CROSSFIRE

By LOU CHIESI

The Boos Are a Part of Football

There's a vast uneasiness underlying the Detroit Lions preparation for the coming National Football League campaign. Last Saturday night's 28-14 defeat at the hands of a declining Cleveland Browns team only fanned the apprehension.

Coach George Wilson's plea that fans not boo at games—issued at the annual "Meet the Lions" banquet—sounded more like a small college official addressing the incoming freshman class than the words of a seasoned professional who knows that pro fans will boo when they want to, particularly when performance falls below acceptable standards.

The Chicago Bear teams, on which George starred so well as a mean, tough end, did not worry whether fans booed or cheered. They were real pros.

ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO, after he had replaced Buddy Parker as head coach, Wilson sounded much more like an old pro. Win, or lose your job, George then exclaimed. He had no illusions.

It's difficult to imagine George Wilson now worrying whether fans boo him or his players. This factor alone indicates much about the state of the Lions.

Lions president Edwin J. Anderson's assertion that players on the Lions' 1935 championship team played for the love of pro football and not for money isn't likely to endear him to the current crop of performers.

THAT WAS 25 YEARS AGO, before pro football began to draw millions of fans paying millions of dollars, before handsome television contracts added more to the pot. And before club front office officials were paid $35,000 to $50,000 for their services. The coaches and general managers of those days didn't make much, but they loved the game, too.

The Lions' outlook is bleak. There's no mistaking that fact. The exhibition season probably will demonstrate how lacking the club really is at certain positions. The Lions have too many weaknesses perhaps to win against even average professional football clubs.

It's possible now to exaggerate such factors as Terry Barr's running and Nick Pietrosante's power plunging, and the work of a strong defensive line. But the Lions still must develop a passing attack and there's none in sight.

WITHOUT THE PASS threat, the Lions won't run against the Baltimore Colts or Chicago Bears. Or the Green Bay Packers or San Francisco 49'ers for that matter.

The work of a defensive line will be sabotaged by a wobbling pass defense.

The prime requisites of a winning pro team are a strong passing attack and a tight pass defense. The Lions have neither. Therein lies disaster, George, and very likely some juicy boos.

If the theme of "Meet the Lions" banquets must center on nothing more than requests that fans not boo and that players years ago performed not for money but for love of the game, then the banquets perhaps should be dropped.

ARA PARSEGHIAN, Northwestern's outspoken football coach, has been advising Southern banquet audiences that Big Ten football is dropping in stature. This because the Big Ten is losing many topflight players due to the conference's stern and unrealistic recruiting code.

The Southerners, naturally, like to hear such words. Southern schools have bagged more than their share of Midwest high school athletes since the Big Ten adopted its new code three years ago.

The effects of the code were visible last season in the Big Ten's record against intersectional foes and in Wisconsin's humiliation by Washington in the Rose Bowl.

ONE OF SPORTS most delightfully daffy arguments was issued by some Big Ten officials after Wisconsin's debacle at Pasadena. The loss, they said, could not be the result of the recruiting code because Wisconsin had a team of seniors, all recruited before the mode was adopted.

The fact that Wisconsin had no sophomores or juniors to supplement its seniors proved just how disastrous the code has been. But this factor apparently escaped some Big Ten officials, who reside permanently somewhere on the other side of reality.

The coming season probably will witness a further decline in Big Ten football. Only Illinois and Michigan State figure among the best college teams in the country, and both have their problems.

The Illini have a new coach in Pete Elliott, and Pete hasn't been exactly a successful head football coach. No one moaned at the University of California when Pete left to accept the Illinois position. A few people were relieved.

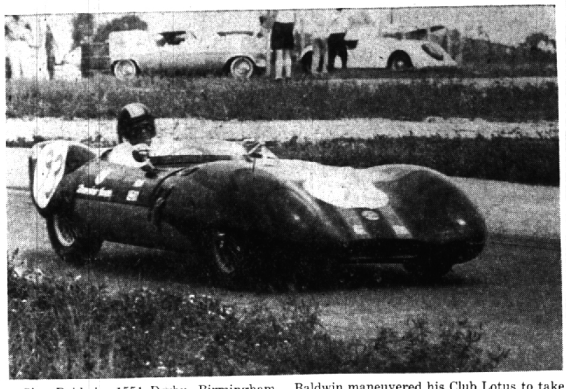
DUFFY DAUGHERTY still hasn't uncovered a quarterback to

(See CROSSFIRE, Page 6-D)

Resident Scores Ace

Eighteen-year-old D. Stanton, 5929 Orchard Bend, Birmingham, had the surprise of his life last week when he aced the 120-yard third hole with a No. 8 iron at the Lancaster Hills Golf club.

His drive had just enough back spin to hop the ball in the hole as it hit inches from the cup. Stanton carded a 33 for the nine.



Glen Baldwin, 1551 Derby, Birmingham, comes out of the turn in Saturday's qualifying trial runs of the Waterford road races. Baldwin maneuvered his Club Lotus to take second place in Sunday's third race for modified classes F, G and H cars.

Sports Cars Tear-Up Course

By DON PEMBER
Staff Writer

As the sleek silver racer came out of the swamp turn its motor screamed into the wind.

The young driver glanced at his pit as he passed the paddock area. Eleven seconds behind.

Now he nudged his brakes, just enough to slow him down, and then the shift down into a lower gear.

This was the gulch turn . . . a bad one . . . he thought as he reached the bottom of the gulch. As he pulled out of the turn he could see the white Corvette going into the skeet house turn.

He was catching up, but there were only 15 laps left.

He would have to make his move soon.

SOUND LIKE a story? Well it is. A real life story.

And it all took place Sunday, less than 30 minutes away from your Birmingham area home with some of your neighbors playing leading roles.

The setting was the Waterford Hills Road Course at the Oakland County Sportsman club in Waterford. The event was the Mid-Summer Trophy Race. The time was last weekend.

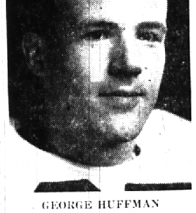
Nine Birmingham area drivers entered the competition for the two-day event.

GLEN BALDWIN in his Club Lotus led Birmingham drivers by placing second in Sunday's third race for cars in the F, G and H modified classes. His best lap time

(See SPORTS CARS, Page 6-D)

Area Athlete Near Goal At Annapolis

Returning to gridiron practices Aug. 25 amidst the military atmosphere of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, will be former Seaholm football star George L. Huffman of 26590 Scenic, Franklin Village.



GEORGE HUFFMAN

While still knocking around athletic fields for Seaholm, Huffman set his sights for a naval commission and pursued his high school dream after graduating in 56. Today, the 22-year-old senior stands within one year of his commission and electrical engineering degree.

The stocky, clean-cut looking Maple end left the Birmingham area four years ago with two Seaholm gridiron teammates, end Jim Trax and tackle Lee Abernathy, with the Naval Academy in mind. As members of Birmingham's first league championship team in 1955, the threesome also shared the same future goals. They continued playing football together at Bullis Preparatory school in Silver Spring, Maryland, where they received a year's training in college prep courses.

ONCE AT THE Academy, the Birminghamites made use of their football "know how" and teamwork on the Navy squad. After a year of sharing memories of the "good ole days" and struggling through new challenges, the gang began to split up with Huffman the only

(See ATHLETE, Page 7-D)

Putt-Putt Golfers Shoot For Nat'l Recognition

Growing at Record speeds in the last couple years is the sport of putt-putt golf, more popularly known as miniature golf. Arriving on the sports scene in 1954, the midget version of the golf game has spread to establish over 240 courses throughout the country.

With the forming of the PPPGA (Professional Putt-Putt Golfers association) this year, widespread interest on a professional level has been accelerated in the sport.

Attracting pros and amateurs alike, the pastime, bidding for a place among recognized sports, offers novice par for those who enjoy duffing around as well as par for the more serious minded golfers.

GETTING INTO the swing of its first full year of existence, the PPPGA boasted a membership of over 650 pros by June with entries continuing to sky rocket.

Fourteen tournaments are highlighting this year's program at the ten top miniature courses in the country for a total of $30,000 prize money. Next year 11 tournaments will offer increased purses totaling $50,000.

Resembling the "big time" or-

(See GOLFERS, Page 7-D)

Newcomer Walks Off With Double Victory

Betty Lutz strolled off the North Hills Country club course last Friday a two-way winner in the Birmingham Community House Newcomers' monthly golf tournament.

She carded a 94 for 18 holes to take the medalist competition and also hit the longest drive on the first hole.

Leading in the three flights for the nine-hole medal tourney are Ethel Wilkins, Marie Scarborough and Virginia Reames.

Tomorrow's special event will be a putting contest.

Southfield Bows to Bay City In State Tournament Playoffs

The Birmingham Eccentric
SPORTS
PAGE 8 AUGUST 18, 1960

Benched Hurlers Hurt Americans' Chances

The Southfield Americans, little league district No. 4 champions, traveled to Kalamazoo for the state tournament playoffs last week, only to be turned back at the hands of Bay City 7-4.

Going into the game with the handicap of having their pitching ace, Dale Hayes, benched, the Americans gave up seven hits for seven runs in their first of the one-game knock-out series.

Little league rules stipulate a pitcher cannot hurl two consecutive games, and Hayes had worked the mound in the Americans' district championship victory the week before.

HAYES' BENCHING and the absence of relief pitcher Don Boyer left the club hurting in the pitching department. Al Coffeen started the game with Ron Schluchter relieving in the fourth.

It was a fairly uneventful ballgame except for the American's fourth inning protest. With a man on first a Bay City batter stepped across the plate in reaching for an outside pitch.

The Americans' third baseman fielded his grounder and threw to second but failed to force the runner. The batter was called out for crossing the plate and the runner, held second eventually coming in to tie the score 3-3.

THE UMPIRE'S decision, allowing the runner to advance to second, created some discussion in the Americans' dugout. But, manager Arnold Schluchter, claiming the runner should have returned to first on the call out at the plate, was overruled by dugout advisers.

Later in the inning, after checking the rule book, Schluchter protested that the runner should not have taken second. But, the umpire refused to acknowledge the protest because he had warned both teams that protests must be made immediately.

"We didn't have the sense to beef about it when we should have," said Schluchter. "But, they won the game fair and square," he added.

THE AMERICANS took the lead in the bottom of the first after Mike Kuhna had singled, stolen second, taken third on a pass ball and crossed the plate on a pick-off play error.

The Americans held the driver's seat until the third. Two singles and a walk loaded the bags for Bay City and a double scored two tallies for the lead, 2-1. Although Kuhna connected for his second single in the third and Jenkins took a base on error, three consecutive strike outs killed the threat.

With two down Bay City rallied for one more tally in the fourth on three singles and an error to boost the score 3-1. The Americans bounced back in their half on two walks and an error to tie it up 3-3.

BAY CITY scored two runs in each of the following innings, one of which was a homer, to clinch the win.

Before going down in order in the sixth, the Americans came up with their fourth and final score in the fifth on a series of errors.

Trapshooter Sets Sights On Annual Grand Shoot

By LES LANGLOIS
Sports Editor

Seldom heard of and scarcely followed, trapshooting, the black sheep of the sports family, has taken many years to achieve national interest.

Unlike most other popular pastimes, it is one of the few sports in the world where age makes very little difference. And yet, it's a highly skilled sport. A good gun, a steady hand and a sharp eye make up the basic requirements.

With the big shoot of the year, the 61st Invitational Grand American Trapshooting tournament, coming up Aug. 19-27 in Vandalia, Ohio, hundreds of the nation's crack shots will meet to "shoot out" the sport's world series.

ONE OF BIRMINGHAM'S most avid followers of the sport, Fred Ford, 1540 Fairway, will be gunning for the title. The retired businessman hasn't missed competing in this annual affair in the 35 years he's been trapshooting.

Although he's had several near misses, Ford has never quite been able to walk off with the championship. But, he'll be in there, contending for "top gun" once again.

The sport's bug first nipped Ford in 1926 and he's been racking up championships and setting records ever since.

Travelling throughout the country for state, national and even foreign matches, Ford has acquired an extensive collection of awards from watch fobs to silver cups. His two trophy cabinets are barely large enough to house his more than 50 awards.

A MEMBER OF THE Birmingham Gun club, Detroit Gun club and the Amateur Trapshooting association of North America, Ford has won at least 20 Michigan state championships and numerous out of state crowns including the Cuban title in 1951.

In the Cuban championship he was one of six finalists who had shattered the flying discs 2's times

(See SHOOT, Page 7-D)

B'ham Gridders Await North-South Skirmish

Four of Seaholm high's 1959 football players will see action in tomorrow night's Oakland county all-star game at Pontiac's Wisner Stadium.

The ex-Maple gridders, Sam Reeve, Phil Isbell, Grant McLennan and George Forrest, are slated to start on either the offensive or defensive units for the North team.

The squads are made up of outstanding athletes from 19 high schools of the North Oakland county area and 17 of the South. Birmingham and Pontiac Central are the only two schools with four representatives on the North team.

MOST OF THE all-stars will be entering college in the fall on scholarships. All four Birmingham gridders will be off to foreign college gridirons.

Reeve, a 185 pound fullback, may get the starting nod for that position. He will enter Grand Rapids Junior college next month.

Isbell, a 205 pound end bound for Southern Methodist University in the fall, will handle kicking chores for the North team.

Forrest, a 165 pound quarterback and halfback, will see more action at the halfback slot. He plans on entering the University of Michigan.

Grant McLennon, 180 pound guard, will start at that position defensively. He has his eye on Ohio Weslyan college.

AMONG OTHER outstanding gridders for the North will be Denis Alix of West Bloomfield with the starting quarterback assignment and end John Long also of West Bloomfield.

All-state Charlie Brown of Pontiac Central and all-state halfback Bob Christian of Walled Lake will round out the North's lineup.

Former Detroit Lions' star Leon Hart of Birmingham and former Chicago Cardinal center Jack Simmons of Beverly Hills will handle the coaching for the North.

ALTHOUGH THE South's squad will not be as deep, it boasts a strong passing attack with all-state quarterback Ron Bishop of Shrine. The most outstanding halfback in the county, Bob Lezotte, and the top end, John Meadows, both of Royal Oak Dondero, give the South a high-powered offense which puts them in the favorite's spot.

Kickoff will be at 8:15 p.m. Tickets can be obtained in Birmingham at Reeve's Service Station at Maple and Telegraph. Proceeds of the game will go to promote the Pontiac Boys club and to aid the retarded children's home in Farmington.

Gridders Warm-Up for All-Star Action

Getting in shape for the Oakland county all-star football game Friday night are Birmingham members of the North's team from left quarterback George Forrest, guard Grant McLennan, end Phil Isbell and fullback Sam Reeve. All four are June graduates of Seaholm high and will be knocking heads on college squads in the fall.

Last of B'ham's Little League Mohicans

Birmingham's newest league, the Continental, was the last to hold out in the recent little league all-star district championship playoffs. From front left are Tom Jacobs, John Barich, Jim Dashiell, Gary Talpos, Sam Garzia, Carl Gromek, Jim Andrews, Gary Diesing. From back left are manager Norris A. Host, Tom Tarvis, Dave Ramp, Frank Johnson, John Seybold, Chuck Rau, Ralph Atkin and coach Edward Schreck.

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