

Time Drive

by MEL OTT

BATTERS ASSUME as many different positions as the plate as there are ways to comb the hair. They rarely stand and swing exactly alike.

About all that good hitters have in common is the conclusion of their swing. They all finish with the weight shifted to the front foot, back toe pointing into the dirt and the bat swung all the way around in an arc.

Other than that, they're all different.

Harvey Kuenen, for one, stands with his right foot close to the plate, his left foot even with the outside corner of the batter's box.

Toe On Line
He holds his thick-headed bat at the very end and keeps it cocked just off his shoulder.

Ray Boone assumes a similar stance, right toe on the inside line of the batter's box, left foot back toward the outside corner of the box so that he is in a six-inch open stance, swinging toward third base.

But Boone opens into a fairly deep, crouch, leaning forward, and cocks his bat somewhat higher off his shoulder.

At Kaline stands far back in the batter's box and holds his bat almost straight up. When he swings, he strides right into the ball.

Feet Wide Apart
Earl Torgeson stands from Kaline in that he stands in the middle of the box for fast ball pitchers and even moves to the front for pitchers throwing sinking balls.

Torgy acts his feet fairly wide

apart, and this is a complete departure from the position of Gene Beatty, who stands so close together they almost touch.

In my years with the New York Giants, I stood deep in the batter's box but as close to the plate as I could, my left foot on the inside line. I didn't crouch much and kept swinging the bat so that the only time I actually cocked it was just as the pitcher started to throw.

I tried to figure what the pitcher would throw and get set for it, and so do players like Torgeson, Kaline and Woodling. However, Boone and Kuenen, among others, don't try to out-guess the pitcher and try to be ready for anything.

Carried Two Models
It's all a matter of opinion, and there are good batters representing both schools of thought.

Where Kuenen employs a thick-handled bat, more players use a much thinner handle. I always carried two models, one with a fairly good sized handle, the other smaller.

Kuenen started the season with a 34-ounce bat, switching to a 32-ounce model late in the campaign. Harry says that when the weather is hot and he's a little tired after a whole summer of baseball, he finds it harder to come around as fast with the heavier bat, so he switches to the lighter model.

Koenig moves to the whole season with a 33-ounce bat. Boone with a 34-ounce and Torgeson with a 35-ounce model.

Local Trackmen Tangle at State Regionals

Birmingham track coach Kermit Ambrose and his eager variety squad went into high gear this Saturday when they compete in the biggest track event of the season.

All eyes will be focused on the classy and important state regionals to be held at Fitzgerald high school in Van Dyke.

For this annual event a strong team of 27 thin-lads has been entered in every event on the schedule. All events and times will be approved under the Michigan high school athletic association, the organization which has made the rules and regulations for the meet.

Last year in the same affair, the Miles came back with high point honors in a majority of events and the class A regional title.

ACCORDING to coach Ambrose, this year's team is much stronger and will give a good account of itself in a large 15-event field. Competition will be furnished by teams from the immediate area, including Troy, Cranbrook, East, Clawson, Detroit Catholic Central, Detroit Lutheran, Detroit Servite, Fraser, Howell, Madison, Shreve, Fitzger, Lincoln and Warren.

Expected to place well for the Maples are Joe Kidwell, pole vaulter, Chuck Gibson, shot put, Bob Stephenson, high jumper and Earl Torgeson, long jumper. A team consisting of Don Tate, Frank Michelson, John Appleford and Steve Pew.

The general high school of Van Dyke is located at nine mile and Ryan Road.

Bait and Fly Casting Class

The Birmingham YMCA will conduct an informal class on Bait and Fly Casting starting at 7:30 p.m. each Saturday, and continuing thereafter through June 30.

Tom Harrison, an expert fisherman and sportsman will be the instructor.

The class will be limited to 10 members of either sex and those who qualify must be 15 years of age or older.

The YMCA grounds at 400 E. Lincoln Avenue.



CLEARING THE CROSS BAR is big Bob Stephenson of Birmingham who took first place in the high jump with a leap of 5'10" against Southfield.

Bob came back later and tied for second place in the 45-yard hurdles.

Ladies' Days Begin On Springdale Fairways

At the Springdale golf links, 40 Birmingham ladies tee-off this week for another season of close play and competition.

This year's activity again is organized under the direction of the Springdale women's golf league which has been a highly successful group for the past several years.

Plans have been made for Tuesday and Thursday play with the league equally divided into 10 teams assigned to compete on each day. A team consists of two members.

Even though there are many close friendships among the ladies, they all take their game as serious as their male counterparts.

LEAGUE golfing will continue through the summer with a large tournament ending the season around the first of September. At their annual banquet, trophies and awards will be made to the ladies who have posted the best scores for league and tournament play.

Selection of board members has been made and will consist of a panel for each day's action.

Dozen Hits Down East Detroit, 12-3

Using a telling combination of big bats and abundant manpower, Birmingham's baseball team trounced an out-classed East Detroit squad by the score of 12-3.

The Maples showed a lot of power in totalling twelve hits and introduced some new faces by putting 24 players in the lineup.

Most damaging to the East Detroit moundmen was captain Bill Deer who made his four trips to the plate worthwhile by slashing out four consecutive singles.

Three other Maple players who helped bring runs across by gathering a couple hits apiece, were Jim Traa, Bill Appel, and Ron Cornia.

SPOTTING the Shamrocks one run in the top of the second, the Maples started to click in their half by taking advantage of a walk and sacrifice fly and four solid hits. This sustained action produced four runs and gained a lead which was never lost throughout the rest of the ballgame.

Strutting on the mound for Birmingham was left-hander Don Piezman who received credit for the walk and had the East Detroiters under control for the four innings he worked. He gave up five scattered hits and one unearned run.

Three other pitchers worked the remaining innings for the Maples and continued to meter the Maples' bats by allowing only two unearned runs. They were Dick Anderson, Fred Bleakley, and John Dixon.

Next outing for coach Lou Parry and Birmingham manager Bill Deegan will be against Mt. Clemons at the locals' field this Thursday at 4 p.m.



FIRST RUN of last week's ball game was scored by Ron Visgara for East Detroit but Birmingham went on to win by the big score of 12-3. Maple captain Bill Deer led the attack with four hits in four times at bat.

Teen-age Golfer Drives 183-Yard Hole-in-One

One of the brightest dreams of all golfers came true for a young linksman of the Southfield high school golf team last week.

In the 183-yard, number three hole of Western golf course, 17-year-old Bob Waldron drove a beautiful hole-in-one.

For the excited young student who lives at 21450 Telegraph Road, Southfield, it was a thrilling experience, but he still managed to card a fine 41 for four holes after such a big charge.

AFTER MAKING this spectacular hole with a number two iron, Waldron moved to the next hole and downed Redford Union high school, 175-187, in a matched game.

For the record book, this was the first time in the Jays' golf history that a player has scored a hole-in-one and considering the distance the record may stand for a long time.

Even with this big effort Waldron's team claim two honors. Teammate Bob Turner finished the nine holes with a smart 39.

B'ham Tennis Team Rained Out

Birmingham's tennis team got off to a wet start last week when several of the clearest matches against Mt. Clemons had to be rescheduled because of the heavy rain.

This was the opening session for the Eastern Michigan tennis league and matches will continue throughout the season.

In the games that were played, the Maple's first doubles team of Jeff Crawford and Tom Watson was defeated by Mt. Clemons' Ken Grimes and Ed Brice, 6-2, 6-2.

Registering an easy win for Birmingham was second singles play against Bill Swaney, who won his match against John Buchler, 6-0, 6-0.

IN A PRACTICE MATCH against Northville high school on Friday, matches were easily won by Maple players Tracy Wells, Bill Swaney and Bill Wiggins.

Want a good used car? Look in the Classified columns under "For Sale—Automobiles."

BOARDS
May 10—Mt. Clemons at Birmingham, 4 p.m.
May 11—Detroit Country Day at Bloomfield Hills, 4 p.m.
May 12—Farmington at Southfield, 4 p.m.
May 12—Cranbrook at Nichols, Buffalo, N. Y.
May 15—Birmingham at Hazel Park, 4 p.m.
May 15—Birmingham at Hill, 4 p.m.
May 15—Assault, 4 p.m.
May 15—Birmingham at Van Dyke, 4 p.m.
May 15—Pontiac at Cranbrook, 4 p.m.

TRAVEL
May 12—State regional final at Fitzgerald high school.
May 15—Southfield and Waterford at Berkley, 4 p.m.
May 16—East Detroit at Birmingham, 4 p.m.
May 17—Assault, 4 p.m.
Assault at Cranbrook, 4 p.m.

TENNIS
May 10—Northville at Southfield, 3:30 p.m.
May 12—Cranbrook at Nichols (Buffalo, N. Y.)
May 16—Birmingham at East Detroit, 4 p.m.

GOLF
May 10—Southfield at Plymouth, 4 p.m.

Birmingham Runs Off With Southfield Meet

Joe Kidwell paced Birmingham to one-sided dual meet track victory over Southfield, 831-1/2 to 253-1/2, with firsts in the high and low hurdles last week at Pierce field.

The bespectacled Kidwell ran the 115-yard low hurdle in 13.5 and the high's in 16.0.

It was all Birmingham as the mile run Frank Michelson won the 13 events. Southfield managed wins only in the 440-yard run and 888-yard relay.

MIKE LARSON did the 440 in 56.1 and the Jay relay squad of Jim Blackford, Bob Allen, Fred Rankin and Ed Foster won in a 1:25.2 effort.

For Birmingham, shot putter Chuck Gibson showed his old form with a 487.7 throw to outdistance his best rival, teammate Doug O'Camp.

O'Camp and Gibson have been battling each other for firsts this season with O'Camp holding the edge. Gibson, the freshman sensation, has been coming in with form but his latest performance gives evidence that he is "back."

Wayne Geggie, one of the finest backstrokers in Maple swimming, will probably be competing in the 100 and 200 yard dashes, Howard Diller, 880 yard run and the medley relay team of Don Tate, John Appleford, Jim Macdonald and Steve Pew.

Final score was Cranbrook 66-2.5, Farmington 40-1.5, and Rochester 30-2.5.

Next track activity for the Cranes will be at the state regionals this Saturday, May 12, (Ferdale).

IN TENNIS, Cranbrook downed Westland, winners of Cleveland, 4-1. Jerry Dobson, State class B champion, had no trouble in taking George Russell 6-1, 6-0, in the first singles.

Double matches were also easily won by the team of Henry Bean and Bob Isbell.

MANAGER'S Syd Thiel announces openings are still available for the summer leagues each Friday and a special league for teen-agers each Wednesday.

Hunt Club Holds Junior Show
Schooling show for all junior equestrian teams has been scheduled for Sunday at the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club.

Some of the finest riders in the area will participate in this show for the purpose of gaining experience and polish which will be needed in future competition.

In June the Hunt Club will again be host for the annual Detroit horse show. Many of the junior riders at Sunday's schooling will enter the June horse classic.

Southfield Pitcher Gains Shut-Out

At the plate and on the mound, Ray Pilar proved himself to be the big reason for Southfield's 4-0 victory over Walled Lake high school's squad.

Pitching with a lot of skill and poise, Pilar limited his opponents to only two hits and won himself a fifty 4.0 shut-out.

Pilar also bailed out two hits which aided the Jay's attack Friday at the local's field.

Altogether, Southfield collected a total of eight hits with Sam Manderschia being the other big man by rapping another two hits.

On FRIDAY, May 11, at 4 p.m., Southfield will host the Farmington ball club in the second meeting of these two teams.

Cranbrook Wins Track and Tennis

Taking first place in the 100-yard and the 200-yard dash, Bob Wadell led Cranbrook to a track victory in a triangular meet against Farmington and Rochester high schools. This win brought their season record to six wins against one loss.

Adding to the point spread was Roger Wadell who took first in the shot put and second in the 440-yard dash. Teammate Ross Smith placed first in pole vault and had two seconds in low and high hurdles.

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BHS Third at Albion

Led by Joe Kidwell who picked up points in the high and low hurdles, Birmingham finished third in the 16th annual Albion College Invitational track and field meet last Saturday afternoon.

The Maples finished with 23 1/2 points, behind the 40-point Kalamazoo Central with 43 and Lansing Sex with 40.

IT WAS the best showing in the four years which Birmingham attended the meet.

Kidwell tied 2nd place in the high hurdles and 3rd in the low bars. No Maple thinned took any first place points, but eight BHS numbers finished in the scoring along with 40.

Another 2nd place was picked up by Bill McCarty in the pole vault, with Ron McCrumb gaining a 3rd in the same event.

THE MAPLES' crack miler Wagzaker finished in 3rd position, with shot putter Chuck Gibson failing to score a point.

Fourth place points were picked up by Howard Diller in the 880 yard run, and by Bob Stephenson who finished in the 4th in the high jump.

The medley relay team of Don Tate, John Appleford, Jim Macdonald and Steve Pew came in 6th.

Bowling Shots

New scores and new bowlers were reported from Joe Paulsen's annual mixed doubles spring tournament at the Bloomfield Lanes last weekend.

Replacing the former leaders Margaret Hendricks and Bowdre Carstwell by the slim margin of only one pin, were Margie Steele and Bert Nott who took over first place with a total of 1256.

Tied for third place with 1232 were the teams of Carol Beach and Treamon Beach along with Rosa Mae LaBelle and John Wells.

The tournament will continue Saturdays and Sundays through May 20. Couple rolling high score each weekend is presented a trophy from Bloomfield lanes.

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Decision on Tracy Expected

3-20Hottel—Decision on Tracy, former Birmingham High School football star Tom Tracy, will probably be playing for the Lions next fall.

This was the statement of Edwin J. Anderson, president of the Detroit Lions, to members of the press this week.

Tracy, who was drafted by the Lions this year after playing one season at Ottawa, has not as yet signed a contract with Detroit.

The ex-Maple has indicated he would like very much to play for Detroit, but the Lions have been forced to wait for a decision on the Tom Dubinsky case now in a Canadian court, before making a decision on Tracy.

IF THE JUDGE rules against the Lions and the option clause they hold on Dubinsky, then it would indicate a similar option held by Ottawa on Tracy could not be held by the Roughriders.

"We expect to negotiate with Ottawa on Tracy without going to court however," said Anderson.

Tracy, who stands 5-10 at 210 pounds, played at Tennessee for two years after a colorful prep career with the Maples, was named to the Canadian All-Star team after his first season with Ottawa.

HE LEFT Tennessee before his class had graduated and therefore was not eligible for the National League draft.

His class will officially be graduated in June, making him eligible for the 1956 draft.

A final decision is expected on Tracy's case by May 15.

Cranbrook Takes Baseball Win

Bunching together seven singles, the forty hitting Cranbrook baseball team took its first win in the Inter-state league by downing Western Reserve, 6-3.

The six runs that came across in this big inning were the only runs scored by the Cranes.

Starting pitcher Dave Campbell had to be removed in the third inning due to an injury received from a foul ball while batting. He still received credit for the win which brought Cranbrook's season record to four wins against five losses.

Western Reserve made all its three runs in the sixth inning with the help of a number of Cranbrook errors.

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MRS. EUNICE F. YOST (center) was the guest of the Birmingham Exchange club last week at its tribute luncheon to her late husband, Fielding H. Yost, immortal University of Michigan football coach and athletic administrator. With Mrs. Yost are Harry Arent, (left) club president, and Wally Weber, Michigan freshmen football coach who played under Yost in 1926-26.

FORMER STAR Birmingham football player, Tom Tracy is the type of man the Detroit Lions would like to add to their back-field for the coming season.