

out of sports

By BRUNO L. KEARNS
Sports Editor

ITS TOURNAMENT time for Little League and Babe Ruth teams in Michigan, and once again Birmingham has been earmarked to play a leading role in both leagues. As it appeared several weeks ago, it was doubtful that Birmingham, one of the foremost cities for Little League activities in the state, would compete in the annual tourney.

Officials of the three leagues at first voted to withdraw from tournament play this season, but after reconsideration they decided to enter for the fourth straight year.

It was a wise move, we think, for various reasons. Birmingham has always played a key role on the Little League scene during its five years of existence in the state of Michigan, and to lose all that was gained in prestige, and stand up in sentiment would have been a bad thing indeed.

THE LEAGUES' governing body embraced a fear that the process of elimination from the district, to the state, to the regionals and finally to the national series at Williamsport, is too much of a strain for the youngsters of the 11-12 year old bracket.

There is no doubt that all the sacrifice in time and effort has been a thankless job for all of the Moms and Dads, and it is a fine gesture of human nature to confer the physical well-being of the kids as well as the recreational welfare.

However we are inclined to believe that the incentive and goal, the prestige and pleasure, and the excitement of being recognized as winner, outweighs the fear of weariness and strain in this instance.

WINNING isn't the sole object of the Little League, but the desire to win is part of the complete heritage of this country and must be recognized as such.

When Birmingham and Midland had the only two Little Leagues in the state in 1951 was the infant of WilliamSPORT. Now the Williamsport only has grown, with Birmingham growing more rapidly. In some of the other members.

Good and efficient planning by league officers, and the attention brought about the rapid growth of the Birmingham Little League, and good judgment was again evidenced in the recent decision to reconsider thoughts of non-tourney participation.

MOVING ON from the eight to 12 year olds and baseball and the name of Birmingham continue synonymous with success.

The Babe Ruth league of Birmingham, proudly heralded as the first in the state, continues to be a front runner for the organization.

It is the third time for the Babe Ruth league to visit Michigan, and the tournament this weekend with Southfield as co-host, will be the best and biggest in history.

How far the Birmingham entry will go could be determined in the first game when the local stars will be conceding and accepting the strongest team of the hat. "We drew the strongest team of the hat, but I think we can beat them," he said.

Cloonan is a level-headed guy and has done a great job for the Babe Ruth league but no one can pass out laurels without including the names of Al Bates, State Director for the Babe Ruth league, and Jack Ridley who has done a terrific job for Southfield's first year in the organization.

The Little League has likewise scores of devoted men like Boyd Simmons, Art Farrell, Glenn Jensen, Malcolm Adams, Jack Laula and a host of others who deserve applause.

A SIMPLE way to recognize the best work of all the volunteer workers is to get out and watch the teams in action, and you won't regret it, because those kids put on a pretty good show.

Red Sox bludgeoned Tigers 18-2

Scoring in every inning, including an eight-run fifth, the Red Sox bludgeoned the Tigers Tuesday night 18-2 in Little League action.

Red Sox slugger Jim Stephenson collected three hits in five trips and scored four runs, and shortstop Carl Kaloosky had four for four and also scored four runs in the slaughter.

Weyand and Lovell Among Qualifiers

Two Birmingham juniors, Rich Weyand and Ray Lovell, were among the four qualifiers Monday for the USA National Junior tournament to be at Lafayette, Ind., next month.

Weyand, with 36-37-73, and Lovell, with 33-40-73, followed one stroke behind pacesetter Bob Zimmerman, 17 years old, state high school golf champ from Jackson, who shot a 37-35-72.

Babe Ruth All-Stars Start Tourney Play Saturday



MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHFIELD Babe Ruth All-Star team which will meet Bessemer Sunday at 4:00 p.m. on the Southfield diamond are left to right: Ed Kennedy, Hank Kopek, Dave Phillips, Ron Heffer, Andy Billesdon, Gil Purse, Bob Shull, all-star manager Alex Billesdon, assistant Gordon Minton, Bob Filar, Elmer Hill, Jim McCann, Tom Ridley, Don Tate, Harry Paterbaugh and Mike Minton. Absent from the picture is Gene Muzzin. The Babe Ruth State Tournament will start on the Birmingham and Southfield high school diamonds at 1:30 and 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. (Eccentric Photo)

Football Kickoff Slated for Aug. 1

First call for players for the Birmingham Little League Football team has been sounded by general manager Richard Sauerbrun and coach Bill Guay, with a Football Kickoff scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 1, at Birmingham High school.

Babes in Deadlock

A down to the wire finish with the Spartans and the Babe Ruth league for first place in the Babe Ruth league may result in a playoff game next Tuesday on the high school field to determine the city championship.

Each team presently boasts an 8-2 record, and a win in the final game this week for each team would send the league into a one game playoff for the title.

MONDAY night the Spartans moved into the first place by defeating the Barons 7-3 with Bill Muenchinger being the distance on the mound. The Barons used three pitchers, Phil Isbell, Ben Hurley and Larry Littleton.

Last Thursday in a game marred by stalling tactics of the Spartans, the head umpire for the game forfeited the contest to the Chiefs 9-0 for "excessive stalling tactics."

THE CHIEFS had a 14-1 record when darkness began setting in and the Spartans began their tactics and in the top of the fifth inning trying to prevent the 4-3 inning rule. The game was called with two outs and awarded to the Chiefs.

Phil Isbell pitched a one hitter to give the Barons a 9-0 win over the Chiefs on Wednesday. Roger Barrett got the only "Rocket hit," a double early in the game.

PHIMING for the Babe Ruth teaming, the Birmingham all-stars won a 7-5 decision from the Berkeley all-stars in an exhibition game on the high school field Sunday. Each team used all their all-star pitchers. Dick Cloonan started for Birmingham and struck out five men in his four innings on the mound.

Because of the tournament, the game scheduled between the Wolfvermes and Chiefs for Friday had been moved to Thursday at 5:30 James field.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS? The tournament in the mid-nineties last week didn't stop Alvin W. Sarr, 23375 Waycross, Southfield, and Dr. Charles K. Norton, 111 Royal Ave., Royal Oak, from going three sets at the Birmingham/Tennis club on the Kingswood courts. The pair have been playing against each other for years as members of the Birmingham tennis organization. "We're pooped," they said, as the perspiration streamed down their heads. (Eccentric Photo)



READY TO MEET defending State Champion Northwest Detroit in the first game of the Babe Ruth Tournament are these Birmingham all-stars. Kneeling left to right: Jay Madonna, Dick Cloonan, Jr., Pat Baldwin, Jim Maurer, Garry Littleton, Jeff Boucher, Ed Busch and all-star coach Fred Peterson. Standing left to right: Len Willis, Phil Russell, Phil Isbell, Ron Cornia, Dave Parnie, Pete Hurley, Tom Leupen and Bob Squires. First game for the Birmingham stars will take place on the high school field at 1:30 Saturday. (Eccentric Photo)



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Birmingham Meets Champ In Opener

Birmingham Babe Ruth all-stars drew the strong defending champion Northwest Detroit all-stars in the opening game of the State Tournament Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. on the high school field, while the Southfield all-stars were drawing a bye for the first day's action.

On the two Southfield high school fields at 1:30 Saturday, Gross Pointe Woods will face Berkeley and the Port Huron Reds will meet Huron Valley in other opening games.

AT 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Esauwood will face Kalamazoo on the RHS field, with the Port Huron Reds meeting Walled Lake and Lincoln Park facing Algonac on the Southfield diamonds.

Sunday at 1:30 the winner of the Birmingham Northwest Detroit game will meet the winner of the Lincoln Park Algonac game on the Birmingham high school field.

ALL GAMES this weekend at Birmingham and Southfield are scheduled to go at 1:30 and 4:00 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Southfield's all-stars who drew a bye for the first day meet Bessemer at 1:00 p.m. Sunday.

The semi-finals of the tournament will be played next Saturday, July 30 with the finals scheduled for Sunday July 31 at 1:30 p.m. on the Southfield diamond.

COACH Alex Billesdon of the Southfield all-stars has named tentative starting lineup for his team with Tom Ridley at third, Dave Phillips at first, Hank Kopek at short, Bob Shull in left, Jim McCann in right, Harry Paterbaugh in center, Gene Muzzin, the catcher and Ed Kennedy at second. Elmer Hill may start on the mound for Southfield.

This is the fourth year for the Babe Ruth tourney. Birmingham jumped the title in 1952 and went all the way to the finals at Trossen, N.J. before losing. In 1953 Esauwood won the state championship and last year Northwest Detroit took the honors.

WINNER of the Michigan Babe Ruth Tournament will be presented the annual Coca-Cola and economies following the final tourney game.

The nationals will be played at Tetera Haute, Indiana, August 1-6 and the World Series at Austin, Texas later in August.

AN INFORMATION center will be set up outside the locker rooms at the high school at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and 11:00 a.m. Sunday. Ed Busch and Don Martin will be the official announcer and Don Martin the official scorekeeper. Refreshment will be set up at the field.

National Bank on Heels of Varsity

By picking up three points with victory in three games, National Bank moved onto the heels of Varsity Shop in the Y.M.C.A. softball league last week.

National Bank defeated Bell Telephone 5-2 with Willard Walker hitting eight batters, and then the Bank split its two games with Bopps Service, losing the first two but winning the second 7-3.

Bell Telephone, champions of last year, lost all hopes of moving out of the cellar with doubleheader loss to the Nationals 5-8 and 2-1.

Varsity Shop got some ground in the fourth 3-0, but by playing Bopps Service to a 4-3, which ended because of a dark night.

We Heard It Said By: Frank Whitney, Birmingham Recreation Director. "The greatest value I see developing from Little League baseball is not that a few boys are being trained and tutored for high school baseball, but that every boy who desires it is given a chance to grow and develop to the best of his ability."

Federals Face American League In First Round of LL Tourney

It will be an all-Birmingham opener in the district games of the State Little League tournament when the American and Federal league all-stars face each other Friday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m. at Etowah field.

Among the favorites are the Birmingham American league all-stars who will travel to Farmington City Park for another game in tourney play.

THE WINNERS of these two games will then face each other Saturday at 2:00 p.m. on the same field with the victor winning the right to participate in the state tournament at Midland on the following weekend.

Boyd Simmons, president of the Birmingham American League will start Thursday night August 4 at Post Stadium in Midland and continue through with eight teaming for the championship game to be played Saturday afternoon August 6.

So Birmingham team has ever reached the State tourney. The Birmingham Americans fought their way to the final round of the district before losing to Hamtramck last year. Hamtramck went on to win the state title.

As it appears, the American all-stars are slight favorites to top their district bracket. Should they win and a subsequent berth in the State tourney at Midland.

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Orchard Lake Invitational Net Tourney Starts Sunday

Eighteen doubles teams will participate in the 7th annual Orchard Lake Invitational tennis tournament Sunday, July 24, at the Orchard Lake Country club.

Chairman Robert H. Peas, 7123 Phigerm, said that 18 of the top 20 teams from Michigan and Ohio will compete in the tournament on the four asphalt courts starting at 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

DEFENDING the Orchard Lake title are Fred Otto and Bob M. Bay.

Among the favorites are the double combinations of Gil Bagley and Al Reynolds, and Stan Drobak and Tom Helton, former Michigan State and Big Ten doubles champs.

Bagley, who now lives in Pontiac, is from Washington, D.C. and one of his achievements was that of beating Tony Trabert, American Davis Cup amateur star.

Mark Jaffe, number two Big Ten singles champ from Bay City will team with Wanda C. Lynn, Dick Potter and Ken Angyal, Orchard Lake winners three years ago, will again be leading contenders.

FATHER AND SON combinations with Harold Tracy and son Tom, from Toledo, and Garry Pointe are entered in the tourney. Jon and Jerry Ploetz, 233 Hupp Cross Rd., and Robert H. Peas with Dave Clark and Wally Wells are among the local entries.

THE TOURNEY will continue throughout the day.

Other first round results showed Mrs. Don Watkins of Birmingham Country club defeating Mrs. S. E. Gawne of Bloomfield Hills 5 and 4; Mrs. S. S. Leelar, Barton Hills defeating Mary Level of Birmingham 1 up; Mrs. L. W. Smead of Oakland Hills defeating Mrs. C. P. Nebra of Pine Lake 3 and 2 and Mrs. C. I. Wilson, Washneten defeating Margaret Russell of Oakland Hills 3 and 1.

SALLY SHARP, Birmingham high school student from Pine Lake Country club, shot an 81 in the qualifying round, and then defeated Mrs. John Serpings of Grand Rapids 3 and 2 in the first elimination round.

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THE SEMI finals continue today with the finals set for Friday at Oakland Hills.

Wiffi Top Contender

Wiff, Smith, 10-year-old star from St. Clair River Country club, has placed herself in the top half of the 1955 Michigan Women's Amateur golf tournament at Oakland Hills country club this week.

MISS SMITH got the qualifying round with a 40-39-79 Monday, and then fired six birdies and five bogeys under par to defeat Judy Reynolds of Gull Lake 5 and 4 Tuesday.

DEFENDING champion Mrs. E. C. Reynolds who opened with an impressive 8 and 4 triumph over Mrs. D. D. McFarlane.

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