

Birmingham is State Babe Ruth Champ

Complete Action in Tennis Tournament



Along the Sidelines with Bill Arthur

By TONY HAMMER
Acting Sports Editor

In this world, praise seems to come too hard. Everyone has some pet criticism—of the schools, of the government, of his boss, of high prices, and even of television. People today seem to be subscribing to the "people are just no good" school. Everywhere one goes he is likely to hear criticism of one sort or another.

Pick up any newspaper and turn to the letters-to-the-editor. Begin reading. Pretty soon, one can become soured on almost anything.

BUT IT IS NOT THE business of this column to discuss the rapidity with which mankind is going downhill. This space will be devoted to a much lighter side of our civilization—that of sports: athletes and athletic competition.

Not even political commentators can match them for pure "now, this is what I would have done" prose. And, after all, isn't second-guessing just another form of criticism?

IT HAS BEEN said that managers are hired and fired as titles won and lost on the sports pages of the nation's press. This may sound funny. It is funny because it is probably true.

Men have been broken, performances ignored and played down, and negative images established by the second-guessers in the press box. In order to say that MIGHT have been done, it is necessary to tear down the original action as wrong. If this isn't criticism, it sounds awful close to it.

EVERY NOW AND then, however, a sports writer will praise. And this is the attempt that will be made this week. The field of interest: baseball. The team receiving the praise: the Birmingham Pioneer league All-Stars.

For those who haven't noticed, manager Fred Harris and (See SIDELINES, Page 6-E)

Lions Nurse Wounds, Practice for Next Game

The Detroit Lions retired to their Cranbrook training headquarters to fix up their wounds and practice anew for this week's exhibition game. The Lions' outing this week will take them against the Chicago Cardinals of the Eastern division at Norman, Oklahoma, Saturday night.

But the big excitement on the football field this week is the 26th annual All-Star game at Soldier's field in Chicago Friday night. Altogether six Lion prospects will be listed as playing for the collegians.

Phil Blazer, a 230-pound line-man from North Carolina, guards Bob Grotzman (Oregon), Harry Jacobs (Bradley) Mike Rabold (Indiana), tackle Ron Luciano from Syracuse and fullback Nick Pietrosante (Notre Dame) will get their first look at the 1959 Lions Saturday night in Norman, Okla.

These rookies will fly to Oklahoma following the all star game Friday night. They will not dress for the Cardinal game, but they will be observing.

IT IS no secret around the Lion training camp that great things



Young Terry Heydon displays the form that won him seven no-hit games during the regular season, but the Birmingham Americans evidently failed to read Heydon's press clippings because they treated him rather roughly in the semi-final game of the district playoffs. The Americans went on to win the district title by downing Walled Lake the following day, 3-2.

State Little League Tourney in High Gear

The 1959 Michigan state Little League championship got off to a big start yesterday at Eton Park in Birmingham. Ypsilanti met Harper Woods, Hamtramck played Bay City, and Birmingham clashed with St. Clair. Kalamazoo drew a first round bye and is seeded in with the winner of the Hamtramck-Bay City game.

The second round pairings find the winner of the Ypsilanti-Harper Woods game meeting the winner of the St. Clair-Birmingham game at 5 p.m. today. The winner of the Hamtramck-Bay City game will meet second-seeded Kalamazoo at 3 p.m. Both games will be played at Eton Park.

The two winners from this round will square off at 5 p.m. Friday afternoon at Eton field. The winner on Friday will be crowned state Little League champion and will represent Michigan in the national eliminations. The first step will be to win the Ohio district tournament.

The series will be played later this month at Stockton, Calif.

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More Flash
Conservation Department workers are taking out about 400,000 pounds of sport fish in Michigan's public waters during 1959.

Only One Match Incomplete

The best tennis players in the Birmingham area were honored last night in a short ceremony at Eton park when the winners of The Birmingham Eccentric-Recreation department community tennis tournament were awarded their trophies and medals.

ONLY THE WINNER of the men's singles title was unknown at press time (Wednesday noon) and was decided last night between John Sisson and Steve Smith.

CHAMPIONS for 1959 are: Junior girls—Kathy Kerr (first) Sue Fisher.

Junior boys—Mike Fisher (first) Peter Elliott.

Girls singles—Fran Green (first) Starr Walker.

Girls doubles—Starr Walker-Sharon Foster (first) Bea Stumpfe-Sue Weed.

BOYS SINGLES—Steve Smith (first) John Sisson.

Boys doubles—Steve Smith-Dan Kelber (first) Bob Tigelaar-John Smith.

Womens singles—Bea McKee (first) Dianne Henderson.

WOMENS DOUBLES—Bea McKee-Stumpfe (first) Linda Wessels-Starr Walker.

Mens doubles—Cavanaugh-Peter Smith (first) John Sisson-Stumpfe.

KATHY KERR downed Sue Fisher, 6-1, and Mike Fisher edged Peter Elliott, 6-4, to gain their crowns.

Fran Green surprised Starr Walker in claiming the girls' singles championship, 6-3, 6-4, but Miss Walker came back to grab a share of the girls' doubles crown, by pairing up with Sharon Foster.

They defeated Bea Stumpfe and Sue Weed, 6-2, 6-0.

STEVE SMITH defeated an old nemesis in John Sisson, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, to capture the boys' singles crown and liked the upset so much he paired up with Don Kelber to grab the boys' doubles championship.

They downed Sisson and partner Bob Tigelaar, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

BEA MCKEE grabbed most of the district honors by taking the women's singles championship and pairing up with her daughter to win the girls' doubles title.

She McKee edged Dianne Henderson, 6-2, 6-3, for the singles crown and the girls' doubles title.

Young Steve Smith and John Sisson ran through their opponents in claiming the boys' doubles title, but then they ran into Mike Cavanaugh and Peter Trees.

They were refused to be run ragged by the younger pair and took the mens doubles title, 6-3, 6-1, by playing steadily, if not sensationally.

JIM MORNER was the starting pitcher for the Tigers, who defeated the first five men to face him, but Walled Lake came through in the second inning and won.

Dave Pageer's long homerun. Birmingham came back with the tying rally as Greg Anderson singled, Dick Downey doubled, and Bob Wright was hit by a pitched ball.

Dick Fleming forced Anderson at the plate, but Jim Horner lined a single into center. The ball, however, was hit so hard that the centerfielder had time to force Fleming at second as Downey scored. Horner was credited only with his second run as he was bowled out by a throw from Bowman.

Walled Lake came back in the third with its second run as Bowman walked and was sacrificed to second by Dick Kornatowski. Bud Williams was thrown out by the catcher, but Don Freeman singled. Bowman home. When Rick Hughes singled, Gary Pearson relieved Horner on the mound.

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Meet Illinois Today

The Pioneers from Birmingham are the toast of the entire state of Michigan. All-Star aggregation of boys 13-15 years old has won 10-4 victory over Benton Harbor yesterday.

As the best Babe Ruth team in Michigan, Birmingham's Pioneers will represent this state in the regional tournament which begins tomorrow today at Briggs field on the Eastern Michigan university campus in Ypsilanti.

In the tournament drawings, Birmingham drew the state champion of Illinois. The game will begin at 1 p.m.

THE LOCAL NINE jumped off to a three-run lead in the bottom of the first inning and kept it there through the third.

Fought back with four runs in the next two innings to lead 4-3. But manager Fred Harris's charges came up with a single run in the bottom of the third to tie it.

In the sixth, Birmingham loaded the bases and first baseman DuCharme cleared the left field fence with a grand-slam home run, and the score at 10-4.

Pitcher Craig Kirby, who allowed four runs and four hits in the first three innings, pitched scoreless ball for the final four innings. He retired the last 11 batters who faced him.

DUCHARME's hot hits were matched by teammate Tom Heyden, who also garnered two hits. Showing what balance their attack possesses, seven players collected nine hits among themselves.

Two, it is interesting to note, were, giving up four hits, four runs, striking out six and walking only two. It is interesting to note that one of the four hits Kirby gave up was for extra bases, and that was a two bagger.

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RECORD CROWD turned out for the district playoffs held last week, and even bigger crowds are expected for the state championship tournament this week.

The Birmingham Americans are the defending district, state and regional champions, but have only two veterans back from last year's triumph.

Birmingham surprised everyone last year by coming within two games of being the world champions.

Last Thursday, Birmingham continued in its championship form by downing Walled Lake 3-2. The win gave the locals the Birmingham district Little League championship.

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MIKE ARMSTRONG

Just in Case . . .

Young Chris Wright is the bathory for the district Little League champion Birmingham Americans. No matter what he is doing, he does it with his right hand because a really good ball player is ready to enter the game at any time . . . and Chris is ready as soon as the coach should utter the words. He won't be ready for Little League competition yet, but he looks like he'll be a handy man to have around in a few years.

Big Inning Gives Finale to Legion

By JOHN SPOELSTRA
Special Writer

The Birmingham American Legion baseball team finished the season on a high note by beating Rochester, 8-4, last Wednesday at Birmingham. Rochester had beaten Birmingham twice earlier this season by coming back in the late innings, but this time winning pitcher Tim Springer had little trouble disposing of the enemy batters except in the early innings. George Forrest collected three hits in four tries and had 2 RBIs.

In the first three innings Springer had trouble with a one-punch ball. Oliver Swords hit a home run in the first with one on, and Dave Hinkle smashed a two-run homer in the third. In the four remaining innings Tim Springer had no trouble.

Birmingham broke loose in the first inning and scored five runs. Tom Bardsley and Jay Madonna walked, and Forrest singled home Bardsley. Bob Arnold singled home two more runs, and Mike Muthleb got to first via an error. Jay Hengelman singled, and Forrest scored twice more in the second. Forrest singled and came home on McManus' double. McManus scored on an error.

IN THE SIXTH, Birmingham finished its scoring by pushing across a lone run. Bardsley singled and stole second. Forrest promptly singled him home.

Birmingham finished in third place, only one game behind the pace setting Royal Oak team. Royal Oak won the championship on the last day by leading Southfield, 2-1. Tom Bardsley led the team in hitting for the season at .324, although Forrest, Diller, Gary Hengelman and Rod Ruddy had higher averages for a half of season.

Bardsley also led the team in runs scored and hits. Hengelman finished strong in winning, leading his fellow hurlers in victories and ERA. Springer had the best strike out total at 63. Although Birmingham loses Springer next year, Vandecian, John Miller and Bob Becker will be back.

This rounds out manager Kirk Black's second season. In 1958 the team played around 500 ball but this year they jumped up to an 8-9 record. Graduating from the team are Forrest, Diller, Ruddy, Arnold, Muthleb, Madonna, Rod Springer.

Here are the boys who are members of the Birmingham Little League American All Star team which is defending this year's state championship: this year they have already captured the district crown which they won last year.

FROM THE JETS:
Greg Anderson
Mike Case
Cory Pearson
Dick Bakenorth
Bruce Laddino

FROM THE YANKS:
Dick Downey
Dick Fleming
Bob Wright
The Angel

FROM THE INDIANS:
Jim Horner

FROM THE PHILLIES:
Cory Hartung

FROM THE RED SOX:
Ken Lister

Coming Back
Howard Jack, last year's leading pitcher at the Detroit Race Course, is returning to make a bid to repeat his 1958 laurels. Craig, a Royal Oak resident, came up with 68 winners.

Chris will be going after his first win on May 30 when Michigan's thoroughbred season gets underway at the DRC. Racing will continue through July 25.

American Legion

FINAL STANDINGS
Royal Oak 1st 1989
Southfield 2nd 1874
BIRMINGHAM 3rd 1874
Berkley 4th 1874
Rochester 5th 1874
Milford 6th 1874
Clermont 7th 1874
Troy 8th 1874

LAST WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Birmingham 8, Rochester 4
Southfield 2, Clermont 1
Troy 1, Milford 0

ROYAL OAK'S RESULTS
Royal Oak 2, Southfield 1
Royal Oak 3, Berkley 1
Royal Oak 4, Rochester 1
Royal Oak 5, Milford 1
Royal Oak 6, Clermont 1
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