clipped the Generals, 7-5, the night before in the double elimination meet. However, their dead game but weary pitching staff (7 games in five days) simply ran out of gas in the grand finale. This factor, plus the brilliant 2-hit pitching of Ft. Lee righthander Wayne McGee (who was fresh as a daisy) proved to be the deciding factors. "They just gave out," declared Colonial manager Melvin Pithan of his arm-weary staff. "I couldn't have asked any more of them."

Indeed he couldn't. First, there was the brilliant hurling of a converted shortstop, Tom Heflin.

With only one complete game this season under his belt, the lanky stringbean allowed only one earned run in 20 innings, whiffing 15 enemy batsmen enroute. Then came Tom Shima, the ace of the staff, who unfurled his limp limb against Lee in the championship tilt in a desperate attempt to turn the tide. He chalked up two tournament victories, lost none, and fanned a total of 27 opposing batters in 24 innings.

Southpaw Donald Betke, who drew the loss in the final game, finished the tournament with a 1-2 mark, allowing but six earned runs in 18 innings of pitching.

Actually, the woefully inept bats of the Colonials, probably best told the story of the heart-breaking defeat. As a team, MDW clubbed the pill at a terrible .192, clip, certainly not a figure destined to strike the fear of God into their opposing moundsmen.



A MAJOR LEAGUER? Numerous scouts think so of Brad McIntosh, after witnessing the cotton-topped North Carolinian perform in the 2nd Army baseball tournament at Fort Meade. The husky backstopper ripped the Army pitching at a lusty .409 clip, pounding in 8 runs and booming one circuit smash. For his heroics, the tournament officials rewarded him with the most valuable player trophy.

Only catcher Brad McIntosh, the tourney's most valuable player, was able to catch the ball with one out. McIntosh, a sixth-year senior, was named MVP with a .266 mark and 7 hits. Second baseman Bill McGinnis, the team's leading hitter at .240, panned up the Colonials' short center outgon with a post .204 average. Three starters — Pat Baker, Joe Dickerson and Jim Robinson hit less than .100.

"Sure, our hitting hurt," said Pithan, "but having to play 7 games in five days was really what killed us. The players never stopped hustling, and with a couple more days rest I believe we could have won it."

The Colonials, who wound up their season with a 14-14 record, will be away by next week, having been named as five starters and one backer Shima are due to work receive their discharge papers. Included among the regulars are McIntosh, who is slated to sign with the Senators on Sept. 18th reportedly for \$5,000, Third Sacker Mark Stout, first sacker Baker, left fielder Tom Dickerson and right-fielder Dickerson. However, Heflin, McGrann and centerfielder Mel Kiehn are slated to return next year and will form a strong nucleus. Also counted on are pitchers Betke and Dennis Bittner, a promising righthander.

So things are not too black for the MDW Colonials, who came within a breadth of upsetting the dope bucket.

The Championship Game

		R	H	E
MDW	001 000 001	2	2	2
Lee	001 300 10x	5	8	1

Betke (3) Shima (5) and McIntosh McGee and Carl Olsen.