

# Bay City Central Loaded, Eyes State's No. 1 Class A Berth

Special to The Eccentric  
By MIKE STURM  
Sports Editor, Bay City Times

**BAY CITY**—Bay City Central—known for its outstanding prep quarterbacks—takes its latest play-making job and Michigan's finest schoolboy grid squads, to Birmingham Friday night, in quest of the second win in what Wolf backers hope will be an unbeaten, untied season.

Central, ranked No. 2 in state class A listings last fall, is after that much-sought-after first-place berth this fall, and from the club's showing in its '57 opener, that goal is well within its reach.

Owosso fell to the Wolves by a 48-0 count in that '57 debut last Friday.

**PROBABLY THE OUTSTANDING** feature of Bay City Central football the past six or seven years, has been the top-flight quarterbacks developed by Coach Elmer Engel. Since the former Illinois end and captain (1942) took over in 1950, he has had three all-state quarterbacks.

This fall he is grooming another lad who may become the fourth—Jerry Gross, a senior junior.

Gross, who stands about 5-10 and is an excellent passer and runner, completed seven of 10 passes in the Owosso game despite a heavy rain just before starting time. Four

of his aeriels went for touchdowns—of 33, 35, 35 and five yards.

**THE WOLF BACKFIELD BOSS** is also an exceptional ball-handler, and the Bay City "T" offense is known for its intricate attack.

The one thing that might keep Gross from all-state recognition this fall is his 11th grade status. He may have to wait for honors until 1958.

While Bay City is a hit list for most of the opponents on a plenty rough '57 schedule, a compensating factor appears to be the team's good overall speed.

In Halfback Butch Kokaly, a 165-pound junior, the Wolves have a 10.3 trackdashman. Junior End Bob Bishop, 6-3, 170 pounds, is also fast as well as another end, Jim Schultz.

**SCHULTZ, A SENIOR**, is tapped in most class A circles as Bay City's No. 1 bet for all-state.

And Bay City has been faring exceptionally well in this field, placing three on the Associated Press' first 11, last year.

Friday's probably starting Bay City Central lineup shapes up this way: Ends, Schultz and Bishop; tackles, Dick Tews and Bill Clark; guards, Mike Patterson and Tony Auman; center, Tim Plum; quarterback, Gross; halfbacks, Kokaly and Ken Swineicki; fullback, Ken Carey.

Tews is the heaviest man on the Bay City starting line,

standing 6-1 and weighing 210. Clark, the second starting tackle, is the scales at 185.

Central's two guards weigh 180 each while the center, Plum, is a 165-pounder.

**THAT GIVES THE WOLVES** an average weight on the starting line of about 181 pounds.

The Bay City starting backfield is light and fast—three men, Gross, Swineicki and Carey weighing 165 pounds each, the fourth, Kokaly, weighing 170.

The young Central squad—there are 31 juniors, two sophoms and 10 seniors or the 43-man unit—has plenty of depth and (See BAY CITY, Page 7-E)

## The Birmingham Eccentric



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## Core of Bay City's Line

Bay City Central's strong forward wall is built around these three veteran linemen. Left to right are Tackle Dick Tews and Guards Jay English and Mike Patterson. English is a 5-10, 160-pound defense linebacker. The others are both two-way players. All are seniors. (Photo courtesy Bay City Times).

## atline... from les

There was something lacking Friday night.

It wasn't just the color the sight of a high school band marching before the game and at halftime brings... the color of a flag raising, of a group of brightly dressed musicians marching downfield to the tune of the school's fight song... the color of the intricate formations, the clever dance steps.

It's not too hard to remember a class C school on the west side of the state where a small, and seldom in step or in tune, band was out on the field performing that opening night and at every home game—and many away games—thereafter.

The weather didn't matter. Rain, snow, mud or drizzle, they were out performing. And it didn't matter either if the band had two weeks or two days to prepare, they were ready with a show. It might not compare with a large class A band, but it added color and the fans enjoyed every minute of it.

But as a member of the Birmingham faculty remarked Friday night, this was the first game, and the band generally isn't ready to put on a show until the middle of the season.

IT WASN'T just the lack of a program, which helps add its small bit to the color. But maybe everyone at Friday's game knew all the players, and those who consider a program, be it printed or just mimeographed, is necessary are all wrong.

Oh, the lack of a marching band program figured in, but there was something much more missing, something that can't be put into one word, or one sentence.

OR MAYBE it wasn't something lacking, but something that was present—a feeling that a grand many of those in the stands weren't the least bit interested in what was going on down on the football field.

It might be that the many people present were carrying heavy night sticks, that they were expecting trouble, that it wouldn't have been out of place for trouble to occur.

It might be that many of the pupils there were present because they thought there might be a party. And they probably were hoping there would be. Chances are it wouldn't have been beyond the power of them to start a fight themselves.

IT MIGHT BE that liquor was being passed around among the members of the stands.

Shocking?

Ask some of those youngsters about the open bottles of whiskey, the cider with the liquor in it, the spiked soft drinks.

Or it might be that many of those at the game were there just because it was a place to be on a Friday night, or just because being at the game was the "vogue" thing to do.

Those down on the field, the coaches, the players—any of them their best. But how many watching the game cared?

Those of you who did care, those of you who can remember when high school football played better than more—ask yourself one question.

It it worth it?

THERE'S ONE HOPE.

That's the threat of day football—football played when classes are in session, football played before empty stands.

It could happen here.

Day football would undoubtedly eliminate drinking by the teen-agers at the game, the possibility of trouble, and the possibility of day football can have the same effect.

Some of us hope so.

**Set Poole Show**

The Poole Club of Southgate Michigan will hold a qualifying sanctioned match Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at Veterans hall in Ferndale.

## Gibson Shines at Fullback in 1-7 Birmingham Win

**But Team Unimpressive In Defeat of Cranbrook**

By LES LINE  
Sports Editor

Chuck Gibson, a tackle turned fullback, came through with some sparkling performance in his backfield position Friday night as he alone accounted for nearly half of Birmingham's rushing yardage in the Maples' 19-7 opening game defeat of Cranbrook.

Gibson racked up 107 of the 217 yards Birmingham gained on the ground as he indicated Coach Carl Lemle's move to shift the 205-pound senior from the line to fullback this fall had paid off, and would continue to do so.

But aside from the showing of Gibson, the '57 debut of the Maples' fullback was unimpressive.

Although it did connect for two touchdowns, the Birmingham passing attack was ineffective. On the ground the Maples failed to show much power—with the exception of Gibson.

IT ALL POINTED to a mighty rough time for the Maples in this Friday's encounter with a powerful Bay City Central squad that romped to a 48-0 victory over Owosso in its opening game.

Heavily favored Bay City will bring a veteran, talent-laden squad here Friday night. The Thumb team is considered one of the outstanding class A outfits in Michigan and has a quarterback rated among the best in state prep ranks.

It's doubtful if Birmingham will be able to match the Wolves who make no attempt to hide the fact they are eyeing an unbeaten and untied season. The coveted status as the No. 1 class A team in the state.

Birmingham's passing difficulties Friday didn't originate on the throwing end. The reason behind the only three completions in nine aerial attempts seemingly points to a weakness at the all-important end posts, although part of the trouble might be attributed to a weak ball.

SEVERAL PASSES, including one in the end zone, were made on the Cranbrook one-yard line—both of which would have added to the team's lead. The Wolves, on the hands of the intended receivers and were dropped.

Friday morning and afternoon left the deep grass on the Maple grid slick but fumbles were few and the damp turf generally failed to hamper play.

Cranbrook, playing without it's poor Cranbrook punts carried just 12 yards and gave the Maples the ball inside the 50-yard line.

A jump pass from Quarterback Dave Ritchie to End Jim Sechrist made the Bay City Central 20-0 lead. Ritchie found Sechrist open in the end zone a few plays later, but the Birmingham end, was unable to bring onto the ball, ending the scoring threat.

Only three minutes had elapsed in the second quarter when the Wolves cracked the scoring line.

It was a 42-yard pass play from reserve Quarterback Phil Russell (See GIBSON, Page 7-E)

## Five Games on Area's Weekend Prep Docket

Area football fan have a full offering awaiting them this weekend with a five-game card, highlighted by the Birmingham-Bay City Central clash, on deck.

The Maple and the Bay City gridders collide here at 8 p.m. Friday. The visitors from the Thumb are staunch favorites.

Southfield's young harrist squad, led down and move another step toward a first-place berth in the state. A ratings. (See related story of this page.)

Bloomfield Hills, meanwhile, after indicating in its opener with Clareville that it may not be "over its head" in the Wayne-Oakland circuit, aims for its second conference triumph Friday afternoon when the Barons play host to Holly. The game is set for 8:45 p.m.

Cranbrook, after dropping its opening game, is scheduled to open its league competition with its full squad, meeting Lake Forest academy of Chicago in a 2 p.m. skirmish Saturday at Cranbrook.

Southfield and Troy are both on the road Friday. Troy's Colts are at Mt. Clemens for an encounter with L'Anse Creuse. The Blue Jays visit Ferndale. Both games are scheduled for 8 p.m.

Holly, the Hills' Friday foe, battled Grand Blanc in a dead heat in its opener. Ferndale, meanwhile, lowest to Berkley, 19 to 6.

BAY CITY CENTRAL drubbed

Birmingham	19	Bloomfield Hills	18	Southfield	7	Troy	26
Cranbrook	6	Clarencville	0	Kimball	7	Detroit Lutheran	0

## Southfield, RO Kimball Deadlock; Hills, Troy Cop Opening Victories

The names of two prep gridders—Troy's Wayne Figley and Bloomfield Hills' Jim Kearney—stood far out above the rest Friday night.

Figley, fleet-footed Troy back, romped to three touchdowns to lead his Colt teammates to a 26-0 triumph over Detroit Lutheran.

Kearney, who accounted for 12 Baron touchdowns and eight extra points last fall, greeted the '57 season with an 85-yard touchdown return on the opening kickoff as Bloomfield Hills trimmed Clarencville, 15-0.

The impressive wins by the two schools indicated both would be plenty tough to deal with in their respective circuits this fall.

Royal Oak Kimball, meanwhile, making its debut on the south oakland county grid scene, battled Southfield to a 7-7 draw at Royal Oak in the third Friday night football opener for area schools.

KEARNEY, who could hit but even more blistering scoring pace

this fall than he did in the '56 campaign, wasn't through by any means after his long touchdown jaunt against Clarencville on the Lions school's field.

He added a second touchdown for the Barons, legging it 40 yards later in the first quarter.

Chuck Metey cracked over from eight yards out for the third Hills six-pointer in the fourth quarter after Coach Don Horgan charged had recovered a fumble deep in Clarencville territory.

Clarencville's Trojans twice penetrated Bloomfield Hills' 10-yard line but couldn't score.

It was a perfect start for the Barons in their new conference—the Wayne-Oakland circuit.

IT DIDN'T TAKE Figley and Troy long to establish themselves in the clash with Detroit Lutheran on the south oakland county grid scene.

It took only about two minutes in the first quarter for Troy to chalk up 13 points.

Figley's first touchdown run was a tremendous 98-yard effort with key blocks from Rick Bel and Chuck Beech clearing the way

downfield.

Lutheran's Leopards, unable to go anywhere on the opening series of downs, punted to the Troy two-yard line where Figley gathered in the ball and headed unhampered for the Lutheran goal line.

Dave Stokes ran the extra point.

LUTHERAN fumbled on the second play after the Troy kickoff. Troy recovering on the Detroit team's 37. On second down Figley headed around end and crossed the goal line.

The senior halfback's third touchdown came early in the second quarter. Led by Stokes and Jerry Coan, the Colts moved from their own 48 in 10 plays to the Lutheran 10. Figley cracked across from there and Stokes ran the point.

An end, Paul DePauw, accounted for Troy's fourth score in the fourth quarter. Lutheran's favorite play, one that netted eight first downs, was a pincushion series but this time one went askew. DePauw intercepted a lateral and scampered 24 yards for the six pointer.

The Colts had just missed another

score shortly after the second half kickoff. Gary Littleton had taken the kickoff and returned it 40 yards, nearly breaking loose to go all the way. With Stokes carrying the ball on all but two plays, the Colts moved 50 yards in nine tries, but Stokes fumbled near paydirt and Lutheran recovered.

TROY FAILED to complete a pass in eight tries while Lutheran connected on three of nine aerial attempts for 40 yards.

Figley was the leading Colt ground gainer with 74 yards in seven tries. Stokes picked up 66 yards in 13 carries.

Troy's coach, Don Bechard, pointed out afterward, however, that Lutheran was not as strong as in previous years because of the division of the school into two separate high schools.

Troy never had to punt in its win over the Leopards.

THERE WERE 31 seconds left in the first quarter when Southfield cracked the Kimball defense.

Tom Risley, stellar Blue Jay back, capped a 78-yard march when

he skittered end 30 yards for the score. Conversion duties were handled by Bob Brown.

It was a fumble deep in its own territory that wrecked Southfield's chances for an opening night win.

The Jays lost the ball on their 15 and then forgot that the Royal Oak preparers knew how to pass.

Jerry Riutta tossed an aerial to John Kennedy on the one. Kennedy was hit as he grabbed the pass but fell into the end zone. The play covered 18 yards and came with 2:25 left in the third quarter.

DALE SPARROW converted the all-important extra point only to have the kick nullified by a penalty.

His second try—this time from a distance of 15 yards—was also successful, knotting the score.

The Royal Oak squad, with only one senior on nearly all junior roster, threatened in the late minutes of the fourth quarter.

A punt return by Kennedy brought the ball to the Jay 36. Kimball pushed to the 20 but was held. A field goal attempt from Jayers with 20 seconds left failed.

## Sports Calendar

**Football**  
Friday  
Bay City Central at Birmingham, 8 p.m.  
Southfield at Ferndale, 8 p.m.  
Holly at Bloomfield Hills, 3:45 p.m.  
Troy at L'Anse Creuse, 8 p.m.

**Cross Country**  
Thursday  
Ferndale at Southfield, 4 p.m.  
A punt return by Kennedy brought the ball to the Jay 36. Kimball pushed to the 20 but was held. A field goal attempt from Jayers with 20 seconds left failed.

**Soccer**  
Saturday  
Lake Forest at Cranbrook, 10 a.m.

**Reserve Football**  
Thursday  
Southfield at Redford Union, 4 p.m.

**Friday**  
Bloomfield Hills at Holly, 7 p.m.  
Birmingham at Berkley, 8:00 p.m.

**Freshman Football**  
Thursday  
Fitzgerald at Troy, 4 p.m.  
Redford Union at Southfield, 4 p.m.

**Little Football**  
Friday  
Wolverines vs Browns at Pierce, 7 p.m.  
Saturday  
Tigers vs Spartans at High School, 8 p.m.  
Sunday  
Southfield at O'Shea, 1 p.m.  
Troy at Grosse Pointe Farms, 2 p.m.

**CYO Football**  
Sunday  
Holy Name at Berkley Our Lady LaSalle, 3 p.m.  
St. Hugo of the Hills at Orchard Lake Our Lady of Refuge, 2:30 p.m.

**Gets Second Ace**  
Harold R. (Pete) Noack of Birmingham scored a hole-in-one on his second ace in 40 years of golfing—Wednesday on the 134-yard 13th hole at North Hills golf club. Noack, of 888 Redding, used a seven iron. He finished the round with an 87 card.

## Maple Back Nailed on Punt Return

Dave Ritchie (35), Birmingham starting quarterback, is caught by a flying tackle by an unidentified Cranbrook griddler as Ritchie returns a Crane punt late in the second quarter of Friday's clash at Birmingham.

right half, Dave Muhltner (25), is about to throw a block on Crane end Chic Cudde (82). Also shown is Cranbrook's center and captain, Lloyd Asbury (55). Birmingham scored twice in the second quarter and went on to a 19-7 win in the '57 football opener locally.

## Maple Runners Annex 13th, 14th Straight; Jays Split

Birmingham high's hill and dale men have added two more wins to their three-year string of 14 in a row for the Kermit Ambrose-coached harriers.

Port Huron bowed to the Maple runners 15 to 47 here Tuesday afternoon in the third straight Birmingham win this fall. Friday the Maples dropped Pontiac 20 to 43 at Beaudette park in Pontiac.

Southfield's young harrier squad, meanwhile, split a pair of meets, losing to Redford Union by a 17-42 count at Southfield and defeating Detroit Lutheran 27 to 30 at Southfield Tuesday.

The Maples travel to Hazel Park for a Friday afternoon meet and then tackle Ferndale here Tuesday afternoon.

**THE BLUE JAY** harriers face Ferndale this afternoon and VanDyke Tuesday, both on the Southfield course.

Pontiac, opening its season, had the first man across the finish line, Larry Beamer. The star Chief half-miler covered the two-mile route in 10:43.

From there on, however, he was all Birmingham—seven Maple runners finishing before Pontiac's next man.

Lee Toot was second in 10:50. Bob Benson followed in 11:02. Next in order were Bill Landis in 11:21, Jim Reilly, 11:32; Rich Riley, 11:38; Dave Pew, 11:29, and Phil Ingraham, 11:32.

**PONTIAC LOST** a chance for a better finish when its No. 1 cross country ace, Roger Coats, stepped in a soft spot at the mile and one-quarter mark, injured a knee and was unable to finish. Coats, the Chief captain, was side by side with Beamer at the time.

Birmingham's reserves thoroughly trounced Pontiac in their run at Pontiac Friday by a 15-50 score.

The first 11 men across the finish line were Maples.

**THE MAPLES** had the first five men across in the local harriers' rout of Port Huron.

Bob Benson was first in 11:08, followed by Bill Landis in 11:21, Dave Pew in 11:32, Fraser Coats in 11:40 and Fred Hibberlin in 11:44.

Redford Union had the first three men across as well as the fifth, sixth and seventh-place finishers in Friday's meet at Southfield.

Larry Porter, Emery Gravelle and Harry Johnston were the 1-2-3 men for the visitors. Jerry Lieber of Southfield finished fourth with Redford Union's Frank Cooney.

Southfield's Jim Waldendorr led, in that order.

Next was Doug Palechek of Lutheran and Southfield's predominantly sophomore squad and Redford Union's nearly all-junior club. It was the opener for both.

No times were official because the Southfield course was two-tenths of a mile short. It was lengthened to two miles for Tuesday's meet with Lutheran.

**THE SLIGHTEST** change in the finish order could have changed the outcome of the Southfield-Lutheran meet.

Southfield's Lieber was the first to finish. His time was 11:03. Detroit Lutheran captured second and third, Ron Ryce and Steve Smallwood both turning in 11:10 clockings.

Southfield's Karr was fourth in 11:25.

Next were Doug Palechek of Lutheran and Southfield's Phil Floyd and Dan Rodeheffer.

It was the first meet of the season for the Detroit parochials.

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