

Shuffle Seen in Area Prep Leagues; New Loop Considered.

By BRUNO L. KEARNS
Sports Editor

There's a shuffle in the air that may inevitably disrupt the present prep leagues in the Northwest and Northeast suburban areas of Detroit, and subsequently envelop several fast growing high schools into new group formations.

It may be at least two years before any such shuffle shows some pattern, but the re-alignment of high school leagues from Birmingham to Port Huron will eventually become a reality.

In its due course of molding into form, at least three leagues, the Eastern Michigan league, the Inter-Lakes league and the Oakland Class "B" league may be affected to the point of dissolution when the schools start moving into line of more desirable leagues.

THE RAPID growth of population in the areas of Birmingham, Southfield, Troy, Roseville, Oak Park, Fitzgerald, and Van Dyke high schools, and expansion plans in Royal Oak and Ferndale are realized by the high school athletic directors as determining factors for future re-alignment.

Biggest change would take place in the Eastern Michigan class "A" League, three schools of which hug Woodward in Oakland county and three schools which are in line of Detroit at present.

Presently, the athletic directors in the EML commented satisfactory approval of the organization and functioning of the present loop, however there was no denial that subsequent results, because of the ever-changing shift in population, could be avoided.

Presently, schools like Birmingham and Southfield, both class "A" within four miles of each other, yet in different leagues, travel long distances for competition within their own loops.

AMONG THE schools mentioned in the proposed new Class "A" league with Woodward and Nine Mile road as the cross point, are Birmingham, Berkley, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Royal Oak, Southfield and potential "A" schools (presently "B" class) Oak Park and Fitzgerald.

In the case of Royal Oak, new high school plans are now underway which will result in the city having two class "A" schools, the new one of which would be the probable member of this proposed league, and the present school remaining as a member of the Border conference.

Niles Hayes, athletic director of Royal Oak, who is one of the spearhead figures in the newly mentioned circuit, said the proposed league "would be very advantageous and economical, but one of the things in primary consideration would be an equitable amount of facilities which must be available by all the schools considered."

Hayes commented that he was disappointed by the little cooperation in early planning-participation, however like all of the other athletic directors, he saw the inevitability of a new league.

WITH SOUTHFIELD and Berkley both prominently mentioned, the Inter-Lakes league would be seriously disrupted. Presently, the league is unbalanced with three "A" schools in membership, although Van Dyke, Farmington and Walled Lake are only matter of steps away from the first league class.

For Van Dyke there appears to be room in another speculated conference which may be the ultimate result of EML dissolution.

Rumors have mentioned the formation of a Grotto area league which would include the three members of the EML, East Detroit, Mt. Clemens and Port Huron along with several other fast growing schools in the general area.

Mentioned for consideration are Van Dyke, Roseville and Harper Woods, all rapid rising potential class "A" members.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS of Mt. Clemens and East Detroit were aware of the Woodward area league proposals, but neither claimed to have any knowledge of the Grotto league rumors.

Ernest J. Buckholtz of Mt. Clemens and Fred Lee of East Detroit, respective athletic directors, termed their association with the EML very satisfactory.

"Unless economic reasons force dismantling of our league," said Buckholtz, "we have no intention of leaving." Lee said that the Woodward area league would be "natural in convenience for the schools mentioned, but we are presently functioning very well in our league as it is."

One of the schools in the web of the two proposed or rumored leagues is Fitzgerald, a rapidly up-coming school with very near class "A" status.

The Ryan road and Nine mile institution was mentioned for the proposed Woodward league, but it was also figured to be in the Grotto prospectus. Presently Fitzgerald and Roseville are along with Troy in the Oakland Class "B" league, and their cessation could be a damaging setback for the loop, which also includes Lake Orion, Madison, Clawson, and Avondale.

ONE CONSENSUS which was prevalent from the majority of schools in mention, was that the obvious population switch made these leagues "almost inevitable," and the rapid rise could provoke action in "about two years."

Athletic director Frank Whitney of Birmingham pointed out all the factors which have to be considered before any move is made for the new league.

"Today a school moves into class "A" in just a matter

of a few years, whereas it took Birmingham 33 years to become an "A" school," said Whitney, "therefore the present and potential facilities must be given serious study in order to be sure that the schools would have close equilibrium."

"We are very happy in our present league, and we would not be interested in another league unless we are sure it will be comparable to the present setup," he said. "In the league get along very well and here at Ferndale do not want to curtail our program for anything, but the future indicates that we must be travel-conscious."

THE EASTERN MICHIGAN league was organized with five charter members with athletic competition beginning with baseball in the spring of 1945. East Detroit was accepted as a league member a year later and began formal competition in the Fall of 1947.

In its 10 years of existence, the EML has shown its combativity and balance of strength inasmuch as no one team has taken the throne in every sport, although for periods of years one school may have dominated a certain sport.

In football and basketball Mt. Clemens and Port Huron were the kingly in the early years of the league, with Ferndale and Hazel Park showing strength in basketball. Mt. Clemens in tennis, and Birmingham in cross country and swimming.

Over the past few years Birmingham has risen to top positions in all sports but the other schools as well have alternately had periods of strength in respective sports.

THESE FACTORS were pointed out by two of the athletic directors with intent of showing that domination of the league is not a basis for a new league.

Economy, travel, time, tradition and convenience have been the primary factors in favor of the proposed league.

Golf Purse Going Up For LPGA

The purse for golf is going up—and the girls love it. Of course, 47 members of the Ladies Professional Golf Association who are sitting in their first appearance in these parts at Forest Lake Country Club May 25-29. Hole scores card against each other for a split of \$5,000 in the Wolverines Open. Top money, \$1,000.

IN PAST YEARS the girls would put on their best for a \$3,500 purse, but the emphasis on the sport and the expanding interest in women's golf has raised the sum. Next year the LPGA expects to put on not less than \$7,500 purse with \$1,000 going to the winner.

As girls can continue to make tournaments at their current pace, most of them will be able to take home quite a bundle. Betty Berg, for example, was able to cash in for \$16,000 last year while Babe Zaharias topped \$14,425.

THE \$5,000 purse at Forest Lake also carries up through 14th place, while the \$3,500 purse had 12 winners. The \$7,500 amounts will pay the top 15 places.

Some of the other top money winners who will be seen at Forest Lake will include Betty Hicks, Beverly Hanson, Jackie Jung and Tom Weir, all of whom have won the \$5,000 mark. To do this they had to play in 60 or more tournaments and averaged about 77 per round.

Sportsworld

BASEBALL	
May 12	Troy at Fitzgerald 3:30 p.m.
May 12	St. Hugo at Cranbrook 4:00 p.m.
May 13	Lower School at Southfield 4:00 p.m.
May 14	Van Dyke at Nichols at Cranbrook 10:30 a.m.
May 14	Pontiac at Cranbrook 4:00 p.m.
May 17	Clawson-Fresh at Cranbrook 4:00 p.m.
May 17	East Detroit at Birmingham 4:00 p.m.
May 17	Waterford at Southfield 4:00 p.m.
May 17	Troy at Madison 3:30 p.m.
May 18	Dearborn at Cranbrook 4:00 p.m.
May 19	Birmingham at Port Huron 4:00 p.m.
May 19	Troy at Clawson 3:30 p.m.
May 20	Southfield at Berkley 4:00 p.m.
TICKETS	
May 13	EML Reserve Meet at East Detroit 3:30 p.m.
May 14	Class "A" Regionals at Ferndale 8:30 a.m.
May 14	Class "B" Regionals at U of D 1:30 p.m.
May 17	Birmingham at East Detroit 4:00 p.m.
May 18	Troy at Avondale 3:30 p.m.
GOLF	
May 14	Class "A" Regionals at Kearsley lake 10:00 a.m.
May 19	Birmingham at Mt. Clemens 4:00 p.m.
TENNIS	
May 12	Southfield at Plymouth 4:00 p.m.
May 14	Nichols at Cranbrook 10:30 a.m.
May 16	Southfield at Northville 4:00 p.m.
May 17	Birmingham at East Detroit 4:00 p.m.
May 18	Hamtramck at Cranbrook 3:30 p.m.
May 19	Birmingham at Port Huron 4:00 p.m.
May 19	Southfield at Berkley 4:00 p.m.

Elected Co-captains

Seniors Bill Dove and Gordon Pale have been elected co-captains of the 1955 track team in the balloting of team members.

Birmingham High Spring Sports Continue Winning Ways

Parry Guides Maple Nine To 13 of 14 in Two Years

Only the lone 2-1 loss to Port Huron last year, marks coach Lew Parry's baseball coaching record since the start of 1954 season. The Maples won nine of 10 games last year and four straight this year to boast an enviable record of 13 wins in the last 14 starts.

BLESSED with a veteran pitching staff made up of Dick Sheldon, Larry Hower and Larry Milford, the Maples are in good position to annex their second straight EML baseball title.

Two important league games are on the schedule for next week. Tuesday Birmingham will host Port Huron and next Thursday the Maples travel to Port Huron for a crucial contest.

ON THE FINAL two weekends of May, the Maples will vie for a place in the Battle Creek Invitational class "A" tournament. The preliminaries of the tourney with Detroit Catholic Central, Hamtramck, Birmingham and Ferndale will take place on the Hamtramck title game diamond, Saturday, May 21.

Winner and runnerup of these preliminary games will then go on to the eight-team tourney at Battle Creek to be held Friday, Saturday and Monday, May 27-28-30.

OTHER ENTRIES in the tournament will include Battle Creek Central, the host school, the Holland tournament winner, and three other "A" teams chosen at large with the best records in the area. Finals of the tourney are set for Memorial Day, May 30.

DICK SHELDON'S one-hit pitching performance led the Maple nine to a 2-1 triumph over Hazel Park for the fourth consecutive win of the season. During the first nine batters in order, Sheldon was touched for a scratch single by Hazel Park's Denny Startis to open the last of the Maple ninth, but a double play promptly removed the Viking runner off the bases.

THE MAPLES took advantage of three "MILK" errors in the seventh inning to push across two runs on only one hit, and then tallied three in the seventh inning with Bill Wilkinson delivering the big blow, a triple driving in two runs. He then scored on Bob Lyle's single.

Larry Milford took the mound in the seventh and was greeted with a triple, but he fanned the next two batters and ended the game by forcing the third batter to ground out.

100 Ladies Attend House League Fete

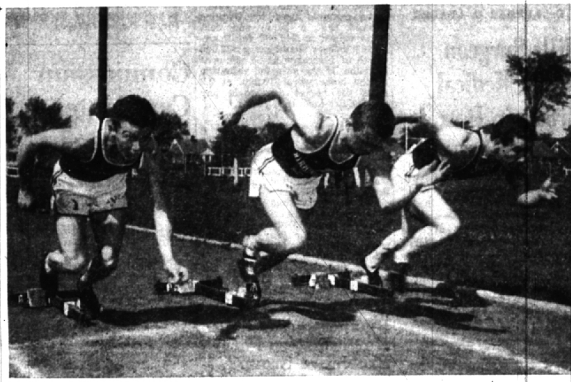
Nearly 100 ladies attended the Women's Senior House League golf banquet on Monday at H.C.'s in Detroit. Summer Motor Sales was honored as the winning team with a first prize total of \$146 plus trophies.

INCLUDED on the team were G. Richards, V. Walton, S. Roberts, L. Mann and G. Harrington. Among the officers were president A. Lawson, vice-president R. Rosen, secretary V. Petracz and treasurer M. Kirby.

MRS. PETRACZ rolled a score high for single game with 231 pins, and Mrs. F. Milford posted a 387 score for the season high.

Best Golf Score Shot at North Hills

North Hills country club was the scene of the best golf score posted in the area this season, when Tommy Watrous, U of D golf star, and son of Al Watrous, prof at Oakland, shot a 68 for the season high. He missed the course record by one shot.



TONY EVANGELISTA BILL DOVE JOHN APPLEFORD
Trio of Maple dashmen at the starting block. (Eccentric Photo)

Bluejays In League Tie

By virtue of an 8-6 victory over Farmington, the Bluejays of Southfield high school remained in a first-place tie with Berkley in the II league.

Both teams are sporting a 4-1 record as they enter the second round of the league home and home series.

Record 5-5 for Cranbrook Nine

Cranbrook is back in its one-run losing ways. The Cranbrook tennis team scored its second 1-0 decision to Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, O. This week's even tie league mark at 1-1.

Western Reserve scored its lone run in the first inning when Chuck Pinkerton led off with a walk, went to second on a sacrifice and took third on a grounder. With two outs, Pinkerton led off with a walk, went to second on a sacrifice and took third on a grounder. With two outs, Pinkerton led off with a walk, went to second on a sacrifice and took third on a grounder.

Colt Cindermen Lose Two Meets

Loss of death has been wrecking coach Don Hill and the Troy track team. In losing to Berkley 66-27.5, 42-5.5 and to Lakeshire 61-48, the Colts were down to six wins compared to seven for the opponents, but only two seconds and a few third were the only subsequent points garnered against Berkley.

FLOYD BAILEY was a double winner against Berkley with 10-4.5, the pole vault, and 12-7 in the shot put at 38'1", and tied for second in the pole vault at 9'.

Double winner against Lakeshire was George Bernard with 58.4 in the 400 and 12'7" in the broad jump.

HILL IS experimenting with the squad in order to determine his best formations for the class "B" regionals to be held Saturday at University of Detroit stadium.

The Headline Read:

—Dues East Then Rob Proprietor —Dallas, Tex.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

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EML Heads Confer at Annual Spring Meeting

Hillcrest country club in Mt. Clemens was the scene for the annual spring meeting of the Eastern Michigan League. The meeting, attended by the principals, athletic directors and the advisors of each school's student government, brought up several items of importance for the league.

A REPORT by the committee outlining plans for the league handbook was presented and approved. Major topics of discussion concerned the request of Port Huron radio stations WTR and WHLS to broadcast all of the Big Red football and basketball games, home and away, was seriously considered.

Line Score	R	H	E
Farmington 2	3	12	2
Van Dyke 0	0	0	0
Van Dyke 0	0	0	0
Van Dyke 0	0	0	0
Van Dyke 0	0	0	0

Six Teams Meet In Polo Tourney

Six teams, including the Birmingham Ramblers with Don Harness, Howie Miller and Mike Wacker, will participate in the first Michigan championship polo tourney of the post war years scheduled to get underway Wednesday evening May 18 at the Ivory Polo club, Lahser and Eight Mile road.

Proclaim Week For Little League

"Little League Week" May 29 to June 4 has been proclaimed by the city commission, with permission granted to the Little League of Birmingham to observe the week.

"Y" Softballers To Meet Tonight

Managers and interested players of the Birmingham YMCA Softball League are invited to attend a meeting Monday at 8:30 p.m. at the YMCA. At this time it is hoped that a schedule may be drawn of interested teams. Rules will be discussed and final plans for the opening of the season will be formulated. Information can be obtained by calling the Birmingham YMCA.

Maple Thinclads Chalk Up 13 Straight Wins Since '53

Winning has become a habit with coach Kermit Ambrose and the Birmingham high school track team. Since the last dual meet of the 1953 season, the Maples have ripped through 13 straight dual opponents and are presently on a speedway for another EML title.

With tenth place in the Central relays, and fifth in the Alton relays, the Maple cindermen are now ready to make a strong bid for the regional meet at Ferndale, Saturday.

ALONG WITH the six EML entries, these other class "A" teams including Royal Oak, Southfield and Berkley will participate in the dual meet.

In Alton last weekend, Gordon Pale set the pace, as the Maples tallied 18-2.3 points, by coping the high hurdles and tying for second in the high jump.

Golfers Keep Winning Pace With 12 of 13

Golf isn't taking a back seat among the high-flying athletic teams at Birmingham high school. Last week Joe Barwick took the reins last year, the Maple linkers have suffered only a one-stroke loss, that by penalty to Ferndale, in 13 matches.

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