

# Eccentric-Recreation at Tourney

## CROSSFIRE

By LOU CHIESI

### Sharing Baseball's Mediocrity

To a cynic who believes that major league baseball should end a summer's misery by Labor Day and not extend the monotony until the "October Classic," recent news from the baseball world is disheartening.

There have been times during the last two or three years, after visits to Briggs Stadium, that Labor Day seemed much too long to wait. The Fourth of July at times appeared more appropriate to end it all.

But now, with the proposed third major league, the Continental, all but dead, the American and National Leagues are plotting to expand from eight to 10 clubs each, thus sharing mediocrity and monotony with more of the nation.

IF PLANS materialize, the question of what happened to the minor leagues at last will be answered. They join the majors. Once again, if you can't lick 'em join 'em.

Imagine what the major league club owners can do with 10 teams in each league and how much more money 154 games would be enough. Why not 180, each team playing 20 games a season against each other?

That would mean starting in March and playing until perhaps Oct. 15. Then Detroit Tiger fans would have more opportunity to throw more things at more players, and the club owners, naturally, might take in more money at the gate, a prospect which reportedly does not dismay them.

THE BOYS ALREADY have advised the start of the season a week. At least the National League jumped the gun last season. To take advantage of an extra weekend of money grabbing in Los Angeles and San Francisco and now the sleepy American League has awakened enough to figure it should do the same. The title of the boys' catcher's register is disconcerting.

In another year or two, maybe they'll start the season in March. Thousands undoubtedly wait anxiously to see March openers such as the one at Briggs Stadium, Yankee Stadium and Comiskey Park.

There are rumors in Florida and Arizona would start much earlier, of course, probably in January. Players would hurry home after ending the season in October, open their Christmas presents, and rush to spring training.

AND JUST THINK how much more beer, cigarettes, razor blades and gasoline could be sold. Perhaps George and Ernie might need another announcement to adequately describe the tough luck of the Tigers. Imagine, maybe George and Ernie and Van Liew and the losers also would have much more time to say "Wait until next year."

However, Casey Stengel might not have enough time in the off-season to count the money. In Glendale, Calif., bank and how could players start more bowling alleys with so little time?

The American League apparently wants to start a new team in Los Angeles to grab the California market. California money that Walter O'Malley and his Dodgers have been dragging to Los Angeles bank vaults aren't big enough to hold it all. Walter may be forced to bury his gold in the desert in the ground in Chavez Ravine, thus offering a West Coast rival to Fort Knox.

OMALLEY STILL can't get the courts to let him build a ball park in the Ravine. Maybe Walter can sell the hole in the ground to the American League.

Sombody has been mentioned Toronto as a likely city for another franchise. Toronto is boomtown and has the potential, but millionaire Jack Cooke, the owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs baseball team of the International League and for a long time a prime mover in the quest for major league status, is taking out American citizenship papers.

He reportedly been miffed when Canada refused him a permit (See SHARING, Page 7-E).

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## T-Baseball All-Stars Battle to Finish

The American league T-Baseball stars emerged victorious last Saturday at Poplarville Park, downing the national all-stars 9-5. It was a close battle right up to the last inning when the Americans came up with six runs to clinch the championship.

The Americans jumped off to take the lead in the first inning with center fielder Jeffrey Brock's two-run homer. After the Nationals tied up the score, Craig Brown blasted the first home run, the second homer to break the tie 5-2.

The Nationals' fourth inning three-run rally giving them the lead 5-3 was checked as the American hunter for the bases in the fifth. Rock of the Comets, American League champs with a 7 and 0 record, figured for a couple runs in the Americans' last inning stand.



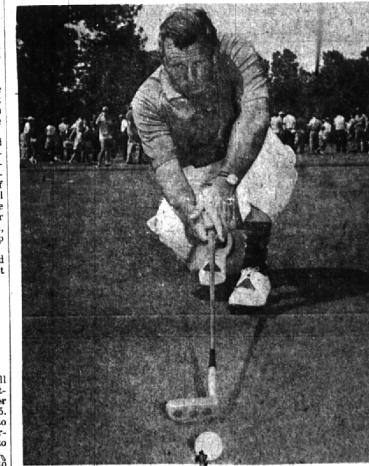
## Resident Lands Whopper!

After 45 minutes of grueling combat, Robert Van Mour, 3287 Broadway, Bloomfield Village, hauled this 9' 3" 120-pound sailfish out of the Pacific while vacationing with his family in Acapulco, Mexico. Bringing it in seems to have been only half the problem. Van Mour is having his prize mounted, but can't decide where to hang the fish because of its size. "I've had more fun with this fish than a pack of monkeys," he said. While Van Mour was trying to land his catch, a shark was trying to make a meal of it. Somebody else's line hooked the shark and they brought it aboard the 40-foot deep-sea fishing craft also.

## Area Gridders Make County All-Star Game

Three former Seaholm football spark plugs, Grant McLennan, George Forrest and Sam Rowe, will don shoulder pads and helmets for the First Oakland County All-Star football game at Pontiac's Wisner stadium August 19.

Their participation will give the professional rank before hitting college gridirons in the fall. The game will match the North Oakland county all-stars, coached by former Notre Dame and Detroit



## Sizing Up The Situation

Pro Walter E. Burkemo, 5780 Snowshoe circle, Birmingham, lines up a putt in last week's 57th Western Open Golf tournament. Of the three Michigan golfers who went all the way, Burkemo was the only top money winner, collecting \$830. He ranked among seven golfers to carry a 68 Sunday, the day's lowest score. Other rounds of 70, 74 and 71 gave him a total of 285, five strokes behind Stan Leonard and Art Wall who tied. Leonard won the sudden-death playoff on the first hole to win the open.

## Water Ski Tourneys Open Soon

With their enviable ability to beat the heat, water skiers will have a chance to cool their heels in the Michigan State and Mid-West Regional water ski championship tournaments July 23-31.

Over 100 advocates of summer's most refreshing and exciting sport are expected to splash through the heat of competition at Loon Lake, Drayton Plains, five miles north of Pontiac.

With "Jumping," "Tricks" and "Slalom" dominating the week's competitive events, a water festival will feature the worlds champion stunt skier Ken Tiballo of Florida, in nightly ski shows.

ABOUT 10 BIRMINGHAM CONTESTANTS will compete in the state tournament July 23-24 which is restricted to members of the Michigan Water Ski Association. Performers will be judged on distance, form, tricks and buoy dodging ability. There will be seven divisions in each of the three main events. First, second and third place trophies awarded.

Winners of the state tournament will qualify for the Mid-West Regional contest in the form of a runner to the National Water Ski Championship Aug. 12-14 at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Free public instruction in the skills of water skiing will be offered July 25-28 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission will be on a 50 cent voluntary donation basis with hot eating and free parking provided.

## Recreation Round-Up

BIRMINGHAM YOUTH FITNESS FIELD DAY: Co-sponsored by Princeton Prep and the Birmingham Recreation department will be held July 22 at Pierce Field from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Events will consist of the running broad jump, standing broad jump, relay, 50 yard dash, softball throw.

All boys and girls that are playground champions will compete Friday for the title of "All-Around Champion." Prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. 1st place winners will also receive a white T shirt with the youth fitness emblem. City champions will then compete in the Birmingham Recreation department in the Detroit Metropolitan Physical Fitness Day on Friday, July 20.

ADULT SQUARE DANCES: The fifth outdoor square dance of the summer will be held Friday, Aug. 5 at Eton Park from 8:30 to 11:00 p.m. The caller is Bill Grayce and the level of the dancing is intermediate. Fee is \$2 per couple.

SUMMER SWIMMING: Classes and recreational swimming are held each afternoon from 12:45 until 5:00. Family swimming is offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Call the Recreation Office or contact the instructors for detailed schedules at the Seaholm, Derby, and Barnum pools.

PLAYGROUNDS: The weekly craft feature this week is lanyards and leather comb cases, key chains, bracelets, billfolds. All children will begin work on the youth fitness events which will be held at Pierce playground on July 22. Playground activities are conducted in the last series of tennis classes at the following playgrounds: Adams, Eton, Mivalde, Penbrooke Park, Pierce and Quanton.

TENNIS: There are openings in the last series of tennis classes (See ROUND-UP, Page 7-E).

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## Fishing World Series Attracts Top Anglers

Fishing has joined the family of world series sports as masters of the rod and reel prepare to merge in Michigan for the international competition of the first fresh water World Series of Sport Fishing Oct. 15.

Executive headquarters of the series has been set up at 129 Browder, Birmingham, international correspondence center for the entire program, with a Sportsman Showcase at Houghton Lake staging the final awards dinner.

The series will embrace seven days of competition at as many famous Michigan sites and alternating targets daily to include muskie, bass, rainbow and lake trout, pike, perch, etc. The championship determined by the greatest point total scored throughout the seven-day tour.

THE FORD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP trophy will be awarded to the King of Sports Fishermen.

Each member of the World Series tour party receives complimentary rooms, meals, boats, local transportation, and a hard-core package from President Dwight Eisenhower. People-to-People sports committee.

Each sportsfishing site awarded a state championship field will crown its champion and fly him to and from the World Series tour to complete his all expense paid participation.

THE MICHIGAN STATE CONTEST will itself be a "tournament of champions" with "local" champions, winners of preliminary contests, qualifying for the state finals at Houghton Lake Sept. 10. Contestants may also qualify for the state championship finals by scoring among the top three at least two local contests.

Each "local" championship, sponsored by a chamber of commerce, newspaper, sportsman club, fishing camp, service organization or business firm, is awarded over fish as selected and announced by the "local" sponsor. All local contests will be one day event, either Saturday or Sunday, starting Aug. 6 and continuing through the Labor Day weekend.

Each "local" contest will be won by the angler—man, woman or junior, who brings in to the ap-

pointed weight station the one heaviest fish of the day.

ANYONE MAY COMPETE as often as desired, where desired, with no entry fees required.

Ardent anglers will have numerous opportunities to qualify for the state finals by fishing each weekend in areas staging "local" contests. Newspaper outdoor editors, radio, and TV sportscasters will relay news from World Series headquarters on the contest dates, places, targets and results.

Only in championship finals, where winners of preliminary competitions meet in a fishoff, will points be awarded for light tackle or the more difficult methods of angling.

TO MOVE UP the competitive ladder towards the World Series tour, any angler need only defeat the other anglers in his "local" contest. All of the country's 30 million anglers and the millions abroad will have equal opportunity to make their bids for the world championship trophy.

In the Michigan state championship tournament, anglers need register only once at any Ford dealer to be eligible for all local contests. The Ford Motor company is sponsoring the World Series tour transportation. The Michigan state championship and the world championship trophy.

Series information can be obtained at the Birmingham executive headquarters, Midwest 6-6200.

## Plenty of Putters Not Many Duffers

Stiff competition in the special putting event of the Birmingham Community House Newcomers club last Friday at North Hills Country club resulted in ties in all flights.

Vicki Sempel, Marilyn Darr and Verma Montague shared the winner's spot in the first flight. Dot Wines and Lois Dietrich dodged the second and Betty O'Flynn and Lois Welling tied the third.

Second round matches of the record mixed play tournament were not completed and will be announced at a later date.

Tomorrow's special event will feature two-hole blind bogey. Nine and 18-hole tournaments for mixed golfball are being set up for some Sunday in August. The date will be announced later.

## Contest Revisions Tighten Program

The time is approaching for area tennis fans to take up their rackets for the third annual Birmingham Eccentric Recreation department community tennis tournament at Eton Park courts August 1-10.

Several program changes in this year's journey, open to all area tennis enthusiasts, promises highly competitive contests.

Instead of last year's 10 divisions, only 8 divisions are available including 8-12 year-old junior boy's and girl's singles divisions, 13-17 year-old boy's and girl's singles divisions and 18 year-old and over men's and women's singles and doubles divisions. All birth dates are as of Jan. 1.

LAST YEAR'S boys' and girl's doubles divisions have been excluded from this year's program.

Trophies and medals, donated by the Eccentric, will be awarded winners and runners up after the final playoffs. Unlike last year's tournament, only the first two positions in each event will receive awards, but winners will receive permanent possession of awards.

Other changes include an entry fee of \$1.00 for the first two divisions and 10 cents for boy's and girl's divisions will be charged for the state finals. Fees will be accepted at the courts the first day of play. Contestants must supply their own rackets.

A SPECIAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, Sally Hibbard, recreation department tennis instructor will be in charge of the program activities. The tourney will conclude recreation department summer tennis classes, but contestants need not be class members.

Boys' and girls' matches will be played in the mornings and early afternoons with late afternoons and evenings reserved for the men's and women's events.

All contestants must submit tournament entry forms to Community Tennis, Recreation Department, Birmingham Municipal building, no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, July 28.

FORMS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED at the sports department of the Eccentric, Birmingham recreation department, Eton Park tennis courts between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon, or clipped out of this issue of the Eccentric.

Be sure to read the rules and regulations on the entry form. The preferred playing time blank at the bottom of the entry form is reserved for the men and women.

Men and women may enter both singles and doubles events, but

Area Pops and Sons Team Up In Tourney

Golfers from 8 to 20 teamed up in the Red Run Golf club's 5th annual father and son golf tournament last Friday. Among the 42 teams participating, Al Badger and son, Buddy, 19, of Bloomfield Hills, clinched with a 74 to take second place in the low gross competition.

Other area teams included F. Willey and son, Gary, and Wendell Mow and son, Gary, of Bloomfield township. An evening barbecue climaxed the day's activity.

Area trackers will congregate at Seaholm high school Tuesday, July 26 for the A.A.U. sanctioned Olympic Development Track and Field Meet. About 100 thinclads are expected to compete in the event meet with separate divisions for juniors 16 years old and under and seniors 17 and over.

Competition is open to all registered amateur athletes with medals awarded the first three places in each event. Unregistered tracksters can sign up Tuesday evening at the Seaholm field for 50 cents. An entry fee of 50 cents per man per event will also be charged.

Field events begin at 6:30 p.m. Meet events will include:

- High Hurdles—Juniors and Seniors
- 100 yard Dash—Juniors and Seniors
- 440 yard Dash—Juniors and Seniors
- 1 mile Run—Juniors only
- High Jump—Juniors and Seniors
- 100 yard Dash—Juniors and Seniors
- Shot Put—Juniors and Seniors
- Hot Step & Jump—Seniors only

A second track meet will be held Tuesday, Aug. 2 at Seaholm high.

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