

SPORTS

The Birmingham Eccentric  
SPORTS  
PAGE 6 MARCH 29, 1956

Maple Medley Relay Team Wins Trials

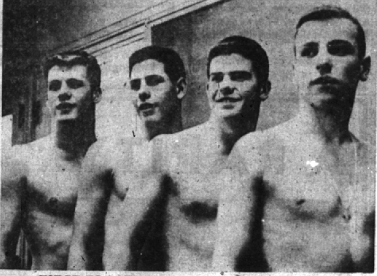
Competing with the top prep teams in the state, Birmingham's high school medley relay squad captured first place Saturday in an Olympic prospect meet at the Women's City Club in Detroit.

The Maple foursome of Wayne Geggie, Jay Lewis, Tom Bechtel and Pete Sintz covered the distance in 1:54.4, smashing the club's pool record of 1:56.4.

ROYAL OAK, which set a national high school record in the event this season, finished second to Birmingham and Porcison third.

Topping Royal Oak was particularly rewarding to the Maples. The Oaks defeated the Birmingham swimmers twice this season in dual meet competition.

Birmingham's relay team competed in the Olympic trial meet which attracted some of the top swimmers in the country at the invitation of John Hussey, club swimming coach and meet manager.



FIRST PLACE: Birmingham high school medley relay swimming team of (from left) Wayne Geggie, Pete Sintz, Tom Bechtel and Jay Lewis, took first place in the prep medley relay event at the Olympic prospect meet at the Women's City Club Saturday in Detroit. The Maple foursome edged out Royal Oak which recently set a national high school record in the event.

Birmingham high school track team started the spring sports activity in the area indoors Saturday at Trilanti in the First Huron Relays.

The same day, the Maple medley relay swimming team made quite a name for itself in Detroit at Women's City club.

The Birmingham foursome outdistanced some of the top prep relay teams in the state during an Olympic prospect meet held by John Hussey, club swimming mentor.

ROYAL OAK finished second to the Maple squad which marked a milestone in Birmingham sports this season.

The Oaks have enjoyed great success over the Maples this year in football, basketball and swimming.

Royal Oak whipped the Maples tankmen twice in dual meet competition and recently set a national record in the medley relay which makes Birmingham's victory all the more rewarding.

Three Birmingham Boys On Champ Hockey Team

Birmingham high school was well represented on the Detroit Arrowsmith hockey team which won the National Junior hockey championship at Saulte Ste. Marie Sunday.

ARROWSMITH is the first title team from the Motor City. The title has been dominated by the eastern section of the United States in the past.

ARROWSMITH won three straight games in the playoffs to capture the title. The Detroiters drew the Boston Arlington Raiders, pre-journey favorites, in the first round Saturday at Fuller stadium, training site of the Detroit Red Wings.

WHIPPING the Boston squad, 7-5, Arrowsmith played Minnesota in the semi-final round Sunday afternoon. Allen scored a goal and Baldwin collected an assist in Arrowsmith's 5-3 romp over Minneapolis.

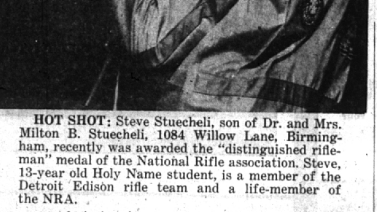
The Detroiters defeated Saulte Ste. Marie Sunday night, 3-1, in the crucial title game. The northern team drew a bye in the semi-final round in the afternoon and were well-rested for the evening game.

But Arrowsmith scored twice in the second period and added the clincher in the final period to capture the title.

CHAMPIONSHIP teams from four states competed in the tournament for players under 21 years of age.

Goodfellow is the son of the Detroit Red Wing star of the '50's, now a Birmingham resident.

Baldwin, one of the top young golfers in the area, is captain of Birmingham golf team this season.



HOT SHOT: Steve Stuechel, son of Dr. and Mrs. Milton B. Stuechel, 1084 Willow Lane, Birmingham, recently was awarded the "distinguished rifleman" medal of the National Rifle Association. Steve, 13-year old Holy Name student, is a member of the Detroit Edison rifle team and a life-member of the NRA.

Birmingham Youngster Gets Top Rifle Medal

A 13-year old Birmingham youngster recently received the "distinguished rifleman" medal of the National Rifle Association.

Steve Stuechel, an eighth-grade Holy Name student, is one of the youngest "potshots" in the country. The "distinguished rifleman" medal is the top award of the NRA.

Two years ago, at the tender age of 11, Steve received the expert medal, the NRA's second highest award. Steve's brother, Bernard, 15, also has an expert rating.

ILLNESS has forced Bernard off the rifle range this winter but doctors say he will be ready to "take aim" this summer.

THE STUECHEL family moved to Birmingham from Grasse Pointe last fall. Steve peddled papers in Grasse Pointe to raise \$100 for a lifetime membership in the NRA, one of his proudest possessions.

McFarien Sets Maple Pole Vault Record

Bill McFarien set a Birmingham school record in the pole vault at the First Huron Relays Saturday at Trilanti.

McFarien cleared the bar at 11 feet, 11 and 3/8 inches, topping the former school record of 11 feet, 7 1/2 inches set by Rolie McGinnis.

McFarien took the only Maple first in the meet, and earned medals for the first three places in each event but named no team championship on the usual point basis.

BIRMINGHAM took second in the distance medley and fourth in the 65-yard high and low hurdles.

The relay team of Howard Dittler (880), Mike Vostrom (440), Bob Brown, (3 1/2 mile) and Doug Wugzger (mile) covered the distance in 11:32.

Joe Kidwell took the fourth spot in the high and low hurdles.

PONTIAC dominated the events held in Michigan Normal College's gymnasium in Pontiac.

The relay team of Coach Kermit Ambrose took own point-scoring record of the meet, clearing the 300-yard hurdle in front of the other 20 schools competing in the Relays.

Birmingham finished fifth in the standings, according to records compiled by Ambrose.

McFarien placed fifth in the season for Birmingham which starts the outdoor season, April 24 with Southfield.

Redeemer Wins YMCA Church League Crown

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer played a brilliant football game against St. James Episcopal Church in the finals of the Birmingham YMCA Church League Basketball play-offs Monday to win the championship, 47-35.

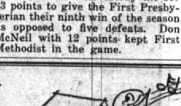
Doug Wugzger again sparked the winners with 13 points while Jack Kirby with 11 and Jim Emmerting with 9.

Emmerting set out on the backboards and set up blocking plays for dog shots. Bruce Fredrickson with 13 points paced the defense.

Ed Leavenworth played well on defense for St. James. Dick DeLoria and Emmerting set out for Steve with the TV-Sixty Radio Lutherans with 13 points each in the losing effort.

THE WIN gave Redeemer a record of 13 games won and only one loss during the current season.

In the consolation game for third place, First Presbyterian Church trailed First Methodist 17 to 13 at half time but put on a scoring spurge in the last quarter to win, 32-30. Pete Moray hit for 13 points to give the First Presbyterian center of radius that includes twelve points in the season as opposed to five defeats. Don McNair with 12 points kept First Methodist in the game.



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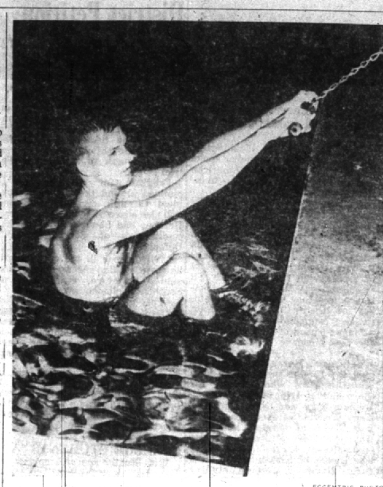
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RICHARD "SKIP" COOK, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman G. Cook, 895 Lake Park, Birmingham, relaxes in the swimming pool at Carleton college, Northfield, Minn. "Skip" set a school record in the 200-yard backstroke this season with the Carleton tankmen who were undefeated in conference dual meet competition. "Skip" is the older brother of Dave Cook of the Birmingham high school championship swimming team.

Cook Brothers Excel In the Swimming Pool

Numbered among the finest swimmers in the history of Carleton College of Northfield, Minnesota, is Richard "Skip" Cook, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman G. Cook, 895 Lake Park, Birmingham.

The talented sophomore backstroke was undefeated in dual meet competition and finished second in the Midwest Conference swimming meet this season.

NICKNAMED the "human dynamo" by his teammates, the 5-07, 136-pound Cook won the Midwest Conference 200-yard backstroke title, defeating last year's champ, Tom Sulzbach of Monmouth college.

At the recent North Central meet at Naperville, Ill., "Skip" took a second and third place in the 100 and 200-yard backstroke events respectively.

HE HOLDS the Carleton team record for the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:21.7 as well as the St. Olaf pool record for the same event.

At East Grand Rapids high school league championship this season, the Cook family moved to Birmingham two years ago and "Skip's" younger brother, Dave, enrolled at Birmingham high school.

FOLLOWING his brother's footsteps, Dave was a standout prep center on the Maple's Eastern Michigan league championship swimming team this season.

A junior at BHS, Dave will be one of the mainstays of coach Jay Meyer's swimming team next season.

"Skip" with two years ahead of him at Carleton, will be busy clipping his record time in the backstroke.

Little League Tryouts Set For April 14

Birmingham Little League baseball tryouts will start April 14 and continue the following two Saturdays, according to Boyd Simmons, League president.

Simmons said 11 and 12 year old boys should report at 9 a.m. and the younger boys at 11 a.m. Tryouts will be held at Pierce, St. James and Poppleton fields each.

Eight-year-olds will be assigned to teams immediately, Simmons said.

It is as far from Ironwood to Detroit as it is from Detroit to New York City. With Detroit as a center of radius that includes Ontario, also includes Ottawa, Toronto, parts of Iowa, and Knoxville, Tenn.

51 Teams Request Space for Summer

Diamond, diamond, who's got the diamond? Shortage of baseball diamonds in the Birmingham area is reaching the critical stage with the tremendous growth of the sport in the past few years.

This point was made clear at the city recreation board meeting with various league heads last week to allot diamonds for the summer months.

IN 1947 when the new recreation board was formed, not one organized team existed in the city. Today, less than ten years later, there are nine organized groups representing approximately 51 teams and 1800 players in the Birmingham area.

In the same period the number of baseball diamonds increased from two to 11 but the yearly increase in baseball playing is growing faster than diamond construction.

BIRMINGHAM board of education hopes to have new practice diamonds ready by June at Quanton, Pembroke and Beverly schools and the city will start diamond three at Eton Park in the near future.

The job of allotting diamonds is handled by Frank Whitney, Birmingham recreation director. Whitney must fit over 50 teams on the existing diamonds.

"The recreation board sees an immediate and desperate need for additional diamonds at Poppleton and Both parks and disposal plant area," Whitney said.

"This thing is growing faster than we are able to add diamonds," Whitney said, "and there is no letup in sight."

Largest single group is the Little League which expects over 800 boys this summer, according to

Boyd Simmons, league president.

"WE HAD around 700 last season," Simmons said, "and the league has been growing at the rate of over 100 boys each year."

"Other organized groups in the area are the Babe Ruth league, American Legion, YMCA, Holy Name, CYO, Adams and Barnum Junior high intermural leagues."

INDEPENDENT groups also use diamonds during the summer months but the crowded conditions provide only limited opportunities for such requests.

With baseball enthusiasm growing every day, diamond construction will have to be speeded up in the area or in the not too distant future, the supply will not meet the demand.

Cranes Open Road Trip

First game of the annual southern baseball trip will be played this afternoon by Cranbrook against Covington (Va.) high school.

The opening game of the Cranbrook against one of the top prep teams in the south, Covington, a traditional Cooper and consists of 18 straight games last season.

Cranbrook moves to North Carolina tomorrow for the first of four games against area high schools. Two more games in Virginia and one meeting with St. Albans of Washington D. C. will round out the eight-game trip.

Cosch Fred Campbell, head coach today's lineup with captain George Gary, catcher; Lloyd Asbury, 1st base; Dave Cooper, 2nd base; John Stuebaker, shortstop; Bob Pearson, 3rd base, and Jim Grube, Chuck Grube and Dan Crowley, outfield.

PITCHING assignments during the southern trip will be divided between Pete Bedford, Dave Campbell and Bruce DeLoach. Bedford, last year's top winner, and Campbell are veterans.

Catcher Gary has been the Crane's regular receiver for three years. Other lettermen are infielder Cooper and center Jim and Chuck Grube in the outfield.

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