

# Maple Prospects Brighter in Title Race

## Seniors Available at All Berths on Starting Team

Seniors are expected to fill at least nine of the 11 offensive starting positions at Birmingham high school this season as the Maples under coach Carl Lemle look forward to one of their best seasons in several years.

With 22 experienced players returning, including 12 lettermen, the Maples are hoping to make one of their strongest bids for the Eastern Michigan League title, a feat which they have never accomplished.

**IN HIS** first year at the helm last season, coach Lemle guided the Maples to a record of four wins against five losses including a knock of 2-4 in EML action.

Most serious losses of the 1954 team were center Kirk Mack and fullback Tom Beck and Dave McCallister. This year the tackle posts are expected to be the hot spots problems but madame fate came for wood with a great helping hand.

**THREE TRANSFERS** and a returnee from the 1953 squad, along with one position switch, has bolstered the tackle positions with the best depth in several years.

The leading returning tackle prospect from last year is senior Nick Gilbert, a 5 ft. 10 in., 185-pounder who saw most of his duty with the defensive unit in 1954.

Looking for help at tackle, Lemle moved 6 ft. 2 in. end George Hoffman, 190, to the position, but since then the worry has been replaced by a happy sigh.

**FROM OTTAWA** Hills High in Toledo, the Maples got transfer Lee Abernethy, a 200-pounder standing 6 ft. 4 in. who will be a senior.

A good tackle transfer is 200-pound Dave Griffith a senior from North East Kansas City high school who could fill the first-line defensive post.

**THE THIRD** transfer, also a tackle, is 240-pound John Forbes, a junior from Buffalo, N. Y., who takes top weight honors on the team.

Dick Dexter, a sturdy 215-pounder who stands 6 ft. 2 in., could be the carry horse for a first string tackle job. Dexter played as a sophomore two years ago, but last year's school difficulties and ill health kept him out. He is touted for his defensive abilities.

**THREE** lettermen, all seniors who tip the scales at 175 pounds, put the guard spots in good shape. Jim Rennell and Dave Spehar are the leading guard contenders, with senior Mike Thornberry and junior Jim Frey the other possibilities.

Center spot is in the capable hands of 6 foot 185 pound Bob Hohmeyer followed by Jim Robertson, another 185 pounder.

Robertson played with the reserves last year. He is a junior and is considered by Lemle to have good speed and natural abilities. In order to utilize both Hohmeyer and Robertson, the latter may see action as a guard.

**STRENGTH** is good at the ends



**OBSERVING** the activities on the Maple gridiron is Birmingham Athletic Director Frank Whitney.

positions with tackle Jim Traa, team co-captain getting the starting nod.

With Hoffman being switched to tackle, junior end Rob L'Neil who stands 6 ft. 4 in. at 200 pounds is in a front-line role, along with Doug Haugh, 6 ft. at 165 pounds. Traa, 6 ft. 2 in. at 180 pounds is considered a top pass receiver, and a two-way player.

**IN THE BACKFIELD** numerous switches may be in order for the opener.

Cocaptain Bill Swarley, 5 ft. 9 in. at 185, was labeled for quarterback duties but the stocky Maple is expected to go from the fullback post this year.

Swarley has been the vault's punter and is a fair passer.

Wayne George, who was set for fullback, may get a regular assignment at right halfback, along side left half John Appleford, a speedy senior who is a dashman on the track team.

**BOB PECKHEISER**, reserve quarterback last year with good speed and fair passing abilities, may get the starting nod as signal caller.

Speedster Tony Evangelista, a 190-pound junior who broke his leg in a reserve game last year, has an inside chance for a regular halfback job, with Jeff Orr and Bill Wedge in backfield contention.



**COACHING STAFF** at Birmingham high school includes (left to right) Tom Carson, Lew Perry, Joe Borovick and head coach Carl Lemle. This is Lemle's second season as Maple coach. Perry is also baseball coach and Borovick coaches the golf team.

### BIRMINGHAM SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	1954 SCORES	1953 SCORES
Sept. 16	Southfield	Home	8:00 p.m.	8	0
Sept. 21	Cranbrook	Home	8:00 p.m.	20	12
Sept. 30	Mt. Clemens	Away	8:00 p.m.	14	19
Oct. 7	Ferndale	Home	8:00 p.m.	3	28
Oct. 14	Hazel Park	Home	8:00 p.m.	7	6
Oct. 21	East Detroit	Away	8:00 p.m.	15	7
Oct. 28	Port Huron	Home	8:00 p.m.	7	19
Nov. 11	Berkley	Home	8:00 p.m.	12	13
Nov. 21	Royal Oak	Away	11:00 a.m.	0	12

\*Eastern Michigan League game.

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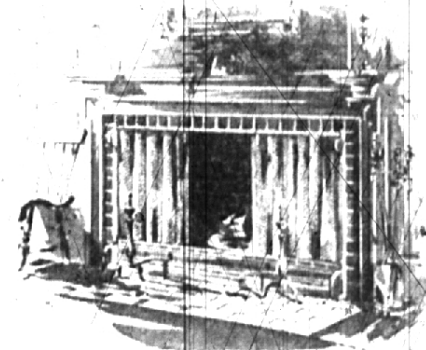
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