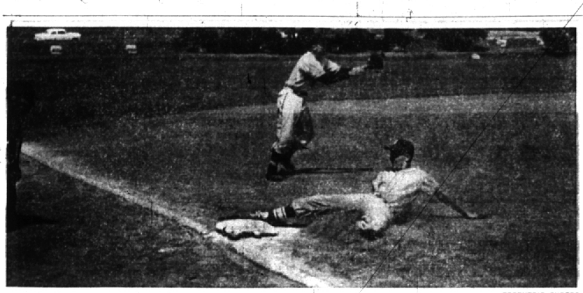
B'ham Americans Step into Little League Semifinals



ECCENTRIC PHOTOS

ROGER BARRETT slides safely into third base ahead of the ball on Jay Madonna's double. Later, both players scored on Bob Wood's single to take an early two-run first inning lead. This effort wasn't enough as Birmingham lost to Escanaba.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

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Touchdown Time Again, Get Ready For 1956 Little League Football

Two meetings to acquaint interested families with 1956 plans of the Birmingham Little Football League will be held next week, Mel B. Linquist, League president, announced today.

The meetings will be in the multi-purpose room of Franklin school Monday evening, Aug. 6, and in the multi-purpose room of Wing Lake school Tuesday evening, Aug. 7. Both will start at 7:30 p.m.

League officials and team coaches will be on hand to meet prospective players and their parents and to report on this year's program. Also scheduled are equipment safety demonstrations and movies of one of last year's games.

Boys wishing to play football can register at those meetings. Many youngsters signed up last spring at a series of "round ups" sponsored by the league.

NEXT WEEK'S meetings are open to families living in the "unit three" areas of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Franklin. Unit three takes in those sections of the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school districts west of Cranbrook road, south of Maple, and west of Lahser road, north of Maple.

Birmingham will have six teams —three varsity and three freshman—this year in the suburban All-American Little Football League. Also competing will be four teams each from Royal Oak, St. Clair and Grosse Pointe Park, and two teams each from Dearborn and Lincoln Park.

Both the varsity and freshman teams will play a round-robin schedule of games starting Sept. 15.

BOYS 11 AND 12 years old are eligible to play on the varsity teams. Boys of 9 and 10 will make up the freshman squads.

Head coaches of the unit three teams—known as the Birmingham Browns — will be Dave (Bud) Jones, of 780 Westwood, for the varsity and Joe Anderson, 5642 Putnam, for the freshman squad. Jones will be assisted by Don Erwin, 6300 Westmoor, and Tom Kuzma, 3810 N. Millerway. Anderson's assistants will be Wally Perkins, 1503 Porter lane, Lower Long lake, and Al Schumm, 443 Southlawn.

OTHER COACHES will be:

Unit one—Birmingham Tigers: Varsity head coach—Dick Kleppe, 1591 Stanley; assistants — Don Borgeson, 16915 Birwood, and Leo Renault, 1638 Stanley. Freshman head coach—Sam Henderson, 1786 Bates; assistants—Bud Carrigan, 1470 Washington, and Stan Kelly, 2885 N. Adams.

Unit two—Birmingham Wolverines: Varsity head coach—Hardin Kritz, 3757 Pembroke; assistants—Ray Cragin, Guilford road, Bloomfield Hills, Maurice Stern, 1386 Stanley, and Wally Teniga, 1390 Lake Park. Freshman head coach—Hugh McPhail, 1245 Pierce; assistants—Jim Risdon, 2243 Pine, and John Kelley, 3985 W. Lincoln.

Want a good used car? Look in the Classified Columns under "For Sale—Automobiles."

B'ham and Detroit Tennis Clubs Meet In Tight Contest

At 1:30 P.M., Saturday, August 4th, Kingswood Courts, Cranbrook, home of the Birmingham Tennis Club, will be the scene of an inter-club match with the Detroit Tennis Club. Feature contest will be a replay of the finals of the recent Detroit city championships between Gil Bogley of Birmingham and Leonard Brose of Detroit.

Besides Brose, members of the visiting Detroit Tennis Club team will include Jim Bicknell, 8-time Detroit city champion, Ben Siegel, Dr. Stein, Dr. Jerry Gurman and Len Weiner.

BIRMINGHAM Tennis Club team will consist entirely of past university varsity tennis players, including the host is Bogley, 1956 Detroit City Champion, 1948 and 49 National junior champion, and captain of the Princeton varsity team; Charlie Lynch, captain of the rival Yale University team in Bagley's time.

Then, there is Bob Faught, Notre Dame University team star, a contemporary of the great Jack Kramer in National Junior competition; Don MacKay, University of Michigan captain in 1951; Dick Gabani, University of North Carolina team and two-time Birmingham Tennis Club champion, and Pete Pickard, Cornell University.

The matches will be open to the public.

Much Golf Activity Set at Pine Lake CC

Lots of golf activity has taken place at the Pine Lake Country Club. Two weeks ago, the senior championship was decided with Len Anderson becoming the new 45-60 year division leader.

P. was P. head pro, has dropped in the second ace at the club this season. Pete Booth, 800 Henley drive, Birmingham, got his first hole-in-one on the number two (165-yard per 3) using a five iron.

THE ANNUAL CLUB championship tournament gets underway with players turning in qualifying rounds all last week. Match play begins this week and finals are scheduled for Labor Day.

All match play, with the exception of the finals, are over 18 holes with the finals set for 36 holes.

Bill Nettle, well known local golfer is the defending champ.

B'ham Babe Ruthers Lose Out in Tourney

By JACK KEHOE

Under the inquisitive eye of a TV camera and the encouraging eyes of a great many local baseball fans, Birmingham's Babe Ruth representative lost a narrow 3-2 ball game to the lads out of the north, Escanaba.

The tension packed clash between these two teams was the semifinal offering of the Michigan Babe Ruth League Tournament staged quite handsomely by the Southfield league at their high school field.

Only consolation was the fact that the crown was retained in the metropolitan area when the suburban group from Lincoln Park topped the same Norseman in Sunday's final game, 4-3.

THE DOWNFALL of the local nine was caused primarily by a number of bobbles and miscues which permitted two demoralizing unearned runs to come across. This was a surprising turn of events because the B'ham Ruthers were noted for their defensive strength.

Not to be overlooked was the pitching performance of Escanaba's George Peterson who fed **Birmingham curve balls all afternoon** and thereby limited them to four hits.

THE BALL GAME got off to a **happy start as Birmingham rammed through two runs** in their half of the first inning. Scoring was made by **Barrett** taking a walk and then, **Jay** Madonna, a hitting and **defensive** sensation of the tourney, rapping out a single to right.

Barrett went to third on the hit and Madonna continued with his turn around first to charge into second on the throw over to third Bob Wood stepped to the plate and lashed out another single to right, scoring both Barrett and Madonna.

With two big runs, things looked rosey for the home boys. But the rose soon wilted by the third inning when Escanaba tied the game up with their second run.

IN THE CRUCIAL seventh inning, Peterson, Escanaba's pitcher made a single, scoring teammate Johnson who had reached second on two B'ham misplays.

Storybook play of the game was turned in by B'ham catcher Madonna who left the plate unguarded to catch a wide peg from his second baseman. Without losing stride, he grabbed the ball and made a desperate nosedive back to the plate in time to tag Bordeau who was attempting to score from third.

All in all, Coach John Madonna and his players are to be commended for surmounting a tough schedule, as a well as, a number of injuries to turn in the fine tournament performances they did

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Birmingham	200 000 0—2 4 0

Decision May Ease Tom Tracy Into Lion Uniform

Tom (The Bomb) Tracy, former star athlete at Birmingham high school may soon be able to slip on his shoulder pads and helmet to take part in the Detroit Lions football drills.

A recent decision by the Canadian court, which affects Tom Dublinski, former Lion quarterback, directly and Tracy, indirectly, threw out the Detroit club's request to prevent Dublinski from playing with the Toronto Argonauts.

THIS quite possibly will be the straw that will break Bert Bell's back. Bell, National Football League commissioner, has opposed the Lions' bid to sign and use Tracy for the coming campaign because he was under option to the Ottawa club in the Canadian league.

It is hardly likely that Bell will support the legal claims of the Ottawa outfit, if the Canadians in turn, don't honor the contract ties that the Lions have on Dublinski.

TRACY who won gridiron fame with abbreviated play at University of Tennessee and then, pro experience and reputation as a hard hitting back with Ottawa, is personally more interested in the home town club than returning across the border.

A great many aspects are tied up in this bundle of Canadian legalistics which go far beyond these two cases. Present contracts with the players and club owners are in for a beating and possibly other courtroom scrimaging.

ONE BRIGHT RAY of sunlight from all this might be an acceleration among American and Canadian club owners to settle their differences and come under one big unified command.

B'ham Jr. Teams Close Out Season

Birmingham's newest baseball program, the Birmingham Junior Baseball League, finished up a ten game season slate with the Diamond and Blues tied for the top position.

A one-game knock-out tournament has been scheduled this week with the championship to be decided on Friday. Games will be played at St. James field, starting time at 5:30 p.m.

	W	L
Diamonds	8	2
Blues	8	2
Aggies	7	3
Wings	4	6
Royals	3	7
Monarchs	2	7

IN A SPECIAL game arranged with the second team of the B'ham Babe Ruth league, the B'ham Juniors lost a close contest 4-3.

In a tight ball game, the second Babe Ruth All-Stars came from behind in the sixth inning with 2-runs and 3 hits to defeat a fighting Junior Baseball League All-Star team. Losing pitcher Larry Stolberg allowed only 6 hits, but Sisson, Gerhard, and Paige put 3 together for the 2 runs that meant the ball game.

Baker, Levy and Gerhard combined to hurl 2 hit ball—a triple by Watson and a double by Sidorski—for the winners.

JUNIOR All-Star players are:

Aggies	Diamonds
Richard Granke	Dave Granda
Mike Hoerner	Tom Lyons
Jim Buhly	Paul Simmons
John Watson	**Monarchs**
Blues	Harry Dutche
Duane Dunham	**Royals**
Greg Frontiera	Skippy Chase
Jim Hinds	John Horner
Philip Satterthwaite	James Townsend
Dennis Sisson	**Wings**
Raymond Zehnder	Larry Stolberg
	Gerry Storch

Manager Rod Keller and Connie Adams and coaches Don Halpin and Tom Stinson.

Ann Holmes Plays In Tennis Semi's

Only one of Birmingham's recreation department tennis representatives went forward to the semi-finals of the Annual Detroit Novice Tennis Tournament.

In matches which were held at Palmer Park Mrs. Ann Holmes proved herself a strong competitor before losing before Ann Smothers, 6-2, 6-0, 7-5.

In the junior boys division, B'hams Howard Kutchai lost to Frank Brown, 6-0, 7-5.

The third Birmingahmite who was qualified for the tourney was Whitney Walker in the junior girl's section. She lost to Marlene Iverson, 6-4, 6-1.

Walton's Bat Booms and Kolacsay's Pitches Zing For Double District Wins

The Birmingham Americans will seek tomorrow night to do what no other local Little League all star team has ever done—beat a Hamtramck team in a tournament.

The American league squad slugged their way into the North bracket finals by downing Walled Lake 7-3 Friday night and then swamping the Harper Woods Nationals 6-0 Saturday.

While the Americans were scoring their second and third victories the other two Birmingham leagues were eliminated.

The Hamtramck American Little Leaguers squeezed out a win over Birmingham's National League representatives, 5-4.

The Birmingham lads jumped into a 2-0 lead in the first inning on a walk to McGovern, a double by Tregenza and Baumrucker's single, which drove in two runs. They increased their advantage to 3-0 without benefit of a hit in the second when Nelles walked, advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on an error by the Hamtramck shortstop.

DICK FARRICKER had limited the Hamtramck attack to two hits in the first three innings and appeared to be on the victory road but four hits, a walk and an error on a crucial play let Hamtramck forge ahead 4-3. The most devastating blow came when Lilly, the third baseman, belted one of Farricker's curve balls over the left field fence with two on.

Art Tregenza led off the Birmingham fifth with a double to right center, stole second and later scored on an error. This knotted the count at 4-4.

Osiecki and Dudek opened the Hamtramck fifth with line drive doubles to right center, the former scoring. Tregenza then settled down and got the next three batters, but the damage was done. Rutkowski, a six-foot, one-inch 12-year-old, set the Birmingham boys down in order in the last inning.

THE FEDERALS were beaten in Harper Woods by a clever pitcher, Dennis Pollock, who shut them out 2-0 on one hit. Larry Du'Charme got a double in the first inning—and that was that.

Bruce Coburn, the Federal pitcher, gave up three runs at the start of the game and then pitched brilliantly—but it was too late.

On Saturday the Hamtramck team outhit the Harper Woods Americans, the Federal boys' conqueror, 7-3 to earn the right play the Birmingham Americans in the bracket finals at Eton Field at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow.

THE WINNER will meet the Downriver bracket survivor at the Eton diamond at 3 p.m. Saturday. Lincoln Park Central and the Hamtramck Nationals play Friday night for the right to oppose The Birmingham American-Hamtramck American winner for the Detroit district championship.

Whatever the future holds, the American leaguers' performances so far have been impressive.

They are the first Birmingham Little League team ever to win three tournament games. The American league won two in both 1953 and 1954 and the National league won two last year but the third victory always proved elusive.

WITH FOUR HOMERS in three games, Doug Walton has established a local slugging record for tournament play.

And Carl Kalocsay's feat in striking out 16 Milford batters and then 13 from Harper Woods takes a back seat for nothing that has happened in the past.

The Americans were jittery at the opening of the game at Walled Lake, making three infield errors in the first inning to fall behind 1-0.

Walton, the pitcher, tied it up with a first inning, bases-empty homer after two were out.

BIRMINGHAM took the lead in the second when with the bases loaded and two out, pitcher Dennis Sikkila hit Stewart Harley to force in a run.

Then the American leaguers really went to work in the third. Walton and Kalocsay got on through errors and Delmar Gowing got his second hit, a double, to score both. Then Tom Ryan, the third baseman, walked and Craig Kirby belted one over the center field fence to make the score 7-1.

Walton, despite the high temperature, set the Walled Lake players down from then on, except for the fifth when shortstop Vince Cesaro hit a two-run home to complete the scoring. Walton fanned 10 and allowed three hits.

THE BIRMINGHAM players made up for their early mistakes with some brilliant fielding in the later innings.

Making their first start at home, the Americans overwhelmed their Harper Woods rivals who had beaten St. Clair 6-5 the night before.

In the first inning Harley singled and Walton hit a homer run, to make the score 2-0. In the third Walton walked and Ryan drove one over the fence to make it 4-0. Then in the fifth Harley homered for his third hit and Walton knocked a second ball out of the park—and that was that.

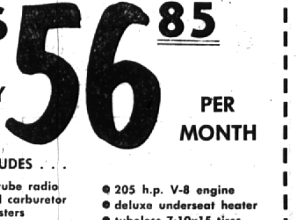
KALOCSAY allowed three hits. Manager Rob Kirby used all his players after getting a six-run lead.

The American leaguers' poise and all-around ability had made them the favorites to reach the Detroit district finals, but standing between them and that goal is the old Hamtramck jinx.

Manager Kirby, however, does not seem worried. He just grins and says:

"We'll take them as they come and see what happens."

Should the first Birmingham Little League team ever to win the Detroit district championship, they would have to play the Fort Wayne, Ind. winner as the next step in the national Little League eliminations.



STAR of the American League All-Stars is Carl Kalocsay, a hurler who mystifies the opposing batters with his fast balls and curves

ECCENTRIC PHOTOS

SALLY SHARP was able to properly combine her clubs and an obedient ball under pressure packed conditions to gain the women's state amateur title

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Michigan Golf Crown is Sally Sharp's Chapeau

A nifty job of "bringing home the bacon" was turned in by a 5-ft 6-in gal golfer who is a book carrying college coed for nine months of the year and then begins toting her golf clubs for the other three.

The power driving young lady is a local resident, Miss Sally Sharp. The bacon, in this case, is the Michigan Women's Amateur golf championship which she brings home to 144 Fairfax, Birmingham.

Sally won her title in a battle that lasted right down to the finish line for a one-up victory against Mrs. Jack Scripsema of Grand Rapids over the difficult Muskegon Country club course.

THE STATE CROWN that now **graces Miss Sharp's blond head wasn't decided until the 18th hole when she preserved her one-stroke advantage which had been gained on the 17th.**

Out-driving her competitor, she squared things up with a par on the 16th and maintained her shooting with a five foot putt that gave her another par for the 17th.

On the 18th and deciding hole, Sally was on the green in three and putted a couple of inches from the cup while Mrs. Scripsema had a four to the green. The Grand Rapids housewife quickly conceded the putt and the match was over.

SALLY CARDED 85 for the winning total while Mrs. Scripsema finished at 86. In putting, the two girls demonstrated mastery of the greens as they had 36 and 25 putts, respectively, for the final 18 holes.

Last year the local Birmingham miss came close to the same title when she was runner-up against Wiffi Smith. In two 1955 tournaments, Wiffi was somewhat of a nemesis to Sally when she won the state and district title while Miss Sharp was finalist in both events.

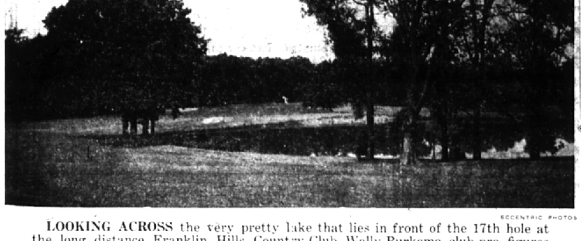
FOR THIS YEAR'S state match, Miss Smith was absent due to a much-deserved vacation after winning international titles—the British and French amateur crowns.

Forest Lake country club is the home course for the Michigan State student whose talent goes back to a golfing interest that started at five. She won the junior district title in 1953 and a number of club championships during the last few years.

In reaching the finals, Sally eliminated two former champions. In the quarterfinals, she topped Mrs. Don Weiss, a four-time winner of the state crown and then in the semifinals, she skinned by Mrs. E. O. Reynolds, 4 and 3.

MICHIGAN seems to be assured of having another star amateur golfer of the calibre of Wiffi Smith since many of the experts are willing to rate Sally as one of the most outstanding players that has been produced in the state.

★ ★ Scorecard Heartbreakers ★ ★



ECCENTRIC PHOTOS

LOOKING ACROSS the very pretty lake that lies in front of the 17th hole at the long distance Franklin Hills Country Club, Wally Burkemo, club pro, figures out his score as he surveys the most difficult hole at the local course.

"The professionals call this a 'gamblers' hole", said Wally Burkemo as he squinted across the small lake to the 17th green.

"It's a hole where, if you're one or two down, you'll take a gamble and try and drive across the pond —about a 250-yard poke", the Franklin Hills pro continued.

"But unless you are behind, most of the pros will drive right down the fairway and come around the other side of the lake on the sharp 90-degree dog-leg", he added.

THE 17TH HOLE rates as one of the prettiest on the long 6,829-yard Franklin Hills country club course. From the tee you can look down a narrow fairway for about 200-yards a with small, quiet lake sitting to the right.

Bordering the lake are a fringe of tall trees which offer the major obstacle to the short cut to the green, via a drive over the lake. "It not only takes a long drive", Wally remarked, "but you have to hit high enough to get over the trees".

THE FORMER PGA champion declared that most of the club's average golfers will get off a drive that puts them past the edge of the lake and a position to use a 4-wood or a 2-iron to the green.

The next club they will go to, is a wedge or a nine iron to get on. Putting on this green is relatively easy because it is fairly flat with just a little rolling 'train.

The sand traps that lie in front of the green allow for enough space to go past without too much difficulty.

BURKEMO estimated that the biggest factor on this hole was the importance of the drive for the par four. "There are a good many balls in that lake because of erratic drives", the mild mannered Wally pointed out.

There have been quite a few 4's and 5's taken on number 17 but even more 8's and 9's. Wally himself has carded a **remarkable three** for the hole on several occasions.

For the par 72-course, Burkemo has also turned in scores of 64 at five separate times. The blond 37-year-old Wally will complete his eighth year at the local club and likes the general area so well, that he makes his home at 5780 Snowshoe Circle, Gilbert Lake.

WALLY BURKEMO

Braves Take S'fld World Series Title

Southfield's Little League World Series had the Braves paired against the Indians with the Braves coming out on the big end of the score, 8-3.

Jeff Jensen stepped in and relieved Hal Rupp and went on to receive credit for the win.

Leading the Braves attack was Bill Musser who hit a double that scored two runs. The rally was started by right fielder Krueger with a single.

Losing pitcher was Hal Abel.

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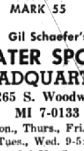

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