

# New Ski and Toboggan Rinks Planned This Winter

## B'ham Rec Bd. Approves Winter Sports, Explains 1955-56 Budget Surplus

By JACK KEHOE

When old man winter comes knocking at the door, Birmingham's recreation department will be ready with an exciting winter program to offer some new and exciting activities for its residents.

Along with the new projects, all of the old winter sports will be run as they were last year. At last week's Recreation Board meeting, Bob Girardin, recreation director, asked the board to OK his plans for a beginner's ski slope and toboggan run to be built at the disposal plant property near Charles Gale, Parks and Forestry, and Girardin has surveyed the location and expects to utilize the natural slope which can be cleared and prepared for approximately \$200.

The board granted permission for the director to go ahead on this plan.

THE FURTHER development of natural ice skating rinks was another program considered by the board. They approved a total of \$1,500 for the maintenance of the rinks throughout the winter months.

New parks to get rinks this year are Quanton at a cost of \$500 and Poppleton at a cost of \$150. All hockey playing will be funneled to Etan Park where two leagues—junior and senior—will go into play this season.

OTHER BUSINESS for the board concerned an explanation of why there was a surplus in the recreation department's budget of \$6,242.41 at the end of the fiscal year.

The board cited three reasons for the existence of such an overage and will make a written report to the city commission.

The first reason of the board was—in the past where there was an overage near the end of the fiscal year, the board had made quasi-capital purchases. The excess money under normal circumstances would have been expended.

FOR THEIR SECOND reason the board stated that they were always going to have a surplus in order to make payment on June expenditures. Some purchases made in June (end of fiscal year) are not received until July which goes into the next fiscal year.

## Bechtel Plows Four Miles Winning National AAU Title

In a climactic finish to the grueling AAU National Junior Long Distance Championship, Tom Bechtel, Birmingham high school varsity swimmer, sprinted home to a close first place winner's position.

In taking the tough four-mile classic, Tom had to come from a back place and race up a 100-yards to narrowly beat out second-place Mike Wolk by slim one-second margin.

Bechtel, along with two other boys, their Marrow of Royal Oak, Michigan and John Webber of New York, were entered as a team representing Camp Chikopi. In preparation for the race the boys had been working out all summer in the cold waters of upper Canada.

SINCE it was a team award that they were most interested in gaining, the boys had had careful plans to complete the race as fast as possible. In that aspect, they were quite successful with Bechtel taking the lead by plowing fifth and Webber finishing sixth in the 32-member field.

During the last stages of the race the group decided that Tom might be able to take a first if he could get a good start. From his spot about 100-yards behind the leader, the Birmingham swimmer made a determined bid until he was even with front runner Wolk with 80-yards to go. From that point on, it was a nip-and-tuck sprint right to the finish line with Tom crossing first in a fine time of one hour, 46.1 seconds, one win against 13 losses.

TOM ATTRIBUTES part of his Holy Name Sets CYO Football Practice Dates

Both field will be the practice grounds for the Holy Name football team which will begin tryouts this Tuesday.

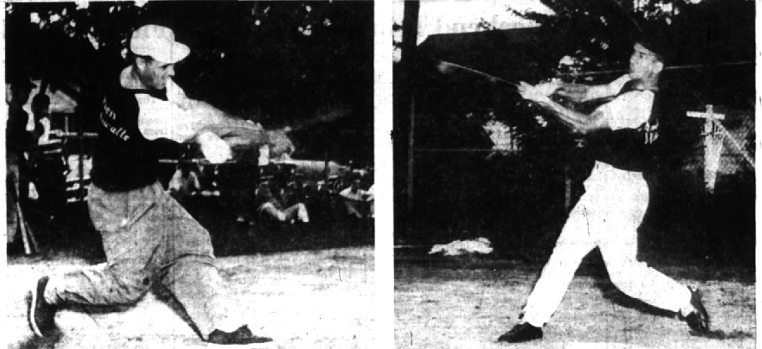
The Junior boys squad will be playing their games in the suburban CYO League. This year the team will have a new coach to direct their activities, Martin Foley has been named head coach.

Holy Name is also planning an intermural schedule to take care of any boys who do not make the main team. All interested boys who want to attend the first practice session are required to wear old clothing and they must have football shoes.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE has been set at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on August 24 for seventh and eighth graders. On August 30 and 31, fifth and sixth graders will report to both field at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Regular practice sessions will be set up for the rest of the year.

The Holy Name Dad's Club have completed their volunteer work on the athletic house, so the boys will have a place to hang their clothes. The house is on church property.

Local participant at the clinic is Bill Barnett of Cranbrook School.



GORDIE HOWE sticks for softball bats as two members of the Detroit Red Wings. The difference of the two weapons doesn't seem to effect the ice stars because they are just as effective with the bats as with the sticks. Both Lindsay and Howe play for Kimball and Russell in the Birmingham YMCA Softball League. In last week's game, Howe collected a double and a home run while Lindsay had a double and triple to lead in their team's victory.

ALTHOUGH it rained during the last mile of the race and the water was cool, it didn't affect the Camp Chikopi swimmers since they had trained in similar weather during the summer.

THIS was the first major win for the durable 16-year-old swimmer in national races and he was delighted with his own and the team's performance.

Bechtel's father, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Bechtel, 575 Riveroak, Birmingham.

## Ralph Miller Heads Varsity Shop Takes Lead in YMCA Tourney

Varsity Sports Shop of Birmingham remains undefeated in the Birmingham YMCA Softball League after games played last week. Going down to its first defeat in the two losses and out elimination series was the Birmingham National Bank, regulation season winner.

Birmingham National could not stop the hitting of hockey player Gordie Howe whose double and home run drove in 4 runs and paced Kimball and Russell to a 7-2 victory. Duwayne Wagzagar gave up but 4 hits as he posted his second play-off victory.

IN THEIR SECOND game of the week, Birmingham National pitcher Willard Walker gave up a lone single to John King of Kingsley Inn and found himself on the winning end of a 3-2 victory. The loss eliminated Kingsley Inn from further competition in the

final inning and posted a total of nine strike outs for the game. Three errors in the field and two passed balls contributed to Wagzagar's loss for Kimball and Russell.

Results of Birmingham National Bank game with Varsity Shop on Tuesday were not complete at press time. Only the two above mentioned teams plus Kimball and Russell remain in play that have seen the elimination of Michigan Bell Telephone and Kingsley Inn.

You will find many bargains in The Eccentric Classified Columns.

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## ★★ Scorecard Heartbreakers ★★

Tucked away in an inconspicuous corner of Bloomfield Hills is a tidy and very pretty golf course that boasts many of a family membership. Stonycroft is the small but challenging nine-hole layout.

All the hazards of a larger course are present at the 3,025-yard club—rolling hills, water hazards, blind shots and an abundance of trees. Only obstacle lacking are tough sand traps.

Owner-manager of the club is Don D'Onofrio, who was formerly at the Detroit Golf Club as an assistant pro. Don mentioned that his little club has quite a history since it was the private links layout of the late Theodore MacManus, Sr. MacManus had it built over 27 years ago.

AT THE PRESENT time D'Onofrio operates on it on a semi-public basis and eventually intends to make a private club with limited membership.

In selecting the most difficult hole on the course, Don nodded to the number four. It is a long haul at 415 yards but still not the longest on the course.

The tee is set on top of small hill with a sweeping hollow directly in front about 100 yards. At the base of the hollow are two distinct trees, going up about 100 ft, is height, which are immediately

in line between the tee and the green.

DON DECLARED, "there are two things you can do—go over the trees or around them. You certainly can't drive through."

Once the player has cleared the trees, he has about 220 yards of open fairway to make before he comes to his next hazard. It actually is not a real problem since it consists of only a small creek which wanders across the fairway directly in front of the green.

On the right side of the fairway is a group of trees that seem to catch a lot of balls. Don made mention of the fact that 90-percent of golfers slice their shots, so some usually find their way into the trees.

THE GREEN is set across the creek about 80-yards. It is fringed by a slight rise that offers a cup around the green. To the right side of the green is a shallow sand trap and behind is a heavy wooded area.

Don said it is a long par four for the 415-yard. The real trouble starts right at the tee where a golfer who can't get his drive past those first trees will be penalized a couple of strokes.

Don said that he doesn't present difficult putting because it is flat and easily studied.

IT MAY BE a little amusing as related here but to take care of this problem, belt loops had to be made for the pants. The boys

SOME ITEMS which are not normally carried as part of the company regular equipment, must be specially ordered by the league.

A good illustration was the purchasing of pants. The pants the league had originally inspected and tested were found to be too large around a young fellow waist, even when they were specifically tailored for youngsters.

As one league representative pointed out, the little fellows just don't have enough hips at that age. It makes it mighty uncomfortable for a guy when he is making broken field dash and then, have his pants start to slip down.

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## What the Well Dressed Little Footballer is Wearing This Fall

By JACK KEHOE

When a Little League Football player steps on the field in his bright uniform, he not only looks the part of real footballer, he will be protected by the very best in safety equipment.

One of the main tenets of the Birmingham Little League is the physical welfare of the boys while they are practicing and when they are playing regulation games.

To insure the safety of the league has spared no expense in securing the best supplies and equipment for the coming season.

This means that everything from helmets to kicking tees are items manufactured by nationally known sports suppliers. Even then, branded athletic merchandise must meet the league's strict specifications and requirements.

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DON D'ONOFRIO

## B'ham Area Riders Win at Ohio Event

Junior riders from Birmingham found it difficult to compete in the fourth ring after the downpour Friday night and Saturday morning. This was at the horse show which was held at the Howard Farms on the outskirts of Toledo, Ohio last Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday night there was a junior party sponsored by the Toledo Jets and the Toledo Bombers. Both teams are "A" groups.

On Saturday morning, preliminary dressage was held, followed by the next two team classes. Results of the Dressage are:

1st: Pat Cassidy, 2nd: Karen Parabel, 3rd: Hilbert Buehler, 4th: Carthel Heinbecker.

1st: Bloomfield Irwinson, 2nd: Peter Howard Miller, 3rd: Howard Miller.

1st: Eastern Lion Redline, 2nd: Marie Hummel, 3rd: Marie C. 3rd—Birmingham Outlanders (Dunna Woodhouse), 4th—Michigan Ladies (Sue Wallace, Cathy Heinbecker, Sandra Shop, Sue Sharkey).

## SPRINGDALE LADIES GOLF

Thursday League

1st: Fuentek & Evans, 2nd: Conroy & Schmitt, 3rd: Dier & Kevler, 4th: Swanson & Conroy, 5th: Washburn & Shaw.

Low Score: Vaughn 42, Low Net: Kenna 36

Tuesday League

1st: Tibbets & Streeter, 2nd: Lewis & Poole, 3rd: Leggie & Hill, 4th: Dier & Kevler, 5th: Case & MacKinnon, 6th: Balgoff & Shaw, 7th: Carroll & Heber, 8th: Hollingshead.

Low Score: 14, Low Net: 14

## B'ham Lions Club Goes to the Races

Officials of the Detroit Race Course had set yesterday as Birmingham Lions Club Day at the beautiful thoroughbred track at Schoolcraft and Middlebelt roads.

On the special day members of the Birmingham Lions Club visited the "Michigan Mile Track" for luncheon and an afternoon of thoroughbred racing. The visitors sat together in the clubhouse.

A race was named in honor of the visitors and officers of the club visited the winner's circle for pictures and to congratulate the winning jockey and owner.

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