

Sports Shamrocks Top Maples; Win Regional Title

Shots

By
**DICK
KELLEY**
Sports Editor

It was a memorable St. Patrick's night for the Shamrocks of Catholic Central.

CC rolled to an impressive 71-52 victory over East Detroit for the regional title.

It was a great night for the Irish. Shamrock center Bob Skrzycki led the attack with 16 points, Brian Hussey (how did he get in here) contributed 14 points.

BUT A close look at CC would indicate they could beat any team in the tourney on just about any given day.

Royal Oak put up the best battle against the Shamrocks in the first round of the regionals. CC whipped the Oaks, 69-52, then coasted to easy wins over Birmingham and East Detroit.

Birmingham did win its first-round battle with Mt. Clemens, marking the first regional win for the Maples in four years.

EAST DETROIT was given a good chance in many quarters (including here) of upsetting the Shamrocks but the young east-siders proved no match for Central.

But mark East Detroit down in your future book. They have a good club of sophomores and juniors and should have a good season next year.

SOUTHFIELD was eliminated from the regionals in the wildest game of the tourney. The Jays lost to East Detroit in the final seconds of the game, 51-50. The game left Southfield supporters with plenty of ammunition for debate.

A foul called on a Southfield player in the final seconds of the game, which set up the winning margin, was particularly baffling and irritating to the Jays.

THE FOUL was called on the Southfield player while he lay on the floor under the East Detroit basket in possession of the ball with two opponents wrestling him for it.

Yay supporters and many partisan fans thought the play called for a jump ball but the referee ruled in favor of East Detroit and that was that.

Yay coach Bob Watts shrugged the play off as one of the "breaks of the game." The win gave East Detroit the dubious distinction of facing Catholic Central in the finals.

THE PREP basketball season will end this weekend with the semi-final and final games in the various classes at East Lansing. Farewell, for another year.

THIS 'N THAT FRANK WHITNEY, Birmingham athletic director, renewed an old acquaintanceship during the state basketball tournament at the high school.

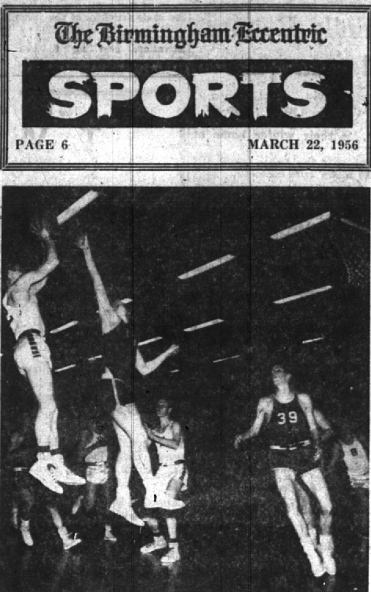
Catholic Central center Bob Skrzycki's father and Whitney were rival basketball coaches in 1935. The elder Skrzycki was coach of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake while Whitney was handling the old Baldwin high school.

When the two teams met, the final score was 9-8, Skrzycki recalled. Whitney, who had forgotten the game, was afraid to ask who won the battle of the defenses.

FRED CHALLEN, assistant pro at Birmingham Country club, hit the newspapers in Florida this winter, but not in golf. Challen was pictured in a Tampa newspaper with an 11½-pound black bass he caught here. For interested anglers, Fred was using a lead for bait.

Leads in Fools

Don Haugh with 33 personal fouls led the Birmingham basketball team in that department. Although Haugh was high man on the team he did not foul out of a game season.



LONG WAY UP: Marv Ulman in white, goes high in the air for a shot against Birmingham in the state class A regional basketball tourney at Birmingham high school last week. Attempting to block the shot is John Flester of Birmingham as Don Picman (39) looks on. Birmingham won the first-round game, 67-62, before bowing to Catholic Central in the semi-finals, 68-48.

East Detroit Tops Jays In Tourney Semi-Finals

A fourth-quarter East Detroit rally defeated Southfield last week, 51-50, in the semi-finals of the state class A regional basketball tournament at Birmingham high school.

After a 13-13 first quarter, Southfield led until the final six minutes when East Detroit knotted the score, 39-39.

After that the scoring was fast and furious and the score was tied four times. Guard Ken Moser knotted the count 48-48 with 20 seconds left in the game.

A FOUL was called on Ray Pilar of Southfield during a pile-up under the East Detroit basket and Toby Pranter was awarded two shots.

He made the first shot but missed the second. The rebound was grabbed by Gary Ballman of East Detroit who scored, giving East Detroit a 51-48 lead with five seconds left.

MOSER brought the ball down the floor and made a final Jay basket as the whistle sounded. The foul called on Pilar was widely-disputed but to no avail. The one-point turned out to be the winning margin.

Yay coach Bob Watts shrugged the play off as one of the "breaks of the game." The win gave East Detroit the dubious distinction of facing Catholic Central in the finals.

THE PREP basketball season will end this weekend with the semi-final and final games in the various classes at East Lansing. Farewell, for another year.

THIS 'N THAT FRANK WHITNEY, Birmingham athletic director, renewed an old acquaintanceship during the state basketball tournament at the high school.

Catholic Central center Bob Skrzycki's father and Whitney were rival basketball coaches in 1935. The elder Skrzycki was coach of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake while Whitney was handling the old Baldwin high school.

When the two teams met, the final score was 9-8, Skrzycki recalled. Whitney, who had forgotten the game, was afraid to ask who won the battle of the defenses.

FRED CHALLEN, assistant pro at Birmingham Country club, hit the newspapers in Florida this winter, but not in golf. Challen was pictured in a Tampa newspaper with an 11½-pound black bass he caught here. For interested anglers, Fred was using a lead for bait.

8 Teams In Crane Road Trip

Cranbrook will play the first game of its eighth annual southern baseball tour March 29 against Covington (Va.) high school, winner of 18 straight games last season.

This is the traditional southern opener for the Cranes. The two teams have split their four previous games.

The following two days, Cranbrook will meet two of North Carolina's stronger class AAA high schools, Salisbury and Greensboro, The Cranes lost to Greensboro, 2-0, last year while Salisbury is new to the schedule.

SALISBURY won the North Carolina state championship in 1955 and won the American Legion junior world series in summer ball.

Two more games will round out the North Carolina portion of the trip. April 2, the Cranes will meet Raleigh high school, absent from their schedule since 1951, and the next day, Hillsboro, another new team on the schedule.

A pair of previous opponents and a third new school will be played on the homeward part of the Cranbrook road schedule.

THE CRANES will meet Danville (Va.) high school, state champions in 1953 and 1954, April 4 and the following day face the University of Virginia freshmen.

Cranbrook lost a one-sided game to Danville last year, but edged the Virginia freshmen, 2-2. The trip will close with St. Albans school in Washington, D. C., April 6.

THE EIGHT-GAME southern tour will give the Cranes a head-start on their area opponents. But coach Fred Campbell with only six returnees back, three of them last-tryers, will use the early start to look over the rookie players.

The games open the season April 10 against Pontiac. The schools split in two meetings last season.

TOPPING the list of Crane letters is captain Gerry Gary. Cranbrook's regular receiver since his freshman year. The talented center from Pontiac was also captain of the Crane football team last fall.

On the mound, Campbell has senior Pete Bedford, last year's top winner, and junior Dave Campbell for the nucleus of his staff.

COUSINS Jim and Chuck Grube are the returning lettermen in the outfield. Jim shared batting honors with Gary in 1955, as both averaged around the .350 mark.

The only veteran infielder on the Crane squad is junior second baseman Dave Cooper, who will be starting his third varsity year.

OTHER positions are still up for grabs, according to Campbell, who hopes to find a winning combination during the southern trip.

The Cranbrook schedule (Covington, Va.), March 29; Salisbury (N. C.), March 30; Greensboro (N. C.), March 31; Raleigh (N. C.), April 2; Hillsboro (N. C.), April 3; Danville (Va.), April 4; Virginia freshmen, April 5; St. Albans, Washington, D. C., April 6.

Southfield Baseball League Entries Being Accepted

Entries for the Southfield recreation baseball league this summer are being accepted now by Bob Hall, Southfield athletic director.

Anyone wishing to enter a team in the league should contact Hall's office at Southfield high school as soon as possible.

The summer loop is broken down into three groups: blooper ball, 23 and over; class A football, no age limit and class B football, 17 and over.



SHAKE HANDS: Steve Klamik of Southfield gets away a shot just in time as Sam Whalen (11) of Berkley tries to block. Eric Leighton (33) of Southfield and Ray Tallman (40) of Berkley get set for the rebound. Southfield won, 58-47, in the first-round of the class A regional basketball tourney at Birmingham high school. Southfield lost to East Detroit, 51-50, in the semi-finals.

Positions Set For YMCA Church League Playoffs

Games last Thursday in the Birmingham YMCA Church basketball league provided a clear picture of what may be expected in the church league play-offs which started Tuesday night.

In the final games to determine playoff positions played Thursday at Barrum Junior high school, First Methodist Church succumbed to St. James Episcopal Church, 27-22, in the third and fourth quarters.

Chad Bonnet and Steve Hunter of First Presbyterian Church came into their own and led First Presbyterian with six points each. However, the main factor in the victory was the backboard control of Jim Ellis and Skip Dowd, whose repeated recoveries set up plays for First Presbyterian.

JIM REEDER with eight markers for the losers led both teams in scoring. The win gave First Presbyterian Church second place in the standing and pitted them against St. James Tuesday night.

THE LOSS put First Baptist in fifth place and placed them against Congregational Church of Birmingham for the consolation trophy.

Final games will be played Monday, March 26, at Barrum Junior High School and will involve First Presbyterian, Church of the Redeemer, St. James Episcopal Church and First Methodist Church.

Jim Manila, Royal Oak athletic director and high school football coach, has taken on more duties. Manila has been nominated by the Royal Oak school board for a newly-created job of city director of youth recreation.

Royal Oak is dividing the recreation department into two groups, one for adult and city park recreation and the other for youth recreation.

PREVIOUSLY, recreation was the responsibility of one director Carl H. Worden, now ill at Beaumont hospital, who is expected to continue as director of adult recreation.

As youth director, Manila will be in charge of a year-around program for ages five to 18 including swimming, golf, tennis, hand, bowling, basketball, baseball and table tennis.

The youth recreation director is recommended and paid by the school board and adult recreation director is paid by the city.

Attention Women Bowlers

NOW—For Next Season

BLOOMFIELD LANES

invites you to join one of our two new leagues

MONDAYS—10:00 A.M.—"The Suburbanettes"—
Beginners and low average bowlers with averages of 130 or less.

WEDNESDAYS—1:15 P.M.—"The Topnotchers"—
Women bowlers with averages of 131 and over.

For Further Information Phone 571 Thiel, Gr.
Midwest 4-5125

Copyright © 1956 by The Birmingham Post-Herald. All rights reserved. Printed in Birmingham, Alabama.