Maples, Only Local Team to End Grid Year With Victory

Home Score

by Jack Kehoe

It was a hearty and devoted group of followers who made the trip over to Berkley's field last Friday and spent an arctic evening rooting for the Maples. The frigid conditions didn't cool their enthusiasm because the cheers and shouts would warm over even an eskimo.

The boys up front in the defensive platoon deserve a compliment or two because of their jarring job of stopping Berkley's ground game. This put the pressure on Herb Duncan, the Bears rapid-fire pitcher. He fits the role of pitcher much more than the conventional title of passer due to his 28 tosses during the game.

DUNCAN was superb, especially under the weather conditions which would have froze the flippers on a Walrus. He had 12 completions for 136 yards. Those that fell incomplete were more the fault of his receivers. On two occasions he had men dozing in the end zone and they muffed bull's-eye pitches.

The thermometer tickling weather also contributed to quite a few injuries during the game. Several boys felt the hard, hard ground on tackles or pile-ups and had to retire to the sidelines for a bit.

THE MAPLES finally were able to do something they hadn't been able to accomplish all season when they notched two extra point kicks in a row. Invited in to display his booting talents, Tom da Fonseca, an exchange student from sunny Portugal, applied some of his soccer skill to kick the points.

Tom's main concern for most of the week was the possibility of Michigan's weather getting colder. That's when the temperature was still around the 45 degree mark. Friday the mercury plunged about 15 more points but husky Thomas hardly made a shiver in his brief but important kicking chores.

Coach Carl Lemle resorted to some professional football tactics as he had his guards in and out, running around like pony express riders carrying various plays.

THIS IS A FAR more important victory to Birmingham than just notching a win. It sets them up mentally for their big super-charged game with Royal Oak for the last of the annual Turkey Day classics on Thanksgiving. With a solid win under the helmets and capable performance by all hands they will be ready and waiting for the Royal Oak visit.

Lemle will be especially concerned about this holiday affair, since, he has yet to register a victory over the Acorns and things being what they are, he won't get a chance again.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT the Birmingham Little Football League celebrated the end of their second season with a banquet for the players and coaches at Devon Gables. This type of chow-down is all well and good but some of the adult members of the organization would do better to look back on their limited contributions.

At the beginning of the season back in August, do-gooding and volunteer spirit was all over the place. There were enough coaches around who could coach the coaches. Within a short time, a lot of the help-the-little-fellows feeling evaporated like steam off a tea pot.

FROM THE ORIGINAL cluster of some 30-odd-gentlemen directly connected with the league who declared their intentions to help the boys, the number left last week—you could just about play a poker game with.

Consequently, many boys did not get the coaching or training necessary to make them halfway capable players. Some, needing only a few hours of instruction, spent their season on the bench where otherwise they may have developed into dependable players.

Primarily, the lack of adequate coaching manpower harmed only the boys. But secondly, the unfairness of it all, caused a few dedicated men to carry the entire load while others, whose excuse was business commitments, were sliding over a foul line at some bowling alley.

IF THE LEAGUE continues at its rapid growth—and from all indications it will be even bigger next year—its success will depend on the type of guy who comes home from the office and gives them a hand consistently throughout the entire season.

Thanksgiving Day

Will be observed next week

So The Birmingham Eccentric will publish next week's issue on Wednesday, Nov. 21. This requires moving up one full day all deadlines on news, advertising and want ads. Final deadline will be 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19.

You can help us considerably by getting your copy in just as soon as possible.

B'ham Withstands Aerial Bombardment, Wins on Blocked Punt

By MIKE CONROY

A blocked punt and a 60-yard-touchdown dash combined to give Birmingham a winning formula for defeat of Berkley, 14-7, last Friday night there. In returning to the win column, the Maples all around play outlasted the slingshot arm of Berkley quarterback Herb Duncan.

The Bears got the first break of the game when the Maples fumbled on their own 30. Berkley held and took over on downs, moved to the 18, but Birmingham held and took over on downs. Forced to kick, Maple back Bob Guyer punted out of danger to the Bear 45.

MOVING into Birmingham territory, Berkley fumbled on the Maple 40. The Maroons wasted no time with shifty halfback Mike Nordstrom breaking into the secondary, shaking off a tackler, and racing 60 yards for the opening Maple tally. Tom da Fonseca, soccer player from Portugal, accurately kicked the ball between the uprights to give Birmingham the point after and a 7-0 lead.

Berkley had possession on its own 25 when the first quarter ended, but on the first play of the second stanza, Maple back George Miller picked up a Bear bobble and returned it to the 20. The Maples couldn't capitalize on the break, however, Berkley holding on four plays.

THE BEARS then marched downfield on the accurate arm of Duncan and the swift legs of Franz Neubrecht to the Maple one. Duncan smashed over for the score and returned to hit Larry Werschley with a strike in the end zone for the point after, knotting the score at 7-7.

After receiving the kickoff, the Maples were forced to punt and Guyer's long kick sailed into the end zone. Berkley couldn't move the pigskin and gambled on fourth down, but Birmingham's defense rebuffed the Bear effort and took over on downs.

THE INSPIRED Maples threatened on Dale Burrows' long pass to Bob Isbell on the Bear six. With time running out, Burrows raced to the goal line and rolled out of bounds to stop the clock, but the officials ruled that time was up and the disappointed Maples were held to a 7-7 halftime score.

Steve Pew gathered in the Berkley kickoff to open the second half and it looked as if he might go all the way when an unavoidable collision with the referee halted the run on the Maple 40.

Birmingham then drove the Bears deep into their own territory, picking up three first downs and 55 yards while moving to the Berkley 15. A fumble dimmed the hopes of the Maples and the Bears took over on their own 15. An exchange of punts brought the third period to an end.

MIDWAY THROUGH the last stanza, Berkley had possession of the ball on their own 23. When the Bears attempted to punt, the inspired Maple line outcharged the Berkley forwards, Captain Jim Fry blocking the kick and racing into the end zone to recover the ball for the decisive six points for the jubilant Maples. da Fonseca's conversion kick was good and Birmingham led 14-7.

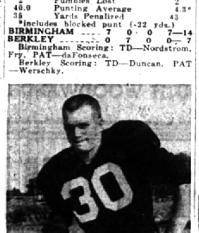
With time running out, the Bears desperately tried a long pass but Maple safety George Miller intercepted to dash Berkley's last hopes of victory.

Birmingham		Berkley
180	Net Yards Gained	242
152	Rushing	106
28	Passing	136
	First Downs	13
Pas		
5	Rushing	6
1	Passing	6
1	By Penalty	1
8	Passes Attempted	24
2	Passes Completed	12
1	Passes Intercepted by	0
2	Fumbles Lost	2
46.0	Punting Average	43*
35	Yards Penalized	45

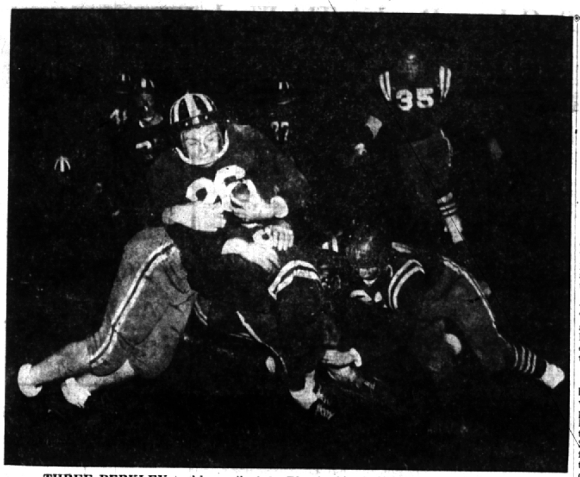
*Includes blocked punt (-22 yds.)

BIRMINGHAM ..... 7 0 0 7—14
BERKLEY ..... 0 7 0 0—7

Birmingham Scoring: TD—Nordstrom. Fry, PAT—daFonseca.
Berkley Scoring: TD—Duncan. PAT—Werschky.



CO - CAPTAIN Jim Fry's block and recovery of a kick scored a TD.



THREE BERKLEY tacklers pile into Birmingham's halfback Tony Evangelista as he skirts around left end on a three-yard gain. The freezing weather caused several injuries in the game.

Lack of Spirit, Skill Lose Baron's Last Game

Still smacking their lips over last week's conquest of Ortonville the Bloomfield Hills Barons journeyed over to the eastern portion of the metropolitan area and met a fired-up Lakeview St. Clair squad. The Barons radiated overconfidence for this lightly considered game.

Their main point of reference was Lakeview's six game losing record. But the Eastsiders turned the tables and played like an unbeaten ball club, handing the Hill's boys a sound 20-12 thrashing.

Bloomfield received a gift opportunity for six points in the first period when forgetfulness on the part of Lakeviewer gave them ball on the host's 17. This came about through a St. Clair punt going to the 23. A Lakeview player assumed he could down the ball by simply touching it, but after he walked away, Jim Kearney raced in and scooped the ball up and ran to the 17.

In three plays the ball was moved to the three where the big full-back, Kearney plunged over for the score.

Even with the incentive of grabbing the first and easy TD the Barons sagged in spirit and playing ability. They remained bottled up for the middle periods unable to organize a scoring drive or producing any defensive strength in holding Lakeview.

TAKING ADVANTAGE of this letdown, Riverview rammed over score markers in the second, third and fourth periods, Bob Claeys, a rabbit fast halfback, ran over these touchdowns on runs of 11 and 15 yards.

A pass from Bill Dixon to Ralph Sweek accounted for Lakeview's fourth period score.

Jim Kearney who accumulated 110-yards in rushing during the second half, busted over for the second Baron score late in the last period, climaxing a drive of 52 yards.

But it was a case of too little, too late for the visiting Bloomfield gridders as they lost finishing up the 1956 season with a 5-3 record. Coach Don Hoff was disappointed in his team's showing declaring, "they were up for Ortonville but didn't think much of this game".

ENDING THEIR playing days for Bloomfield Hills were a group of eight seniors: Dave Drury, Al Bowland, Jim Jones, Tom Little, Jay Miller, Larry Donaldson, Doug Pfaff and Harlan Davis.

Playing their accustomed fine defensive game were Chuck Mezey and Tom Little. Little, the big, rugged tackle, has been a standout for the Barons all year and easily rates as the best lineman in the area.

Jim Kearney, the plunging fullback box no equal in the league going through the season with a 6.1 yards per try to his credit. Jim also made 86 points in touchdowns and extra points. He has been the bread and butter player for the Barons. Still a growing boy, Kearney a junior, will return next year.

Bloomfield Hills		Lakeview, S.C.
222	Total Net Yardage	298
195	Rushing	198
22	Passing	100
8-3	Passes	9-3
0	Passes Intercepted	2
4(34)	Punts	4(29)
3	Fumbles Lost	1
1	Fumbles Recovered	3
45	Yards Penalized	40

BFLD. HILLS ..... 6 0 0 6—12
LAKEVIEW, S.C. ..... 0 7 6 7—20

Tracy Checks-In

Tom Tracy, Birmingham high school's former all-star halfback now playing for the Detroit Lions, checks in regularly with his old football coach, Vince Secontine, after most Lions' games. Vince now runs the Varsity Sports Shop in Birmingham. Tracy tells that professional practice is lot different than high school or college, no workouts on Monday and little or no scrimmaging during the week.

Crane's Wings Clipped, 20-12 By Fitzgerald

Cranbrook's last gridiron efforts had the same outcome as their first in the 1956 football season—losing the ball game, 20-14. It was a mighty disappointing year for Cranbrook as they managed only one victory and a tie during a campaign characterized by on again, off again play.

Against Fitzgerald high school under bone chilling weather, the Cranes did all their damage on the ground as they actually outplayed their opponents in statistics but couldn't reflect this advantage on the scoreboard.

CRANBROOK'S offense amassed 13 first-down, good for 256 yards while Fitzgerald could only make eight-first-downs with 165 yards. Actually this is even more surprising when the player list is examined. Coach Fred Campbell substituted freely, using a great number of sophomores and juniors.

The Cranes crossed the goal line first in the opening quarter on a plunge by halfback Pete McLoed from the three. This 35-yard drive came on a recovery of a Fitz fumble. McLoed ran the successful extra point.

FITGERALD made two, six-point-markers in the second period on a 22-yard-dash by Gordon Kane and a three-yard-plunge by Gary Smith. Les Kubulak kicked both extra points.

In the fourth stanza Dick Rosenthal hit over from the one-foot-line after a sustained drive headed by a 25-yard-sprint by Rosenthal. The junior halfback made good the PAT on a run.

Kubelak nullified this score on another plunge from the six inch spot for the last score in the four period.

The Cranes offense was hurt when they were unable to click on any of their aerial attempts, tossing six for no completions. The one encouraging aspect of the game was the performance of second stringers who will return next year.

Fitzgerald		Cranbrook
8	First Downs	13
13	Passing Yardage	0
165	Rushing Yardage	256
8-1	Passes	*6-0
2	Passes Intercepted by	0
5(31.)	Punts	2(48.)
1	Fumbles Lost	2
3	Fumbles Recovered	1
35	Penalties	55

CRANBROOK ..... 7 0 0 7—14
FITZGERALD ..... 0 14 0 6—20

MEMBERS OF THE BIRMINGHAM high school cheer leading team get together for a practice session under the direction of the group's leader, Dorothy Young. Right to left the girls are: Bev Ford, co-captain, Paula Struck, co-captain, Judy Krempa, Ann Cope, Carol Bain, Sharon Byers, Midge Taup and Gib Slater. Standing is Miss Young.

The Birmingham Eccentric
SPORTS
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Brewer and Bluejays Battle Bentley, Get Nipped in Last Second

Stung by a last-minute touchdown pass, just when sweet victory seemed like a sure thing, Southfield's hot-and-cold football team ended the season by dropping a thriller to outplayed but undefeated Bentley, 20-19.

Bentley's winning score came only seconds after the Bluejays had taken the lead, 19-14, on a 13-yard pass thrown by Bob Benson to scoring ace Ron Brewer, who was unguarded in the end zone.

Southfield coach Monte Charles will hate to see Brewer graduate. The splendid running senior scored all three Jay TDs and ended his last year with 128 points, the highest amassment in Oakland County this season.

SOUTHFIELD then kicked off but the kick was short and the ball was run back to the Jay 44. Two plays later, with only :37 seconds left in the game and the ball on the 38, Dick Clark passed to Tim Snarey, who managed to escape from two tacklers and raced along the sidelines for the winning touchdown.

Scoring was about the only statistical honor the Bluejays failed to capture from the Suburban Six champs, in the see-saw contest, played before a chilled homecoming crowd at Livonia.

DAVE HILTZ recovered a Bentley fumble on the 38 just after the opening kickoff to put Southfield within early striking distance. The Bluejays took advantage of the break and with Brewer and full-back Jim McCann carrying the load, they drove all the way for the first score, Brewer going around right end behind excellent blocking for the last six yards. Hank Kopek converted and Southfield led 7-0.

The Jays held their lead until early in the second period when Bentley went 26 yards in four plays for a touchdown after recovering a Southfield fumble. Eric Goodwell plunged over center from the one. Snarey kicked the PAT and the score was deadlocked at 7-7.

SOUTHFIELD TOOK the lead again late in the third quarter on a sustained drive of 71 yards, Brewer smashing off tackle into the end zone from the four. Benson's pass to end Ken Lamb for the PAT was incomplete and the Jays held a short-lived 13-7 lead.

Bentley broke into the lead temporarily in the early moments of the fourth quarter, 14-13, after halfback Paul Bush ran 37 yards around left end for a touchdown, Snarey kicking the extra point.

There was no further scoring until the last minute and 16 seconds of the game, when the Jays came back to seize the lead, and what appeared to be the ball game, 19-14.

THEN THE FATEFUL, last-ditch pass by Bentley with :37 seconds left, ruined Southfield's chance for a prize upset.

Bentley Coach Jack Hudnut had high praise for Southfield. "They were the toughest team we met all season, was Hudnut's comment. "Brewer is easily the best back in the suburban area," he added.

The Bluejays finished the season with a record of five wins and four losses. They finished fourth in the Inter-lakes league. Bentley's Bulldogs had only a tie to mar their otherwise perfect record in eight games.

Scoring by Quarters:

BENTLEY	0	7	0	13	—20
SOUTHFIELD	7	0	6	6	—19

Bentley		Southfield
4	First downs	14
168	Yards rushing	216
1-2	Passes	4-8
38	Yards passing	91
206	Net yards gained	307
1	Interceptions	1
3	Fumbles lost	2
35	Yards penalized	25

Bentley: Touchdowns — Goodwell (1, plunge). Bush (1, run). Snarey (38 pass from Clark). Conversions — Snarey 2.

Southfield: Touchdowns—Brewer 3 (6, run; 4, plunge; 13, pass from Benson). Conversion—Kopek.

RON BREWER made all Jay TD's in narrow loss to Bentley.

All-Conference Team Named By Inter-Lakes

Varsity football players from the six teams of the Inter-Lake football Conference which Southfield is a member, selected their annual All-Star team last week. The players who were named to the team received a majority of votes from the opposition who had played against them during the year. No team could vote for one of their own players.

Inter-Lakes All Conference

Ends — Larry Hughes, Walled Lake, Sr., Larry Werschky, Berkley, Sr.
Tackles — Jim Dickson, Walled Lake, Jr., Larkin, Waterford, Sr.
Guards—Ed Grames, Walled Lake, Sr., John Contos, Van Dyke, Sr.
Center — Steve McCain Farmington, Sr.
Quarterback—Larry Dion, Walled Lake, Sr.

Right Half — RON BREWER, SOUTHFIELD, SR.

Left Half—Lyn Salathiel, Waterford, Sr.
Fullback — John Walker, Walled Lake, Sr.

Several members of the Bluejay squad received honorable mentions for their performance in league play.

Bernie Miscovich at center, Dave Hiltz at guard, and Todd Grant at center were selected.

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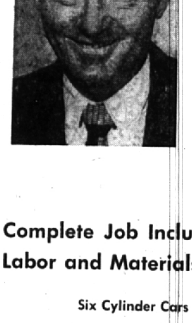

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