

CROSSFIRE

DeWitt's On Top Again!

By LOU CHIESI

A skeptical sportswriter once described Bill DeWitt as one of baseball's most "successful failures."

One may look long at DeWitt's record in the game and still fail to find any remarkable success, or even an accomplishment of note. Yet, DeWitt has the knack of coming up time and again with roses in hand, smelling sweetly.

DeWitt directed the Detroit Tigers from the front office last year, and then was dismissed abruptly when John Fetzer purchased control of the club. DeWitt made few friends in Detroit.

But Bill was not unemployed long. The suffering Cincinnati Redlegs hired him as general manager. Last week, Powell Crosley, long-time owner of the Cincinnati club, died. The Crosley heirs now have handed DeWitt complete control of the team and, ostensibly, a boost in pay. Bill was on hand at the right time.

DeWitt started in baseball by selling peanuts at the old Long Browns ball park; there are many in baseball who insist that so few men found their proper level so early in life.

THE BROWNS were strictly a peanuts ball club and Bill DeWitt owned a chunk of the franchise. Bill Veckel came along to buy the Browns, lost the bid and eventually sold the club to Baltimore interests when the great thinkers of baseball squeezed him out of the game temporarily.

In all the maneuvering that excited Veckel, DeWitt was the beneficiary of temporarily by the wealthy New York Yankees. He drew a pay check in the Yankee book and was soon departed to become the major leagues' director of a program to help the minor leagues.

Nobody could help the minors, as everybody well knew. But from that position, DeWitt maneuvered himself into the Tigers' general management and vice presidency when the fact of a three-section syndicate owning the Tigers backed him.

The Tigers under DeWitt faltered as Tiger clubs before him. There's one thing about the Tigers—it's very difficult to hurt the club very much.

After the flurry of the trade of Harvey Kuhn to Cleveland or Rocky Colavito, the Tigers settled down to comfortable mediocrity and the second division.

FETZER was informed of DeWitt's unpopularity around Briggs Stadium—it was "Tiger" territory yet, although DeWitt engineered the name change—and the new Tiger master dimly recognized that.

And now DeWitt's riding high again. But one must wait with interest to see how this time the Fetzer agree with Redlegs' manager Freddie Hutchinson, once a Tiger manager and a man who would explode boiling point. Freddie may lowest at any time.

Most of DeWitt's baseball life has been in close association with losers. The second division appears his habitat. Cincinnati fits the pattern.

But, if DeWitt lasts only a few years at Cincinnati, he will have those new clubs—the Los Angeles Angels and Washington Senators. And the National League will have new teams in New York and Houston in another year. Bill could go on forever.

Word from the college football recruiting wars indicate that Notre Dame is seeking high school talent with an almost no-holds-barred approach. And the University of Michigan is after the boys with a vigor long missing in Ann Arbor.

This is the time of year when the battle for high school seniors strong of spirit, fast of foot, and appropriately muscled reaches its most ferocious pace.

Some of college football's most aggressive recruiters are somewhat amazed at the determination of Notre Dame and Michigan.

Apparently, Notre Dame's new administration favors football, so Joe Kuharich and his staff are grabbing talent everywhere. Don't be surprised if a large number of Negro boys strengthen the Irish freshman squad next fall.

NOTRE DAME is fighting to regain its prestige at a time when college football is beset sorely. The Irish no longer draw capacity crowds wherever they play. The glamor of the name of Notre Dame has disappeared.

Michigan, too, must realize that only a champion can draw big crowds. Another football dynasty is worried.

Within the next 10 years many schools will drop big-time football for financial reasons. Those who survive must win. And talent is the most logical answer.

So those who want to stay on top must go out and get the boys. It's that simple despite all the platitudes issued by college athletic officials.

Quick Takes Part In Dorm Swimming

Ken Quick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Quick of 4839 Inveray, Bloomfield Township, was a member of the second place medley relay team at the Michigan State University dormitory swimming championships.

Ken is a 20-year-old sophomore and is majoring in forestry. He is a graduate of Seaholm High School.



His Domain Stirs Talk

At Watrous, club pro at the Oakland Hills Country Club, looks over the course on which 150 of the world's leading pros will compete in June. The Birmingham site for the 61st National Open is again the talk of the town and country. Ten years ago, when the Open was last held at Oakland Hills, golf course architect Robert Trent Jones radically changed the course. Golfers moaned and scores soared, but the old master, Ben Hogan, shot a sizzling 67 in his last 18 holes to win the title.

Netters Open Area Spring Season

By JOE CADARU Sports Editor

Terms teams from Southfield and Bloomfield Hills will herald the official opening of the Birmingham area high school spring sports season.

The two schools will meet Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at the Hills courts.

Half an hour later, the Baron baseball squad will host Cranbrook in their first ball game of the season.

LL Tryouts Will Begin Saturday

Tryouts for the Birmingham Little League begin Saturday at four locations.

American League Competitors will try out at Pierce School, Pierce north of 14 Mile; Continental, Eton Field, Lincoln east of Eton; Federal, Derby Junior High, Derby east of Adams; and National at Poppleton Field, east of Hunter and north of Oakland.

Only boys who will be eight years old on or before July 31 will be eligible for T-ball competition. They will try out at 10:30 a.m. April 15, at the respective fields.

FOR MAJOR league eligibility, a boy must not be less than nine years old on or before July 31 and not over 12 by the same date.

League officials expect nearly 2,400 boys to enroll for 1961 competition. Last year, about 70 per cent of all boys 8-12 in the district participated in Little League baseball.

HILLS NET Coach Chuck Robinson will send Bucky Walters and Steve Wilson in the number one doubles position. "They should be one of the better doubles combinations in this area," said Robinson. "They work real well together."

At the number one singles position will probably be Jack Davis, a senior.

Other notables among the 25 boys out for tennis at Bloomfield Hills are seniors, Bob Kiras, Jim Odel, Bob Green and Jim Lovett; juniors, John Gerhard and Bob N. Smith; sophomores, Bruce Gould, Jason Hall and Tom Bayer.

ROBINSON SAID he plans to let (See NETTERS, 7-E)

The Birmingham Eccentric SPORTS

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Local Trackmen Await 30th Mansfield Relays

Trackmen from Seaholm and Bloomfield Hills High School will be among the expected 1,200 athletes in the annual Mansfield (Ohio) Relays, April 14-15.

Meet Director Harry Mehock is looking for a field which may surpass the 124 teams and 1,153 athletes of last year.

The event will be the 30th renewal of the high school track and field classic. It is the largest of its kind in the country.

Among the outstanding accomplishments of last year's meet was the 55-78 loss by shot putter Bradford Pritchett of Pontiac. He later tossed the shot better than 61 feet.

SEAHOLM COACH Kemp Ambrose said that the Mansfield Relays "is one of the finest meets for schoolboys. It provides the ultimate in competition. We're going with our best boys and hope to do our best."

Among the notables who have competed in the relays are Olympic "super-star" Jesse Owens who owns the Mansfield records in the 100-yard dash (9.6) and 220-yard dash (21.2) and Warren (Tex) Cawley, of Farmington, who holds the high hurdles (14.3) and 180-yard low hurdles (19.0) marks.

Ambrose and Hills Coach Don Hoff will travel with the athletes.

Three Riders Win 9 Firsts

Three young Bloomfield Open Hunt riders Saturday won nine first places in the 15 class Flint Riding Club Schooling Show at Flint.

Debbie Wilson marked a perfect day with four blue ribbons. She placed first in the 12 and under on-the-flat class, intermediate horsemanship over fences, green working hunter and working hunter hack.

Bob Lambert scored four firsts and three second places. He won the 13-18 on-the-flat, pair class (riding with Connie Hunter of Ann Arbor), handy working hunter and open working hunter.

ROUNDING out the list of local winners, Larry Griefen came in ahead in the advanced jumping over fences. He also took thirds in junior open hunter and junior working hunter and a fourth in the 13-18 on-the-flat.

Bowls Triplicate

Len Thul, 1295 Lakeside, Birmingham, Mich., rolled his way into the record books by registering a 170 triplicate in his singles event recently at the 58th American Bowling Congress tournament at Cobo Hall, Detroit. Thul's triplicate earned him an ABC shoulder patch and various other prizes.

'The Monster' Still Tough For 1961 National Open

He's nearing the half-century mark—but he's still the sentimental favorite.

Ramton Ben Hogan, who will be 49 in August, ten years ago won the National Open at Oakland Hills when he "finally brought the monster to its knees."

The monster? Oakland Hills' course, one of the toughest in the country.

Jones probably designed the course so it could be played in part by figures and the golf stars were beginning to think they weren't going well unless they shot 68 and 69's all the time.

THE STORY'S the same now, a decade later.

Jones may yet be the man to beat in this year's Open which returns to the Oakland Hills course in Birmingham. He considers the layout here his masterpiece.

"At the time of the 1951 Open, Hogan did not like the course, nor the treatment of the course," said Jones. "Since then he has come to realize and has often expressed (See GOLF, 6-E)

B'ham Jets Take Off To State Tournaments

Groves' prep basketball squad didn't fare too well this past season, but the faculty has craved most of the hurt.

The Birmingham Jets, made up in great part of Groves faculty, last week defeated East Detroit 61-52 to win the recreation basketball district championship.

Winners of eight districts Friday and Saturday will meet in Battle Creek to determine the state champion as sponsored by the Recreation Association of Michigan.

B'HAM 91-ST. CLAIR SHORES 57

Ballman	12
Howley	6
Kelly	15
Penetrack	1
Goldsmith	4
John Burkart	1
Jim Burkart	1
Mirer	1
Totals	57

Mat Card Adds 'Bulldog' Brower

Chairman Robert Schaul, 1623 Webster, has announced that matchmaker Bert Ruby has added another top-notch match to the April 22 wrestling program for the benefit of the Birmingham Kiwanis children's program.

The popular "Mr. Michigan" Dick Garza, will meet strong mat "Bulldog" Brower in the semi-final bout.

"Losing Larry" Chene had been previously signed to meet "Brute" Bernard in the feature match of the evening.

The wrestling program will be held at Groves High School at 8 p.m., April 22nd. This will be the first wrestling program ever held in the Birmingham area.

B'HAM 65-EAST DETROIT 64

Ballman	12
Howley	6
Kelly	15
Penetrack	1
Goldsmith	4
John Burkart	1
Jim Burkart	1
Mirer	1
Totals	64

Manager Purchases Northwood Lanes

Jim Milford, former manager of Northwood Lanes bowling, 234 N. Hunter, Birmingham, has purchased the business from former owner, Frank Hockstine.

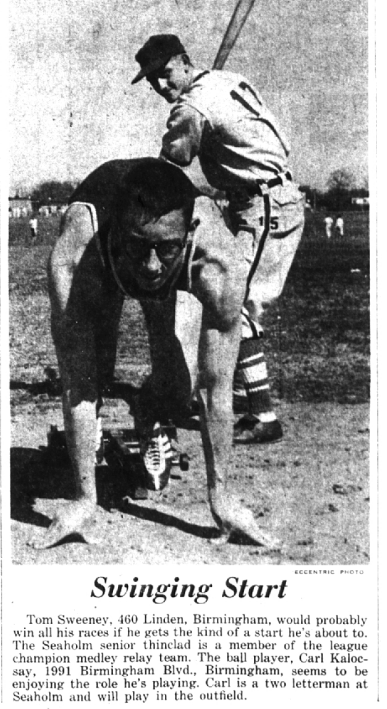
Milford said that a complete remodeling will take place. New name of the bowling alley is Jim Milford's Northwood Lanes.

Other members of the squad are: James Burkart, John Burkart, Robert Goldsmith, Richard Moseley, Carl Penetrack, Soerates Roloff and Don Weichert.



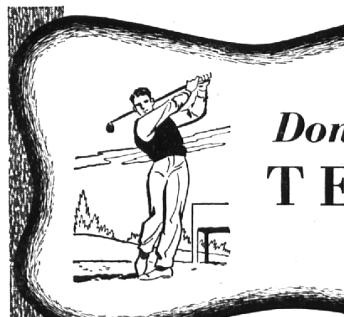
Leading the Field

Bobby Lambert, representing Bloomfield event. He competes in the 13-18-year-old Open Hunt, was the talk of the recent Flint Riding Club Schooling Show. He won four firsts and three second places in the 10 class



Swinging Start

Tom Sweeney, 460 Linden, Birmingham, would probably be all his race if he gets the kind of a start he's about to. The Seaholm senior thinned is a member of the league champion medley relay team. The ball player, Carl Kalocsay, 1991 Birmingham Blvd., Birmingham, seems to be enjoying the role he's playing. Carl is a two letterman at Seaholm and will play in the outfield.



Golfers... Don't Miss TEE-TALK

Starting April 13, a new feature "Tee-Talk" will be added to The Birmingham Eccentric's sports section.

The weekly golf column will consist of news, views and reviews of area golf by leading professionals and the sports editor.

Club news and reports from the public links will be a regular part of "Tee-Talk."

Tearing off the column will be Birmingham area club professionals.

Up first at the tee will be Tam O'Shanter's Warren Orlick, who last year was named the Professional Golfers Association's pro-of-the-year. Orlick is a Birmingham resident.

APRIL 13th

Pro Warren Orlick

The first Michigan professional to win the PGA's highest award, Warren Orlick survived a field of 4800 pros and topped 19 sectional finalists to be named 1960's PGA pro-of-the-year.

Orlick not only teaches golf, but has conducted cadet clinics and veterans' rehabilitation clinics; junior golfers' programs and community talks.

Next week in "Tee talk" he'll give his ideas on that fundamental part of golfing, the drive.

Every Week In The Birmingham Eccentric