

CROSSFIRE

By Lou Chiesi

Basketball—In Paris Or Detroit

Ron Johnson is a 6-foot 7-inch, 225-pound contact man who wears contact lenses to play basketball, studied marketing and mathematics at the University of Minnesota, and has a wife named Caroline.

He doesn't like the contact lenses but he loves Caroline and apparently likes marketing and mathematics and basketball.

Ron will arrive in Detroit Saturday to determine the course of his future. Should he accept a contract with the Detroit Pistons of the National Basketball League, thus gladdening the heart of general manager Nick Kerby? Or should he accept an offer from France to play basketball for a Paris team and continue studies at the University of Paris, with Caroline, too?

IT SEEMS that the French also play at basketball among other pursuits, and have a basketball league. They import players. The Johnsons have received an express package containing food, tuition, books, expense money and all the necessities of life when they can eat every Sunday.

Kerby, an odd's-cargots fan, realizes the attractiveness of the summons from Paris. A young couple in Paris in the spring and all those nice things. Not to mention a high school Spanish teacher who studied a year in Mexico City. "If I were Johnson, I'd stay away from Kerby," Nick admits, as he checks the treasury to decide which current offer to accept. The Minnesota star, Johnson was the Pistons No. 2 draft choice and Kerby believes the big money could be an important factor in the rebuilding of the Detroit club to national basketball association title status.

SO NICK has arranged a session with Johnson and will have a Detroit specialist check the fit of Johnson's contact lenses. Perhaps the Minnesota man then will give his way clear to playing for the Pistons instead of taking Kerby to Paris, where she might get a lot of silly ideas anyway.

THERE WAS A TIME not many years ago when the All-Star baseball game excited people, 14, or other things, no longer do. Somehow the glimmer has dimmed, and the annual show matching the supposed best of each league, with each other contributes only a welcome relief from the daily diet of league play.

And when the major leagues adopted a two-game All-Star series last year, the event lost the attractiveness of the spectacle. It's now merely a two-game series to finish the season and find the major leagues. That, and little more. This week's pair of games demonstrated this premise.

ALL-STAR GAMES in all sports have lost much of their attraction. The annual College All-Star football game against the professional league champions in Chicago each August has regressed into just another season game.

The success of the new pro conference, the American Football League, in luring several "name" college stars has further deglamorized the uneven series. The pros are much too powerful, when they take the game seriously and don't show up fatigued and out of condition. No longer do a squad will be weakened further by loss of five or six outstanding players who report to A-F-L teams.

Unfortunately, playing like Billy Cannon and Charlie Flowers are among the few who mean anything to college fans in a day when the college star no longer attracts nationwide attention by one employer. So the College All-Star game now is merely a NFL league game showing off its roster against last year's champion team. The game no longer offers all the best college players.

ALL-STAR GAMES probably will continue, not because the fans so much demand them, but because the television networks so badly need attractions for the bright box.

THE DEMOCRATS convention this week, among other accomplishments, displayed the new Los Angeles Sports Arena to millions of viewers.

This is the indoor arena, said to be the finest in the nation, which Los Angeles hopes will attract more and more sports events to the City of Angels, Walter O'Malley and Dr. Fines.

Mr. O'Malley, owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers of the national league, is trying to build the world's greatest baseball stadium in Los Angeles' Chavez Ravine, despite lawsuits by unappreciative citizens.

THE LOS ANGELES COLISEUM, seating some 120,000 at times, qualifies as the finest outdoor arena in the nation for most sports events. The 100,000-seat Rose Bowl site in nearby Pasadena. And there are lesser but impressive stadia all over the Los Angeles area.

All of which emphasizes again that Los Angeles has become the sports capital of the nation. It boasts unmatched facilities.



C. E. Valentine, Jr., of Bloomfield township, engages in a little "car talk" with his wife at the Classic Car club of America's Midwest Grand Classic Saturday afternoon, at Greenfield Village. His car, a 1937 Mercedes-Benz 540-K Cabriolet, was declared Grand Champion at the rally, registering a point total of 99. Valentine also won the foreign car class of the senior division.

B'field Car Wins Classic Meet

In the atmosphere of a Sinclair Lewis novel, a period of never-to-be-forgotten American history came to life again Saturday afternoon on a shady meadow at Greenfield Village.

The occasion was the fourth annual Midwest Grand Classic of the Classic Car club of America.

In their usual unassuming manner, the 21 cars, each streaming into the village Saturday morning causing a mild, but pleasant confusion to the serenity of the village.

C. E. Valentine, Jr., 3108 Bivaway, Bloomfield township, was named the overall grand champion, accumulating 99 total points out of a possible 100.

Valentine said he first became a classic car owner in 1957. Previous to that he was an antique car enthusiast.

The classic car classification includes automobiles built between 1925 and 1942. Antiques include earlier models.

Cars were judged not only on their appearance, inside and out, but on mechanical competence, starting ability and other technical factors.

Side winning the grand champion award, Valentine took first place in the senior division, foreign car class.

Last year Valentine won the primary division award. A primary division car has never won a first place before.

With all team matches played on a handicap basis and decided by total strokes, Orchard Lake, Pine Lake, Detroit golf club and Farmington golf club, is the first of its kind in this area.

Judging by Tuesday's team matches, it looks as though Oakland Hills' junior golf champion chairman Harvey W. Ewald, 3638 S. Millerway, Bloomfield township, came up with a great idea in organizing the league.

With all team matches played on a handicap basis and decided by total strokes, Orchard Lake, Detroit and Red Run tied, Pine Lake beat Farmington and Plum Hollow covered the Detroit golf club, in the first weekly contests.

WEEKLY MATCHES will continue through August with least competition expected for the league title to be decided in the final playoffs, scheduled for the week of August 29 at Pine Lake.

Team members were selected from the top scorers in Monday's junior district play at Forest Lake country club. Fred Ewald, 36, Oakland Hills team member, carded a 74 in the junior district to place second behind Volney Bayley of Twin Beach, who won the weekly tournament with a one under par 70.

The 20 junior golfers having the lowest combined scores of this Monday's junior district tournament and next Monday's U.S.G. Golf association junior trials will qualify for a special Oakland Hills invitational tournament July 24.

Local Amateurs Show Well In State Golf Tournament

Veteran Draper Bows To Stevens In Finals

After winning several close come-from-behind matches in the Michigan Amateur Golf Tournament at Black River country club last week, Birmingham's Tom Draper of Red Run lost his touch in the final round. Don Stevens of Plum Hollow, brother of last year's amateur champ Bud Stevens, kept the title in the family by knocking out Draper 3-2.

It was Draper's ninth trip in the tournament. Two years ago he was defeated in the finals and was beaten last year in the semifinals by Don Stevens' brother, Ed. The 45-year-old golfer came from behind twice Saturday, eliminating clubmate Bob Whitling in a grueling 20-hole match and defeating 21-year-old Birmingham golfer Tim Baldwin in the quarter finals. With his 1-ply victory over 22-year-old Gene Hunt of Flint in the semifinals, Draper slipped into the finals against Don Stevens who never trailed.

ALTHOUGH BALDWIN was a member of the association four years ago, he had renewed membership in the last three years. He claims the association didn't say anything about his competing in the last couple years, but waited until he was over the boom.

"The association was willing to take my entry fees each time, knowing I wasn't a member," said Baldwin, but when the qualifying rounds, they changed their tune.

DRAPER, 1949 winner, was the only survivor of five ex-champions in the field of 225 contenders to reach the semifinals.

After driving into a ditch, Draper bogged the first hole and led the next three, but Stevens matched him on the first two holes. Draper's fourth hole 15-foot birdie putt evened up the match.

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DRAPER's fifth hole bogie gave Stevens the lead which he retained throughout the match. Winning only a hole of the match, Draper's putting game was off as several putts just missed the cup.

BIG UPSET of the tournament was Tim Baldwin's 1-up victory over last year's champ Bud Stevens in the first round of play. "I never let up for a minute," said Baldwin. "It was the most hard fought match I've ever had in my life." The 21-year-old Michigan State graduate was later knocked out in the quarter-finals. Other local golfers making the first or second rounds of match play were Mike Conroy, Jerry Nagel and Pete Green.

Last month Baldwin won the Michigan club championship of the National Public Links tournament being held in Honolulu this week. But he is not competing in the contest.

BALDWIN claims he got a shabby deal from the Michigan Public Links Association. The national tournament was advertised as being open to all non-private club members with the winners receiving expense paid trips to Honolulu for the tournament, he said. But, upon winning the qualification.

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Tickets for the Olympic trials are on sale at Grinnell's, 1515 Woodward in Detroit. Prices range from 50 cents to \$3.50 for the four-day trials. There will be morning, afternoon and evening events.

Only players who have graduated this past June are eligible to compete in the game.

The local players at Michigan High School Athletic Association rules which forbid using under-18 players in the playoffs. The match will be made up of retired professional players and ex-high school coaches.

TROPHIES were awarded to the winners at a dinner in Greenfield Village's Lovett Hall Saturday night.

B'ham Grad to Compete In Olympic Swim Trials

Among 250 of the nation's top swimmers converging at the Bremen pools at Detroit's River Rouge Park in August for the Olympic trials will be ham high school sprinting star.

Pete, son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Sintz, 1554 W. Lincoln, Birmingham, will be contending for a spot on the United States men's free style relay team to compete for world supremacy in this summer's Olympics at Rome.

Revised international rules have created more pressure for contenders than existed in the 1956 trials. Only the first two finishers in each event will make the team whereas the first three were accepted for the last international meet.

The 20 YEAR-OLD junior at Indiana University, majoring in business administration, has been practicing three to four hours a day for the past several weeks.

The grueling workouts include swimming from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 miles each day in Bloomington, Indiana, and will remain until the trials come up August 2-5. He is working out with some of the country's top swimmers, including world butterfly record holder Mike Troy, 1500 meter national record holder Alan Somers and 1956 backstroke Olympic champion Frank McKinnon.

Tagged as "a real worker who never stops," the aquatic sportsman makes swimming a full time activity. It has been Sintz's major interest since graduating from Seaborn high in 1956 where he was one of the school's leading swimmers.

"MAKING THE OLYMPICS has been his big dream since graduating from Seaborn," said Mrs. Sintz, "and he's been striving towards that goal ever since."

Although Sintz has only been swimming competitively for the last six years, he has followed the 50 and 100 yard free style high school sprints.

While at Seaborn he captured and still holds the state record for the 50 and 100 yard free style high school sprints. In college Sintz capped two big ten championships for Indiana last season at the University of Michigan, taking the 200 and 400 yard free style events.

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County Plans HS All-Star Football Game

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The Oakland County team will be comprised of players from high schools in the county. The team will have 17 schools represented.

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Local Entries Take Horse Show Honors

Local entries rode off with several blue ribbons in the inaugural events of the 28th annual Metamora Hunt horse show ending Sunday.

Bob Egan of Bloomfield township, regular conformation hunter-crown winner at the recent Bloomfield Open Hunt show copped the working hunter championship with his seven-year-old gray Blue Monday. He also took the green hack ribbon with Mr. Deliberate in the open ranks.

Mrs. Graham J. Graham's Victoria of Bloomfield Hills captured the green working hunter title. Alister of North York won the (See HONORS, Page 7-B)

With JUNIORS dominating the program, 11-year-old Debbie Willson of Bloomfield Hills picked up two honors on Unexpected in equitation classes over fences and in the flat course horsemanship class.

Other jump champions included Marilyn Cole, 17, Birmingham, whose triumph in the medal class qualified her for the national championship next fall at Madison Square Garden. Alison Cram, 13, Birmingham, placed second with Julie Smith, 17, of Franklin, third.

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Advertisement for Birmingham Lumber and Supply Company Inc. featuring 'The King of Fencing?' and 'Call MI 4-3636 for help!'. It lists various lumber products like white fir, cedar posts, and pickets, along with prices and contact information for the company at 1025 Haynes Street.