

Maple Gets Underway for Area Basketball Quinets

Maple Cage Team Guns for Cranes

"How fast will they come of age?" is the question facing John Petrakis, Birmingham's basketball mentor, as his inexperienced team reads itself for the opening game at home against Cranbrook Friday.

The Maples have plenty of potential, Petrakis thinks, but the team will have to work hard to realize its possibilities. Out of five returning lettermen, only one played regularly last season. That was Bob Label, a senior who played center last year but is making the switch to forward.

"I don't want to make any rosy predictions," Petrakis said, "but there are several boys out there who can be outstanding if they want to work. It's up to them as to how far they go."

TWO BIG reasons for Petrakis' sheltered optimism are 6-4 Label and Marshall Roe, a center who stands 6-5 and is also a senior.

"If my big men can get aggressive under the boards, our rebounding should be greatly improved," Petrakis said. Along with Label and Roe up front, the Maples will have Dave Ritchie, a 6-foot junior, at forward.

A speedy trio of guards will be fighting it out for the starting positions. Seniors Tom Kelly, 5-9, Bob Peckhiser, 5-10, and Tony Evangelista, 5-9, print champion for the track team, all show improvement on defense. Petrakis is confident that the Maples will develop into a good defensive team.

CRANBROOK may give Birmingham's coach a better insight into his team's strength. However, the Cranes, who lost their first game to Walled Lake, 49-36, do not rank with the Eastern Michigan League entries this year.

"I think the EMU will be the toughest and best-balanced it's been since I came here six years ago," Petrakis said.

Five teams, defending champion Port Huron, East Detroit, Ferndale, Hazel Park and Mt. Clemens all have veteran squads back. Their height will be something to cope with, too. Four of the teams I know of have men over 6-4."

BIRMINGHAM WILL use a switching, man-to-man defensive setup this year. The defense, far more effective when operated properly.

Sensitively, the Maples will work the control ball style which is a slow, deliberate type of play that has used since coming to Birmingham.

Other players on the squad include juniors Charles Gibson, Peter Green, Fred Nichols, Bob Stephenson and Bob Chappell, and sophomore Phil DePue.

Originally, the game was to be played in Cranbrook's gym but athletic directors of the two schools, Frank Whitney, Birmingham, and Fred Campbell, Cranbrook, agreed to change over to larger-capacity Maple gym. The game is expected to attract a large crowd.



COACH JOHN PETRAKIS

Troy Colts Look Like Basketball Thoroughbreds

Things look bright on Troy high school's basketball horizon as head coach Percy Goodwin welcomed back a dependable group of five lettermen.

With a proven nucleus, backed by strong reserves on the bench, the Colts give appearances of being a frisky critter this season. They have all the basic ingredients to make them a top contender in their Oakland B league race and well on top of other opponents. Experience, height and speed are all the important factors giving Troy the edge on less fortunate cage squads.

MAKING UP the core of the team are Sim Tom, 6 ft. 2 in. forward, a good veteran play maker; Tom Mitchell, 5 ft. 11 in. sharp set-shot; Don Kellonwald, 6 ft. 3 in., a center who can pivot from either side and Luke Parker, 6 ft. 1 in.

Big help and assistance is expected from Wayne Fligley, 6 ft. 1 in., Rich Huth, 6 ft. 3 in., Milan Varjalon, 6 ft. 1 in. and Glen Weldon, 6 ft. 1 in.

GOODWIN is fortunate that several of his players are adept at different positions, permitting him to shuffle the boys around to meet the situation. The abundance of dependable manpower also allows Goodwin to keep the pressure on his opponents continually throughout the game by substituting his men freely. The grey hair coach, now in his sixth season of basketball (declared), "we're loaded with speed and can shoot the good passing. If the shooting can come around, we'll be all set."

Hugh Duffy, the optimistic in for a surprise with Troy's defensive set-up this year. Goodwin expects the team, meeting with a new combination zone and man-to-man arrangement, if perfected it should frastrate several teams.

THE SEASON OPENER to be set against Madison, one of the weaker fives in the Oakland B Division.

Birmingham's 1956 football team and undefeated cross-country champions were feted at the annual Fall Sports Dinner, Tuesday night at Birmingham high school.

Coaches, managers, parents, and others who played important parts in making the season successful were also honored along with the players. Rev. Robert W. Gibson proved a witty toastmaster.

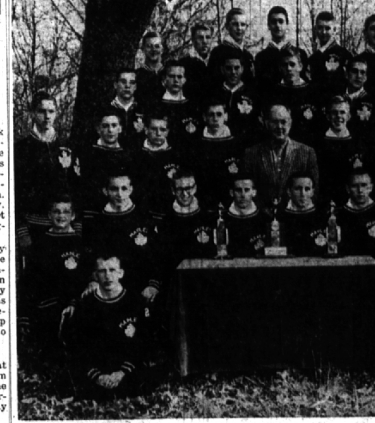
FOOTBALL head coach Carl Lemle and line coach Lewis Pater received "suburban" sports coats from their players. Cross-country coach Kermit Ambrose, who is currently in a rut turning out championship squads, was given a motion picture camera by his team.

Captain Jim Fry and honorary co-captains Lynn Benn and Tom Fontaine were presented with team pictures. A special souvenir picture of the football team was given to Tom da Fonseca, the Maples' extra-point kicker and "ambassador of good will" from Portugal.

TOM FOERSTER, middle-guard on the football team, was presented with the 1956 Lt. John Anderson Memorial Award, given every year to the player who best combines academic proficiency and athletic prowess. The presentation was made by Frank Whitney, athletic director. The award was named for a former Maple athlete who gave his life in the service of his country.

THE next home meet will be December 13, when the Maples take on Plymouth, one of their strongest rivals. Starting time at Barnum pool will be 7:30 p.m.

Wagon Rick and Alan Carpenter, Third row; Harvey Selner, Tom Brown, Dave Pew, Bill McFarlan, Fred Hieberlin, Dick Bidigare and Jay Stark. Top row: John Rutledge, Bob Groat, Tom Hogan, Martin Weinrick, Barry Ludwig, Jim Pass and Ed Schwimmer. Not present were Ken Gertz and Bill Alcorn.



BIRMINGHAM'S CROSS COUNTRY team—varsity and reserve squads group together after one of the most successful seasons in the Maples' history. Left to right, on the ground: Jim Westbury and Fraser Cocks. First row: Steve Thorton, Tom Thorton, Dick Boyd, Tom Fontaine (co-captain), Lynn Benn (co-captain), Bob Benson, Rich Riley and Bill Stark. Second row: Bob Kulow, Jack Mitchell, Gary Schick, Phil Ingraham, Coach Kermit Ambrose, Steve Hunter, Bill Landis, Warren Rieck and Alan Carpenter. Third row: Harvey Selner, Tom Brown, Dave Pew, Bill McFarlan, Fred Hieberlin, Dick Bidigare and Jay Stark. Top row: John Rutledge, Bob Groat, Tom Hogan, Martin Weinrick, Barry Ludwig, Jim Pass and Ed Schwimmer. Not present were Ken Gertz and Bill Alcorn.

Cranes Stopped In Opening Bid

First of the local cage squads to enter in the new 1956-57 basketball year were the Cranes of Cranbrook who were bottled up by a taller and more experienced Walled Lake, 49-38.

On their home floor the Lakers headed by nucleus of brawny football players kept well ahead of the Cranes for most of the game, turning back one threat in the Walled Lake were: Don Hess, 6 ft. 2 in. with 16 points and All-State full-back John Walker with 15.

The Cranes still needing a lot of work and polish dunked the first basket of the game but were out of contention for the rest of the contest. Only Crane man to reach the two digit mark in scoring was forward Ed Klein who netted 12. Behind him were guards Larry Crowley and Harris with eight apiece.

THE CRANES didn't help their own cause very much, missing 14 times at the free throw line as well as easy layups. Walled Lake has another factor hurting Cranbrook.

Sixty high school football players representing the cream of the Oakland County crop, were honored guests at the annual Michigan State University Club gridiron banquet at the Birmingham Community House.

Hugh Duffy, Daugherty, head coach of the Spartan football team, gave one of his famous after-dinner talks which are in great demand for banquets. Daugherty kept his audience laughing all through his remarks.

Chuck Davey, former Spartan intercollegiate boxing champion and middleweight contender for the world title, served as a congenial toastmaster. Davey's recollections of the Kid Gavilan fight which Davey lost by a TKO, drew a good share of laughs.

Major Colonel and club member, introduced the players and coaches who were present at the dinner.

Representing the local area were: Birmingham—Jim Fry, Tony Evangelista, Mike Nordstrom and Coach Carl Lemle; Bloomfield Hills—Jim Kearney, Tom Little, and coach Don Huff; Southfield—Ron Brewer and coach Monte Charles; Troy—Mike Varjalon and coach Joe Bechar.

Daugherty and his coaching staff were presented with trophies symbols of State's national supremacy on the gridiron in 1952 and 1953.

Rev. Allen Wittup and Club president Dick Ernst also spoke at the affair.

As a special portion of the program, films of the MSU-Notre Dame game this season were shown.

Central Michigan college and Kalamazoo college will help Wayne State open its 1956 cross-country season on Saturday, Oct. 13 in a triangular meet at 12 noon at River Rouge Park.

Rider, H. (13) Stevenson, H. P. Time 2:04.2
400 yd. Freestyle—(11) Bechtel, H. P. Time 1:25.4
100 yd. Backstroke—(11) Campbell, H. P. Time 2:28.3
100 yd. Free—(11) Smith, H. P. Time 1:29.8
100 yd. Freestyle—(11) Sista, H. P. Time 1:29.8
100 yd. Breast Stroke—(11) Kolbe, H. P. Time 2:15.4
100 yd. Breast Stroke—(11) Gonsky, H. P. Time 2:15.4
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Bluejays Leave Nest For First Cage Action

The day inevitably comes when the young chicks must leave their warm, comfortable nest and take a try at flapping their wings in a sometimes hostile world.

That day is upon the fledgling Southfield Bluejays who leave the protective custody of their home court and flutter over to Ferndale for their opening game of the 1957 season tomorrow night.

The lanky Jays will have a real test in the hosting Ferndale five with all season reports indicating this is one of the top line squads to represent the school.

SOUTHFIELD coach, Bob Watts, in the process of building, through a number of personnel, rated as one of the best court squads in the area. That important meeting will be a home game on December 14.

The first league opponent will be powerful Walled Lake, rated as one of the best court squads in the area. That important meeting will be a home game on December 14.

One of the major concerns which still worries Watts is the lack of height and aggressiveness among his big boys.

In Ferndale Southfield will face a well balanced and experienced team able to move fast and score from almost any spot on the floor.

Chief threats in the Blue's attack are All-SOC Earl McNeal, a six footer, who averaged 14 points last year. To counterbalance the Jay's height, Ferndale has Gordon Rodman, a sky scraper at 6 ft. 6 in. Team captain Larry Cranzow, 6 ft. 3 in., is another player to be held in check.

THE VALUE of this initial contest will not be so much in the win-loss column but will reflect in the mental attitude of the club. If they lose the game it will give some incentive and evidence to a young squad to prove themselves, and if they win, it will give them a certain far from dim and could become bright.

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Recreation Round-Up

Swimming—Barnum Pool, Saturday mornings 9 a.m. to noon for elementary school children. Registration for second session began Monday, Dec. 3, until Dec. 21. Call Recreation Office in Municipal Bldg.

Therapeutic Swimming—Barnum Pool, Thurs. evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. Requirement is a doctor's certificate, on file in the recreation office. No charge.

Adult Night—Birmingham high school gym on Tues. and Thurs. nights. No session Thurs., Dec. 6 or Tues. Dec. 11, gym is not available. Adult night on Thurs. Dec. 13 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Sled and Ski Slope—Located at 14 Mile and Cranbrook. Ready for free sledding and skiing, when the weather permits.

Eton Park Ice rink—Located at Eton & Lincoln Roads. Schedules available at the rink or recreation office, Municipal Bldg. Free-scholeers through golden-agers learn to skate by using Miss Heard's rink program instructional methods.

Hedecoaks Ski—Getting an early start at the ski slopes were Mr. and Mrs. Aron Hedecoak and son Tony, 1884 Witherside, Birm in g n a m up at Cranbrook skis near Cadillac.

The Hedecoaks reported the skiing conditions were the best that they had enjoyed in this area at this time of year.

Ice Interests Increase at Eton

ETON PARK ICE RINK. The attendance at Eton Park ice rink is maintaining its high level as 2383 participants have taken part in the activities this past week. Miss Heard, rink programmer, stated that the children's class between 1 and 2 p.m. on Saturday has reached capacity. However, other sessions will be set up to accommodate more youngsters.

The adult classes on Thursday night are filling rapidly as people are becoming more and more interested. The pre-school children and mother group on Monday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. is also very popular.

HOCKEY IS really in the air at Eton Park as over 150 boys from 13 through 18 tried out for the eight teams in the Junior & Intermediate Leagues last Saturday morning.

The eight coaches were all on hand to see the boys perform, checking the boys' skating and stick-handling ability.

The coaches will be assigned their teams in the middle of this week and the boys will be notified over the weekend. The regular league schedules will start on Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 a.m. for the Junior and Intermediate leagues and on Sunday November 17 at 7:30 a.m. for the Adult League.

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Local Runner Stars

Fred Miller, 7214 Lahner, was one of Olivet college's three top finishers in the MIAA cross country meet held at Alma College.

Miller, a junior, also placed high in several dual meets this season.

Mercury TROL-TWIN. New Mercury Trol-Twin packs 10 lively horsepower, yet trolls at super-slow speeds!

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