

Sport Maps Top Waterford in Baseball Opener

By DICK KELLEY
Sports Editor

A quick look at the Sports-week column this week indicates that spring is here and so are the spring sports.

All the area high school spring sport teams will be in action by this weekend. Birmingham opened the baseball season Friday afternoon at Waterford and came home with a thrilling 2-1 victory.

The tempo reached fever-pitch in the final stanza. The Maples held a slim 2-1 lead but Waterford loaded the bases with only one out. But the next two batters were easy outs and Birmingham owned its first win.

KERMIT Ambrose' Maple track team opens the outdoor season Friday afternoon at Pierce field. Ambrose has some very good-looking prospects and should enjoy an over winning season. Waterford will provide the opposition tomorrow.

Stopped by the Little League baseball tryouts Saturday morning and an impressive sight they are. Despite the large turnout at the three fields, everything went off very smoothly.

League officials have the tryouts down to a science this year. Every boy at the different fundamentals of the game. A scorecard is kept on his running, hitting, throwing and fielding prowess. This provides every boy an equal opportunity for showing his ability.

SPEAKING of the Little League baseball program some confusion has resulted in scheduling the baseball tryouts and Birmingham Little Football League spring round-up on the next two Saturdays.

Some parents have wondered why different days weren't selected by the two groups. Also, many people don't realize that the two programs are in no way related to each other.

TO HELP clear up the situation, officials of both leagues have written letters to this paper which appear today on this page.

If you have had any doubts about the groups and their relationship, read the comments of Boyd Simmons, Birmingham Little League president and Marc Parsons, Birmingham Little Football League publicity chief.

Both groups do a great job of providing recreations for Birmingham youngsters and deserving of only the highest praise from the parents of this area.

A CHIP off the old block! That's what they are saying at the University of Detroit about Tommy Watrous, son of Al Watrous, long-time Oakland Hills golf pro.

Tommy is considered the top performer on the Titan golf team this season. Young Watrous, 20, averaged 76 for 18 competitive rounds as a sophomore last spring.

With a year of experience under his belt, big things are expected of Watrous this season.

Another son of a famous father is the number one man at the Titan tennis team, Earl Clark, son of one of the all-time football greats, Dutch Clark, is U. of D.'s foremost tennis player.

Dutch moved to this area after leaving U. of D. as football coach and athletic director two years ago to enter private business.

SIMILAR names are familiar at Cranbrook this spring sport season. Cousins Jim and Chuck Crane are regulars on the Crane baseball team and brothers Alex and Barry Smith are a doubles combination on the tennis team.

CLASS "A" farm teams will continue as in the past, except that 12-year-olds will be prohibited from pitching.

A "Player-Parent" rally will be held tonight at Southfield high school to kick-off the new season. Sport celebrities will attend and color-sonnet movies will be shown at the program starting at 7:30 p.m.

Little League registrations start Saturday morning at 9:30 at the high school field. Registration is compulsory for boys interested in playing this summer, who have not played major league ball in Southfield.

Bob Stevenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald R. Stevenson, 204 Williamsburg, Birmingham, is a member of the Lacrosse team at Kenyon college, Gambier, Ohio.



THIS GROUP of boys and their fathers at St. James field Saturday morning was duplicated at Pierce and Poppleton fields at the first tryouts of the Birmingham Little League baseball program. Over 700 boys showed up at the first tryouts. Another 100 are expected to join the group during tryouts on the next two Saturdays. Boys who played last season didn't have to turn out for the trials. The boys (above) are turning in applications while waiting for the tryouts to start. This group includes boys from 8 through 10 years old. The older boys, 11 and 12-year-olds, worked out earlier.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

PAGE 6 APRIL 19, 1956

Cranes Whip Assumption

George Gary's ninth-inning single drove home a run and gave Cranbrook a 5-4 victory over Assumption Saturday afternoon on the Crane diamond.

Tied 4-4 at the end of the regulation seven innings the game was forced into extra innings. In the ninth Dave Cooper singled to right and stole second to set up Gary's game-winning hit.

CHANBROOK scored two runs in the sixth inning to tie the score, 4-4. Jim Grube got to first after being hit with a pitched ball and

Chuck Grube reached the initial sack on an error. Both boys advanced on a double steal and scored on Dave Campbell's squeeze bunt.

Pete Bedford was the starting pitcher, relieved by Campbell in the sixth who was the winner. Gary was behind the plate all the way.

FERDALE beat the Cranes, 5-4, last Thursday, pushing across four runs in the sixth inning after trailing 4-1.

Jim Samac was the big man for Ferdale in the inning. His bases-loaded triple scored three runs. He scored the winning run moments later on an infield error.

Bruce Richards was the starting pitcher for Cranbrook, relieved by Bedford in the sixth. Gary did the Crane catching.



DAVE COOPER crosses the plate with the winning run against Assumption Saturday afternoon at Cranbrook. Cooper scored from second base on a single by Crane catcher George Gary to break up a 4-4 ninth-inning tie. A Crane teammate and the umpire watch the play closely as the Ferdale catcher gets the ball too late to stop the run.

Southfield LL Raising Money

Southfield Little League is currently conducting a fund-raising campaign to aid the budget for the summer program. Money is needed to field eight additional minor league teams this season.

The Southfield Little League committee has distributed 500 "I am a booster" award cards and 100 canisters in area business places. The additional teams this year will be composed of younger boys and those with less experience who otherwise would not be able to play with the major teams. The group will be known as the "B" league and sponsorships are still open.

Maple Thinclads Meet Waterford

Birmingham's outdoor varsity track season opens tomorrow afternoon at Pierce field with Waterford.

The Maple first start of the season was in the 100-yard dash. No points-scoring was kept at the Reynolds track meet at Upland. In the pole vault and placed in several relay events which drew the top prep track teams in the state.

Coach Kermit Ambrose has many letters back and is a strong contender for the EML track title for the second consecutive year.

AFTER tomorrow's meet four members of the Maple track team will leave for Mansfield, Ohio to compete in the Mansfield Relays Saturday.

The Mansfield Relays, one of the top prep relay carnivals in the mid-west, draws outstanding athletes from Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio.

Such famous track names as Jesse Owen and Harrison Dillard are found on the list of record holders. One of Birmingham's outstanding athletes has his name in the Mansfield Relay record book. Queen City's Bedford's half-mile record of 1:52 set in 1938 still stands.

Reserve Thinclads Defeat Clawson

Sophomore Bob Stephenson paced Birmingham's reserve track team to a 58-51 victory over the Clawson varsity Monday afternoon at Pierce field.

Birmingham captured five first and tied for two more while outclassing the older Clawson squad. Stephenson's 12 points was individual high for Birmingham.

The Maples showed their greatest strength in the shot put, mile and half mile where they picked up 25 of 27 possible points.

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STEPHENSON was first in the high hurdles, 18.9; tied for first in high jump, 6'4", and placed second in the 115-yard hurdles.

Other Birmingham firsts were won by Bob Hohmeyer in the shot put, 42.3; Tom Fontaine in mile, 5:06.6; Ken Kertz in 880, 2:13.5; and melder relay of Steve Hunter, Doug Booth, Les Danielson and Don Tate, 2:18.0.

Pole vaulter Jim Silbar of Birmingham placed in a three-way tie for first with Pat Hines and Earl Hudson of Clawson.

The win keeps intact the victory string for dual meets started by the Maple varsity, reserve and freshmen thinclads in 1955.

EVEN if some boys are interested in both programs, there still will be no problem in time between the Little League Baseball Spring Roundups and the start of the Little League Baseball season.

Practice is scheduled until late summer and fall. But because so many boys are away during much of the summer, the Board felt it was only fair to give the youngsters and their parents the opportunity to ask questions about the football program and file their names on the one they are in the Spring Roundups are being held at this time.

Sincerely,
Marc J. Parsons
Publicity Director
Birmingham Little League Football League

4 Teams Join Softball Loop

Four teams have entered the YMCA summer softball loop but two teams are invited to join the loop.

Teams already entered are the Varsity Shop, Birmingham Merchants, First National Bank and Sam Weaver's Service.

Interested teams may join at the league's next meeting, April 30, at the Birmingham YMCA.

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Officials Cite Differences In Local LL Programs

For some time the names Birmingham Little League baseball and Birmingham Little Football League have been confusing to many readers. Further difficulty has arisen by the scheduling of separate activities on the same days of this month. The following letters, from officials of each league are presented to help clear up the confusion.

To the Editor:
Because of the similarity in names between Birmingham Little League Baseball and Birmingham Little Football League had become such is starting its spring program now, there seems to be confusion in the minds of some parents and their sons.

The Birmingham Little Football League has no spring training program.

The Birmingham Little Football League has been referring to itself in public relations as Birmingham Little League Football. This was due to a misunderstanding which has now been cleared up.

The Little League name is nationally copyrighted one. It belongs solely to the boys' baseball program.

BIRMINGHAM Little League Baseball is a franchised part of Little League Baseball, Inc. with headquarters in Williamsport, Pa. It operates three baseball leagues in Birmingham with 36 teams starting at this time of year with tryouts and ending with the completion of league play July 31.

Any other program is a completely independent one.

We raise the point at this time because for the next three Saturdays the football program will be having afternoon registrations while as usual at this time of year Little League baseball tryouts will be held in the morning and, where necessary, in the afternoon. Some parents have asked us why so much is being concentrated in one day.

These are two separate programs, each trying to serve the boys of the Birmingham area and each trying to meet its problems in its own way. We regret any conflict.

Sincerely,
Boyd Simmons, president
Birmingham Little League Baseball

Second-round Birmingham Little League baseball tryouts are scheduled Saturday at Poppleton, Eton, Pierce and Howarth fields.

Over 800 boys turned out Saturday at the first tryouts exceeding even the highest estimate of league officials.

The large turnout necessitates two schedule changes this Saturday. The National League tryouts at Poppleton field for 11 and 12-year-olds will be at 9 a.m. but the 9 and 10-year-olds should not report until 1:30 p.m.

AMERICAN and Federal League tryouts will be the same as last week with one exception. Boys 11 and 12-year-olds will report at 9 a.m. and 9 and 10-year-olds will report at 11 a.m. American League trials are at Eton Park and Federal league at Pierce field.

The exception is eight-year-old boys in the American league district who should report to Howarth field this week at 10 a.m.

EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS in the other two leagues who reported last week should not report this week. These boys will be notified by managers of practice schedule.

With the large turnout last week some boys did not get a number to wear in the trials. League officials have secured more numbers for this week.

Babe Ruth Tryouts Start Saturday At High School

Birmingham Babe Ruth baseball tryouts start Saturday at the high school field. Boys between the ages of 13 and 18, residing in the Birmingham school district, are eligible to tryout for the team.

Boys who played in the league last season do not have to compete in the tryouts but will be notified by league officials of practice dates.

TRYOUTS will begin at 9 a.m. and boys are asked to register at the field before the sessions start.

Last season 75 boys played on the five teams in the league but officials plan a farm system this year to accommodate more boys.

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Waterford Rally Fails

By DON WEIR

Clutch pitching, a brace of errors and an early rally brought Birmingham a 2-1 opener victory over Waterford Friday afternoon on the losers' home diamond.

With one away in the top of the first, Bill Beiser singled for the Maples and John Fleser reached first on an error by Dave Latta. After the local boys had successfully pulled a double steal with two out, Bill Isbell singled home both runs for Birmingham.

WATERFORD'S Jerry Harnack reached first on a throwing error by short stop Arnie Isaac. A wild pitch credited to Maple Larry Howler enabled Harnack to reach second before Harry Deambro slammed a clean base hit to left field. The throw to the plate was late, and Harnack scored the only Skipper run.

Until the last inning, both hurlers stayed out of trouble. In the bottom of the seventh, Waterford had a golden opportunity to pull the game out of a tie. With one away, pinch-hitter Jim Woodman doubled. However walked the next two men before being struck down and getting the last outs on an easy infield fly and grounder.

SKIPPER hurler Gene Klender and Howler each allowed only three hits in the exciting "pitchers' duel." Maple coach Harry Isbell has high hopes for Howler this season and the young hurler's first effort seems to indicate Parry is right.

Both pitchers, displaying mid-season form, were ahead of hitters who were out of sync. Klender batted practice in the early season opener.

The Maples start the Eastern Michigan league season Wednesday afternoon at Mt. Clemens. Birmingham is defending EML baseball champ.

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LL Trials Continue

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Sportsweek

- BASEBALL**
- April 19—Troy at Avondale, 3:30 p.m.
 - April 20—Huron Valley at Bloomfield Hills, 4:00 p.m.
 - April 21—Barley at Cranbrook, 4:00 p.m.
 - April 24—Southfield at Birmingham, 4:00 p.m.
 - Catholic Central at Cranbrook, 4:00 p.m.
 - April 20—Waterford at Birmingham (Pierce field), 4:00 p.m.
 - April 25—Birmingham at Mount Clemens
 - Millford Reserves at Bloomfield Hills, 4:00 p.m.
 - Troy at Roseville, 4:00 p.m.
 - April 26—Southfield and Waterford at Orchard Lake
 - St. Mary, 4:00 p.m.
- GOLF**
- April 19—Birmingham at Waterford
 - Southfield at Bentley
 - Detroit Country Day at Bloomfield Hills
 - April 23—Van Dyke and Redford Union at Southfield (Plum Hollow), 4:00 p.m.
 - Avondale at Troy (Sylvan Glen), 2:30 p.m.
 - April 24—Catholic Central at Bloomfield Hills
 - April 25—Birmingham at Mount Clemens
 - April 26—Mount Clemens at Birmingham