

# Squad of 61 Grid Hopefuls Answers Wurster's First Call

## All Positions Open Coach Tells Men On Opening Day

By JACK RIGDEN  
With the warning, "all positions are wide open," George Wurster led a squad of 61 grid hopefuls onto the field in the initial football practice of the year at Pierce Field Tuesday morning.

The squad, second largest in size since Wurster has been here, numbers many newcomers with a smattering of last year's veterans. Returning are only two members of the starting eleven, Dick Neely who will play tackle this year, and Hugh Mack plunging fullback.

**Big Fellows Turn Out**  
"I'm starting over with a new bunch of boys," Wurster stated after fishing out uniforms to the players. "It looks like we are going to have another good year, with so many big fellows turning out on the first practice."

Wurster will have to rebuild his entire line if he expects to get another this year and also fill two backfield positions. This situation came about by the graduation of Neely and Mack last year's eleven.

Asked about a blocking back, one of the biggest boys to fill, Wurster admitted anyone had a chance to win the post. Joe Armstrong, who was injured early last year, seems to have a slight edge on the rest of the field for this position, due to his slight experience last year.

Wurster said that he intends to convert hard-hitting Dick Neely from end into a tackle and is planning to alternate "Old" Olson at end and fullback.

Although the entire first team with the exception of Mack and Neely did graduate in June, Wurster still has many good replacements. At the ends he has veterans Frank Armstrong, Jim Lee, and Olson. At tackle he has Norman Porter and Bill Tigue and at guard he has Dale Ballard and Jack Roberts. Joe Adams is the leading center candidate. In the backfield, Hugh Mack returns at fullback, Joe Armstrong and Stu Linton at quarter and Bill Broome, Ken Kirby, Bill Hopkins, and Bill Merrill all of whom played last year.

Even with all these fellows back, the team this year has more room for newcomers than any Wurster has coached, due to the depletion of substitute talent.

Facing nine tough foes on successive weeks, George Wurster said that he feared Dearborn, Plymouth, and Royal Oak most. He was particularly delighted with the growth and development of Jim Garfield and Bill Merrill during the summer months.

## Birmingham Softball League Playoff Series Begins Monday Night

**SOFTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS (Including Tuesday's Results)**

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
McManus	18	0	1.000
Mortimer's	14	5	.737
Dayner's	16	5	.761
Franklin	14	5	.736
White Cruiser	11	4	.733
Buck	11	6	.647
North End A. C.	8	11	.421
Fisher's	11	12	.476
Post Office	4	12	.250
Wade's	4	15	.210
B'ham Fruit	4	16	.200

## Coach Wurster Begins 4th Year

When George Wurster led his charges out on the gridiron at Pierce Field Tuesday morning he began his fourth year as grid mentor at Baldwin High School.

His career has been one of building up Birmingham's football forces climaxed last year by an undefeated season and the winning of the Tain Valley League crown in Birmingham's first year in the league.



Wurster was graduated from Western State Teachers' college where he made quite a name for himself on the gridiron. Later he played professional football with the Detroit Indians, now dissolved. While here he set the league record for punting.

His favorite hobby is hunting and he is the possessor of several good hunting dogs. As well as grid coach, he is an English instructor at the high school.

This year he hopes for another good year, despite the loss of 15 warriors by graduation.

A scientist says the flight of time is an illusion. Tell that one to your banker when your note falls due.—State Sentinel, Del.

## Six Teams to Vie For Gold Batsman Champion Trophy

Monday evening six teams will begin play in the championship softball tournament for the first trophy ever offered to a local softball nine. The trophy, a gold batsman on a black base, is to be given by the Birmingham Softball League.

Due to lack of bases and a backstop it was decided to exclude Poppleton Field from playoff games, so only Barnum, Torrey and Hill fields will be used for playoff tilts.

McManus, which finished the regular season without tasting defeat, will go into the series a distinct favorite, although anything can happen in a two-deck knock-out series.

Ploughing through 19 opponents without losing a game in an accomplishment, these days for any team, McManus really has played a fine brand of ball and deserves to be on top. In Art Rondeau, the team has the best hurler in the loop backed by a well balanced infield and outfield. Scotty Gowans is one of the most aggressive catchers in the league and an ace to be on top. In Art Rondeau, at first, Richard Johnson at second, Derek Bolton at short stop, and Dave Kennedy at third is near perfection. In the outfield the team has six stellar performers in Monte Webb, Norman Johnson, Rolly Lancaster, Everett Porteous, Don Upward and Gerani Rondeau.

But getting back to the playoffs, Buck should prove a strong contender for league honors, due mainly to balance and to the fact that he is in the first two rounds when they face McManus the first night and Dayner's the second night. Mortimer's should also figure prominently in the post-season series, but White Cruiser seems destined to defeat in the first two games. Dayner's is depicted to win when they take on White Cruiser and Franklin on successive nights, although it will be no push-over.

It has been suggested by several writers that the finals be played on Sunday afternoon and the idea is being given consideration.

**Week's Softball Results**

Franklin 10, Birmingham Fruit 9.  
White Cruiser 6, Mortimer's 5.  
White Cruiser 7, North End A. C. 0.  
McManus 5, Mortimer's 4.

Nature does it better. When wild things get too fat, they don't eat until they're lean enough to catch something.—The Rochester Times-Union.

## Cornell, Buckeyes, Texas Aggies Look Good for 1940



BY ART BRONSON  
THERE'S a world series yet to be played but the booming sound of fast against piston is echoing on all fronts.

The collegiate gridiron traditions are in camp and preparing for the season. In another couple weeks they'll start hitting the championship tilts.

In the east, it looks like Cornell is headed for another big year. The same line returns intact which led the Big Red to an undefeated season a year ago, headed by Capt. Walt Matuszak and Vince Eastler.

Furdium, perennially strong, needs only a little more reserve strength up front, but the prospects are there. Pennsylvania's hopes are rather bright and so too are Penn State's. Beyond that quartet there appear to be no stand-out teams.

ITS Ohio State and Michigan in the Midwest, with the Buckeyes' Big Ten champions headed for a banner year. Don Scott heads the best backfield in the nation.

Note Dime would be quite as strong as it was a year ago. Minnesota also shows up well.

Nebraska, Oklahoma and Missouri should lead the way in the

Big Six with the Cornhuskers regarded as pre-season favorite. Paul Christian lost most of the team which sparked Missouri to a big season in 1939.

Tennese, Tulane and North Carolina are the three top teams in Dixie, and look like the best bet to gain this trip, with the Vols backing in the No. 1 spot. Wake Alabama is also a word of warning.

**BALDWIN HIGH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

Cranbrook, Sept. 27.  
Wayne, Oct. 1.  
Ypsilanti, Oct. 11.  
Dearborn, Oct. 18.  
East Detroit, Oct. 25.  
Ferndale, Nov. 1.  
Plymouth, Nov. 8.  
Ecorse, Nov. 15.  
Royal Oak, Nov. 21.  
(Ferndale night game.)  
Home games.

## Good Bird 'Crop' Predicted for Coming Hunting Season

LANSING—A "good crop" is the estimate by the conservation department of the production of pheasants, quail and other upland birds for the 1940 hunting season.

Despite heavy rains at hatching and brooding time, large bands of three-quarter grown birds have been observed at Prairie Farm, Rose Lake and other stations by field men of the game division. Conservation officers in southern counties also report a good crop of pheasants.

In discussing the notion that the wet summer may have seriously reduced the crop of birds, for hunting, game men point out that some of the best years in the past have been good bird years. The birds are believed in little danger of depletion between now and the hunting season opening Oct. 15.

The sailor gazed profoundly at the engagement ring he had placed on her finger only three days before.

"Did you girl friends admire it?" he inquired tenderly.

"They did more than that," she replied, "two of them recognized it."

Does it?

The Gusher Mercury says that a smile, though faint, is a woman's rainbow of hope. What? Does her make-up run as badly as that?—Toronto Star.

Queer!

Another thing that shows up building is the realization that anything you build now will look queer by 1950.—St. Louis Star-Times.



**Big Boy Joins the Army**

Having grown to be quite a boy, Virgil Dumas of Decatur, Ga., went to Atlanta to join the army. His six-foot, six-inch height was too much for Sergeant Cecil Maves, who finally had him sit down for examination of his tonsils.

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## What's What in Softball

By JACK RIGDEN  
Well, the softball playoff pairings for the first two rounds have finally been made, along with a set of rules that will dominate the post-season contests.

On Monday night Mortimer's will engage Buck at Torrey while Franklin takes on McManus at Hill, and Dayner's play White Cruiser at Barnum.

Tuesday night's rounds have McManus versus Buck at Barnum, Mortimer's and White Cruiser at Hill, and Franklin and Dayner's at Torrey.

The remainder of the schedule cannot be made out until the first two rounds are run off, to see which teams are left and which are eliminated. However each team will be notified where it will be playing the following evening.

As far as rules go, they are very simple.

Rule 1. Each game must be completed in five or more innings to be called a legal contest.

Rule 2. The plate umpire's decision will be final on all disputes, arguments, and other decisions.

Rule 3. After a team has been defeated twice it is eliminated from further competition in the playoffs.

Rule 4. In case of rain, the game scheduled that night will be moved up to the following evening.

Rule 5. All games must get underway not later than 6:15.

Rule 6. No extra players may be used; a team must use the players it has been using throughout the season.

Buck may be the team to pull the biggest upset in the playoffs. The team encounters McManus in the second round and inasmuch as these teams have been unable to play each other this year, Buck may surprise.

McManus and Mortimer's, after tying in two previous games, got together Sunday afternoon at Torrey and McManus emerged the victor in a close game, 5-1.

Several teams have suggested that the Recreation Department hold the softball finals on a Sunday afternoon, due to lack of visibility evenings. We consider this a good suggestion and inasmuch as Mr. Chapman comes home we will put it up to him.

**1940-1941 School Calendar**

First semester begins Sept. 9.  
M. E. A. Region Convention Oct. 17, 18.

Thanksgiving Recess Nov. 21, 22.  
Christmas Recess Dec. 23, 24.  
School resumes Jan. 2.  
Commencement Jan. 23.  
Semester ends Jan. 24.  
Second semester begins Jan. 27.  
Spring Recess begins Apr. 11.  
Good Friday begins Apr. 11.  
School resumes Apr. 21.  
Decorative Day begins May 20.  
Commencement June 12.  
School closes June 13.  
(Subject to Change)

A man wrapped up in himself makes a small package.—Salfina Journal.

## Ample Rain Keeps Deer From Eating Crops of Farmers

LANSING—Ample rainfall of recent weeks is credited by the game division of the conservation department with having reduced complaints of farmers in northern Michigan counties concerning damage to crops caused by deer.

The wet season has advanced the growth of considerable green vegetation in the forests and deer have not been driven to seek food in farmers' fields because their natural food sources were dried up.

Game division men are continuing their experiments with fencing designed to keep deer out of cultivated fields, the planting of half-acre strips of grain and plants which are intended to distract the attention of deer from farmers' crops and the baiting of deer in areas where their depredations create an acute problem.

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## Forest Fire Fighters Pleased by Rain

LANSING—Happiest men in Michigan over the heavy rains at this season of the year are the state's forest fire fighters. With the aid of wet weather they held the forest fire loss in the nineteenth week of the fire season to three acres.

Generally wet weather has helped hold the forest fire loss in the 15 weeks since May 12 to 1,164 acres, in 274 fires burning a little more than four acres apiece. Nine times as much forest land—10,861 acres—was burned over in the first four weeks of the season, when 493 fires, averaging 22 acres per fire, swept through areas that were tinder dry before the heavy spring rains arrived.

Hu Shih, Chinese Ambassador to the United States. Today there are two great powers, and only two, that are by force of arms deservingly fighting aggression. One is the British Empire. The other is China.

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