



New Maple Track Layout

Athletic Director Frank Whitney (left) and Track Coach Kermit Ambrose inspect the work on Birmingham high's new track facilities, expected to be ready for the Maple thinskins' home opener Tuesday afternoon with Kimball. The new cinder layout, which includes a 220-yard straight-

away, was built between the high school and Midvale elementary school. The infield, where the shotput area and the high jump, pole vault and broad jump pits are located, will be used as the practice football field.

Alcorn, Gibson, Distance Men Take Mansfield Meet Honors

MANSFIELD, Ohio—Stellar performances by Bill Alcorn and Chuck Gibson in the field events and by a quartet of distance runners brought Birmingham a fair share of honors in the huge 27th annual Mansfield relays here last weekend. A timing boner in the half-mile, however, cost the Maple thinskins a 10th place or better finish and a meet trophy.

Pontiac Central won the team championship, Birmingham finished 11th in the 123-school, four-state field.

PONTIAC, the Mansfield king in 1956 and Michigan class A champ three straight years, piled up 39-5 6 points on four firsts, two seconds and a pair of thirds. Mount Lebanon, Pa. was second with 26, and Akron, Ohio, North third with 16. Flint Northern copped fifth with 13 1/5 points in the 18-event affair. Flint Central tied for sixth with 11, while Willow Run was eighth with 10 1/2. Birmingham totaled 9. Pittsburgh Central Catholic was defending meet titlist.

The 123 high schools entered included 31 from Michigan, nine from Pennsylvania and two from West Virginia. The remainder were Ohio teams. Individual entries topped 1,600. An additional 41 teams participated in special junior high and elementary school events.

Pontiac is the only Michigan school ever to win the Mansfield crown.

ALCORN, A JUNIOR and one of Michigan's top schoolboy pole vaulters, gave Birmingham a second in that event Saturday. He cleared 12 feet 6 inches. Winner of the event was Rodbey Denhart of little class C Comstock Park, suburban Grand Rapids school. Denhart's mark was 12-9, the relays' best winning height since 1952.

Gibson copped third in the shotput Saturday with a 53-

foot, 21 1/2-inch heave. The shot winner, Paul LaSpina of Wickliffe, Ohio, set a new Mansfield record of 57 feet 3 1/4 inches. The old mark of 56-2 1/4 was set in 1957. Second was Bob Albright of Mount Lebanon.

The Maples' distance foursome of Jim Reilly, Bob Benson, Dick Boyd and Rich Riley finished fourth in Friday's four-mile relay and set a new Birmingham school record in the process, 19:17.4.

Akron North won the event, the relays' longest, in a record 18:49.2, bettering Mount Lebanon's old standard of 18:57.2, established in 1956.

Second in the four-mile affair was Flint Central, while Mount Lebanon was third and Cleveland Rhodes fifth behind Birmingham.

THE TIMING MISCUE that deprived the Maples of a higher finish and one of the 10 trophies given involved Boyd. The Birmingham distance ace won his 880 heat and finished an estimated 30 yards ahead of the second-place runner, who was timed in 2:08.7. Several unofficial stopwatches on Boyd, including one used by Coach Kermit Ambrose, timed him at around 2:05, but the official timer gave him 2:08.

Most officials, after a protest by Ambrose, admitted the man officially timing Boyd had failed to start his watch and that the 2:08 was "just a guess." The 2:05 unofficial clocking would have placed Boyd among the event's top five and would have given Birmingham additional points, but officials refused to change the Maple runner's time.

Birmingham high holds one Mansfield record. Quentin Brelsford registered the prep classic's fastest 880 clocking in 1938—1:59.2. It is the third oldest standard on the meet's books. Jesse Owens established the 100 and 220-yard dash marks in 1933.

'I'm Willing to Return as B'ham Coach': Ambrose



KERMIT N. AMBROSE

Track, Harrier Boss Bows to Community Plea

By LES LINE
Sports Editor

Kermit Ambrose, bowing to heavy pressure from parents, fans and students, told The Eccentric early this week he is willing to return as Birmingham high school's head track and cross country coach.

He resigned the coaching position March 27, stating only that he was "just not interested in coaching anymore." Ambrose has coached track here since 1952 and cross country since 1954. He planned to remain on the Birmingham coaching staff as director's training instructor.

Frank Whitney, Birmingham athletic director, said Tuesday he had recommended the board of education rehire Ambrose.

NO OFFICIAL action, however, is expected until late this week or early next week. Mr. Whitney, the school board's personnel director, from whom the decision is expected to come, was to be out of town until today.

Whitney said Ambrose was notified Friday that Ambrose had reconsidered giving up coaching. The athletic director and Ambrose had discussed the situation Thursday. Ambrose has compiled one of the finest coaching records in Birmingham high history and is considered one of Michigan's outstanding schoolboy track and cross country coaches. His teams in the two sports have won 29 league and regional championships and have finished high in many state, invitational and relay meets.

A 27-dual meet Maple victory streak, dating back to 1953, was ended earlier this season.

PLEAS FROM both youngsters on his track and harrier teams and adults throughout the community prompted Ambrose's decision to remain in coaching.

Petitions bearing more than 350 signatures, asking him to reconsider, were given Ambrose last week. He also received several letters from concerned parents. An open letter to the track coach was published in last week's Eccentric sports section.

In addition to his high school coaching activities, Ambrose has been very active in youth sports programs in Birmingham.

Whitney said Tuesday that Ambrose's original decision to quit was entirely voluntary, and added he was sorry the "whole matter came about." He feels it is "embarrassing both to the school and to Ambrose."

THE ATHLETIC director said

Mayor Proclaims B'ham Track Day

Tuesday will be Birmingham track day. The city's new mayor, Carl Ingraham, Wednesday officially proclaimed Tuesday as such. Ceremonies preceding the 4 p.m. Birmingham-Royal Oak Kimball dual track meet will mark the official opening of the new Birmingham high school track layout.

The proclamation is the mayor's first since he took office last week.

Trap Shoot Sunday

Birmingham gun club will hold an invitational, registered trap shoot Sunday at 11 a.m.

Playoff Decides It

HOLLY—Bloomfield Hills bowed to Holly in a playoff here Monday afternoon after their dual golf match ended in a tie, 181-181. Earl-on Bud Badger was medalist with 57. Teammate Gordon West shot a 38.

Third Defeat

HANTRAMACK — Cranbrook dropped its third straight tennis match, 5-2, to Hamtramck here Tuesday afternoon.

The Birmingham Eccentric



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SPORTS CALENDAR

Baseball	
Today	Southfield at Redford Union, 4 p.m.
Clarencville at Bloomfield Hills, 4 p.m.	
Friday	Midford and Oak Park at Bloomfield Hills, 4 p.m.
Berkley at Southfield, 4 p.m.	
Saturday	Bloomfield Hills at Oak Park, 4 p.m.
Cranbrook at Flint Central, 2 p.m.	
Monday	Birmingham at Cranbrook, 3:30 p.m.
Northville at Bloomfield Hills, 4 p.m.	
Tuesday	East Detroit at Birmingham, 4 p.m.
East Detroit at Birmingham, 4 p.m.	
Southfield at Farmington, 4 p.m.	
Wednesday	Southfield at Fitzgerald, 4 p.m.
Dearborn at Cranbrook, 4 p.m.	
Track	
Today	Kimball at Cranbrook, 3:30 p.m.
Berkley at Southfield, 4 p.m.	
Friday	Waterford at Southfield, 4 p.m.
Ferndale at Cranbrook, 3:45 p.m.	
Tuesday	Holly at Bloomfield Hills, 4 p.m.
Kimball at Birmingham, 4 p.m.	
Cranbrook at Kennedy, 3 p.m.	
Kimball at Birmingham, 2:30 p.m.	
Bloomfield Hills at Oak Park, 3:30 p.m.	

Catholic Victim in Short Affair

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Detroit Catholic became Cranbrook's fourth baseball victim in five starts here Tuesday afternoon, 3-1, in an abbreviated contest on the Crane diamond.

Rain halted the affair after four and one-half innings of play. The Cranes tallied all three runs in the second. Two Shamrock errors and a walk loaded the bases. Kent Strickland singled home two runs. A squeeze bunt brought pitcher Larry Demick across with the third score.

CATHOLIC SCORED in the fourth, two walks and a double steal adding its cause. Cranbrook picked up three hits off Shamrock hurler Rick Mich-

Unearned Runs Fatal to Hills

MILFORD—Five unearned runs provided the margin here Monday afternoon as Milford dumped Bloomfield Hills, 7-2. The loss evened the Hills baseballers' record at 1-1.

Milford picked up a pair of runs on a home run by John Zeeman in the third with one on. The winners added four more tallies, all unearned, in the sixth frame.

Bob Barred drove in both Baron runs with a fifth-inning double. BOTH PITCHERS went the route. Milford hurler Terry Hoy had 14 strikeouts to his credit. He allowed six hits. John Dixon was the loser, fanning eight and giving up five hits. Bloomfield Hills was charged with three errors. Milford was miscue free.

Smelt spawning runs are a sure sign of spring in Michigan as thousands of persons line streams to dip these tasty little fish each year. Dip nets such as the one being used here, not more than 5 feet in circumference, may be used to take smelt from designated Michigan streams during the March 1-May 31 season. (Conservation department photo.)

1912 Experiment Paying Off

A batch of eggs brought from Maine some 46 years ago are paying dividends today for Michigan fishermen. The eggs—obtained by the old state fish commission from Green Lake, Maine, in 1912—were hatched and the young fish were released in Crystal Lake. This planting is believed to be the source of smelt now found in most of the Great Lakes.

Actually, smelt originally were introduced in the St. Marys river in 1906, but the Crystal lake planting was the most successful and is credited with the spread of these little silver fish.

Today, thousands of Michigan residents and tourists get plenty

of sport and good eating when smelt make spawning runs from the Great Lakes up streams throughout the state.

DURING THE spawning season (See OUTDOORS, Page 7-E)