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ADDITIONAL SPORTS

Pheasant Toll Drops, But Deer Kill Rises

LANSING, Dec. 10—Hunters killed approximately 108,000 deer in Michigan during the November 15-30 regular and special firearm seasons to record their best harvest since 1952, a preliminary report of the Conservation department indicates.

This figure will not be significantly changed by the December 1st "any deer" season in a crop damage area of Allegan county.

ALTHOUGH the Department's pre-season kill estimate of 115,000 was not reached, this marks the sixth straight season that deer take has increased.

A record 15,828 deer were brought south across the Straits reports from the Mackinac Bridge reveal. This figure is almost 2,500 above the previous high set in 1958.

From all reports, buck kill dropped about 7,500 to 9,500 below the 1958 total of 72,800. Department game officials predicted this in view of starvation losses last winter.

UNDER THIS year's liberalized special seasons, antlers take approached the 46,000 quota set by the Department to ward off heavy deer losses this winter. Special permit hunters took 26,000 antlerless deer last year.

Reports from the Department's biological checking stations noted a generally sharp setback in the antler size of bucks taken in the lower peninsula. The drop in antler development is linked with poor food conditions brought on by last winter's severe weather. Bucks checked from above the Straits sported normal antlers.

Andreae Joins Albion Tankers

Phil Andreae, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Andreae, 515 Half Moon, Bloomfield township, is a leading candidate for the freshman swimming team at Albion college, Albion.

Ritchie Joins Williams Cagers

Dave Ritchie, a sophomore at Williams college, Williamstown, Mass., is a member of the varsity basketball team this season.

A guard, the 6-1, 105-pound cager graduated from Seaholm high school and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ritchie, 1239 Covington, Birmingham.

LANSING, Dec. 10—Pheasant hunters this fall failed to harvest 1,000,000 birds for the first time since 1952, according to a Conservation Department estimate.

The estimate, based upon field reports, shows the ringneck kill approached 650,000. Slightly more than 1,100,000 pheasants were bagged during the 1958 season.

SEVERAL FACTORS clouded over-all hunting success. A marked drop in breeding numbers made a 27 percent dent below last year in the state's pheasant population.

The forecast of fewer birds, coupled with rainy weather during the season's opening days, apparently lessened hunting pressure estimated at roughly 20 percent below the 1958 level.

Individual hunter success was about 14 percent above that of 1958. Department game men attribute the increase to a general decline in hunters and the advanced harvesting of corn, especially in the Thumb and Ottawa-Megan areas.

APPROXIMATELY 90 per cent of the corn crop was harvested by the season's end in these areas and hunters there reported success than a year ago.

Hunters in the southeastern and southwestern areas recorded success comparable with 1958 while those in the central counties found their efforts less rewarding than last season.

Elsewhere, indications are that ruffed grouse hunters fared better last year. Department game men estimate hunters bagged approximately 400,000 ruffed grouse this fall.

Recreation

(Continued from Page 8-E)

December 24, 28, 29, 30 and 31 from 10-12 noon.

SKATING CLASSES: Instructions in skating will be given Wednesday 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 5-6 p.m. for both intermediates and beginners for a fee of \$1 for the lesson. Children must be at least 6 years old to participate in lessons. Register at the rink.

ADULT RECREATION: Basketball, volleyball, badminton, ping-pong and trampolines are featured each Monday, 7-10 p.m. at the Seaholm gym, for a fee of 50¢ per person.

FAMILY SWIMMING: Family swimming is held at the Seaholm pool, Monday, 7:30-10 p.m. and at Derby pool, Thursday, 7-10 p.m. Fee is 25¢ for children and 75¢ for adults. Children must be accompanied by at least one parent.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING: Women's swimming instructions are given at the Seaholm pool, Monday, 7:30-9 p.m. for a fee of \$1 which includes admission to family swim sessions, 7:30-10 p.m.

THERAPEUTIC SWIMMING: Therapeutic swimming is featured at Barnum pool, Wednesday 7-8 p.m. for the physically handicapped. Fee is \$5 for 10 sessions. Register at the Recreation office.

MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE: The men's basketball

Along the Sidelines

with bill arthur

For those who have learned to dislike officials at athletic games of any sort, this may come as a surprise, but they make a tremendous difference in the way the game is played. This armchair fan has long subscribed to an idea that officials are necessary evils perpetrated on the public in order that said public might have someone on whom to vent their ire.

After all, a 5-8, 145-pound featherweight is hardly likely to jump all over a 6-4, 200-pound fullback, or a 6-6 200-pound center for a basketball team or even a 6 foot 180-pound baseball catcher, for that matter.

THE NEED FOR officials, however, was never more clear following Sunday's opening hockey season at Eton rink where the Birmingham recreation department hockey league resumed action.

IN THE FIRST game, everybody (everybody on the ice that is) was tripping, shoving, pushing, fighting, elbowing in a typical hockey manner . . . typical to Birmingham hockey, at any rate.

The referees, who are members of the Michigan Hockey Referees association, were of the professional variety who did not countenance this brand of skating mayhem.

That little cubicle known as the penalty box was rather busy during the first game.

It is said that one can learn by watching, and members of the teams that played in the second game must have watched.

THERE WASN'T a single visitor to the penalty box in the second game.

Those players waiting for their game to start watched the officials work that first game and decided that the old order has now been abandoned.

Last season, there was little order and much mayhem—not because the officials were lax but mainly because they did not have the training and authority that goes with being a member of the M.H.R.A.

The Recreation department director at the time, one Robert Girardin, was going to change the situation, but found greener pastures in Livonia.

HIS PREDECESSOR, Don Martin, is a boy who emanates from that portion of the country known as "The South" and saw his first ice pond while in recreation work in Minnesota. It is to his credit, therefore, that he followed up and signed the officials for the hockey season.

The difference can be seen in the brand of hockey currently conducted on the ice.

The officials do not tolerate any monkey business and a quick jerk of the thumb immediately informs the offender that his little mischief did not escape notice.

This particular piece of literature on the subject can be used as a warning by the juvenile and midget divisions that start Saturday morning.

You can either play hockey with your teammates on the ice—or cheer them from the penalty box.

league will start the season with a practice session for all seasons on Friday's too.

They convene at 10 a.m. and enjoy lunch at the Community house at noon. All those in the Birmingham area of retirement are welcome.

Next week Friday, the program will include a talk by Keith K. Kneak, curator of the Detroit Zoological gardens. The club's discussion group will review the pros and cons of government control of public utilities and discuss whether it should be extended to other industries or curtailed.

SENIOR MEN'S CLUB: The Senior Men's club enjoyed an entertainment which was both laughter provoking and informative a question and answer session last Friday with former American League baseball umpire "Red Jones" as speaker.

This club is sponsored jointly by the Birmingham Community House association and the Birmingham Department of Recreation. They meet regularly in the Community House every Tuesday for cards and other games and have a business meeting and entertainment



L P Record Picks of the Week

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