

Sport Shots

By DICK KELLEY
Sports Editor

Southfield's track team will labor under a definite disadvantage this season and I am not speaking about any particular lack of manpower (which this season also happens to be the case).

There is an old rule in sports that the advantage is with the home team. This has been traced by one sport sage all the way back to George slaying the dragon on his home field.

Regardless of the origin, the rule is widely accepted today. Now back to the point in case, Southfield has no track of its own which forces the Jay thinclads to run all meets on the opponent's field.

BUT THE disadvantage that can overcome at Southfield last season proved it. The Jays took the Inter-Lakes league title with a 6-3 record while running all meets on the road.

Going a step farther, just what is the advantage of playing at home? There are many different answers but the principal one seems to be environment.

Competitors like familiar surroundings the story goes. Hockey is a good example of home ground advantages. In the National Hockey league, teams often go through the whole season without winning a game on a certain team's ice while just the reverse may be true at home.

NOW THE is just the same at every arena, the nets are the same size, the players are the same; but the team that is a demon at home is often a lamb on the road.

Hard to explain but the facts don't lie. And the rule is applicable to many sports. Of course, in some cases the explanation is obvious. Basketball, for instance, favors the home club in many cases because of the court. A squad that plays on a small court can make life miserable for a team that is accustomed to a spacious gym.

BUT MOST sports, especially in the college and professional ranks, the facilities are just about equal. And you still hear the loser's partying statement: "Wait till we get them at home."

Funny part about it, the tables are often reversed in the second meeting.

Got any ideas why?

Birmingham city commission took steps Monday night to alleviate the baseball diamond shortage in the area. The group approved starting immediately on diamond three at Eton Park instead of holding off for another year.

Charlie Gale, city supt. of parks and forestry, hopes to have the diamond completed sometime in July.

Tremendous growth of organized summer baseball in Birmingham is causing the diamond shortage. The Little League alone is expecting 800 boys for tryouts starting Saturday.

ON THE golfing front two area pros turned in a creditable performance in the Master's tournament last weekend in Atlanta, Ga.

Pete Cooper of Knollwood and Wally Burkhead of the Lincoln Hills both finished in the top 20 of the annual classic which drew the top performers in the country.

'B' Club Holds Annual Carnival Friday Evening

Annual carnival of the "B" club will be held Friday night at Bloomfield Hills high school with proceeds going to the club's athletic fund.

The "B" club is made up of the school's athletic letter-winners. The club uses the money to buy sports equipment not included in the budget.

Carnival will have all sorts of games and prizes, according to Don Hoff, B'north athletic director.

Maples Open Baseball Season at Waterford

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Southfield Little League Registration April 21st

Southfield Little League baseball expects to register over 400 young baseball enthusiasts at Southfield high school varsity field, Lahser and W. Ten Mile Roads, on Saturdays, April 21st and April 28th, at 9:30 A.M.

Boys, ages 8 to 12 years, in 124-year-old can qualify if his 13th birthday falls after July 31st, who are interested in playing organized baseball this summer, and living within the area of Southfield Township, are qualified for registration.

It is not necessary for boys who have played minor league ball in Southfield to register, however, all newcomers and boys with minor league experience must register, as must those who have previously played in Little League outside of the township.

MAJOR and minor league veterans will return to their minor club for spring practice tryouts, along with the newcomers.

New registrants' names are drawn from a players pool by the minor league managers, so that each of the age classifications are equally divided among the 8 major teams.

Those living West of the Evergreen boundary will make their bid with one of the American League teams: the Red Sox, Indians, Tigers and Yankees.

Veterans and rookies are tutored together as one squad, receiving helpful hints in batting, fielding, throwing and base running by managers and coaches. Just prior to the opening game on Thursday, May 31, the managers must select their major squads, composed of

Little League Football Set Spring Round-Up

Boys 9 through 12-years-old from Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school districts interested in playing Little League football this fall may obtain application blanks and details of the program at their schools beginning today, it was announced by Mel B. Lindquist, board chairman of Little League football, Inc.

It is particularly important at this time for youngsters who expect to take part in our expanded schedule this fall to get their applications in as quickly as possible.

"We plan to have three varsity teams for boys 11 and 12-years-old and three freshman teams for boys 9 and 10-years-old when the season starts."

"HOWEVER, even with the enlarged squads it will be difficult to take care of all the youngsters who want to play."

"Therefore, we hope as many as possible will fill their applications now," Lindquist said.

The first spring round-up of applicants will be held Saturday, April 21 at 2:30 p.m.

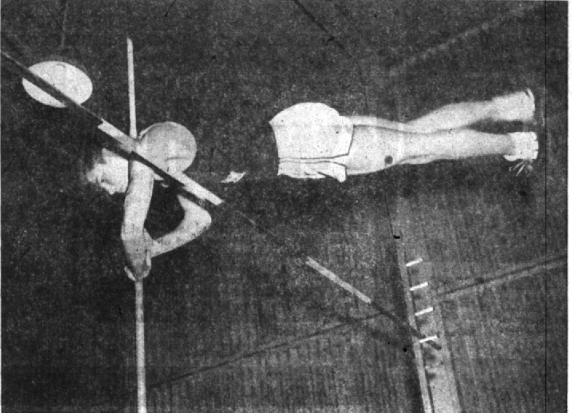
BOYS who live south of Maple and east of Cranbrook roads may meet coaches and turn in applications at Pierrefield field, behind Pierce school.

Those who live north of Maple and east of Lahser will meet at Vaughan field on Vaughan road, west of Cranbrook road, south of Maple and west of Lahser.



GET SET: Monte Charles, Southfield track coach (right), shows Dick Holliday the proper starting form while assistant coach Will Stienke peps Gary Evans.

Holliday and Evans are two of the top lettermen back from last season. The Jay thinclads open the track season Friday afternoon at Hazel Park.



LOOKS EASY: Bill McFarlen makes pole vaulting look easy as he clears the 11-foot bar during indoor workouts at Birmingham high school. McFarlen set a Maple school record at 11 feet 11 and 3/4 inches at the First Huron Relays at Ypsilanti three weeks ago. McFarlen hopes to add another eight inches to that mark during the outdoor season. The state class A high school record is 12 feet 7 inches.

Local LL to Use New Tryout System

Baseball tryouts in the Birmingham Little League will be scored by a new system recommended by the LL national headquarters.

A score card will be kept on each boy taking part in the tryouts. He will be marked on batting, throwing, fielding and speed.

The new system was developed to give every boy an equal chance to show his ability under the same circumstances. Tryout directors will compile each boy's score. The scoring will be used to fill teams after manager selections.

BOYS, ages 8-12, should report for the league tryout of the area in which they live. Boundaries for the three leagues are as follows: American League includes all boys who live west of Woodward, between 14-Mile and Maple.

National leaguers are all those who live north of Maple road. Federal leaguers include all those who live outside the above areas.

Players who were members of a Little League team last year do not report for tryouts but will report for practice on call of the managers.



GOOD CATCH: John (left) and David Crouch, sons of Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Crouch, 1925 Squirrel, Bloomfield township, display their catch on the dock at Key West, Fla. The boys landed the key themselves, fishing off the 12-Mile reef near Key West.

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Only 3 Positions Set On Starting Lineup

Birmingham will open the prep baseball season Friday at Waterford.

The non-league opener gives Maple coach Lou Parry his first chance to see many of the rookie diamond candidates in action.

PARRY was sure of only three starting positions early this week. Pitching will be handled by junior Larry Hower who showed great potential last season understudying Dick Sheldon who signed a Detroit Tiger farm contract this winter.

Other starters will be veteran second-baseman Bill Deer and sophomore catcher Ron Cornilia. Parry has high hopes for Cornilia who was named to the Babe Ruth league all-star team last summer.

PARRY will experiment with several players at the rest of the positions until the top performers are determined.

Veterans Jim Traa, Bill Appel and Bob Bell will get first crack at the outfield. Bob Ishell has a slight edge on the first-base job.

THIRD-BASE appears to be the biggest question-mark facing Parry. One solution could be John Fleener who sparked the Maple basketball team this year. Fleener, a transfer from Flint Central, will be given plenty of opportunity to show his ability around the "hot corner."

"We're starting our schedule early this year," Parry said, "so it will be a couple of weeks before our lineup is set. I'll experiment at most positions until I am sure of what we got."

AFTER Waterford, the Maples host Southfield Tuesday in another non-league clash.

Birmingham, which will be after

Church League Cage Banquet Date Set

YMCA Church league basketball banquet will be held at the Birmingham YMCA Wednesday night at 6 p.m. League champions Redemer Lutheran and consolation winners First Baptist will present trophies.

Jim Wink, Highland Park prep coach, will be one of the speakers. Wink also coached the Redemer crew this season.

TOP PROSPECT: Ron Cornilia (above) will handle the catching duties in Birmingham's base ball opener tomorrow at Waterford.

Ruth all-star last summer is a sophomore who will be counted on heavily this season by coach Lou Parry.



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