



NEIGHBORHOOD BOYS FORM "FREE LANCE" FOOTBALL TEAM
Jim Shields (extreme left) directs nightly practice (Eccentric Photo)

Organizes Neighborhood Gridmen

There may be another Red Grange in that group that meets for football practice nearly every evening at the Bar-nam junior high school field.

It is a group of neighborhood boys, ranging from 9 to 14 years, who meet for nightly practice sessions under the guidance of 18-year-old Jim Shields, son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Shields, 446 George street.

The recruits include Don Smith, Danny Akerley, Bobby Green, John Billings, Tom Burdick, John Martin, Jan Dinger, Dennis Shields, Mike Burch, Steve May (co-captain), Alan Akerley, Larry Stolberg, Chuck McKinley, Jim Anderson, Bill McKinley (captain), Monte Peppersell, Donald Akerley, Steve Billings, Phil Coket and Tommy Tucker.

The boys are learning the fundamentals of football, team work, good sportsmanship and having a whole of a good time.

That Jim is their idol is evident by the comments they make about him and what he is doing for them.

"Golly, when we started coming over here, just a while ago, we didn't even know how to stand right!" the chubby faced lad exclaimed.

Jim is a Birmingham high school senior and is employed as a stock clerk at the Herbert Barr shoe store.

His reason for organizing the team?

"I like the kids and they like football."

It's as simple as that!

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"Why the dickens didn't you say that at first!" he exclaimed.

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