

# Birmingham Cagers Return To Action After "Vacation"

## Along the Sidelines with Bill Arthur

A couple of basketball games were played in comparative privacy at Southfield high school's gym last Monday and before an erroneous impression is formed, it must be pointed out that these games were part of a tournament.

The few select customers that wandered in to get away from a blazing afternoon sun may have mistaken the slight activity by the school door as a premature New Year's eve party—but no such luck.

It was only Roseville, Monroe, Lincoln Park and Thurston going through the motions of a basketball contest.

**AFTER A BRIEF** attendance at one of these afternoon games, the need for cheer leaders is evident.

The only vocal encouragement heard all afternoon came from those same cheer leaders.

The occasion was the second annual Southfield holiday basketball tournament first started by four schools, Southfield, Thurston, Livonia-Bentley and Farmington.

It was Southfield's turn to host the tourney and the local athletic director, Monte Charles by name, was slightly disappointed.

**CHARLES, HOWEVER,** is a reasonable young man and was already beginning to count next year's chickens.

Although it may come as a surprise to some of you, many of the local schools do play basketball on Tuesday nights—but this barbaric custom will soon cease in many high schools.

It seems that referees and officials have to be paid and many Tuesday night crowds (?) were not sufficient to handle these bills.

One literate educator offered the reasoning that "they may be home studying (?)"

**WHATEVER** the reason, students, friends, parents and assorted relatives have been staying away from the Tuesday night games in droves.

Since the Tuesday games are being eliminated, it can be assumed that schools of higher basketball caliber will be knocking on the tournament door.

If more class A schools do join the tournament, the financial and attendance success is assured.

There are, however, several drawbacks to the proposed setup. A top-notch attraction would draw a huge and enthusiastic crowd.

And if that happens—where would an errant sportswriter get his afternoon nap?

## Area Cage Teams Return To Gyms After Holidays

Birmingham area basketball teams return to action this week following the holidays, but many of the teams used the vacation for scrimmages, tournaments and practice sessions.

Bloomfield Hills held several scrimmages, Southfield was host to the Northwest suburban invitation tournament (which it won), but Cranbrook cagers, most of whom live out of the city, went home for a rest.

## Ferndale, E. Detroit Are Teams To Beat

**DETROIT** Country Day, which started regular season play before any other area team, got the jump again by hosting Oak Park Tuesday night.

Bloomfield Hills held several scrimmages, Southfield was host to the Northwest suburban invitation tournament (which it won), but Cranbrook cagers, most of whom live out of the city, went home for a rest.

With one Eastern Michigan league contest under their belts, Birmingham cagers will enter stiff conference competition during the next several weeks.

Rated as a darkhorse possibility for the title, the Maples must play East Detroit and Ferndale, who are also title contenders, in the next two weeks. This is how the EML shapes up.

The Shamrocks from East Detroit have had trouble making up their minds this year. After soundly whipping Roseville, East Detroit lost to a twice-beaten Ferndale team 69-45.

Don Petroff, the 6-4 Shamrock center, scored 35 points in his team's opener but was held to a mere 12 in the Ferndale contest. Bill Frantera was high point man for East Detroit with 13 points.

**AFTER WINNING** the EML title two years ago with Gary Bateman and Ron Emerick, the Shamrocks finished second last year. East Detroit was a first-season choice to win the championship this season.

Last year's winner, Ferndale has also had trouble making up its mind. The Railspitters have losses to Southfield and Berkley in addition to their win over East Detroit.

Since last year, however, Ferndale lost the services of Merv Gallup who moved to Birmingham. Gallup was a regular as a sophomore at Ferndale. (See TEAMS, Page 7-D)

**STU FORREST,** Bill Stephenson and Rennell's second goal of the game in the middle period quickly settled the issue, but the Hornets came back for another in the third. Rick Thornton netted the final goal in with an assist from Forrest.

**BOB JACOBSON** tallied for the Eldorados in the opening frame and Dave McLean tied it up in the second period just minutes before Nelles' goal.

The Green Hornets found the range in the second period for three goals to move into a second place tie by whipping the Banishes, 5-2.

Bill Rennell tipped in Ron Sturs' shot in the first period for the low Jackets, but Don Alcorn tied it up late that same stanza.

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## V. S. Whips Oaks, 4-1, Chiefs Win

Varsity Shop finally came to life in the recreation senior hockey league last Sunday by trouncing the Oaks, 4-1, as the Shompen received balanced scoring.

Pat Baldwin started the scoring in the first period to put Varsity Shop in front and Joe Shearer added to the lead in the second stanza.

**BYRON SMITH** cut into that lead late in the middle period by pushing in a marker, but a two-goal apoplexy by Tim Baldwin and Bud Corten put the game away in the third period.

The league-leading Chiefs picked up a victory and two more points without even scoring a goal.

Dalquist forfeited its second game of the season, this time to the high-flying Chiefs, who are undefeated.

STANDINGS	W	L	T	P
Chiefs	2	0	0	4
Oaks	2	2	0	4
Varsity Shop	2	2	0	4
Dalquist	0	4	1	5

## Recreation Round Up

### SENIOR MEN

The senior men's club will celebrate their second anniversary on Friday, January 9. This is an important day for this group of men, it marks the beginning of their third year of existence as an organization and a special program is therefore being planned by the entertainment committee under the chairmanship of Sam Fish.

Fish has "planned" and that is all that can be extracted from Fish or any of the members of his committee.

### ADULT RECREATION

Adult recreation is back in full swing after the holidays, meeting on Monday evenings, at the Birmingham high school, 7 to 10 p.m. For just 50¢ you can enjoy basketball, badminton, ping pong, and other activities.

### ADULT SWIMMING

Adult swimming is available at the Birmingham high school, 7:30 to 10 p.m. each Monday evening for just 75¢.

### FAMILY SWIMMING

Family swimming is available at Derby Jr. high pool Thursday evenings, 7 to 10 for both parents and children, 25¢ for children and 75¢ for adults. (See RECREATION, Page 7-D)

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

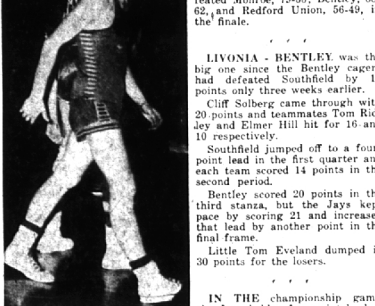
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## Southfield Retains Invitational Title

Defending Northwest suburban invitational tournament champion Southfield still has possession of its title this week following last week's tournament—but the championship game was practically anti-climactic.

The three-game tournament, which found Livonia-Bentley an early favorite, proved that Southfield could win the big ones when necessary.

In taking the title, the Jays defeated Monroe, 79-53; Bentley, 68-62, and Redford Union, 56-49, in the finale.



Redford Union cager Harry Munger looks slightly discouraged after Southfield had taken the lead late in the fourth quarter of the championship Northwest suburban tournament game last week. Not only had Southfield just taken the lead, but the player who scored was also fouled and he sunk the free throw to boost the edge to three points. The Jays won the game and the title, 56-49.

**IN THE** championship game, the Jays held a four-point lead at halftime, but Redford Union came back in the third, 14-6, to go in front.

Southfield got hot and outshot Redford, 24-17, for the win. Tom Ridley (18), Cliff Solberg (13), and Bob Filar (10) paced the Jays.

It was Ridley who led the Jays for a win over Monroe in the opener as he hooked in 21 points. Bob Filar had 12, while Solberg and Jim Sterling had 10 apiece.

Bentley defeated Farmington, 66-51, in the consolation game to finish in second place. Tom Evland again led Redford, this time with 11 points.

## Bulldogs, Jets Still Deadlocked

A close game was broken wide open in the waning stages of the first period in the recreation hockey league game between the Bulldogs and the Huskies Saturday as the Bulldogs went on to win, 7-2.

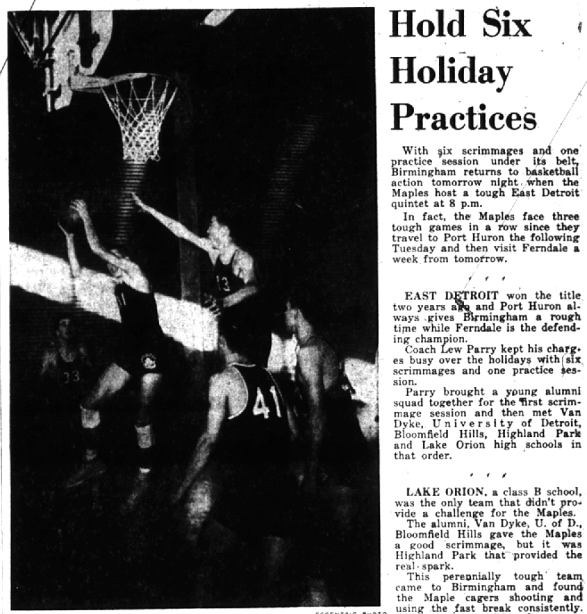
John Sisson put the Bulldogs out in front when he tipped in a shot by John Watson, but Linden Lindesmith tied it up a few minutes later on a solo shot.

It was Sisson again, however, who put his team in front to stay on another shot assisted again by Watson. Then the deluge began.

**GEORGE FORREST** made it 3-1 early in the second period and assisted on Sid Sullivan's goal shortly after.

George Harris scored twice in the third period and Forrest once again with Huskies' John Howitt's second period goal lost in the barrage at the other end of the rink.

A last-minute rally by the Tigers (See BULLDOGS, Page 7-D)



John Spelstra (11) comes down with the ball in spite of Merv Gallup's (13) defensive efforts in Birmingham's practice session Monday. Watching the action are Bill Massey (33), Jeff Boucher (41) and Steve Jacobson (far right). Maple Coach Lew Parry held six scrimmages and one practice session during the holidays to work out the kinks and keep the team in shape.

## Learn How To Tie Those Fish Flies

Earl Westbrook will again help you learn to make your own flies for the spring or summer fishing expedition you plan. Both men and women have enjoyed learning this skill as well as exchanging information about good fishing areas and equipment.

Classes will start on January 21, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Royal Oak Kimball high school. Registration may be made at the first class meeting.

Interested parties can contact Tatum's agent, Hymie Ford, at 407 W. Morrell, Jackson, Mich.

**Anyone Interested?**

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