

Card Collecting Holds Interest For 2

BY BOB LICHT

Dave Willer and "The Colton Collector" have one thing in common. They both collect baseball cards.

But there the similarity ends. Willer is a college student, while "The Colton Collector", who does not wish her name to appear in print, is a retired housewife.

Willer, who began collecting baseball cards when he was 6-years-old, presently possesses over 3,000 cards. He collects mostly for their link with his youth. However, he doesn't deny his interest in the more valuable 1967 card picturing Mike McCormick on two different teams: the Washington Senators on the front and the San Francisco

Giants on the back.

His other favorite is the 1952 Bobby Thomson card "because," he states, "it is the first card right after his famous homerun in 1951."

On the other hand, "The Colton Collector" began collecting baseball cards just three years ago. Although this may appear to be a late start for an aspiring collector, she has managed to sell enough cards over this period to purchase a new truck for her husband. The favorite cards of "The Colton Collector" are any cards printed in or before the 1950's. She refers to these cards as her "good ones."

However, baseball cards are only a part of the memorabilia of "The Colton Collector." She

attends many antique shows in hopes of acquiring old postcards, glassware and other antiques. As a matter of fact, the only reason she began collecting baseball cards was to satisfy her curiosity at an antique show.

While Willer collects baseball cards mainly for their association with his past, "The Colton Collector" looks upon this hobby as a fun method of dealing with antiques. She sells the cards not for their financial rewards, but for the excitement all her antique bargaining brings.

In the end, although baseball card collecting is generally thought to be a youngster's hobby, people at all ages do participate.

On The Sidelines

STEVE KMAC



It seems that every time I turn to the sport pages of a newspaper much of the space provided centers around the Yankee problems spearheaded by controversial Billy Martin and Reggie Jackson. Everybody has their own opinions on the situation and I'm no exception.

I would have to put myself in the same category with most New York fans in that I like Billy Martin and was disappointed over his forced resignation. Nobody can deny that he is a colorful figure, a man who provides excitement to a sport that some think lacks a lot of flare. He's a tough, rough guy who has always garnished fan support; and probably, for more than any other reason, because he wins ballgames.

When I talk to people invariably I hear the comment, "I think I'm a lot like Billy." This is no doubt because so many see in him what they would, at some time, like to be but for job security and other reasons cannot. They delight at his quickness to openly vent his frustrations at those whom he feels do him injustice. He is a fiery man who speaks what he believes, whatever it is, whether those in authority want to hear or not.

Is he right or wrong for his antics, his defiant ways and verbal attacks on those above him? When a man puts \$100,000 in your pocket for managing his ball club and you call him a "convicted liar" you're certainly asking for trouble.

But yet I sympathize with Billy Martin. The frustrations of managing millionaire ball players who don't produce yet have a direct bearing on your longevity as a coach must be a disheartening and frustrating experience. Catfish Hunter and Don Gullett make well over six million dollars between them yet they simply aren't doing the job.

And, as for Reggie Jackson, there are those who say the Yankees expected too

much from him. Again another three million dollar ball player who has trouble catching a baseball, getting along with his teammates and strikes out with disgusting regularity. Sure, at times he has produced when needed but not enough for the money he makes. Example in point: a crucial two-games series with the Red Sox and Reggie strikes out four times in the first game stranding seven runners while going hitless in both contests. Billy Martin did not pay the millions to Reggie, sweet George Steinbrenner did.

Maybe this is where some of the resentment between manager and owner lies. Billy is brash and temperamental, faults which have hurt him but are no worse than most of our own. What I admire most in the man is his

fierce competitiveness, his unrelenting desire to succeed. Will Billy Martin return to the Yankees in 1980? Financially he doesn't need the headaches of managing this problem-laden team of overpaid stars. He probably makes more money doing his Miller Lite and Yankee Beef Frank commercials than many of us do in a lifetime. And do the brass upstairs really want this controversial figure back or are they trying to appease the fans and let time heal their anger?

No, I don't think Billy Martin will be back in Yankee pinstripes in 1980. But yet I won't bet against it for a man with his determination and drive just might beat the odds one more time.

Answer to trivia question—Tommy Agee, Cleon Jones and Rod Gaspar.

Bay Arena Plans New Fight Card

ALEXANDRIA BAY—Professional boxing will return to the Municipal Arena here with a card of six bouts Saturday, Aug. 12. The event is being promoted by the Canastota Boxing Club under the sponsorship of the Alexandria Bay Youth Hockey Association.

Heading the card in a 10-round main event will be middleweight Rocky Fratto of Geneva taking on the hard-slugging Justo Ortiz of New York City. Fratto won a unanimous decision over Pablo Rodriguez of Holyoke, Mass., in his Bay debut here July 15.

A six-round semifinal will pit popular Syracusean Frank Duck against Bill White, the puncher from New Jersey.

Also, two light heavyweights with enviable records will square off in

another six-rounder. John D'Amore of Rome, whose scheduled bout with Joe Houston here in July was a last-minute cancellation, will face Ray Crump of Newark, N.J. D'Amore is undefeated in his last 14 fights. Crump has never been beaten.

In a six-round lightweight bout, Joe Phillips of Pittsfield, Mass., will tangle with another fighter from the Big Apple, Mel Boynton. Phillips eked out a tight decision over Pee Wee Stokes of New York here July 15.

In what shapes up to be a grudge match, welterweight Tyrone Phelps of New York City will again trade punches with Frankie Minningan of Rochester. Phelps won a decision over Minningan in a slugfest here last month.

Local interest is running high over the fistie fortunes of the Bay's own "Man Mountain" Leonard who made his ring debut on the previous card with a merciless first-round knockout of Alex Hunter Carr of Hartford, Conn. This time out, Man Mountain will face heavy-hitting Tryone Hollie of Brooklyn in a four-round heavyweight contest.

The night's first bout will begin at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$5, ringside seats are \$10, and seats for children under 12 are \$3. Tickets are on sale now at Northern Music in Potsdam, Dairyland Milk stores in Carthage and Gouverneur and at Bob's Tavern and The Brewery in Ogdensburg. Tickets are also available at the Pine Plains Recreation Center at Fort Drum.

Skeet-Shooting Championship Slated

ALEXANDRIA BAY—An anticipated total prize money payout of \$9000 is expected to lure some of the top guns in the east to a three-day shootout in the A. G. Thomson Memorial Skeet Shooting Championship beginning Friday, Aug. 18, at the Pine Tree Point Gun Club.

The event, originated in 1971, is named after A. Graham Thomson, founder of the Pine Tree Point Club, a prominent Bay resort owner and an avid skeet shooter.

The gun club's customary pair of skeet competitions have been combined into a single event this season, resulting in an enlarged entry list and is expected to produce higher caliber competition. The championships will start Aug. 18 at noon with 100 targets in the 410 gauge class. The first shooter in the class to shatter 100 out of 100 targets will earn \$1,000.

Shooting will start Saturday morning, Aug. 19, at 8 a.m. in the .28 gauge class. Saturday afternoon will feature .20 gauge shooting, 100 targets.

Sunday's activities will include .12 gauge shooting, starting at 8 a.m. Two-man team shooting, .12 gauge, will be held simultaneously with the individual competition.

In addition, there will be competition in the .12 gauge class for five-man teams. The top scoring team in this event will be awarded \$500. The second-place finishers will receive \$250.

Along with a liberal schedule of money prizes, the tournament will offer trophies to the high overall champion

and runner-up and to the champions in all events and classes.

Competitors will also be guests of the tournament at a cocktail party aboard a tour boat provided by Uncle Sam Boat Tours Saturday evening.

Making early reservations for the competition are several outstanding shooters, including Harry Wiltsie of Montreal, member of the Canadian Olympic team; Stanley Parker, Sammie Sutton, Damon Shangraw and Jim Bealmer. The letter four, plus tournament director Ron Thomson, will make up the host club's own five-man team.

More information may be obtained from Ron Thomson (315-462-3911 or 462-2811).

Softball Tourney Slated

A slow pitch softball tournament will be held Aug. 19-20 at the State University College at Potsdam on its No. 1 and 2 fields. The deadline for receiving entries is Aug. 16. Further information may be obtained by contacting Bob Sharlow at 265-5483.

Openings Remain For Tournament

CANTON—Entry forms for the 1978 St. Lawrence National Bank Invitational Golf Tournament are now available at all branches of the bank and at most golf pro shops in northern New York and southern Ontario.

According to tournament officials, entries are currently being received steadily and by all indications this year's field will be completed well in advance of the tourney's Sept. 9 starting date. The deadline for entries is Aug. 28 with the field being limited to the 160 players. Entrants will be notified of starting times beginning Sept. 4. The entry fee is \$15.

This year's tournament, which proceeds to go to the E.J. Noble Hospital in Gouverneur, will be divided into five flights determined by handicap with medal play in each flight. Each flight will have five winning positions, with identical prizes in each flight.

The Callaway scoring system will be used in this, the sixth leg on the Walter M. Wilmshurst Memorial Trophy.

All entries, when completed, should be mailed with the entry fee to "Golf Tournament", St. Lawrence National Bank, 85-91 Main St., Canton, N.Y. or delivered to any branch of the bank. Special consideration will be given to early entries requesting special starting times and to those foursomes, threesomes or pairs wishing to play together.

Skateboard Event Planned

TUPPER LAKE—The 2nd Tupper Lake Skateboard Championships, sponsored by the Tupper Lake Sports Council and the Chamber of Commerce, will be held at the L.F. Quinn Elementary School Sunday, Aug. 13, starting at 10 a.m.

The events will include dual slalom and free style divisions. Contestants must wear a helmet along with elbow and knee pads. The entry fee is \$2.

Tee shirts with a skateboard emblem will be given to all entries. Ribbons will be awarded to age-group winners in 8 and under, 9-11, 12-13, 14-15 and 16 and over divisions.

Registration will be permitted up to the start of the event. Entry blanks are available at the Tupper Lake Chamber of Commerce and Equipe Sports Ltd. in Lake Placid. Mark Driscoll of Equipe Sports Ltd. will officiate the championships.

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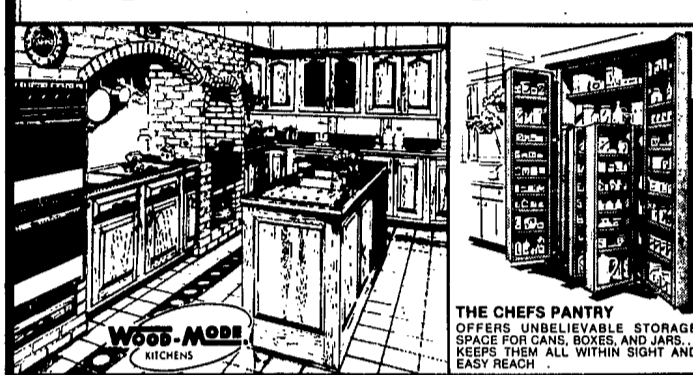
Hydroplane Races Slated

SARANAC LAKE—The 1978 Stock Outboard National Hydroplane Championships will be held here Aug. 7-13 with 750 boats from 48 states expected to compete.

Daily competition will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 7 p.m. Forty racing heats are expected to be held each day with elimination heats winding up Friday, Aug. 11. Final races which will include 19 classes of 12 boats each will be run Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12-13. Sunday's finals will start at noon.

The event is being sponsored by the Franklin County Sports Council of Saranac Lake and Cam-2 racing gasoline.

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