

Prep Gridders Line Up for '57

The Birmingham Eccentric



PAGE 6

SEPTEMBER 5, 1957

B'ham Residents Team Up To Boost U-D Ticket Sales

Nine Birmingham residents are serving as salesmen in University of Detroit's football season ticket campaign and two of them are in key positions.

Merritt D. Hill, 965 E. Glengary, is serving as honorary chairman of the football season ticket sales campaign and has sold nearly 200 books of season tickets this summer. He sold 200 last year, was general chairman of the sales campaign from 1947 through 1956.

HILL, THE MANAGER of Tractor and Implement division of the Ford Motor company, as general chairman of season football ticket sales for 10 years, is responsible for the sale of over a half million dollars worth of season tickets.

Alvin S. Rappaport, 3570 Middlebury road, owner of the Jeffrey Steel & Metal company, has been working in U. of D. season ticket, sales campaigns for five years and is sales team chairman

this year.

OTHER BIRMINGHAM residents on U. of D. football season ticket sales teams are: James C. Campbell, 111. Haddock Lane; David Canfield, 12820 Rosemary; Howard Keating, 33756 West Lincoln; E. T. Nolan, 412 Hamilton; Jack Noonan, 424 Wellesley; Charles Payne, 415 Glengary; and Robert Solner, 2710 Dorchester.



Colts To Try 'Final Step' in '57

Joseph Bechard, 28, Detroit born graduate of Michigan State fulfilled his first coaching assignment with an undefeated Troy Junior High football team in '55. From there he took over the reins of Troy varsity. They were runners up for the conference title last year. He foresees no easy road to victory in '57, encourages team spirit and hard work in order to equal last year's record.

Joe Bechard, the head football coach at Troy high school, has packed a couple of winning seasons under his belt while coaching for Troy's varsity and junior varsity teams. This year he will attempt the "final step" with the varsity—the all-out attempt to capture the Oakland B conference title.

Last year he came close, recovering a win-less '55 team to an acceptable runner-up position with a six and two record in '55, he coached an undefeated Troy Junior High squad at Baker before taking over the varsity in '56.

HE IS AIDED BY assistant coaches Don Hill and William McBreath.

While Bechard is optimistic about the spirit of the present team, he is still realistic about the number of good men lost through graduation.

"If we are to have as good a team as we had last year," he warned, "every player must go all out in spirit and performance during the coming season."

THIRTEEN LETTERMEN ARE back, including the co-captains of the '57 team, Wayne Figley and Leo Valko. Bechard is considering shifting Figley from his quarterback position to right half, and filling in quarterback with Ricky McKinnen.

Two men who didn't play last year have signed up for the '57 team and they show definite potential for positions on the squad according to Bechard. They are Gary Littleton, track star, at halfback, and Bob Renshaw, ineligible in '56 at fullback.

Dave Stokes, at left half, is probably the best ball carrier of the Colts, Bechard states.

THE SCHOOL uses a multiple formation attack, utilizing the split T and single wing.

Returning senior lettermen are Figley, QB; Leo Valko, T; Ben Burkland, G; Dick Abel, T; Joe Gajowski, E; Bill Hansen, E; Arnold Driebel, T; and Chuck McKinnon, HB. Junior lettermen returning to the lineup are Roger Rendel, G; Dave Stokes, LH; Bill Jennings, G; Paul DePauw, RH; and Tom Shepard, RH.

HEAVIEST GRIDDERS on the team are Abel and Burkland who tip the scales at 215 and 210 respectively.

Bechard's primary concern right now, as is the main occupation of all the coaches in the area, is the proper conditioning of the men before the start of the season.

"We just don't have the depth to afford many crippling injuries," he states.

All Five Local Teams Slate Daily Practices

High school football season blew into town among the falling of autumn leaves on Monday and Tuesday.

Athletes donned their heavy padded uniforms and went through pre-season practice drills as all five local high schools made first preparations for the season openers on Sept. 20.

Loud and husky grunting was heard in exercises at Birmingham, Southfield, Bloomfield Hills, Troy and Cranbrook schools.

"ONE-TWO-THREE-FOUR, one-two-three-four" accompanied a concerted attack on summer flabbiness and softened muscles.

All schools began with two drills a day but with the exception of Cranbrook, have by now reduced the daily practices to one drill.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS and Troy have both been practicing twice a day this week but today cut down to one practice daily, beginning around 3 p.m.

Birmingham holds drills at 2 p.m., while Bloomfield Hills and Troy start their practices around 3 p.m.

Cranbrook will continue to practice twice a day until the end of next week, when they, too, will cut down to one.

ONLY TWO LOCAL schools collide in the season openers—Sept. 20—Cranbrook and Birmingham. In the past three years Birmingham has held the edge on its more northerly neighbor in its early season Maple-Cranes game. In '54 and '56 the score shows Birmingham on top, 19-13 both times. In '55 the score was only two points better—22-13.

These games were each nip-and-tuck affairs and the way it worked out Birmingham in each case was playing its second game while late starting Cranbrook was involved in a first encounter.

BUT THIS YEAR, the situation is even-stevier, both teams kicking off the season against each other, and it should be as tough a tangle as any of the previous games have been.

At five head coaches have returned from last season. Back is Troy's Joe Bechard, Birmingham's Carl Lemle, Don Hoff of Bloomfield Hills, Southfield's Monte Charles and Cranbrook's Steve Clark.

Standings as of August 27, are:

Hoenk and Evans	77
Babajoff and Shand	64
Heikkinen and Gowing	63
Case and MacKenzie	60
Hill and Fredericks	54
Hollingshead and Dixon	52
Geggie and Stewart	48
Peterson and Tibbitts	47
Cargill and Douglas	39

USE ECCENTRIC CLASSIFIED ADS FOR BEST RESULTS

tops in tweed by HART SCHAFFNER & MARX

... and considered tops by every man who wears a Lightweight Pan-American tweed suit. The exclusive blend of two soft and sturdy South American wools plus HS&M's tall, trim Trend tailoring—make it America's favorite tweed suit! \$71.50

Dickinson's

Wabek Building Birmingham Saginaw at Lawrence Pontiac



Joseph Bechard



Fred Campbell



Monte Charles



Carl Lemle

SERVICE WITH A SMILE! and as fine a car wash as you've ever had at

WILLIE'S CAR WASH

Specializing in Polishing, Simulating, Blue Coat, Chroming, Waxing, cleaning. All done under the Willie's watchful eye. Try one, and you'll be a satisfied customer always.

Located at Bill Hall's Standard Service 210 N. Woodward Ave. Birmingham Phone MI 6-7744

Cranbrook Plans Impressive Comeback

Out to revenge a poor '56 record (one win, six losses, and one tie), Fred Campbell's gridders of Cranbrook will be practicing twice a day until the end of next week, when they will go on a one practice a day basis, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Campbell credits the sad '56 showing to a number of factors which include a "fresh" team with only six returning lettermen and the early season injury to sparkplug captain Herb Stanton, who pulled hamstring in both legs and was out of play for the whole season.

"THIS YEAR WE should do better," he said emphatically. "We have Stew Clark, who will probably be our outstanding ballplayer, who was all-state halfback in Champagne, Ill. last year."

"We have Lloyd Asbury, the captain of the team, who is a very fine center and linebacker.

"Another transfer student by the name of Ebeline seems to be working out fine at quarterback," he said. "He and

Pete Turner should fulfill that spot creditably for our split-T assignments," he added.

TOM NOTEWEAR IS a returning veteran at fullback. Other returning lettermen are Bill Burnett and James Marcus at tackle; Ozzie Jacobsen and Don LeMessurier at left halfback; Dan Crowley at end; and Turner at quarterback.

The Cranes utilize a running attack from the split-T combining this strategy with aerial plays.

CAMPBELL IS ASSISTED by line coach Art Palmer. Both men give much praise to fast and aggressive Ed Mcar-in, who was recently hospitalized, but is now shaping up as a superior halfback.

Forty-four players turned out for the first practice which is an average turnout for the Crane grid squad.

Southfield Relies on Inexperienced Team

Southfield high school's football team has had to come up with a fresh new backfield to make up for the deficit created by 15 graduated lettermen from the '56 team.

The '57 squad is young, eager, and inexperienced. They have yet to show what they can do under fire.

The lettermen lost were almost entirely key men in last year's victories.

Another blow to the present team came when Dick Florence, defensive halfback, moved away, and Bill MacKenzie dislocated a vertebrae in a swimming accident this summer.

ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE of the Bluejay picture, left half Ron Brewer, one of the leading ground gainers in the

state, is back. So is end Bernard Muskevitz, tackle Ron Mitty, quarterback Ed Foster, half backs Tom Ridley and Eddie Maruz.

Six foot three inch senior Todd Grant has looked good in practice so far this year. A center, he and Jim McCann both played in the full nine game schedule in '56.

MONTE CHARLES, head coach of Southfield doesn't see too many running plays but sticks more or less to the single wing type offense.

All home games for Southfield will be played during the day time since Southfield has no facilities for night lighting.

Sophs To Bolster Birmingham Squad

"There's pretty good material from the books of the team so far this year, but the trouble is, we are simply short of boys with varsity experience," said Birmingham coach Carl Lemle in an interview this week.

"We should do well this year, but our greatest weakness is in depth and experience," the 31-year-old ex-Toledo resident stated.

FIVE LETTERMEN ARE slated to return to the '57 team. All seniors, they include, Dave Ritchie, QB; Jack Palmer, T; Chuck Gib-

son, T; Bob Stephenson, R; and Jim Schrist, E.

For the first time, Birmingham may be pressed to use some tenth graders on their team. Rod Ruddy and Phil Isbell, for example, are two sophomores who have their sights set on the fullback slot on the team.

ED ESTES, FROM East Lansing, and with a reputation as a quarterback there, will probably play as a halfback in Birmingham.

The team should be a little faster in overall speed than it was last year.

Lemle and assistant coach Lew Parry are keeping both the varsity and reserves together for the first couple of weeks and then they will split up.

IN THE FIRST practice about 75 players showed up, and among the group "Ran" Hamner and Fred Buesser have made an impression as guards. Jeff Boucher has clicked at fullback.

1956 graduates dealt a blow to the Birmingham team as a whole, taking their toll on quarterback, halfback, end, center, and guard positions.

The reserve football team is coached by Tom Carson and Sam Tassio.

SALE PRICED Your Choice

Ornamental Iron

Railings — Columns — Settees — Chairs — Tables — Urns
Hitching Posts — Flower Boxes — Ornaments.
FREE ESTIMATES — E.Z. TERMS

ELLIS BUILDERS, INC.

Est. 1945

2690 Woodward Ave. MI 6-4188 Bloomfield Hills
(near Ted's Drive-In)

WORKING ON A PET PROJECT?

... see us for the materials you'll need

Whether you're building a doghouse, a new garage, or finishing up that room in the attic, discuss your plans with us. We can help you get started, point out shortcuts and economics, and supply all the materials you will need.

Birmingham Lumber AND SUPPLY COMPANY, INC.

1025 HAYNES STREET PHONE MI 4-3636

Between Hunter & Adams—5 Blocks South of Maple
Hours 7:30 to 5:00 Mon. thru Fri.; 7:30 to 1:00 Sat.