

# Winter Sports Events Listed

Fourteen winter sports events are scheduled throughout the state during January, according to the Michigan Tourist council. They are:

- January 1: Diamond Derby Speed Skating Championships—Ann Arbor
- January 2: Central Michigan Speed Skating Championships—Bay City
- January 2-3: Bobcat & Coyote Hunts—Presque Isle & Alpena Counties
- Michigan Optimist Club Speed Skating Race—Northville
- January 3: Gold Cup Skating Race—Wyandotte
- January 11-16: Alcona County Winter Sports Round-Up & Bobcat Hunt—Hubbard Lake
- January 15-16: Metropolitan Open (Champ Skating Meet at Belle Isle)—Detroit
- January 22-23: Gold & Silver Skating & Midwest Open Speed Skating Championships at Belle Isle—Detroit
- January 22-23: Winter Carnival, Junior & Senior Ski Races, Green Coronation—Lewiston
- January 23-30: Family Sliding Party—Beulah

The Birmingham recreation board in its annual attempt to provide natural ice rinks for many of Birmingham's children again has forwarded the appeal form with thousands of gallons of water plus a low temperature should mean ice. Considerable effort has been spent at Quanton school, Booth Park, St. James park, Poppleton park, and Elm park with the hope that old man weather will be kind to the kids who got the new skates for Christmas.

HOWEVER, AS IN the past, not too much cooperation from mother nature is expected and the rinks at best can only hold up during continuous freezing weather.

With good skating being the exception and not the rule, it is requested that sleds and hockey players keep off the ice areas during continuous snow. Sleds have been provided on all rinks, for after supper activities of public works will continue its catch and catch can with the hope that good rinks will last late February or early March.

Duke Harris, flashy and aggressive basketball welterweight who is the best prospect developed in Detroit this year, will meet Waldo Fasano of Italy in the eight round headliner at Motor City Arena Thursday night.

Harris hopes to add the Italian import to his growing list of opponents to round out his successful 1954 campaign.

Harris won 12, lost two and drew once in his first year of competition and many believe he is headed for the big time in 1955.

There's still room in the Barnum pool for boys and girls who want to join the Birmingham Recreation board's learn to swim program on Saturday mornings.

Classes are small and expert instruction and supervision is provided.

ALTHOUGH THE pool has not been designed for use by children of the elementary school age, excellent results have been obtained and hundreds of Birmingham youngsters have been successful in mastering basic water skills.

A stroke in time may not only save time but it may even save a human life. Parents are invited to investigate the complete program by calling the recreation office in the Board of Education building.

CHILDREN ARE admitted to classes by registration only. Any boy or girl who lives in the Birmingham school district and is 47 inches tall from foot to chin is eligible to participate.

COACH PAUL BROWN was generous in describing the Lions after the game than his team was with yardage while the game was on.

Often, a winning coach is only too glad to point out the mistakes made by his opponents, but Brown was content with praising his own squad.

"Actually," he said, "The Lions didn't make any serious mistakes such as might have cost them another ball game. It's just that the Browns were the greatest team, and could have beaten anyone that particular day."

STILL, DESPITE the absolute route of the Lions, a great deal of credit should go to Buddy Parker for bringing the team as far as he has. Not only this year, but every season he has coached here, Parker has produced either a championship club or a strong contender.

There was bound to be a reaction after a season when the schedule was contentedly loaded against the Detroit team. The fact that it came so disastrously against the Browns in the championship game is just one of those unfortunate things.

Freezing of the St. Clair river and inland lakes throughout the state brings out of storage one of mankind's oldest and most ungainly method of transportation, the ice boat. A thrilling sport, iceboating demands unusual dexterity and coordination, as well as a good deal of courage.

Despite their flapping appearance when moored, an iceboat can certainly be the first method used by man to achieve speeds in excess of a mile a minute, and modern ones speed across frozen lakes and rivers far faster than that. Any sport that combines speed and danger is sure to have many hardy adherents. Are there any iceboat enthusiasts in the Birmingham area?

SIGNING OF Ferris Fain this week may solve the Tiger's first base problem. We are hoping the 32-year-old veteran will return to the form that brought him the league batting crown for two seasons, and end the Bengals' persistent weakness at the initial sack.

Still, we think, it is another example of a trading policy that is inexplicable to many. How is it, and why is it, that so many outstanding players end their careers with a comfortable salary in Detroit?

DOES THIS have any influence on the lack of aggressive spirit the Tigers have displayed in recent years, when they were setting new records for games lost by a single run?

# Mapes Ready for Annual Fitzgerald Clash Tonight

Fitzgerald's all-veteran team invades Birmingham tonight, with their best chance to upset the Mapes in recent years. Comparative scores in games both squads played against Troy indicate that Birmingham will be up against stiff competition in the annual year-end clash.

The Mapes will seek to match Fitzgerald's speed with a superior height advantage. Ball control and backplay are certain to influence the outcome. Maple Coach Petrakis believes:

up a 33-30 halftime debut against Southfield, and went on to win 54-45.

In their only league game to date, the team looked impressive even while losing to Mt. Clemens on the latter's court. Their inability, however, to cope with the Batters' fast breaking offense may hurt their chances against Fitzgerald.

OBSERVERS who have watched the visiting team in action report a similar speedy fast shooting squad. The larger Birmingham court, however, is expected to work in the home team's favor.

Birmingham's fast-improving reserve club will start the evening's events against the Fitzgerald junior varsity.

The Birmingham "B" squad last week squeaked by the Southfield reserves, 43-40, with Tony Evangelista scoring 15 points.

PREVIOUSLY, Coach Lew Perry's Maple JV had dropped a hard-fought Mt. Clemens reserve team 39-37, with Charles Frederickson dropping in 12 points to pace both squads.

Both the varsity and reserve teams are expected to be at full strength for the Fitzgerald tilt. Ed Peters, speedy forward, and Jim Johnson, both sidelined by injuries in early games, are expected to be in shape to play.



CMDR. PAUL THOMPSON, athletic director at Cranbrook, is congratulated by Cmdr. M. W. Berryman, right, on completion of 37 years as a member of the Naval Reserve. Cmdr. Thompson is with Fighter Attack Squadron 735 at Grrosse Ile, where Cmdr. Berryman is Aviation Technical Training Officer.

# MICHIGAN OUTDOORS

The hysteria that swept the emotions of deer hunters this year is slowly subsiding. Strange reactions are taking place across the land.

Deer herds that were exterminated are suddenly leaving a vast network of tracks in the snow. And the mystery of the invisible deer is bringing forth challenging answers from many quarters.

A LOGICAL explanation of the absolute fact that far fewer deer were seen by hunters this fall is that, after two years of bombardment the doe is obeying the laws of self preservation, and is learning to be as wary as the buck.

They have learned to take cover in deep swamps far from highways—swamps that defy the invasion of hunters.

A marked increase in hunters gave them more security, too, for the only way to keep deer from the woods is to put a large number of hunters in the woods.

THIS WRITER flew over the scrub oak country between Grayling and Gaylord scores of times late in the fall and during the deer season. The stubby trees and sparse foliage made ground visibility excellent.

No more than a half dozen deer were spotted in a month's time in the entire area. During the gun season none were seen at all.

Yet now, with good tracking snow, the section just north and east of Freeland is virtually trampled with deer tracks. It's hard to believe. The same phenomenon is happening elsewhere.

THE COMPLICATED importance of the deer herd to the north, involving tourist economies as well as sportsmen, has kept the angry pot boiling in many communities.

So many suggestions are forthcoming as to the proper method of herd control that all is confusion. Some groups are beating the drums asking that the power of control be taken away from the Conservation Department.

They don't follow through with a suggestion as to what to do with that power, or who should decide on deer hunting regulations.

AN REPRESENTATIVE Emil Poltz said in a recent mass meeting in the North: "You'll never be satisfied," meaning that so many people had so many different ideas that any plan for the future would find plenty of hecklers.

Michigan's deer problem will probably remain the most controversial issue in the entire history of Michigan outdoors!

# Bowling Scores

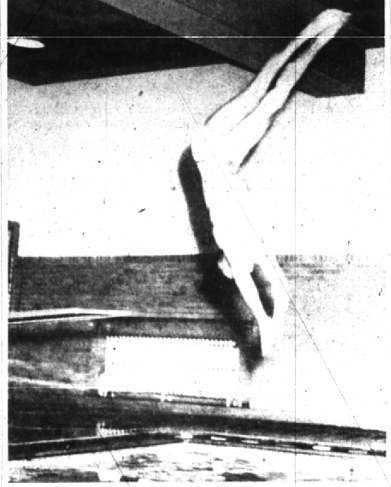
BLOOMFIELD LANES HOUSE LEAGUE

W	L
Bloomfield Lanes	44 12
Ranch Homes 3	42 14
Grand Bu	42 14
Ranch Homes 2	35 21
Hunter 2	35 21
Victor Total	33 23
Ranch Homes 7	28 27
Suburban Steel	27 29
Ranch Homes 5	22 33 1/2
Ranch Homes 4	21 35
St. Louis	19 38 1/2
Wilson-Pontiac	11 45
Bird & Griffith	3 49
Ranch Homes 6	

## The Birmingham Eccentric

# SPORTS

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JIM KELLY, BHS diver, in the air as he practices a back flip. The Maples dropped their first league dual meet, and resume defending their EMI championship after school begins in 1955. (Eccentric Photo)

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West Maple at Henrietta—Birmingham

# Ticklers

By George

"Now there was a smart move on the part of our coach—he knows that the players on the opposing team are awfully superstitious!"

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