

a line from les

It was a busy year in sports in Birmingham and the surrounding areas. Here's a recap of the more important events as reported in The Eccentric's sports pages:

January
Cranbrook unveiled its new \$104,000 artificial outdoor skating rink... Al Watrous, Oakland Hills pro, won his third Seniors PGA championship at Dunedin, Fla... Eight Cranbrook wrestlers were dropped from the squad for violating rule violations during the holidays... Joe Thacker, 35, was named golf professional at Knollwood country club.

February
Birmingham won the Eastern Michigan dual swimming title and its ninth straight conference meet championship... Troy clinched a share of the Oakland "B" league basketball crown with a 20-12 victory... Ground was broken for the new 32-lane Star Lanes bowling alley in Southfield township.

March
Ed Bryant was named Southfield high's baseball coach, replacing Ed Litogot who will serve as athletic director at the new Lederle junior high... Cranbrook finished in a tie with Cleveland University school for the Inter-State Prep wrestling championship... Birmingham's Little Falls baseball league added a fourth team and withdrew from the All-American league to form the new American League... Southfield was named host for the 1957 state Little League baseball tournament in August... Tom Bechtel, Birmingham swimmer, won the state class A championships in the 200 and 400 yard freestyle events and set a new state record in the 200-yard race as Birmingham finished sixth in the state... Derby junior high's new swimming pool was completed.

April
Mrs. S. Del Knoff of Bloomfield Hills set a new women's record at Bloomfield with a 279 score that included nine straight strikes... Dave Ritchie was presented the freethrow medal and Dave Cook the Goldsmith memorial award at Birmingham high's annual winter sports banquet... Tom Segal broke the Hurricane relay pole vault record at Eastern Michigan college with a 12-foot 4 1/4 inch vault... A on relays pole vault... Touring Japanese wrestling team staged a mat exhibition with the Michigan AAU all-star team and the Ford recreation team of Dearborn at Southfield high school.

May
Cranbrook won the class B regional track championship and Birmingham was second in class... Birmingham's golf team was second in class A regional competition and third in the state meet... Cranbrook won the class B tennis regional and Mr. Clemens edged Birmingham in the class A competition... Bill McFarlane took first in state class A pole vault competition at Birmingham... Birmingham won the class A and B-D crown in the Pontiac invitational golf meet... Outright championships in track and field, basketball and a co-tie in tennis gave Cranbrook the Inter-State Prep league all-sports trophy... Birmingham won four firsts and established two meet records in placing second in the class A field at the John Bos relays in Grand Rapids... Pete Sintz, Tom Bechtel, F. J. McClintock, John Overgard and Dave Smith were named to the All-American swimming team by the national coaches association... A win in the dual track finale gave Birmingham 27 straight dual wins extending to 1953... The Eastern Michigan dual golf team won the 1953-54 title... Pole Vaulter Bill McFarlane received the Zoellin memorial award at the annual inter-school spring sports banquet... Dave Drury was picked as the Birmingham Hills athlete of the year... Birmingham won its third straight Eastern Michigan conference track championship, establishing two records, including a 12-foot 9 1/4 inch vault by Bill McFarlane.

June
Bernard Stuechli, 15-year-old Birmingham lad, received the distinguished rifleman medal from the National Rifle association... NRA's top award... Birmingham high's three new record pole vaulters, Bill McFarlane, Bill McCormick and Tom Segal, averaged 12 feet to establish a new record... The pole vault relay at the U of D relays... Cranbrook's tennis team won the state title in the final... Bob Kline winning the singles championship... Tom Segal cleared the pole vault bar at 13 feet, 3/4 inch in the Michigan AAU meet at Western Michigan university... Kalamazoo College's Frank Ham's golfers won the Eastern Michigan league meet title... The Maple tennis team placed second in the Eastern Michigan loop tournament.

July
Al Watrous, 56-year-old Oakland Hills pro, won his third Seniors PGA championship at Glasgow, Scotland... Birmingham golfers swept first, second and third places and walked off with the team championship in the state JCC golf tournament... Grand Rapids... Doug Ford, in a sudden-death playoff, won the Western Open at Plum Hollow... The Detroit Lions opened their training camp at Cranbrook... Tom Watrous, 25, was named

August
A third-place finish in the four-mile swim by Tom Bechtel, 17-year-old All-American swimmer from Birmingham high, helped Camp Chippewagon, Ont., win the team championship in the national AAU long distance individual and team swimming championship at Huntington, Ind... Al Watrous placed fourth in the first United States Seniors Open golf tournament at Spokane, Wash... Hamtramck won the state Little League championship, defeating Bay City, 4 to 0... Wally Burkeno of Franklin Hills pro, set a course record of 65 in the Michigan Open for the third time at Edgewood country club... Three Birmingham swimmers starred in the Grand Rapids A.A.U. invitational swim meet... Tom Bechtel and Pete Sintz each winning a first and a third and Bill Puck winning on a relay team that topped a second place.

September
Oakland Hills' Al Watrous finished second to Jim Barfield of Grand Rapids in the state Seniors tournament... Birmingham high opened its football season with a 19-7 win over Cranbrook... Southfield was tied, 7 to 7, by Royal Oak Kimball in its grid opener... Ray Maguire, pro at Birmingham country club, was beaten by Grand Rapids' John Barram on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff in the state PGA tournament on Maguire's home course... Ron Hardesty won the first women's professional all-around casting championship at the state level... Birmingham suffered one of its worst football defeats in years at the hands of Bay City Central, 47 to 6.

October
Birmingham won its Eastern Michigan league opener, 13 to 12, over Mt. Clemens... Lee Toot set a new Birmingham cross country record, covering the two-mile course in 10:37 and edging Berkeley Young, defending champion of the state, by 10 seconds... Birmingham high's football season was second in class A regional competition and third in the state meet... Cranbrook won the class B tennis regional and Mr. Clemens edged Birmingham in the class A competition... Bill McFarlane took first in state class A pole vault competition at Birmingham... Birmingham won the class A and B-D crown in the Pontiac invitational golf meet... Outright championships in track and field, basketball and a co-tie in tennis gave Cranbrook the Inter-State Prep league all-sports trophy... Birmingham won four firsts and established two meet records in placing second in the class A field at the John Bos relays in Grand Rapids... Pete Sintz, Tom Bechtel, F. J. McClintock, John Overgard and Dave Smith were named to the All-American swimming team by the national coaches association... A win in the dual track finale gave Birmingham 27 straight dual wins extending to 1953... The Eastern Michigan dual golf team won the 1953-54 title... Pole Vaulter Bill McFarlane received the Zoellin memorial award at the annual inter-school spring sports banquet... Dave Drury was picked as the Birmingham Hills athlete of the year... Birmingham won its third straight Eastern Michigan conference track championship, establishing two records, including a 12-foot 9 1/4 inch vault by Bill McFarlane.

Southfield Shatters Bentley, 58-4, To Win Tourney

BlueJays Best Walled Lake, Redford Union to Gain Finals

By LES LINE
Sports Editor

FARMINGTON—It was a little belated, but Southfield Coach Bob Watts couldn't have asked for a nicer Christmas present.

Watts' Bluejays basketballers handed him the championship of the new Northwest Suburban Christmas invitational tournament here Monday night. It took an upset that rocked east state prep ranks to turn the Jays, who had won only one of five games before entering the three-day tourney last Thursday, into a dominant undefeated team in the final quarter, winning 58-4, before a near capacity crowd of 1,500 in a championship thriller.

Bentley had won its first seven straight.

AND WHAT made it even a greater upset was the fact among those seven Bentley triumphs was a 61-50 lacing of the same Southfield club.

As Watts said after things had quieted down a bit following his team's stunning victory: "I just didn't think it, when possible, Southfield led most of the way. There were exceptions—the two occasions in the first quarter when the score was tied, the closing seconds of the first half and the first five and one-quarter minutes of the third period.

THOSE FIVE minutes of so close a contest for the Jays as Bentley pushed to a lead as wide as five points at one time, but Southfield regained its edge and came back to lead by six at the quarters end.

Coach Cliff Solberg dunked three two-pointers as Southfield vaulted to a 6-0 edge at the outset, and after the score was knotted twice, took an 11-8 advantage at the close of the stanza.

Southfield threw a two-on-one zone at Bentley and the success of this defensive move, combined with a decisive rebound edge held by the Jays, were the important factors in the win by the Inter-Lakes winners.

THE QUICK-MOVING Jays kept the Bulldogs off balance most of the night, although the Southfield fast-break never figured too heavily in the scoring.

Only the scoring one man kept Bentley in the game. Guard Tom Evieland connected consistently on jump and set shots in the second quarter as Bentley pulled to a 25-14 tie with 35 seconds left in the half and then grabbed a 28-27 lead with 14 seconds remaining. That's how it stood at intermission.

Forward George King hit two fast ones as the third quarter opened and the Bulldogs moved to a 34-29 advantage, their biggest lead of the game. The Jays, however, kept the margin down until with 2:45 left in the quarter Jim Sterling tied it up again at 34-34. Another Evieland basket put Bentley in front again, 36 to 34, but Tom Ridley, Bill Shull and George King grouped their scoring talents to give Southfield the lead to stay in a 42-36 edge at the stanza's end.

FROM THEN ON it was just a matter of how far Southfield's field could stay. The closest Bentley came in the last eight minutes was a 42-36 tie.

Ridley dunked eight of his game-leading 19 points in that last quarter.

SOUTHFIELD (57)
Larson, f. 10-0-0; Shull, f. 13-1-27; McPhail, f. 9-2-2; Grant, c. 6-2-2; Sterling, c. 2-1-5; Solberg, g. 5-1-14; Ridley, g. 7-1-2; Yonness, g. 10-2-2; Dunn, g. 1-2-4.

BENTLEY (47)
King, f. 4-1-12; Johnson, f. 1-0-2; Carrie, f. 1-0-2; White, c. 2-2-8; Evieland, g. 5-5-15; Phillips, g. 2-6-10.

Ridley Adds 22 In 75-53 Rout

Forward Bob Shull and Guard Tom Ridley turned in blistering point performances at Farmington's gym Friday night as Southfield breezed past Redford Union, 75 to 53, in the semi-finals of the first annual Northwest Suburban court tourney.

Shull pumped 27 points through the hoop on 12 field goals and one free throw. Twenty-five of those points came in the first half as Southfield's cage mental, Bob Watts, substituted freely in the last 16 minutes of play.

The Redford Union cagers had gained their semi-finals berth by shelling Thurston, 51 to 23, the previous afternoon but despite an impressive opening round victory, the Panthers only managed to keep things respectable for one quarter Friday night. The Southfield edge was 22 to 16 at the close of the first eight minutes of play.

Shull, whose performance drew the crowd to the Coach Watts arena, scored a just about every shot

round of the new Northwest Suburban Christmas invitational tournament.

Forty-five personnel—26 against Coach Bob Watts' Southfield prepsters—were called. Walled Lake took 37 chance tosses and connected on 22. The Bluejays hit on 17 of 26 foul shots.

Southfield, which had won only one of its five pre-tournament encounters, showed that it was "up" for the tourney best night from the start, jumping to a 17-11 lead at the end of the first quarter over the Vikings, state class A semi-finalist last March.

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THE BLUEJAY lead was 59 to 41 at the end of the third quarter. Southfield connected on 27 of 53 shots for a creditable shooting percentage of 42.

The Jay basketballers also added 21 points on 35 foul line attempts.

SOUTHFIELD (75)
Larson, f. 10-0-0; Shull, f. 13-1-27; McPhail, f. 9-2-2; Grant, c. 6-2-2; Sterling, c. 2-1-5; Solberg, g. 5-1-14; Ridley, g. 7-1-2; Yonness, g. 10-2-2; Dunn, g. 1-2-4.

REDFORD UNION (53)
Munger, f. 3-1-7; Davidge, f. 2-0-0; Kraft, c. 2-2-12; Harterston, c. 1-1-9; Wilkinson, g. 1-0-8; Gibson, g. 3-1-7; Hagan, g. 1-0-2; Hatter, g. 1-2-1.

Foul Shots Play Important Role In Viking Tussle

Free throws played a vital role at Farmington last Thursday afternoon as Southfield eked out a 57-54 verdict over Walled Lake in the first

SOUTHFIELD (57)
Solberg, f. 5-1-11; Shull, f. 3-1-7; Sterling, f. 9-2-2; Flair, f. 1-0-2; Grant, c. 6-2-2; Larson, c. 2-0-4; Ridley, g. 5-7-17; Krause, g. 2-0-4; Dobbertin, g. 6-0-3; Yonness, g. 1-0-2-2.

WALLED LAKE (54)
McClendon, f. 2-1-5; Smith, f. 4-1-12; Evieland, f. 1-0-2; Hosley, c. 1-1-19; Vanderveld, g. 2-3-7; Evans, g. 2-0-4; Anderson, g. 2-1-10.

Tournament Results

Sidestart 3-48 Ten Hy story
First Round
Southfield 75, Walled Lake 51.
Farmington 53, Hazel Park 51.
Bentley 64, East Detroit 62.
Redford Union 53, Thurston 53.

Second Round
Southfield 75, Redford Union 53.
Bentley 64, Farmington 53.
Walled Lake 51, Hazel Park 12.
East Detroit 55, Thurston 53.

Final Round
Southfield 58, Bentley 47 (championship).
East Detroit 71, Walled Lake 63 (third place).
Farmington 57, Redford Union 54 (fifth place, overtime).
Hazel Park 68, Thurston 56 (seventh place).

Mayer Biggest Winner

DUNEDIN, Fla.—Dick Mayer, 22, of Cranbrook, Northwest Suburban Christmas invitational winner of golf's big winners this year. Final official statistics released by the Professional Golfers' Association of America showed that the 33-year-old Mayer led all money-winners with official earnings of an even \$65,835.

Second and third, behind the world champion and U.S. Open winner, were Ford, 25, with \$45,375.54 and Finsterwald, 27, with \$32,872.08.

In fourth place, with \$28,200.83, was the leading money-winner of all time, Sam Snead. Significantly, 45-year-old Sam was the only member of golf's "old guard" to finish among the first 10.

FIRST PLACE in the PGA "Top-Ten-Tournament" point standings went to Ford. He accumulated 1,255.50, compared to 1,197.50 for Finsterwald. Will was third with 1,082.50. Arnold Palmer fourth with 1,014.50 and Bill Casper, Jr., fifth with 1,003.00.

Snead finished the year in first place in Ryder Cup points compiled since August 1, 1957. Sam has 168 points, compared to 115 for Finsterwald, the runner-up. Mike Souchak was third with 70, points and Dick Mayer and Burkemo were tied for fourth with 70 points each.

WALLY BURKEMO of Franklin Hills was 25th among the top money winners with \$10,773.75.

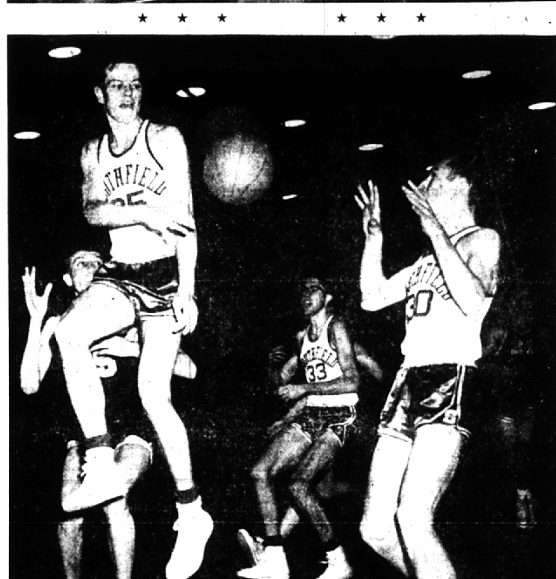
Country Day vs. Maumee (O.) Country Day at Gross Pointe University school, 3 p.m.

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As Jays Won Tourney Opener

Southfield's opener with Walled Lake last Thursday afternoon in the Northwest Suburban Christmas invitational tournament at Farmington was a knock-down, drag-out battle from start to finish. Coach Bob Watts' Southfield cagers emerged on top of a 57-54 count for their first of three tourney triumphs. In the top photo, Jim Yonness, southpaw Bluejay guard, catches Walled Lake's Frank Fink (15) off balance as he drives for a layup. In the lower picture, Southfield's Cliff Solberg flips an underhand pass to teammate Doug Dunn (30). Behind Solberg is Walled Lake's Bob Smith. The Jay forward's efforts were wasted as Dunn failed to connect.

averaged 70.45. Art Wall, Jr., was third with 70.93 for 17 rounds. Mike Souchak finished fourth with 71.03 and Jay Hebert fifth with 71.05.

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The Birmingham Eccentric



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Sports Calendar

Basketball
Friday, Jan. 3
Southfield at Walled Lake, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7
Bloomfield Hills at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
Troy at St. Clair Shores Lakeside, 6:45 p.m.
Country Day vs. Maumee (O.) Country Day at Gross Pointe University school, 3 p.m.

Swimming
Tuesday, Jan. 7
Perndale at Southfield, 4 p.m.
Kimball at Birmingham, 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling
Thursday, Jan. 9
Farmington at Southfield, 7:30 p.m.

YMCA Basketball

Games Monday, Jan. 6
Birmingham Congregational vs. St. Anne Episcopal, 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian vs. Lutheran Redeemer, 7 p.m.
Kirk-In-Hill vs. Community Congregational, 7 p.m.
Franklin Community vs. First Baptist, 8 p.m.