

State's Best Turkey Tangle Ends with Acorn-Maple Battle

Birmingham



MAPLE FLANKERS are (left to right): Jim Sechrist, right end, 180-pounds, 6-ft., junior and Bob Isbell, left end, 195-pounds, 6-ft. 3-in., senior.



TACKLE POSITIONS held down by (left to right): Chuck Gibson, left tackle, 220-pounds, 6-ft. 1-in., Sr. and Jack Palmer, right tackle, 195-pounds, 6-ft. 2-in., junior.



THE CENTER of the line is anchored by (left to right): Jim Fry, right guard, (co-captain) 175-pounds; 5-ft. 11-in., senior; Dick Miller, center, 190-pounds, 6-ft., senior; Jerry Rennell, left guard, 160-pounds, 5-ft. 11-in., senior.



HEADING THE OFFENSE are the foursome (left to right): Dale Burrows, quarterback, 175-pounds, 5-ft. 11-in., senior; Tony Evangelista, righthalf, 150-pounds, 5-ft. 9-in., senior; George Miller, fullback, 170-pounds, 5-ft. 11-in., senior; Mike Nordstrom, lefthalf, 170-pounds, 6-ft., senior.

Improved Maples Hunger For Roasted RO Turkey

"Hot and cold" best describes the Birmingham team which will take the field on Thursday against an old arch rival—Royal Oak—in the curtain closer of the Thanksgiving grid classic.

Throughout the four win, four loss year the Maples have played in spurts, producing a series of a quarter, and even a half, looking every part like a first class ball club. Eventually during the contest something will give—a defensive tidiness, a stellar drive or the evaporation of fighting spirit which results in a narrow victory or defeat.

As was the situation at the beginning of the season, this is a green team, much like Royal Oak but where the Acorns worked most of the greenness out, the Maples haven't. There has been a decided improvement recently, as indicated by the fine performance against Berkley. Berkley was not an outstanding team but they did test the running and passing defensive strength of the Maples. Adequate pass defense, in particular, has been a vulnerable side of Birmingham all year.

RUNNING from the T-formation the Maples' attack has been good in the center of the field but boys down inside their opponents' line. Most of the victories came by the margin of one touchdown. Several players who Coach Carl Lemle sees as being in, didn't click in their positions. But with the Berkley game a realignment of personnel presented more cohesiveness in the team. Whether this is a question of too little, too late, remains to be seen.

The Maples tussle with last Friday for the Turkey tussle with a scrimmage practice against Fordson high school of Dearborn, the newly crowned champs of the Border City conference. They scored several times but against a squad comprised of junior and sophomore members.

SHIFTING BIG Chuck Gibson back into the line at his old tackle slot bolstered the forward wall a good deal. In guard Jim Fry, the Maples have an outstanding leader and player who has been a bulwark up front all season. John Forester, another member of the defensive platoon, has continued to improve and played his finest game against Berkley.

In the backfield the Maples have two explosive backs who can go all

Royal Oak



THE TWO ENDS are: (left to right) John Kennedy, left end, 175-pounds, 6-ft., sophomore and Hewitt Hornbeck, right end, 174-pounds, 6-ft. 1-in., junior.



AT THE TACKLES go (left to right): Rick Hill, right tackle, 195-pounds, 6-ft., senior and Bob Walsh, left tackle, 210-pounds, 6-ft. 3 in., senior.



MIDDLEMEN IN THE LINE (left to right): Don Rossell, right guard, 195-pounds, 5-ft. 10-in., senior; Gary Bryce, center, 190-pounds, 6-ft. 2-in., sophomore; George Boyd, (co-captain), left guard, 170-pounds, 5-ft. 11-in., senior.



BACKFIELD MEMBERS are (left to right): Duke Sekeres, (co-captain), fullback, 185-pounds, 5-ft. 11-in., senior; Bob Manser, lefthalf, 165-pounds, 5-ft. 11-in., senior; Jerry Snider, righthalf, 155-pounds, 5-ft. 9-in., senior; Gary Pitzer, quarterback, 180-pounds, 6-ft. 1-in., senior.

Past B'ham-R.O. Scores

Year	Birmingham	Royal Oak
1913	6	7
1914	No Game	13
1915	7	13
1916	0	20
1917	0	14
1918	0	14
1919	0	14
1920	26	0
1921	0	7
1922	0	10
1923	No Game	0
1924	No Game	0
1925	6	0
1926	6	0
1927	3	0
1928	6	0
1929	6	0
1930	6	0
1931	0	19
1932	6	6
1933	6	6
1934	6	6
1935	6	6
1936	6	6
1937	6	6
1938	6	6
1939	6	6
1940	6	6
1941	6	6
1942	6	6
1943	6	6
1944	6	6
1945	6	6
1946	6	6
1947	6	6
1948	6	6
1949	6	6
1950	6	6
1951	6	6
1952	6	6
1953	6	6
1954	6	6
1955	6	6
1956	6	6



MAPLES MENTOR, Carl Lemle, is still looking for his first Thanksgiving turkey—a la Royal Oak. HEAD FOOTBALL Coach Jim Manilla looks for his fifth straight victory.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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THANKSGIVING GAME

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1956
11 A.M. BIRMINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

THIS SITUATION and other conditions have been throughout Michigan to the effect that whereas at one time about 32 Thanksgiving contests were played, after this year there will remain only one, as far as we know, and that is an intercity game in Flint. Athletic directors in making their schedules would very much favor a freshman. However they are legally governed first by the Michigan State High School Athletic Association, second by their own league policies, and third by their local conditions. It is quite apparent that Birmingham is considered to be one of the factors involved that conditions would never be changed after 1956.

THE SECOND MAIN reason for discontinuing the Thanksgiving date is the fact that whereas at one time about 32 Thanksgiving contests were played, after this year there will remain only one, as far as we know, and that is an intercity game in Flint. Athletic directors in making their schedules would very much favor a freshman. However they are legally governed first by the Michigan State High School Athletic Association, second by their own league policies, and third by their local conditions. It is quite apparent that Birmingham is considered to be one of the factors involved that conditions would never be changed after 1956.

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1921	0	7
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1923	No Game	0
1924	No Game	0
1925	6	0
1926	6	0
1927	3	0
1928	6	0
1929	6	0
1930	6	0
1931	0	19
1932	6	6
1933	6	6
1934	6	6
1935	6	6
1936	6	6
1937	6	6
1938	6	6
1939	6	6
1940	6	6
1941	6	6
1942	6	6
1943	6	6
1944	6	6
1945	6	6
1946	6	6
1947	6	6
1948	6	6
1949	6	6
1950	6	6
1951	6	6
1952	6	6
1953	6	6
1954	6	6
1955	6	6
1956	6	6

Playing a musical instrument out-of-doors in freezing weather is not the easiest task imaginable, and if history is any guide, the Birmingham and Royal Oak bands may be performing under those conditions Thursday.

FRIGID temperatures are especially tough on tuba and bass drum players, who are required to assume the roles of pack horses in addition to holding cold metal in their hands, while rendering their melodies.

ROYAL OAK has had the trophy for the last four years and would like to end the festivities by having the jug permanently grace their showcase. After this game it becomes the undisputed property of the victor.

ROYAL OAK held the jug for the longest time, 1934-1943. Birmingham won in 1950 and 1951, when all-star Tom Tracy ran for three touchdowns in a 27-0 victory, the last time the Maples had possession of the jug.

THE ONLY REGULAR on the injury list is Bill Knotts, a two-way-center who will not see action. Otherwise coach Manilla declares, "we are the strongest now, that we have been any time this year."