

# Spartans Blast Rockets, 7-3, in Babe Ruth Opener

By BOB WEBB  
Birmingham Babe Ruth baseball team officially under way Monday as the Spartans, 1956 runner-ups, teed off on the Rockets, 1956 champs, 7-3 in the season opener at Birmingham high school playing field.

Nearly 200 shirt-sleeved spectators watched Spartan pitcher Bill Muenchinger go the distance to accomplish the first victory of the 1957 season.

Muenchinger, a six-foot bespectacled 15-year-old who went to the state semi-finals last year, wrapped his curve ball in the opener, struck out nine batters, and collected a triple and two sin-

gles in four trips to the plate. The LOSING pitcher was Tim Springer of the Rockets, who struck out two, walked two and allowed four runs before his arm tired in the sixth inning. George Didier pitched in relief, struck out one, walked four and allowed three runs rounding out the seven-inning game.

Since Mayor Roberts had a recreation director, whipped a strike over the plate to him to open the 1957 Babe Ruth season.

In the FIRST inning only Bill Mosher of the Spartans collected a hit. Neither team scored and Muenchinger put away the first three batters to face him, striking out two.

In the second, Muenchinger led off with a smash hit through the hole between third and short. Jim Farrell sacrificed him to second and Jerry Dixon was safe at first on an error—the Spartan pitcher going to third.

Muenchinger scored on an infield grounder by John Walker, who was thrown out at first. Then Rocket pitcher Tim Springer snagged a ball hit by Chris Scheerer and threw to first to end the Spartan half of the inning.



## Maple Trackmen Take League Meet

Birmingham track team won their third consecutive annual Eastern Michigan League track meet last Wednesday at Hazel Park, but they had a tough job out for them as the meet developed into a dual affair between Birmingham and East Detroit.

The outcome was in doubt until Marie Dick Boyles and Tony McChesney of East Detroit in the second 880-yard race.

BIRMINGHAM won five events and tied in another to take the team title with 68 1/2 points. East Detroit, 62; Mr. Clemens, 28; Port Huron, 19; Hazel Park, 17 1/2; and Ferndale, 6.

Birmingham broke two of eight records broken. The Maple record breakers were Bill McFarlin in the pole vault, 12 feet 9 1/2 inches and the medley relay team of Fred Nichols, Mark Hall, Bob Kulow, and Phil Ingraham, 2:37.4. The pole vault record was previously held by Wards of Birmingham, 11 ft. 7 1/4 in. set in 1951. The medley record was also held by Birmingham, 2:37.5, set in 1956.

## Beat Maples, Assumption, Pontiac, But Bow to Flint

By KEN CAMERON  
Cranbrook baseball squad helped itself to three victories last week, defeating Pontiac 5-2, Assumption, 6-3, and Birmingham, 3-1. Then it suffered a thorough trouncing at the hands of Flint Central, 5-0.

The week's play brought the school's baseball season to a close and the overall season's record to nine wins and eight losses.

CRANBROOK IS Interstate League champion this year in baseball.

They scored one run in the second and two in the sixth to edge Pontiac 5-2. Larry Demick was the winning pitcher for the Cranes, striking out five and walking one. He held the Pontiac team scoreless until the sixth inning when Pontiac sent one run across the plate and followed it with another in the seventh.

A nine-inning ball game was played according to agreement by Assumption and Cranbrook and Andy Billesdon was the winning pitcher as he struck out three and walked eight.

Campbell had three hits in the game, two singles and a triple for three RBIs.

CRANBROOK COLLECTED five hits and three errors to Birmingham's three hits and no errors in another game. Dave Campbell was the winning pitcher, striking out five and walking two. The losing pitcher was Tom Estes, who struck out six and walked one.

Cranbrook scored in the first inning when Chuck Grube tripled to bring in Mosher, who had walked.

BIRMINGHAM MADE IT an event-up game in the third when Ed Busch singled, was advanced on two grounders and came home on a single by Fred Buesser.

Cranbrook surged ahead in the sixth to score two runs on singles by Mosher, Allen, Walsh and Crowley.

POWERFUL FLINT CENTRAL proved too much for the Cranes as they held Fred Campbell's team to two hits in a 5-0 shutout. Cranbrook's lone threat came when Dave Walsh tripled and was thrown out at the plate on a nice play when a teammate set down a pinch runner.

The winning pitcher for Flint Central was Ken Mardon, with an educated curve ball.

B'ham Am. Legion Baseball Tryouts  
Birmingham American Legion Post junior baseball will hold tryouts this Saturday, June 8, from 1 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, June 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Only those boys whose 18th birthday falls after September 1 are eligible to play. Tryouts will be held at Pierce Field on 14 Mile road.

MAPLES TOM ESTES, left, and Arn Issette will be among Detroit area players before Tiger scouts at Briggs Stadium June 26 and 27.

## Acorns Drop Maples In HP Doubleheader

By BILL O'TOOLE  
Held to a tie in the second game, 3-3, Birmingham high school's baseball team lost the first game of a doubleheader at Hazel Park last Friday, 4-2.

John Dixon started for the Maples for the first time this year but did not fare too well. Oscar Lewis and Dennis Stauts, Hazel Parkers, drew walks and came home on the second Murphy's double in the first. Lewis also scored again in the second after stealing two bases and coming home on Len Golinski's single.

Birmingham did not threaten until the third inning when Ed Busch walked and Bob Wood and Tom Kelly came up with bunt singles that rolled by the pitcher and filled the bases. But the runners died there when Arn Issette and Fred Buesser fanned and Phil Russell grounded out.

The MAPLES broke into the scoring column and made it a new ball game in the fourth when Bob Issett led off with a single and went to third on Dixon's hit on an error. Issett came home when Busch grounded out, and Dixon arrived when the ball eluded catcher Ron Quarters.

In the fifth Hazel Park picked up its first earned run of the game and striking out four. Larry Hower took over for part of an inning, followed by Bill Muenchinger, who pitched the last inning and allowed one hit.

In the second game Hazel Park took a 1-0 lead when John Moore came home on Jim Plouffe's single after he drew Larry Hower's first pass.

But the lead did not last. In the second inning Tom Estes began with a bunt single. After Buesser struck out, Bob Issett hit a long triple to left field corner, bringing in Estes to tie the score. Arn Issett followed with a single, scoring Issett and scoring on a steal and two errors.

THE MAPLES held their two-run lead until the bottom of the

## Federal League Opens, Award 1956 Champ

Memorial Day presentation of the Coburn Trophy to last year's champion White Sox heralded the opening of the 1957 season to the Federal League last year by Bert Coburn, whose son Bruce was a former player on the White Sox team. Each year's League winning team will have its name engraved on the trophy, which will be on permanent display in the Community House.

The White Sox jumped into an early league lead by taking its first two games in spite of a strong bid by the Orioles in extra innings and a last inning rally put on by the Senators. The Senators held the Athletics scoreless in their Memorial Day opener, allowing only two hits.

STEVE BILL of the Athletics pitched an Orioles shutout for the first four innings but couldn't stem a fifth inning rally in which the Athletics scored through their order to collect a safe margin to carry them through to an 8-6 victory.

Chicago White Sox players will also make an appearance. Red Wingers, including Gordie Howe, Ted Lindsay, George Ge, Marty Pavelle, George Peters and Eddie Gooden, will be supplemented by Bob Hall, athletic director of Southfield high school, formerly in the St. Louis Cardinals chain, "Gene" Lombardi and other Southfield residents who have had other semi-pro or professional experience.

TICKETS ARE NOW available at \$1 and since ticket sale will be the chief fund-raising project of the year, all possible cooperation from Southfield residents to make this a financial success will be appreciated by the title League. Tickets may be obtained from your local retail merchants or by calling Mrs. J. J. Jones, 2465 Sargent, Southfield township.

After the first week all teams have played two games and though it is early yet it looks to be the Yankees best the Tigers at Fenwick of the American League.

The Yankees edged the Red Sox 6-5 in a stirring home rally with Dean Winstewski batting in the winning run on a single to right field.

THE INDIANS laced the Tigers 16-5 with Homer Davidson's Tigers seeking two home-runs and Dick Mosher's Indians one.

Tommy von der Aue won two legs of the title in Toledo and Oakland country earlier this year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Minninger, 1909 Crosswick road, Birmingham.

Soupy Shufflers  
Soupy Sale's WXYZ-TV softball team will play the Upper Teams club of Southfield All-Stars 4-1 at the Upper Teams field on Northwestern last Sunday.

Badger Defends Title in JC Tourney  
Bud Badger, 16, spark-plug medalist of state championship class B and C Bloomfield Hills golf team, will be defending district medalist in the Jay-Cee junior golf tournament held June 23 at Birmingham country club.

Badger beat out two older contestants in last year's event at Tam-O-Shanter by taking a tie-plat on the second hole. He projected a state title in the runner-up, and in Fargo, N. Dakota, was a member of the four-man Michigan team that won the national championship.

BACK FOR ANOTHER try this year, Badger will be competing for national honors and a potential \$1000 scholarship to any college of his choice.

ANY YOUTH in the area may participate in the district tournament June 23, as long as he has not reached his 18th birthday by August 25.

Badger has been playing golf for about eight years and has one hole-in-one to his credit, achieved three years ago on the 18th hole of the North Hills course.

HE MOVED FROM Pleasant Ridge to 8949 Colish Fall Bloomfield Hills, four years ago and practices about three or four times a week on local golf courses.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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HOME SWEET HOME—Bill Mosher strides across the plate with the first of two runs collected in the sixth inning by the Cranes in their 3-1 victory last week over Birmingham. The catcher is Ed Estes for the Maples.

SPORTSARAMA at Elton Features Celebrities  
Jack McEhale, Charlie Gohlinger, Lou Hart, and Ted Lindsay will be guest celebrities at the Sportsarama at Elton park, Birmingham Saturday June 8, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., sponsored by the Holy Name Dad's club.

There will be games, races, and novelties for the children present. Refreshments will be sold at the field during the all-Paris affair.

## S'field Ball: Red Wings Vs. Tiger Old Timers

Southfield Little League Baseball announces an unusual baseball treat in store for fans Sunday, June 23. In this Detroit Tiger Old-Timers along with other former American league stars will play a team composed mainly of present day and former Detroit Red Wing Hockey players.

The game will be played at 2 p.m. on Southfield Baseball field, at Southfield high school, Lahser road and W. Ten Mile.

## Sports in Brief

By BOB WEBB Sports Editor  
It is done. The record pole vault attempt at U. of D. relays went off on schedule and Birmingham's Bill MacFarlin, Tom Segal, and Bill Alcorn averaged 12 feet going over the bar. MacFarlin went 12 feet 6 inches, Segal hit 12 feet even, and Alcorn cleared 11 feet 6 inches. We should see this record around for a long, long time.

CRANBROOK'S Class B Regional championship tennis team placed second in team standings at the state meet Saturday at Kalamazoo County.

STURDEVANT is a consistent winner in high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put, broad jump, and javelin.

Lowest Points Ever  
Mrs. Leslie R. Tripp, 139 Hillside avenue, Pontiac, and Mrs. Donald R. Mosher, 5521 Doherty drive, route 2, Orchard Lake were the two winners of the total puts event on Ladies Guest day at Pine Lake country club.

AL BATES, CHAIRMAN of the Babe Ruth World Series committee, has his hands full these days over the financial aspects of the problem.

One of the methods of financing this amount will be through the sale of 51 admision tickets . . . There are 10,000 seats . . . Bates has received a stipulation that all money in excess of the guarantee of \$10,000 raised in Michigan would be distributed to Babe Ruth leagues of Michigan.

Among the charities and golf programs benefiting from National Golf Day have been caddie scholarship funds, turf farming and educating the U.S.O., American National

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