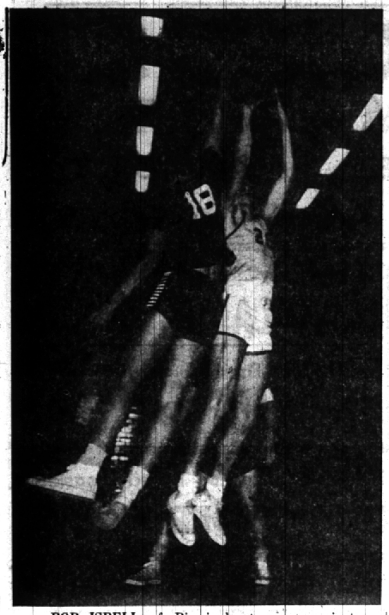
Maples, Bluejays Open Season, As Cage Slate Gets Underway



BOB ISBELL of Birmingham scores against Cranbrook. Guarding Isbell is Bruce McCaul (Number 18). Isbell led both teams in scoring with 17 points as the Maples downed the Cranes, 47-36.

Slow-Starting B'ham Stops Cranes, 47-36

Coming from behind with 17 points in the third quarter, Birmingham opened its 1956-57 season with a 47-36 victory over Cranbrook on the Maples' home court Friday night.

Behind 21-20 at the half, Birmingham hit seven field goals and three free throws while Cranbrook managed to score only eight points and the third stanza ended with the Maples far in front 37-29. The Cranes never threatened after that and Coach John Petrakis emptied the Maple bench.

Cranbrook had the advantage in play during the first 16 minutes of a loosely played game which saw 37 personal fouls called, leading by five-point margins on four separate occasions. After Birmingham built up a 6-2 lead in the opening minutes, the Cranes came storming back on baskets by Chuck Grube, Dan Crowley and Bob Klein to gain a 14-9 lead at the end of the first period.

CRANBROOK continued to hold a five-point margin until late in the second period when Maples Tom Kelly and Bob Stephenson scored two-pointers and Marshall Roe added a charity toss to close the gap to one point when the teams left the floor at halftime.

After Klein fired in a field goal for Cranbrook at the start of the second half, Birmingham found the range and forged ahead 26-23 on two field goals by forward Bob Isbell, the game's highest scorer with 17 points, and a pair of free throws by Tony Evangelista.

The Cranes drew close only twice after that, 26-25 and 28-27. But Birmingham again pulled away, and the eight-point margin the Maples carried into the fourth quarter was too much for Cranbrook to overcome.

THE MAPLES managed to score on only 28 percent of their field goal attempts, hitting 19 of 68 tries, while Cranbrook made good on 10 of its 33 attempts from the floor. Cranbrook's superior shooting at the foul line made the game close as it hit 16 of 27 free tosses, Birmingham sinking only nine of 27 attempts from the foul line.

Score by quarters:

Birmingham	9	11	17	10
Cranbrook	14	7	8	7

Birmingham

	fg	ft	tp
Isbell	7	3	17
Kelley	5	1	11
Roe	0	2	2
Peckh'ser	0	1	1
Ritchie	4	0	8
Evange'a	0	2	2
Sheph'son	2	0	4
Gibson	1	0	2
Totals	19	9	47

Cranbrook

	fg	ft	tp
Grube	5	6	16
Klein	2	2	6
McCaul	0	2	2
Harris	2	5	9
Crowley	1	0	2
Moyer	0	1	1
Totals	10	16	36

SIM ACTON

Troy Colts Maul Madison

Troy opened its 1956-57 basketball season by soundly thumping Madison, 57-36. The game was an Oakland B curtain-lifter for both schools.

The Colts made only 5 free throws in 17 attempts but otherwise showed good scoring balance for early season.

Sim Acton, Troy's halfback star in football, took scoring honors with 18 points. Teammate Glen Weldon was runner-up with 10 tallies. Jim Garner also made 10 for the losers.

Coach Peyton Goodwin is optimistic about his team's chances this year.

"We look rusty but I think we're much improved over last season. We show better balance," Goodwin said.

"I think we have a good chance to finish third or better."

Troy:

	fg	ft	tp
Acton, f	8	2	18
Booth, f	2	0	4
Killew'd, c	2	0	4
Figley, g	3	3	9
Weldon, g	5	0	10
Var'jon, f	1	0	2
Littleson, g	3	1	7
Hanselman, f	2	0	4
	35	7	57

Barons to Host "B" Tournament

Bloomfield Hills will play host to the District 34 Class B regional basketball tournament this year, it was announced by coach Harold Trott.

The tourney will be played March 7, 8, and 9 in the 1,800 capacity Bloomfield Hills field house. Finals will be held on Saturday, March 9.

Starting times for the games is 8 p.m. Admission for children on Thursday and Friday, March 7 and 8, will be $.35 and $.50 on Saturday. Adult admission price will $.75.

Bloomfield Hills, Oak Park, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, and West Bloomfield are the teams scheduled to compete in the tournament.

Pairings and other details will be announced.

Jim Taup Letters

James M. Taup, 936 Gordon lane, Birmingham, won his major letter as a member of the 1956 Albion college cross country team.

Taup is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton J. Taup.

Southfield Walloped By Ferndale, 77-35

By JACK KEHOE

There was a prominent change in the coloration of the Southfield Bluejays basketball squad after they met Ferndale in the opening game of the 1956-57 season Friday. Thoroughly manhandled by the host, the Jays were black and blue after the 77-35 trouncing.

In every department Ferndale outdid and outhussled Southfield, running at will through their leaky defense and easily blunting any semblance of a Jay scoring attack.

For the first quarter and a portion of the second, Jays appeared as though they didn't quite understand what the game was all about—placing the round ball through the round hoop. This frigid condition prevented them from scoring a single point until a gift free throw at 6:37 minutes of the second period.

IN THE FIRST period the Jays attempted 14 shots from the floor, making none. In the second quarter they shot 15 times and made two. The remaining two periods had a slight increase in percentages.

The Jays never really got in the ballgame, outdistanced at the quarter 14-0 and 37-9 at the half. Coach Bob Watts tried every trick in the book, rotating a number of men in-and-out in an attempt to make a working combination.

In the second half Ferndale, using all sorts of talent, shot ahead until they were leading 60-25. Henry Johnson was high for the winners, making 20 points, mainly on a nifty jump shot.

With few exceptions Southfield's performance was distinguished by a lack of aggressiveness, one of the things that worried Watts before the game.

FERNDALE HAS a good squad, apparently greatly improved over last season. It looks like the lights will be burning late at the Bluejay's gym, if they are to have a respectable record this year. Hidden talent is in the team but it will take some doing to bring it out.

Agile Henry Johnson led the Railsplitter offense with 20 points, followed by teammates G. Rodwan and Earl McNeal, dropped 12 and 10 points through the net, respectively.

Forward Bob Shull was high man for the Jays, getting 11.

THE SOUTHFIELD RESERVE squad, although not gaining a victory, displayed a much better brand of ball in losing 40-35. Sharing the scoring were a trio of eight-point-players—Bob Filar, Jim Youness and Tom Ridley.

Score by quarters:

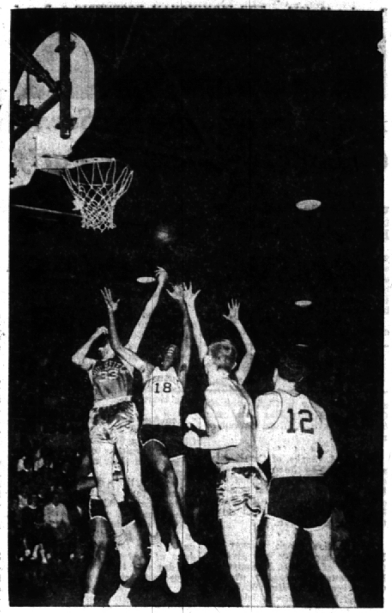
Ferndale	14	23	23	17—77
Southfield	0	9	14	12—35

Ferndale

	fg	ft	p
Ardis, f	0	1	1
Deel, f	2	3	7
Fry, f	6	1	13
Johnson, f	8	4	20
McNeal, g	3	4	10
Palmer, g	2	0	4
Reiter, c	2	0	4
Rodwan, c	4	4	12
Rogers, g	2	0	4
Stallw'the	1	0	2
	30	17	77

Southfield

	fg	ft	p
Londal, f	0	1	1
Shull, f	5	1	11
Alld'ge, f	2	0	4
Makimes	1	2	4
Frazier, c	1	1	3
Larson, g	0	7	7
Lamb, g	1	1	3
Krause, c	0	2	2
	10	15	35



ECCENTRIC PHOTOS

BIG MIKE LARSON (number 33), Southfield center, is fouled by Ferndale's Roy Palmer (18) as he attempts a hook shot under the basket. Bob Shull (24) of the Jays and Bill Rogers (12), Ferndale, look on. Ferndale won the game in a breeze, 77-35.

USE ECCENTRIC CLASSIFIED ADS FOR BEST RESULTS

Acorns Edge Maples, 62-60

With the ball game tied 60-60 and only 21 seconds left to tick away the clock, Royal Oak's Dave Richey sank a hurried layup shot which sent Birmingham down to its first basketball defeat of the season Tuesday, 62-60, before a shrieking crowd at Birmingham's fieldhouse.

Richey's two-pointer climaxed a well-played, exciting game in which the lead changed hands 15 times.

It was the Maples' second game of the season and Royal Oak's first. Birmingham displayed more offensive punch than it did Friday against Cranbrook, and except for the Maples' inability to score close-up in the final period, they were a much improved team.

BIRMINGHAM got off to a quick 6-2 lead in the first quarter on two baskets and two free throws by guard Tom Kelley, and increased their lead to 10-4 on two jump-shots from the free throw line by Bob Isbell and Birmingham's Dave Ritchie.

Royal Oak then closed the gap to 13-10 at the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter Kelley put the Maples ahead 15-10 on a long push-shot from the corner, before Royal Oak took the lead 16-15 thanks to three quick tallies by Harrison, Richey, and Webb.

THE ACORNS managed to grab a six-point edge, 34-28, just before the half ended, after the lead changed hands three times. Isbell then drove in for a twisting layup to put Birmingham within four points, 34-30, as the first half came to a close.

Bob Peckheiser sank a long one from outside as the third quarter got underway and Birmingham trailed 34-32.

Then Royal Oak found the range and moved to the biggest lead of the game, 43-34, Sturgell and Richey leading the scoring drive.

The Maples again came back and during a four-minute period late in the quarter, in which Isbell sank six free throws and Ritchie hit on two over-the-head jump shots from outside, they trailed only 45-44.

MARSHALL ROE of Birmingham caught fire briefly in the early moments of the final period, and with the aid of his rebounding and two field goals and another by Isbell, the Maples grasped a short-lived $1-50 advantage.

The two teams then traded baskets right to the end. Ritchie, who scored 16 points, sank another long shot with 38 seconds left to put the Maples in a 60-60 deadlock, before RO's Richey sank his game-winning basket.

ISBELL LED both teams in scoring with 18 points, 10 at the free throw line. Altogether there were 26 fouls called in the ball game, 14 against Royal Oak.

Score by quarters:

Royal Oak	10	24	13	15—62
Birmingham	13	17	15	15—60

Royal Oak

	fg	ft	tp
Richey	7	3	17
Harrison	2	0	4
Webb	7	1	15
Wesson	4	3	11
Kerr	3	3	9
Hornbeck	1	0	2
Sturgell	1	0	2
Eastwood	1	0	2
Totals	26	10	62

Birmingham

	fg	ft	tp
Isbell, f	4	10	18
Ritchie, f	7	2	16
Peckh'r, g	2	2	6
Roe, c	2	2	6
Kelley, g	4	2	10
Stephenson	2	0	4
Totals	21	18	60

The Man in the Stripe Shirt—Business Suit

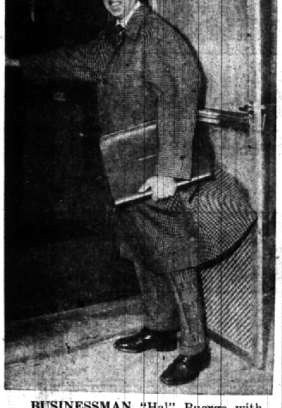
By JACK KEHOE

Most sports-minded citizens who view the profession of officiating or refereeing, as it is called, peg it about as dangerous as bare knuckles fighting with a gorilla. The job is also enhanced by the immense popularity these striped shirted souls have among the paying customers. Fans bestow all sorts of affection on the dearly beloved "Ref".

But the men who ply their trade on the gridiron and hardwood courts with their ever present and trusty whistles are really an average and normal specimen of the human race. They take all the vocal and sometimes physical abuse with the aplomb of royalty stepping toward a guillotine.

TYPIFYING the men who make up this select and truly dedicated fraternity is a well known local gentleman, Harold "Hal" Buerge, 526 Catalpa, Birmingham. Hal is known to young and old, as a teller of tales, reviewer of sports happenings and interpreter of rules—par excellence. His circle of

(See STRIPE, Next Page)



BUSINESSMAN "Hal" Buerge with briefcase steps into The Birmingham Eccentric office after making a round of his local customers.

ECCENTRIC PHOTOS

REFEREE Buerge with striped shirt and whistle carefully observes play developing in local high school football contest. Rules have to be enforced promptly and accurately.

The Birmingham Eccentric
SPORTS
PAGE 6 DECEMBER 13, 1956

Grapplers Groan At Southfield

In the continual expansion of the athletic program, Southfield high school has introduced wrestling as another varsity sport. Next year with the completion of their unique "T" shaped swimming pool the Bluejays will sponsor a swimming team.

Response to the mat sport was surprising, considering that wrestling was new to the school and not very popular among schools in the area. About forty boys reported to coach Ken Thompson for the first workouts. Presently the squad is trimmed to 30 with Thompson expected to carry about 20 for the season.

FIVE MATCHES are scheduled with more to be added. Most of the opposition will come from other schools, like Southfield, just starting in the grappling art.

Thompson has singled out several boys who are expected to do well in competition with a few football players heading the list. Jim Moore, 176 pounds, Jim Stota, 169 pounds, Jim McCann, 170, Bill McKenzie, 154, Mike Yoshonis, 151, Tom Janes, 146, Henry Kobek, 134 and Mel Boring, 135 all look like boys with potential.

THOMPSON would still like to see more boys in the lightweight category, since they will need help in this class. He also declared, "students think this is the type of wrestling on TV but far from it. We compete along the same lines as colleges and the Olympics."

WRESTLING SCHEDULE

14 Jan.	Bentley at S'fld
31 Jan.	Berkley at S'fld
8 Feb.	S'fld at Pontiac
15 Feb.	S'fld at Cranbrook
21 Feb.	S'fld at Bentley

Sportsweek

BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 14—Walled Lake at Southfield, 8:15
Cranbrook at Tecumseh, 8:15
Fraser at Bimfd. Hills, 8:00
Avondale at Troy
Tuesday, Dec. 18—Birmingham at Southfield, 8:15
Oxford at Troy

SWIMMING

Wednesday, Dec. 19—Birmingham at Hazel Park, 7:30

WRESTLING

Friday, Dec. 14—Cranbrook at Ann Arbor, 7:30

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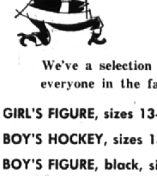

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