

THE SPORTS SPADE
BY
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LITTLE League Hits, a publication of Little League Baseball, Inc., has a short article that might be construed to prove that baseball and beaching don't mix. Egonis catcher Walter Rhade of a team in Williamsport, Pa. hit three home runs in three at bats in a recent game. On his first four-bagger, his teammates broke from the dugout as Rhade rounded third. Anticipating what was coming up, the homer hitter yelled, "Don't hit my sunburn."

DARNEY Hale has supplied us with a copy of 1953 tournament regulations for Little League play that has cleared up some of the things we wondered about in relation to the playoff setup. For example, we were under the impression that a city playoff between Kiwanis League and West Lions League champions would be necessary before the start of tournament competition. According to the regulations from Little League headquarters: "Each Little League holding a 1953 certificate of franchise shall be eligible to enter a team in the 1953 tournament." It is possible that in playoff the two Brownsville league champions will play each other in the first round but it won't necessarily work out that way.

TOURNAMENT teams may contain 14 players and may be and usually are all-star teams. Any boy who is a regular member of a franchised team is eligible for the league's tournament representative if he has played in at least half of his team's regular season games. Also the age rule is waived for tournament play and if desired all members of the tournament team may be 12-year-olds. The suggested method of team selection if an all-star team is decided upon is for each team manager to submit a list of 14 players with the final choice determined on the basis of votes received.

WE'RE expecting the local league organizations to come up with announcements about their plans for tournament play shortly after the end of the regular season in both circuits this week. Kiwanis has already clinched the championship in the league representing East Brownsville and it looks like the West Brownsville Lions in the other 10-p. Incidentally, Brownsville teams will participate in Region Seven play. That region includes teams from Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico.

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