

# B'ham Baseball Bounce Into Tourneys

## B'ham Americans Take First Tourney Victory Over Huron

The Birmingham Americans opened Little League tournament play in Michigan last Saturday with a victory at Milford but not before a fighting Huron Valley Boys Club nine had given them a real scare.

Carl Kalosky, the American league-pitching ace, struck out 16 but he needed a three-run rally including a homer by Doug Walton in the last of the fifth to get Birmingham into the lead. Winning score for the locals was 4-2.

Until then the Birmingham team was trailing 2-1 and seemed to be baffled by the tight pitching of John Barkham, the Huron Valley hurler.

**THE MILFORD** players went hitless until the fourth, then with two on and one out, Bill Falk, an outfielder, singled home one run and Bob Faught, the first baseman, drove in another to take a 2-0 lead. The Birmingham catcher, Edison Stevens, playing with a swollen and discolored face from being hit by a pitched ball against the Yankees last week, had trouble behind the plate. He was replaced by Fred Muenchinger in the fifth, but before leaving the game, he drove in Birmingham's first run, scoring Kalosky who had walked.

**DOUG WALTON'S** big bat won the game with a fifth-inning home run. The 12-year-old Little League doubles up at short-stop and pitching for the American All-Stars.

**THE HEAVY** hitting was furnished by Ronny Osterhout of the Senators when he connected for his second grand slam home run of the season.

With the score tied at 8 all against the White Sox in the last of the sixth, Osterhout cleared bases to win the game for the Senators. The game-winning blow gave the Senators the ball game, 12-8, and pushed the league race into a deadlock.

## Scorecard Heartbreakers

**PETE COOPER** holds the flag on the 16th green of Knollwood country club. View is in front of first trap looking towards the green with the second trap to the left. To the right is rough.

From the 16th tee on Knollwood, the green is completely hidden from view because of sharp incline to the right. Training along the side for about 400 yards of the fairway on the 14th yard par four hole, is said looking swamp that "imposes a most formidable look to the green."

The country club's mild speaking pro, Pete Cooper, didn't hesitate a second in picking this hole as the hardest test of the 6,894-yard course.

From the elevated tee, Pete peered along the deep hollow which stretched out in front and gave this estimation:

"WITH THE SWAMP on your right, and a hump going across foot of you from the par four, the first drive must be very accurate. A good golfer will be able to get his shot out about 200 yards, where trouble lies in a cluster of large trees.

"It is only about a 40-yard stretch between the trees and the swamp at this point, so the drive as I mentioned, must be straight and true.

"If the ball lies away from the trees and in the middle of the fairway, you still cannot see the fairway, your second shot, normally a spoon, will be blind.

"Cooper confessed that it takes his "Sunday best" to reach far

## Close Games Will Decide Little League Champions

The American Little League second half championship probably will be decided tonight when the Red Sox and Indians meet in the final game of the season.

The teams started the week tied for first place with 6-1 records.

The Indians stayed in the running by beating the Red Sox 4-1 and handing Carl Kalosky, Sox pitching star, his first defeat of the season.

**KALOSKY** allowed only two hits but he walked two batters and hit another to fill the bases in the third and then saw catcher Harley, the other hurler, cleared the bases with a double. Kalosky had put his team ahead with a homer in the second.

The Indians added a fourth run when Dick Mosher, who had walked, came home on an infield play in the sixth and then held off the Sox attempts to rally.

The Indians then shut out the Yankees in the seventh.

**THE YANKES** fell from the race when they were handed their fourth defeat of the second half 4-2 in a game with the Red Sox. The Yanks beat the Tigers 14-11.

Sparkling pitching performances and timely heavy hitting highlighted activities in the Federal Little League as the four-team circuit prepared for the final week of the season.

The loop title race narrowed to two teams as the White Sox and the Senators went into the final week with 5 wins and 2 losses. The Orioles remain in the running with four wins and 4 losses, but will have to help along way for the crown.

Best pitching mark of the season was turned in by Larry Duchsime of the White Sox as he hurled a no-hit game against the Athletics. The Sox hurler struck out the first 13 men to face him during the contest and picked up two more strike outs in the seventh.

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## Farm Teams Finish Up Season, Set Tourney Dates

The Earlies in the American league fought off a sixth inning rally by the Packers last week to win their game 10 to 9 and maintain a perfect record.

The Packers scored three runs in the fifth on a bases hit by Roger Ulrich struck out the last batter who had been a heavy hitter all star.

The Browns and Rams battled all the way with the Browns finally winning 12 to 11 in the last of the sixth.

Managers of the Farm Teams are planning to have each team to represent the American League in the All-Star game for the championship of Birmingham.

**KOCIS-NICK** team, the team of Kocis-Nick pulled away from the rest of the teams in the championship of Birmingham.

**WATROUS-ADAMS** came in to end a long losing streak by winning 10 to 9 and maintain a perfect record.

**FLIGHT WINNERS:** 1st Flight: Tom Sheehan, Robert Smith, Tom Sheehan, Robert Smith, Tom Sheehan, Robert Smith.

**WEGANDS PAIR** For Golf Fourth. From a total of 125 father and son combinations who enter the 1956 Detroit district father and son golf tournament, top place was shared by two pairs.

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## The Birmingham Eccentric

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## All LL Teams See Weekend All-Star Action

One Birmingham Little League all-star team will play at home tomorrow night while two others will travel to other cities for tournament games.

The winners will be back at Eton Field Saturday for third round contests.

The Birmingham Nationals, city champions last season, will take on the Hamtramck Americans at Eton at 8:30 p.m. Friday. The Hamtramck squad is one of the tournament favorites but Mitchell Weyand, Hamtramck recreation director, remembering the closeness of a past Birmingham-Hamtramck game, said his boys were expecting "real trouble" in this trip.

**THE BIRMINGHAM** Americans, victors over Milford last weekend, will travel to nearby Walled Lake to meet another highly-rated Little League team.

The third league, the Federals, play Harper Woods American. A Friday game will take on Saturday at 1 p.m. The Birmingham-Walled Lake winner will take on the Federals at 7 p.m.

**THE WALLED LAKE** field is under construction on about 400 yards south of the high school. The Harper Woods game is at Harper Woods Park on Beaconfield between Seven Mile and Eight Mile roads.

**MEINEN FRAULEIN** with basketball, Richard L. Cunningham will serving with the Hq. 7th Army in Germany demonstrates shooting techniques to his players. Dick volunteered his time to coaching young boys and girls.

## GI Goodwill Ambassador To the Court of Basketball

Some of the striped pants types in the U. S. Embassy staff might not believe that international goodwill could ring on a basketball, but there is one young man in Birmingham who can refute that impression.

While on overseas duty with the Army in Germany, Richard Lee Cunningham, 765 North Woodward found a way to bring closer ties between a group of young Germans and himself by coaching them in a game of basketball.

**NORMALLY** the word "volunteer" is a nasty word to most men in military circumstances. Richard found by volunteering for this activity he was able to engage in his favorite sport and have an extra bonus of establishing a great many friendships.

His coaching was with boys and girls teams which were sponsored by the railway system in Stuttgart. In most cases they had little or no experience in the game but they were interested and willing to learn.

One major obstacle was overcome that proved to be saying, "sports is an international language. Cunningham couldn't speak German but by demonstration and the help of one of the girls who knew English he was able to convey his instruction.

**THE RESULTS** proved satisfactory since his girls' squad was second place in the state championship while the boys finished in fourth position.

Richard commented on the type of playing by saying, "The German kids play a much quieter game—they don't scream or shout like ours. They are not really team players, instead they play a more individual style... get the ball and shoot."

He concluded his remarks on the game by stating, "Success is still the top sport over there but basketball is fast coming along."

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## B'ham Babe Ruth Squad Chalks Up Three Wins

By JACK KEHOE

Displaying talent and finesse in all departments—pitching, hitting, and base running—Birmingham's entry in the Babe Ruth All-Star Tournament, waded through three opponents to gain a berth and reputation for the semi finals.

John Madonna's boys showed a lot of baseball savvy as they took victories over Barkley, Fort Huron and their next door neighbors from Southfield in quick succession.

But they paid a price for the victories with three of their front line players now on the injury list and questionable starters for Saturday's game against Escanaba.

**PHIL ISBELL**, left line pitcher has developed a sore arm which pulled him out of last week's game. Jay S. Hoon is hobbed by a bad knee and Rod Ruddy is slowed down by a pulled tendon.

If these boys can mend properly and the rest of the squad plays the heads-up ball which was demonstrated very effectively for weeks end, then Birmingham rates as the most likely candidate to take possession of the state title.

**IN THE BARKLEY** contest, the B'ham boys' rabbit hopping around the base paths was a factor in their narrow 2-1 victory. A combination of walks, double steal sacrifices and hits brought runners around to score.

In hitting it was Jay Madonna's single and sacrifice fly which received credit for the two RBIs. Phil Isbell worked the first three innings before he left the game because of arm trouble. Bill Muenchinger stepped in and took over the pitching duties. He handled them very effectively for a week end, then Birmingham rates as the most likely candidate to take possession of the state title.

**IN THEIR SECOND** contest of the same day, the Birmingham Babe Ruthers came onto the field fresh as daisies and humbled the team from Fort Huron 3-0.

Young John Dixon twirled as perfect a game, as a pitcher could want in pressure packed tournament series. The fifteen-year-old hurler didn't allow a batter to reach first via a walk or hit, until...

## Local Boys Roll In Soap Box Derby

Among the boys who dashed to their racers for the 1956 Soap Box Derby were several young drivers from the Birmingham area.

Two of the competitors placed in the first in their heats against the large field of competition. In class A, Carl Luewack, 1622 Holland, Birmingham, rolled down the steep track in 29:02 seconds.

European player. When questioned about the recent conflict between the German public and the GIs, Richard answered, "we would have better relationships with the Germans if more work and play was had between the Americans and Germans."

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