

shorts shots

By DICK KELLEY
Sports Editor

TALK HAS started again about the formation of a new class "A" high school loop in the area.

These rumors have been reported off and on for the past three years but the disclosure that an athletic directors' meeting to discuss the new league was held last Wednesday at Birmingham high school gives a new look to an old story.

Strong support for a new league comes from Royal Oak where a new high school is being built and officials are looking around for a league to join.

Royal Oak Dondoro will remain in the Border City league.

Other schools mentioned for the new league are Birmingham, Ferndale and Hazel Park from the Eastern Michigan loop and Southfield and Berkley from the Inter-Lakes league.

Fitzgerald and Oak Park would become eligible for the new setup upon reaching class "A" status.

One of the stumbling blocks to the formation of a new league is that all schools would have to have equal athletic facilities.

At present Southfield does not have lights for its football field but a special meeting of the Southfield board of education is scheduled to discuss the addition of lights.

Ferndale, with a new \$6,000,000 plant scheduled pending voters approval, will have expanded athletic facilities to match the other schools proposed for the league.

No one at the schools involved wants to commit themselves on the new league at this early date but from here it looks like the wind is blowing in that direction.

THE ANNUAL Thanksgiving game between Birmingham and Royal Oak will probably wind up next year. Two years from now the new Royal Oak high school will be in operation and a new neighborhood-rivalry will exist.

Extending the football season until Thanksgiving has never been popular with the athletic staff of the two schools.

The other coaches, especially basketball and swimming, have to wait an extra week or ten days for those boys to cut out which tends to cut down their early season sharpness.

SPORT JABS: After being kidded by Royal Oak coach Jim Mania about scouting all the Acorns' games this season Birmingham coach Art Lemaire told his side of the story at a Royal Oak Kiwanis club luncheon.

"We can't afford regular scouts so we got an old man to do it for us this year," Lemaire said. "After her first scouting assignment, she had only one question: Was the ball stuffed or pumped?"

BLOOMFIELD HILLS high school may be awarded the state regional basketball finals this year. State inspectors looked the new school over carefully last week.

Possibility that the new Birmingham high school, indoor-outdoor swimming pool will have a steel pool. A steel firm has approached the architects with the idea after installing one at Purdue University.

Cranbrook Matmen Have Nine Matches

The Cranbrook wrestling team has lined up nine matches for its 1955-56 schedule. On the nine match schedule are Shady Side academy, Western Reserve and University schools of Cleveland from the Cranes own Inter-state league. Outside league competition includes Ypsilanti, Berkley, Hazel Park, East Lansing and Flint Central.

THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE is: Ypsilanti, Friday, Dec. 9; Ann Arbor, Friday, Dec. 16; Berkley, Saturday, January 14; Hazel Park, Saturday, January 21; Shady Side, Saturday, February 4; University of Cleveland, Saturday, February 11; East Lansing, Saturday, February 18; Flint Central, February 25.

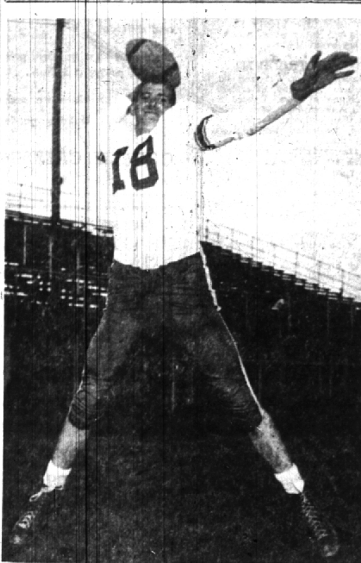
Turkey Day Game Rated Toss-Up

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

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NOVEMBER 23, 1955



A BIRMINGHAM victory over Royal Oak hinges on the Maples' ability to stop the Acorns' prize halfback Darrell Harper, who has racked up 42 points thus far this season.

Stop Acorns' Harper Birmingham Strategy

Royal Oak football coach Jim Mania says that the only veteran member of his squad who isn't injured one way or another is halfback Darrell Harper.

What Mania has said is that Harper could be enough by himself. The slim six-foot senior can do just about anything on a football field. He is currently tied for South (Indiana) scoring honors with Clawson's Dick Allen.

BOTH have had six point-but Clawson has had his season while Harper will have the Birmingham game to stop the Oak. Harper has scored nine touchdowns and 14 extra point conversions for his team. That would be plenty for most players but Harper is also a punter and handles the safety slot as well.

THAT'S why Harper is rated the main Birmingham match to insure an unbeaten season. Coach Mania considers him one of the best all-around backs he has coached at Royal Oak and one of the best players in the state.



FAVORITE target of Maple quarterback Bill Swaney is all-state end candidate Jim Traa. He has



BILL OWEN is a mainstay of the Royal Oak high line. Owen is one of the five Acorn seniors in the starting lineup playing their final high school game. He is a 6 foot, 185 lb. center.

Bloomfield Prepares for Basketball Opener

Harold Trot, Bloomfield Hills basketball coach, is trimming the size of his squad in preparation for the Baron's season opener against Groves Pointe University.

This is the first game season for the Barons and Trot is facing the task of molding a bunch of green recruits into a winning ball club.

Bands to March At Grid Halftime

The Birmingham and Royal Oak bands are planning to march between halves of the traditional gridiron battle Thursday morning with the Maples taking the field first.

Using "show business" as its theme, the instrumental group under direction of Arnold W. Berndt will start festivities by moving into the formation of a large top hat, representing the old minstrel shows of Stephen Foster day. The musicians in the hat will execute a little dance to the immortal "Swanee River."

THE F.A.M.O.U.S. smoke-filled stage of Tony Pastor's theater in New York around 1894 will be the subject of the band's next formation. While the organization plays "Sisewicks of New York," a group of Birmingham girls will do a snake dance routine on the imaginary stage.

After this act Ted Schaefer, band announcer, will take the spectators quickly through the silent and fading moving picture days.

Since radio was king in the 1920's, the next formation will consist of a large violin, for Jack Benny. His musical theme will be heard at this time.

LAST will be a large television set. A girls' chorus line symbolizing the American league's batting king, shines last at last in the 1930's, the next formation will be the Can-Can inside the video screen.

The Maples' half of the show will conclude with the singing of the Birmingham fight song. Girls in the two dance routines will be Myrna Moxley, Jean Spencer, Julie Colwell, Claire De Nador, Pat Ross, Pat Berkley.

Bloomfield Woman Takes 1st Prize

A Bloomfield Hills, housewife took first prize in a Pontiac big pheasant derby.

Mrs. Paul Pace, 5620 Lone Pine, was awarded a \$50 United States savings bond for her 3 lb., 12 ounce ringneck entry.

Mrs. Pace, whose husband is caretaker on the Bloomfield Hills estate of Everell Fisher, has hunted for 10 years.

She bagged the prize-winning bird while hunting with her husband off Pontiac Lake road in Rochester.

1955-56 Bloomfield Hills Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	At Home
Dec. 2	24	Home
Dec. 9	24	Home
Dec. 16	24	Home
Dec. 23	24	Home
Dec. 30	24	Home
Jan. 6	24	Home
Jan. 13	24	Home
Jan. 20	24	Home
Jan. 27	24	Home
Feb. 3	24	Home
Feb. 10	24	Home
Feb. 17	24	Home
Feb. 24	24	Home
Mar. 2	24	Home
Mar. 9	24	Home
Mar. 16	24	Home
Mar. 23	24	Home
Mar. 30	24	Home

BECAUSE it is the Barons first season they will play several inter varsity squads including Cranbrook and Bedford Union.

Ed Danziger at 6'7" and Randy Barrett, a 6' transfer from Birmingham high school are two of the Barons better looking prospects.

The Groves Pointe game on December 2 will christen the new Bloomfield gym.

Football Series Record

Year	Birmingham	Royal Oak	1932	19	0
1933	0	7	19	18	0
1934	No Game	7	19	18	0
1935	7	15	19	12	6
1936	0	20	1936	6	19
1937	0	14	1937	6	19
1938	0	20	1938	6	19
1939	17	7	1939	6	19
1940	0	0	1940	6	19
1941	0	0	1941	6	19
1942	0	0	1942	6	19
1943	0	0	1943	6	19
1944	No Game	10	1944	6	19
1945	No Game	10	1945	6	19
1946	3	0	1946	6	19
1947	0	0	1947	6	19
1948	6	0	1948	12	0
1949	6	0	1949	12	0
1950	Forfeited to Bham.	19	1950	12	6
1951	6	6	1951	27	0
1952	6	6	1952	7	18
1953	7	0	1953	7	27
1954	0	0	1954	0	12
1955	0	0	1955	0	12
1956	0	0	1956	7	18
1957	6	6	1957	27	0
1958	6	6	1958	7	18
1959	7	0	1959	7	27
1960	0	0	1960	0	12
1961	0	0	1961	7	18

WINNER of the Birmingham-Royal Oak football game has been awarded the "LITTLE BROWN JUG" every year since 1921. Note the scores of previous games on the Jug.

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MARATHON

Birmingham Protecting Unbeaten Grid Record

Birmingham and Royal Oak will clash in their traditional inter-city football game Thanksgiving morning at Cass field in Royal Oak.

The Maples will be putting their chances for an undefeated season on the line against the Acorns who have a 6-2 season record.

DESPITE the straight Birmingham victories this season, the game is rated a toss-up.

The Groves Pointe game, second of the season, was particularly auspicious to the Acorns. Captain Bud Allen, a 6'11" end, was lost for the remainder of the season.

Mania's hopes for victory this year depend heavily on Darrell Harper, the Acorns' triple-threat halfback. Harper, who can run, pass and kick with equal facility, has scored 48 points going into the Maple game.

GUARD Joe Vestrad and tackle Larry Caldwell open the holes for

Harper's gallops. Caldwell, who weighs 225 lbs., and 200-lb. tackle George Byrd give the Acorns a weight advantage up front.

Birmingham will counter with a smaller but better balanced team. The Maples' top scorer is halfback John Appleford with nine touchdowns to his credit.

Coach Carl Lemaire has three other fine runners in Wayne Gedge, Bill Wedge and Tony Evangelista to support Appleford.

LEFT-HANDED quarterback Bill Swaney handles the Maples' passing chores in top fashion. His favorite target is end Jim Traa, who has caught six Swaney passes for touchdowns.

Guard Dave Spelber, who has seen out with injuries, will be in top shape for the Acorns.

The series is one of the oldest football rivalries in the state and has been played on Thanksgiving day since 1915.

In 1947, Royal Oak was the Border City loop champion and favored to whip the Maples, who took a 12-0 upset victory from the Maples.

THIS year the situation is reversed. Birmingham topped the Eastern Michigan league and the Acorns will be facing the champions.

The game is played in Royal Oak under the sponsorship of the Royal Oak Kiwanis. Game time is 4 p.m.

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