

Brownsville's Little League Teams Start Season On Monday Afternoon

LITTLE LEAGUE baseball gets underway in Brownsville Monday afternoon with a full-scale opening day ceremony and a doubleheader.

TEAMS DREW for opening game berths and the Brownsville Herald and First National Bank teams won the right to play the first Little League game ever held in Brownsville. They are members of the Kiwanis League.

The second game will match two West Lions league teams. The Brownsville Shrimp Exchange and West Lions play in the nightcap. KBOR will act as master of ceremonies for pre-game songs.

John Barron, Brownsville school superintendent will open the program with brief remarks and the Rev. H. Richard Copeland of First Presbyterian Church will also speak.

Team sponsors are to be introduced followed by introduction of teams and their managers.

POLICE CHIEF Gus Krueser, Eddie Valent, fire chief and Sheriff Boynton Fleming are scheduled to handle the first pitch chores with the Detroit lineup as to who will pitch, catch and bat not yet decided.

The Rev. Peter Keane, O. M. I. of Immaculate Conception Church will deliver the invocation just prior to the start of the game.

Little League players appeared in uniform for the first time Saturday as they marched in the Armed Forces Day parade.

The two local leagues are a part of the national Little League set up with headquarters in Williamsport, Pa.

Little Leaguers play on a diamond two-thirds the size of a regulation playing field. The field has been prepared at Ringgold Park to conform for use of boys in the League now includes First National Bank, Brownsville Herald, Mercury's and Kiwanis.

THE LITTLE league movement started here early last month when the Kiwanis Club organized a six-team league and applied for a charter from national headquarters.

Kiwanis, the First National Bank, Brownsville Herald, West Brownsville Lions Club, Pan American Bank and Brownsville Shrimp Exchange were the original team sponsors.

The national organization turned thumbs down on a single six-team league, saying Brownsville's population dictated at least two circuits. As a result, the West Brownsville Lions agreed to take over and establish a second league.

Two teams, sponsored by the Junior Service League and Mercury's were added and with the original six teams, resigned into the Kiwanis and West Lions leagues.

MEMBERSHIP in the Kiwanis League now includes First National Bank, Brownsville Herald, Mercury's and Kiwanis.

West Brownsville Lions, Brownsville Shrimp Exchange, Pan American Bank and Junior Service League belong to the West Lions league.

League officers are: M. M. (Barney) Hale, president; Art Norton, vice-president; Charles Harrison, secretary; J. E. O'Brien, treasurer; and Ralph Schaefer, player agent.

The West Lions loop is headed by Bob Montgomery, president, with Noel Landreth as vice-president. Paul Baklund, secretary; A. P. Waugh, treasurer and Col. E. W. Peach, player agent.

TEAMS are scheduled to play an 18-game season between now and July 31. The local winner will be qualified for tournament play leading to the annual Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

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