

of sports

By BRUNO L. KEARNS
Sports Editor

TRACK COACHES HEAR THIS: A few minutes of your time some Saturday morning to watch the Little League sessions and you may come up with a future track star or two.

Sounds odd for a track coach to scout a baseball field for good potential material, doesn't it? Well, it seems there are a couple boys might bear watching.

For the past two Saturdays, Little League managers were having speed trials on their prospective candidates.

At St. James field where the American leaguers were holding trials, Michael Thornton, 1902 Bonora, took first place among 26 boys running in the 11-year-old group.

In another part of the field some 60 boys in the 8-9-year-old group were running, and again it was Thornton who led the field. He was Ricky Thornton, nine-year-old brother of Mike.

THIS WAS quite a feat considering the two boys out of a total of 86 other boys.

All seemed well for the victorious Thornton brothers until they reached home where a phone call from the American league officials informed them that they were prospects of the new Federal league sector and should be reported to Howarth field.

So the boys were back in the races, this time against Federal league candidates at Howarth field last night.

Ricky wasn't as successful this time as he finished third, but Mike ran track first place against some 30 boys.

"HE HAS the makings of a fast runner from the way he moved," said the boy's father, Mike, who is lanky and he takes very short steps with the night of a dash man.

The youngster, a 5th grader at Terry, has plenty of time before he moves into competitive abilities of upper classes but with some training he could develop into well-versed proffer.

Track coach Kermit Ambrose at Birmingham high school took the news of the speedsters with great interest.

"They may be worth it to keep an eye on these boys," he remarked.

Mike and Ricky attend Terry school, and Mrs. Thornton admits that her sons' interest lies first in baseball and then golf.

RICKY is following in the footsteps of his father, Chuck Thornton, a well known amateur golfer of the area. The boy likes early life for his father.

We got the boys out to three field "and" on the Birmingham-Southfield track meet, and the youngsters seemed quite observant of all different events, whenever they faithfully clung to their first loves, their baseball gloves.

They shyly posed for a picture with coach Ambrose and Southfield coach Monte Charles, as the Maples went on to romp the Jays. Charles may very well have hoped Mike could have been eligible to compete.

WHO KNOWS, one of the boys may be the Roger Bamister of 1960!

Sportsworld

BASEBALL	
Apr. 29 Southfield	4:00 p.m.
Apr. 30 Cleveland School at Cranbrook	1:30 p.m.
May 3 Berkley at Southfield	4:00 p.m.
May 4 Cranbrook at Dearborn	4:00 p.m.
May 4 Birmingham at Hazel Park	4:00 p.m.
May 5 Troy at Roseville	3:30 p.m.
TRACK	
Apr. 29 Kennedy at Cranbrook	3:30 p.m.
Apr. 29 Troy at Central Relays	3:00 p.m.
May 3 Romeo at Cranbrook	3:45 p.m.
May 3 Southfield at Hazel Park	4:00 p.m.
May 4 Birmingham at Hazel Park	4:00 p.m.
May 4 Troy at Southfield	3:30 p.m.
May 4 Bloomfield Hills at Univ. School	4:00 p.m.
GOLF	
Apr. 29 Fitzgerald at Troy	3:00 p.m.
May 2 Berkley at Southfield	3:30 p.m.

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A PAIR OF COACHES, AND A PAIR OF PROSPECTS

Southfield high track coach Monte Charles (left) and Maple coach Kermit Ambrose (right) meet the Thornton brothers Ricky and Mike at the recent track meet between the two schools. The brothers drew attention to their running speed by outstepping all the boys in their respective age groups in the Little League trial races. Mike, the older of the two, won the races for the second year in a row (Eccentric Photo)

Troy Nine Loses To Avondale 16-8 In Season Opener

A 10-run first inning in which nine runs were scored before the first out was made enabled Avondale to put a damper on Troy high school's season opener by a 16-8 score.

With only three hits and two walks among the many errors and fielder's choice grounders, Avondale had 16 men up to the plate in the initial stanza.

THE TROY squad, which lists all sophomores except for one senior, may be worth to keep an eye on these boys," he remarked.

Mike and Ricky attend Terry school, and Mrs. Thornton admits that her sons' interest lies first in baseball and then golf.

RICKY is following in the footsteps of his father, Chuck Thornton, a well known amateur golfer of the area. The boy likes early life for his father.

Little League Player Drafts Start Monday

Little league candidates in Birmingham will learn next week whether they have been "bought" by major league teams or are being farmed out to the minors.

The secret player auction will be held Monday night in the community house.

Each boy will receive a telephone call within two or three days afterward, instructing him to report for practice with either a major squad or farm team.

If he is "bought" by one of the 12 uniformed teams, he still must earn his uniform.

GLENN M. EMERY, league president, explained that each major league team will start practice with about 20 boys. Only 15 will remain with each team when the season opens June 1. The others will be assigned to minor league play.

Each of the three Little Leagues had more than 200 candidates on their roles as final tryouts loomed this weekend.

THE NEW Federal league continued nightly practices by age groups at Howarth field to sift out the best players.

The nine-year-olds will report tonight and the eight-year-olds Friday evening.

Final American and National league tryouts will be held Saturday morning.

NEW CANDIDATES who have

TENNIS	
Apr. 30 Univ. School at Cranbrook	1:30 p.m.
May 2 Berkley at Fitzgerald	3:50 p.m.
May 3 Birmingham at Cranbrook	4:00 p.m.
May 4 Birmingham at Hazel Park	4:00 p.m.
May 4 Cranbrook at Dearborn	4:00 p.m.

EML Baseball Coaches See Hectic Battle for Title; Predict Maples in Third

By DAVE SUTTON

If the predictions of the Eastern Michigan league baseball coaches come true, the battle for first place will be one of the closest in many years with two or even three teams "sure" of taking the League title.

LAST PLACE Mt. Clemens, with nine returning lettermen, promises to be a tough third year. According to Coach George Wiggins, his league's problem will be finding good pitchers to support the heavy hitting of Louis Kowalski and Dennis Shultz.

Charles Mikulas, Hazel Park mentor, was pessimistic about his chances of improving the Vikings' fifth place finish last year. He will depend mostly on the pitching of junior right-hander Pete Tuckovich

and the hitting of outfielder Bill Byrd and first baseman Ed Mason. With only four returning lettermen, Hazel Park's chances appear very slim.

EAST DETROIT figures to be the most improved ball club of the year. With seven returning lettermen, Coach Robert Owen predicts his team will take the League title. Hoping to make good his prediction are pitchers Larry Mimmer and Hank Altie and slugger Rifer and Bud White.

Although reticent about his chances this year, Coach Gerrit Brandt of Ferndale promises a better finish than last year's third place. The Lines have three of the heaviest hitters in the League in Mark Rudman, Bill Fair and Larry Shelton, coupled with a solid pitching staff of Rudman, Dick Kienbaum and Myron Morry.

ALWAYS A THREAT, Port Huron promises to challenge East Detroit for the title with seven returning lettermen and a well-balanced attack. Right-hander Dick Turner and slugger Roger Hanton and Robert Cooney justify Coach John Heering's boast of improvement over last year's second-place ending.

ALTHOUGH possessing the best pitching staff and a well balanced line-up, Maple Coach Lew Parry is

Final Surge Wins for Cranes

In a dramatic finish which saw Cranbrook win 22 of the last 23 games, the Crane track team moved out Walled Lake 55-54 with the 480 yard team of Bill Ralsch, Nick Canfield, Brad and Herb Stanton taking the thrilling ending event at a time of 1:38.7.

WALLED LAKE led 53 to 33 when the Cranes started their surge in a phenomenal finish. Dick Canfield took the 220 dash and in the half mile Nick Fulman posted a time of 2:13.6 to set the stage for the thrilling finish.

BOTH TEAMS took six firsts and tied in the high jump. It gave Cranbrook a record of four wins without a loss for the season.

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Southfield Moves Into 1st On Filar's Two Victories

By BRUNO L. KEARNS

Prosperity in the right arm of pitcher Ray Filar has put Southfield high school atop the heap of the Inter-Lakes league with a 2-0 record.

After losing the first two non-league games of the season, the Bluejays came back with a 5-2 win over Walled Lake and a 4-2 win over Van Dyke by virtue of Filar's no-hit and one-hit performances.

In hurling hitless ball, Filar struck out 11 batters, as Walled Lake managed only to gush across two unearned runs, one in the first and another in the sixth innings.

Five errors by Walled Lake helped the Jay cause, but timely hitting by Don Collier and Dan Smith, as well as a single by Filar himself, were big factors in the victory.

WALLED LAKE scored in the first inning when a hit batsman went to third after a couple fielder's choice grounders and then scored on a throwing error.

In the sixth inning, it was a walk, stolen base and an error that gave Walled Lake its second run.

FOUR DAYS later, the Jay right hander took the mound against Van Dyke, and he moved the visitors with a lone single by catcher Bill Underwood who drove in Van Dyke's two runs after a couple errors and a walk.

A defensive tactic paid off for coach Ed Litogot, as he moved pitcher Dick Covrea into right field to utilize his hard-hitting and good fielding.

WITH TWO outs, two men in scoring position and the score tied at 2-2 in the bottom of the third, Covrea drove through a single that produced the game's winning margin.

"He has surprised us," said Litogot in regards to Filar, "and I'll have to go along with him against Waterford on Friday."

THE JAYS' next Waterford in their third league game on the Waterford diamond.



LARRY HOWER DICK SHELDON LARRY MILFORD Leading the Birmingham mound staff. (Eccentric Photo)

most pessimistic of his team's chances. Third place is coach Parry's prediction for the defending champion Maples. Pitchers Dick Hower, Larry Milford, and Larry Shelton, and Hitters Bill Walkman and Tom Beck hope to brighten Parry's outlook on the League final standings.

The Maples' next League encounter is May 4 at Hazel Park.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

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Birmingham-Troy In Central Relays

Birmingham and Troy high school trackmen will be among nearly 1,000 thrillseekers vying for honors at the Central relays at Mt. Pleasant Friday and Saturday.

The Maples and Colts will run in their respective class "A" and "B" meets Saturday. The class "C" and "D" runners will compete on Friday.

Coach Kermit Ambrose will use Howard Didier, Dave Long, Bob Libby and Allen Fuhrmann in the middle distance relay. Didier is slated to start the 880 relay for the Maples and Libby as the first man in the event.

TROY COACH Don Hill will have only one man back from the defending class "B" mile relay championship quartet that won the event in 1952 last year.

Tom Peterson, the "only" leftover, will be joined by Floyd Bailey, George Bernard and Sim Aceton in Saturday's baton run.

"Our chances in the mile relay Saturday are still pretty good," said Hill, "and it would be nice to win the event for the second straight year."

IN SOME of the individual events, Maple coach Ambrose will take Gordon Pade in the high hurdles and Joe Kidwell in the 100's. Both Pade and Kidwell recently set records in hurdles at Pierce field.

Kidwell took the low bars in 17 flat against Waterford, breaking the old mark of 33.4 set by Ron Kramer, ex-star Detroit star at Pierce field. Pade's mark for the high hurdles was :15.7.

RON McCRUMB and Bill McFarland will carry the pole vault duties for the Maples with Dick Schmel in the high jump. Ed Peters in the 560-pair and Bill Love in the 100 yard dash.

FIRETROY, along with mile relay quartet, the Colts will use freshman Bill Buhrmann in the mile run, and Bob Tarker and Rex Moore in the low hurdles.

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The Sportsman

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