

BASEBALL!

On Sunday afternoon next, Greenpark temporarily becomes a "Ball Park." By that day portion of the horse racing track of Limerick's popular racing venue will have been transformed into a baseball diamond and a bumper attendance is expected to see two American baseball teams, selected from the American Forces in Europe. The Burtonwood "Bombers" and Sculthorpe "Bullets," take the field for what promises to be a thrilling afternoon's entertainment.

This, it is believed, is the first time for twenty-eight years for a baseball game to be played in Ireland. On the last occasion the game was staged at Croke Park, Dublin.

Accompanying the teams, one of which arrives at Shannon Airport this evening, and the other on to-morrow, will be Major Maurice F. Macklin USAF Personnel Services Officer.

Last week, Illinois-born Secretary/Treasurer of the U.K. Base-

ball League, Virgil G. Thrall, spent some days in Limerick inspecting the grounds and directing the layout of the Diamond. At a Press Conference held here he said that these two teams are really keen rivals and are running neck and neck in their home League. "You may expect a thrilling game," he said, "as neither side will wish to lose before their Irish spectators. I can assure you that each man will be in there playing to win." He further stated that a high proportion of the team members are under contract back home and are awaiting the termination of their military service to get back to the professional game.

IRISH DESCENT

A glance over the team rosters show that these players come from all parts of America, east, west, and even from as far south as Alabama.

At least two of the men travelling are of Irish descent. They

are Joseph Welding, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Manager of the "Bombers" Virge O'Bannon. The last mentioned is one of the best known and most experienced officials in the game. Now, the rules of baseball are very many, indeed too many to attempt here anything like a satisfactory explanation of the rudiments of the game, but in practice, the game is not quite so complicated. To simplify things, however, from the spectators point of view, there will be a detailed commentary during the progress of the game, in which Virgil Thrall will explain the various points of play to the spectators. He will endeavour to "put over" the baseball game so that all may understand it.

THE PROMOTERS

This novel attraction will be presented to the public by the Limerick Development Association, Limerick Development Association, who are to be congratulated on

their splendid effort, which is sure to bring many thousands of visitors to our city on Sunday next. As is quite well known by now this Association is a wide body of devoted citizens who, amongst other activities, are endeavouring to promote Limerick as a holiday centre for tourists, as they hold that Limerick is, in fact, the ideal holiday centre and here are set out some of the facts which provide the basis of that contention.

Firstly, Shannon Airport, Ireland's ever-open doorway, is barely fifteen miles away from the city.

Further, all the famous beauty spots of Ireland's lovely south and west are situated within a ninety miles radius of Limerick.

Another point of interest to note, especially for those who are interested in hunting, is that Limerick is set in the Golden Vale, Ireland's most fertile area, which has the finest hunting grounds in the country and whose lush green grasses produce some of the finest bloodstock in the world.

Then there is the beautiful little village of Killaloe, only twelve miles distant in County Clare, and here is the stepping stone to a wonderful stretch of unspoilt countryside overlooking dreamy Lough Derg which, for natural beauty, bids fair to rival the claims of Killarney.

From Killaloe one may make trips on the River Shannon in Coras Iompair Eireann's pleasure cruisers and the fishermen will find here Ireland's best fishing waters, particularly in the month of May, when dapping commences. Limerick, to the visitor, is a smiling city, although behind that, it takes itself rather seriously, as becomes a historical and cultured place.

Its hotels rate with the finest in the land and its modern shops, combined with the welcoming warmth of its people, afford very pleasant shopping facilities.

There you have the grounds for Limerick Development Association's claims for Limerick as a holiday centre. It is certain that the efforts of this wide-awake Association of Limerick businessmen will bear fruit, but in order to further their object they require the strongest possible support from the people, not alone of Limerick, but of North Munster generally.

Greenpark should certainly be crowded to capacity on Sunday next and this ought to serve as a much needed fillip to these dedicated men, who give so much time in the service of their city.



A recent picture of the Sculthorpe Bombers Team

BASEBALL

AMERICA'S NATIONAL GAME!
AT GREENPARK RACECOURSE, LIMERICK
SCULTHORPE BOMBERS
 V.
BURTONWOOD BULLETS
 THE TWO TOP AMERICAN TEAMS OF THE U.K. BASEBALL LEAGUE
SUNDAY NEXT

Commencing 2.45 p.m.
 8/-; CHILDREN, 1/6.
 PRESENTED BY LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. CAR PARK, 2/6.

CRUISE'S ROYAL HOTEL
 LIMERICK
Welcome to Limerick the American Baseball Players
 WHO, LIKE ALL IMPORTANT VISITORS TO THE CITY, ARE STAYING AT THIS HOTEL.

Before and After the
BASEBALL GAME
 VISIT THE
ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL
 ● Chosen to be the Headquarters of the American Teams while in Limerick.

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