

Wirts Will Keep All Star Lineup Intact For Big Game With Fresno Here

By MURRAY OLDERMAN

Kettle Wirts is basking in the managerial delight of a perfect record and does not intend to have it marred. Accordingly, he announced yesterday he is going to shoot the works when his Sacramento Bee-KFBK All Stars play host to the Fresno Bee-KMJ All Stars at 8:15 P. M. Monday in Edmonds Field in the outstanding amateur baseball attraction of the season.

"I like that 1 and 0 record," cracked Wirts, referring to the 13 to 2 victory his team chalked up against Modesto Tuesday in the first round of the central valleys all star competition.

"I'm standing pat with the same lineup that started against The Modesto Bee All Stars. I don't intend to show any favoritism or partiality for any of the 14 boys on my squads, but this is a one game proposition, and I intend to win it with the best nine boys I can put on the field."

Myers Will Pitch Again

That means brilliant Richie Myers of Florin, who struck out 22 out of 28 opposing batsmen in the initial contest, will take the mound again for The Bee-KFBK luminaries, and any time young Myers is out on the hill twirling his assorted stuff, Wirts can relax his worries about the defensive end and concentrate on getting a few runs to back up the diminutive ace.

If the slugging rampage against Modesto is any indication of its ability, the Wirts clan is in. His all stars, fresh from two weeks of top instruction in baseball savvy at The Sacramento Bee-KFBK Baseball School, rapped out 15 bingles.

Leadoff Man Effective

Their hitting power is concentrated as follows:

Chris Mooney of Elk Grove, the left fielder and fastest man on the club, pesters opposing hurlers from the leadoff position and frequently wheedles a base on balls. Sam Kanelos, leading percentage batter of the Florin Junior Legions, who reached the state finals, makes an ideal second batter and holds down second base in flawless style. Dick Markham of Sacramento follows him and patrols center field. Myers, the pitcher, swings in the cleanup notch, and right fielder Ray Sisler of Rio Linda, who clouted three hits Tuesday night, completes the big middle punch.

The lower half of the batting order is not composed of hitting slouches, either. Hot corner guardian Joe Kirrene, who shared hitting honors with Sisler Tuesday, bats sixth, followed by catcher Vic Sugar, who slammed out the only extra base hit of the contest, a double. First baseman Gene Petralli and shortstop Mel White complete the lineup. All four are Sacramento boys. There are rumors that Petralli, on his baseball school showing, has been offered a contract to play pro ball.

Will Need Heavy Hitting

"Fresno will have to do a lot of hitting to beat us," declared Wirts, "and I can't see them outswinging my bunch. I gave the boys the swing signal at Modesto, and they really swung away, hitting solid line drives all night long. They looked swell."

Manager George Bryson of the Fresno invaders also has hung a "swell" appellation on his collection of future diamond heroes. Pitcher Frank (Jake) Abbott, first baseman Bob Cobb and third sacker Bob Rosenthal have appeared in



Gene Petralli



Joe Kirrene



AUG 14 1947

Manager George Bryson of the Fresno invaders also has hung a "swell" appellation on his collection of future diamond heroes. Pitcher Frank (Jake) Abbott, first baseman Bob Cobb and third sacker Bob Rosenthal have appeared in Sacramento this season to display their wares under the banner of the Fresno Post No. 687 team in the state Legion semifinals. Rosenthal hit a perfect four for four in his final game appearance here against Florin, and against the Bakersfield Radio Station KERN All Stars Monday night he slammed out three of his team's eight hits.

May Be Mound Duel

Abbott, who struck out 19 while downing the Bakersfield club, 7 to 4, was nosed out by Myers, 2 to 1, in a pitching duel at Edmonds Field on July 27th. The husky left-hander should get the nod from Bryson for a revenge get together with the Florin tosser.

Other possible starters on the Fresno club are Virgil Giovannoni, a 6 foot 3 inch righthander who also plays the outfield and once performed for Galileo High School in San Francisco, and Jack Welton, who hurled a shutout against the Florins while pitching for the Fresno Junior Legionnaires.

Foster Roberson does the catching for the Fresno club, and Howard Phillips and Bob Turner round out the infield at second and short, respectively. Phillips made a spectacular steal of home against Bakersfield and rates as one of the



Mel White

brightest stars on the visiting squad.

Navo Arax and Lou Silva join Giovannoni in the starting outfield.

Aiding Bryson in his coaching duties are Cliff Hathaway, former Pacific Coast Leaguer, and Mont Pearson, ex New York Yankee hurling ace.

LOUIS WINS IN GOLF

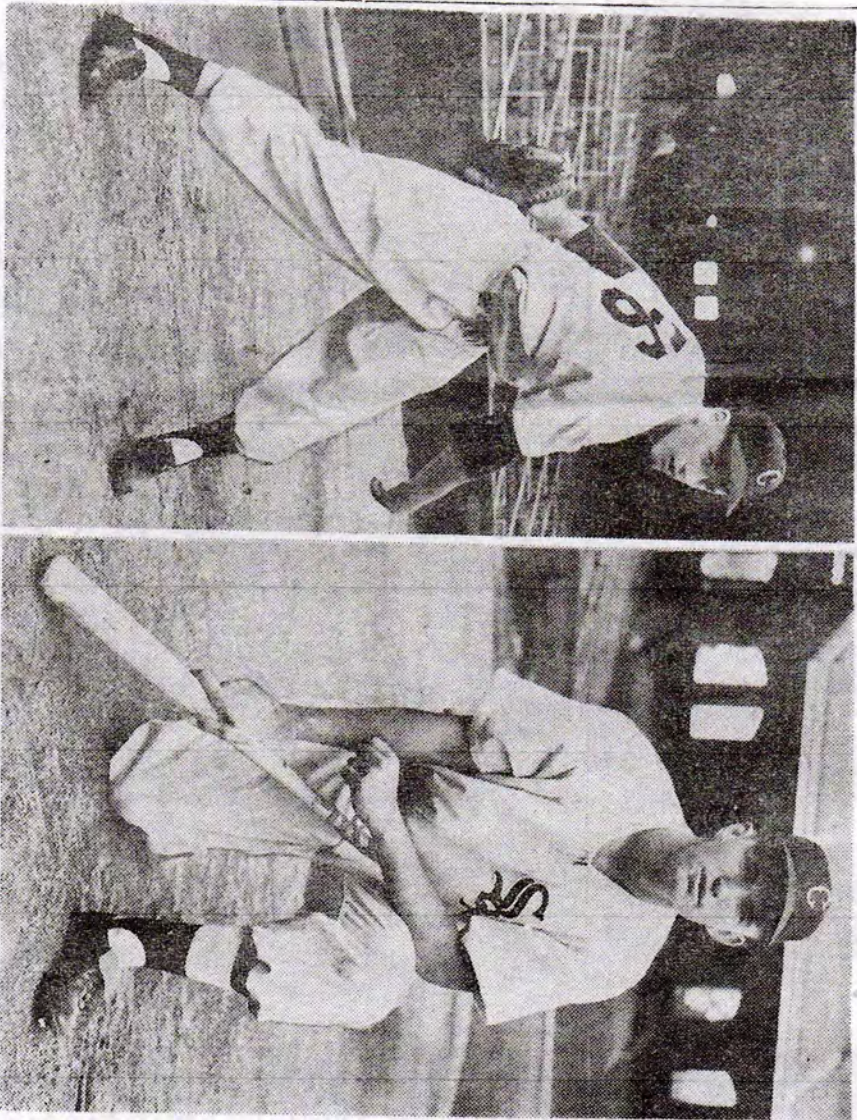
CLEVELAND, Aug. 14. — (AP) — Heavyweight champion Joe Louis stroked his way into the semifinal in the amateur division of the Sixth City Golf Association's open tournament by defeating Eddi Mallory of Philadelphia, 2 up.

NIGHT SPEEDWAY
Motorcycle

X SPEND \$250,000 ON ROOKIES!

Beat Reds, 4-3; Take Lead

NEW SOX GOLDEN BOYS FROM THE WEST



Bill Offield (left), a pitcher from Burlingame, Cal., and Joe Kirrene Jr., third baseman from Sacramento, who reported yesterday to the White Sox as a part of the Chicago club's rebuild-in drive which now exceeds a matter of a million dollars. The two players were given hon-

Sox Score 3d Shutout in Row, 1 to 0

Habit Forming?

DETROIT		AB	R	H	RI	P	A	E
Berry, 2b.....	4	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
Kolloway, lb.....	4	0	1	0	11	1	0	0
Kell, 3b.....	4	0	1	0	1	3	0	0
Wertz, rf.....	4	0	1	0	1	3	0	0
b-Campbell.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groch, cf.....	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Evers, lf.....	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lippon, ss.....	3	0	0	0	1	7	0	0
Swift, c.....	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Gray, p.....	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Houtteman, p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
CHICAGO		AB	R	H	RI	P	A	E
Adams, cf.....	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Phalley, rf.....	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Appling, ss.....	2	1	0	0	5	7	0	0
Michaels, 2b.....	2	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
Ostromski, lf.....	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
Kreese, lb.....	3	0	0	0	11	1	0	0
Malone, c.....	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Baker, 3b.....	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hachner, p.....	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
23		1	2	1	27	15	0	0

BY EDWARD FREEL

The White Sox spending spree this year for bonus players, cornerstone of their rebuilding program, exceeds a quarter of a million dollars, Charles Comiskey, executive vice president of the club, said yesterday when two more teenage beauties reported from California.

The two, representing an outlay of \$100,000, are Joseph Kirrene Jr., a third baseman from Sacramento, and William Offield, right hand pitcher from Burlingame, Cal.

Select The Best

"We now have landed six of the 12 to 15 youngsters considered ultra-ultra prospects thruout the country this year," said Comiskey. "I don't want to sound boastful, but it is generally agreed among baseball people that the White Sox have a finer crop of youngsters on their farms than in the majors. We're not in mass production, like the Brooklyn Dodgers, but are concentrating on selectivity."

Comiskey added that a "considerable" sum in addition to the

3 Run for Wertz in 9th. Detroit.....000 000 10x-1 Chicago.....000 000 10x-1 Sacrifices—Hachner, Michaels. Two base hits—Groch, Double plays—Appling to Michaels to Kreese (3); Houtteman to Lippon to Kolloway. Left on bases—Detroit, 7; Chicago, 4. Struck out—Gray, 4; Houtteman, 1; Hachner, 2. Bases on balls—Gray, 4; Hachner, 3. Hits—Gray, 1 in 7 innings; Houtteman, 1 in 1. Losing pitcher—Gray.

Comiskey added that a "considerable" sum in addition to the mammoth price for the half dozen has been spent for other youngsters this year.

Previously, the Sox had signed these bonus players:

GUS KERIAZAKOS, 6 foot 4 inch, 195 pound, right hand pitcher from Montclair, N. J.

GAR HAMLEN, right hand pitcher from Marblehead, Mass.

JACK BRUNER, southpaw pitcher from the University of Iowa, who since June has won 11 and lost 2 for Waterloo, Ia., in the Three Eye league.

JIM BAUMER, 17 year old from Broken Arrow, Okla., a shortstop, who now is playing with Waterloo and hitting .230.

Signed To '50 Pacts

The two Californians and Keriazakos and Hamlen have been signed to 1950 contracts. The latter two will report next spring to Muskegon, Mich., in the Central league. Kirrene and Offield will start their professional careers with Waterloo. They will work out with the Sox during the team's home stand which started last night.

Keriazakos, a Greek, is the most expensive of the half dozen golden boys, said Comiskey. The sum paid for his signature is next only to the record \$75,000 the Detroit Tigers presented Henry (Pig) House, a catcher now with Flint, Mich., in the Central league.

Most rookies start in class D, at the bottom of the baseball ladder, but the Sox are sending two of the six into class A, at Muskegon in the Central league, and the other four into class B, at Waterloo. This will shorten their apprenticeship—if they make good.

Sox Start Humming

A year ago this time criticism of the Chicago club's penuriousness reached a climax with a rash of stories asking "What's wrong with the White Sox." At the time, young Comiskey was going thru his indoctrination at Waterloo. When he joined the parent club, things started humming.

John Rigney, former Sox pitcher, is director of the minor league system which includes nine clubs, six of them owned by the Sox. Partial working agreements are in effect with two other teams. Under Rigney are George Toporcer, with the title of field supervisor, and 22 salaried full and part time scouts. These are backed up by some two dozen "bird dogs," or baseball men who serve as tipsters for special fees.

Two Will Play Monday

Two Will Play Monday

Joseph Kirrene Sr., brought his son and Offield into Chicago yesterday on the City of San Francisco train, then met Comiskey, Manager Jack Onslow, and other White Sox officials at the park. The two youngsters will play with the Sox Monday night in an exhibition at Waterloo against the Waterloo club.

Young Kirrene, who will not be 18 until October, is a strapping 190 pounder and 6 feet 2 inches tall. Like Offield, he was signed by C. F. (Cap) Crossley, who scouted for the Cincinnati Reds when Frank Lane, now Sox general manager, was with the National league club.

In four seasons at Christian Brothers High school in Sacramento, Joe hit .385. He has played semi-pro baseball, the last three years with the Carmichael Firemen, who won the national title in 1946.

Won Trip To Series

Offield recently won a trip to the 1949 world series when he was voted the most valuable player in a California high school all-star game in San Francisco. Bill, who was 18 last February, is 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs 183 pounds.

He won 18 games and lost 2 this year in pitching his Burlington American Legion team to the northern California title. Seventeen major and minor league clubs were after him. There also was spirited bidding for Kirrene.

It is understood that payment of the huge bonuses paid these two boys will be spread over two or three seasons.

Kirrene Picked Up New Tricks With White Sox

By Marco Smolich

Joe Kirrene, the former Christian Brothers School athlete who signed last July as a bonus player with the Chicago "White Sox," returned to the local scene this week from Chicago after enjoying 17 days in a non playing role with the American League entry.

The rifle armed third sacker



Joe Kirrene

at Joe's powerful but not too solid physique and recommended a bit of running.

Kirrene regrets nary a day of his sojourn with the club he will join in 1951 under current bonus regulations. He will make his professional debut next season with who will celebrate his eighteenth birthday anniversary next month is five pounds lighter—the result of concentrated infield practice—and considerably wiser in the tricks of the baseball trade.

"I lost weight in a hurry but feel fine now at 180," laughed Joe. "For one week Coach Bing Miller batted granders at me, making me go to the left and right, in and out. That'll get you in shape plenty quick."

Confab With Leaders

What prompted the weight reducing stint probably was a confab with Charles Comiskey, executive vice president of the White Sox, and Frank Lane, general manager. The latter took a close look

Waterloo, Ia., of the class B Three I League.

"I was plenty scared when I arrived," related Joe. "My dad and Bill Offield, a bonus pitcher out of Burlingame High School, were with me. But a newspaperman met us, took us to our hotel and then to meet Mr. Comiskey and Mr. Lane. After that everything was all right."

Batting Stance

Nobody interfered much with the youngster's batting stance. He participated in daily pregame batting practice, clubbed two balls into the distant left field bleachers and rapped seven others against the pickets.

"They helped me a lot in fielding—particularly Miller," continued the former CBS star. "He taught me how to move faster, stay down lower and get rid of the ball quicker. The players—Luke Appling, Gus Zernial, George Metkovich, Billy Pierce and the rest—treated me swell."

Infield Drills

Kirrene relieved Floyd Baker, regular Chicago hot corner guard, during infield drills and always took a defensive station when the regulars went through their warmup batting links.

From his box seat in the grandstand Joe saw some of the game's best performers in action.

He watched Bob Kuzava, White Sox hurler, strike out six successive Boston Red Sox sluggers before Al Zarilla connected for a liner which hit Kuzava and forced him to retire from the game.

"But you can't beat that one two punch of the Red Sox. I mean Ted Williams and Vern Stephens," he declared. "Williams hit four home runs and Stephens three in a single series against the White Sox."

Boston's Chances

According to Joe, most of the players he met believe Boston will overtake the New York Yankees to cop the American League flag.

"I think the Red Sox have the better club," he stated. "The Yanks had luck on their side in Chicago. Once they were five runs behind going into the ninth but won. Joe DiMaggio helped by hitting a home run with a man on."

Kirrene also saw the play which may have an effect on Yankee pennant chances when Tommy Henrich, the old reliable, bumped the wall and injured his back while chasing a fly ball.

"It's funny," Joe recalled, "but Henrich wasn't running too hard. He sort of backed into the wall. He's a whale of a player and his team misses him."

\$30,000 Bonus

Kirrene—who reportedly signed for a bonus in the neighborhood of \$30,000—has no definite plans for the rest of the year. However, he may enrol in the Sacramento Junior College this month.

Good fortune has not gone to Joe's head. His first move with the bonus money was to purchase a new car for his folks. The rest of the greenbacks are in the bank.

Kirrene Eyes White Sox Job

By WALT DALEY

PORTLAND, May 27.—If liking your job is half the battle infielder-outfielder Joe Kirrene has it made.

The 24 year old Seal ace, on option from the Chicago White Sox doesn't give two hoots where he plays as long as it is in the lineup, and that makes Tommy Heath's job that much easier as well as Kirrene's.

"There's a flock of good hitters on this ball club," Kirrene says, "and when they all get to cuffing the ball at once, you can't be choosy about any particular position. You have to be content to play where you're asked to play."

"And that's all I ask—to get into the lineup."

MUSCLE INJURED

San Francisco-born, Sacramento-raised Kirrene, whose ultimate goal, naturally, is to break into the lineup of his parent club—the Chi-Sox, nearly tore the cover off the ball when he first joined the Seals.

His introduction to the Seals lineup during spring training at Brawley produced two called strikeouts his first two times up—then a homer blasted out of the park as he picked out his favorite pitch.

Kirrene didn't stop when the PCL started playing for keeps, either. He was going great guns right up until the time a pulled leg muscle a couple of weeks back forced him to the sidelines.

OUTFIELD LIKED

He had been playing third base, even though his operation around the hot corner did leave room for improvement. But shortly before getting hurt, Heath tried Kirrene in the outfield.

Heath liked Kirrene in the outfield. Kirrene liked the outfield. Again, because he was in the lineup.

There had been rumors sometime back the White Sox, in sending Kirrene this way, really wanted the kid to get some outfield experience.

"I know the Sox are well fixed at third," Kirrene says, "and Marty Marion hinted

Continued on Page 17

Judnich Hero As Seals Win

PORTLAND, Ore., May 27 (AP).—Wait Judnich rapped out a home run in the 10th inning to give San Francisco a 6-5 baseball victory over Portland last night.

The Seals opened the scoring with two runs in the first inning. Portland starter Bob Hall walked Jim Moran and he advanced on Ted Beard's single then John Ritchey sacrificed and Moran and Beard scored on Judnich's double.

Portland went ahead with three runs in the third. Art Wilson singled, Dick Whitman walked and both scored on Ed Mickelson's double. Mickelson came in on Sam Calderone's single.

Bob DePietro, hitting in his 16th consecutive game, tied the score in the fourth with a home run drive into the left field bleachers. Three straight singles and an error in the fifth gave the Seals two runs for a 5-3 lead in the inning.

But Portland squared the count in the seventh with two runs on a hit batter and singles by Whitman and Mickelson.

Box Score, Page 16

Big Ten Track

COLUMBUS, O., May 27 (INS). — The University of Michigan looms as a top-heavy favorite in the annual Western Conference track and field championships at Ohio Stadium today. The finals will be staged tomorrow.

IT SAYS HERE

★ By **BILL CONLIN** ★

Sports Editor, The Union



PAUL BEELER SEES ANOTHER KIRRENE

The man who lassoed Sacramento's Joe Kirrene and sent him into the Chicago White Sox camp for a reported \$25,000 bonus thinks he has sighted another prize prospect. The scout is Paul Beeler, Sacramento employe of Southern Pacific Railroad; the prospect is 19-year-old Merle Howell of Live Oak, a catcher.



PAUL BEELER

monitor at Santa Rosa is Cook Sypher, an old Coast League catcher with the Missions, and Howell figured he would be a good man to teach the catching arts.

In contrast to most close-mouthed baseball bird dogs, Beeler is not reluctant to discuss his latest find, probably because he is closely aligned to Howell on the basis of personal friendship. He has staked a claim on the Live Oak lad and is unafraid of poachers.

"Merle has a chance to go all the way in baseball," enthuses Beeler. "He's a fine boy, wants to learn and I'm going to take him to Pasadena for a couple weeks when the White Sox open their spring camp there."

Right now, Howell is attending Santa Rosa Junior College, a school he selected on the basis of its baseball coach. The diamond

BONUS WAS \$30,000

Vincent F. Stanich Beholds Kirrene Startles De

Fans who have not been taking in the County League this season have been missing a treat. The prized attraction is none other than Joe Kirrene, who is being groomed for the third base spot on Chicago White Sox.



Kirrene, who is still in the service with the Coast Guard, does his Sunday playing with the Rio Vista Red Sox and he is one of the contributing factors in keeping Lou Bordisso's club in first spot.

To tell you that Kirrene is on a hitting spree would be putting it mildly. He is absolutely murdering the ball in almost every trip to the plate. Last Sunday he collected two homers and a pair of doubles. One of his homers is being labeled as one of the longest balls ever hit in the County League. He drove the ball well over left field wall, landing on top of the warehouse some distance from the fence. It is being estimated that his clout was well over 500 feet in the air. The beauty of this mighty wallop is that it was visible by the fans in its full flight. As the left fence is but six feet high, Kirrene's heavy clouting isn't something he acquired lately. He has always been a hard hitting lad. When attending Christian Brothers and later with the Southside Manhart Legion Posts he was always the extra base knocker. In the 1947 season when Kirrene's bat spoke loudly, Christian Brothers concluded the season with a 13-4 record. In 1949 he was chosen as the all-city third sacker. Other lads who crashed into the select circle that year were Tony Stathos, Don Knezovich, and Mike Asker; Jim Sady and John McNamara, Mike Virga, 1b; Jim Griffin, 2b; Buddy Boyer, ss; Kirrene, 3b; Al Anicich, Jim Ramey and Al Brown, of.

It didn't take long for scouts to be attracted by this hard hitting phenom. Overtures were made to Kirrene and his dad as soon as he was graduated from high school. The bidding was spirited, but the Chicago White Sox won above other bidders. Kirrene attracted a price of \$30,000 which was paid over a two-year period.

PAUL BEELER, who does some scouting for the White Sox in Sacramento, made some interesting reports on the 17-year-old Kirrene which brought Cap Crossley to the scene, and a meeting of minds was soon reached.

It was considered the biggest bonus ever paid to a Sacramento player. By waiting to start the 1950 season, Kirrene, a bonus player, was not to be called into the majors until 1951. His advisors felt that a year in the minors was important. Kirrene continued to play under Tony Governor and Bill Avila at Carmichael, finishing out the season with a healthy .345 average. On that same club, Gordon Jones blossomed out and was signed to a St. Louis Cardinal contract. Subsequently, Jones and Kirrene became members of the Coast Guard and both played on the same ball club, called the Sea Hawks. However, Jones was transferred to Honolulu while Kirrene continued on at Government Island in Alameda.

Kirrene was ticketed to St. Mary's College, but had to abandon the idea.

Kirrene was the second lad to sign a bonus contract with a big league club in 1949, the other being Rudy Rodoni, who affiliated himself with the Boston Red Sox. Rodoni was also a third sacker.

JOE REPORTED to Waterloo of the Three Eve

League for his debut in pro ball, but general manager Frank Lane of the White Sox, who is taking more than a personal interest in Kirrene, shifted him to a faster classification by optioning him to Colorado Springs in the Western League. Two of his teammates were Sam Hairston and Bob Boyd, who played briefly with the Sacramento Solons in 1951.

Upon conclusion of the 1950 season with Colorado Springs, Kirrene reported to the White Sox. Johnny Corriden, who was managing the Sox that year, inserted the 18-year-old Sacramento lad at third base in a game against St. Louis Browns. Kirrene connected for a single in four trips to the plate.

With the hostilities hot and heavy in the Korean sector, Kirrene joined the Coast Guard. Fortunately for Joe, he has been able to continue on in baseball while in the service. Other Sacramentans aside from Jones who were on the Sea Hawk squad were Don Fry, Jim Westlake, Bill Atkins and Vince Pisani.

His connection with the Coast Guard club will deprive the Rio Vista club of his services for two of the remaining games on the County League schedule.

JOE WAS BORN in the Bay area on October 4, 1931. His dad, Joe, Sr., was transferred to Sacramento on January 1, 1940, when Joe, Jr., was 9.

One of the teams of which he was proud was an all-star aggregation which was unbeatable. On that club were Jim Frasinetti, Ray Sisler, Ken Peckinpaugh, Chris Mooney, Sam Kanelos, Richie Myers, Al Anicich, Roger Osenbaugh, Bob Caselli, Gene Petralli and Dick Markham. Quite an aggregation.

On his high school squad at Christian Brothers were Al Guttman, Jim Winchell, Al Anicich, Bruce Woods, Jerry Kaeser, Joe Lutzy, Ken Orvick, George Radovich, John McNamara, Pete Vartanian, Jack Pickart, Bill Jurasin, Bob Lethola, Don Knezovich, Al Brown, Jim Church, and George Silvera. That gang also formed the bulk of the Southside Legion club which was coached by Lou Bordisso. That's the tie-in. The hard work that Bordisso put in with that Legion team finally paid off. He was able to attract Kirrene and with it possibly the County League pennant.