

This Is Where It Starts . . .

If you look hard enough you'll see a golfer one of the most difficult tests of golf. The driving the ball at Oakland Hills' first tee. National Open started here this morning at 8 a.m.

CROSSFIRE

Veck's Loyalty To Game

By LOU CHIESI

Baseball's elder statesman often has donned their robes of wisdom and ruled against Bill Veck, the man in a sports shirt and short sleeves who has displayed 47 years an open-collared enthusiasm for baseball.

On one occasion, Veck was virtually exiled from the major leagues—after his bitter feud with the old St. Louis Browns. The great minds which ruled baseball at the time did not like midgets pinch-hitting.

In time, Veck was forced to sell his interest in the franchise to Baltimore. But before leaving, Veck started the chain of events which eventually led to the move of the majors to the West Coast and expansion of both leagues into 10-team circuits.

Veck threatened to drag Milwaukee for his Browns franchise, thereby forcing the Perini interests to move the Boston National League club to Milwaukee, which they operated as a minor league franchise. Thus, Veck forced the majors into a city which has proved a uranium mine—against their wishes.

AFTER THE PERINIS began bagging the loot in Milwaukee, other clubs began moving. The Milwaukee experience did not escape Walter O'Malley, a man who understands a couple of million dollars, and his doggies. He finally departed Brooklyn for Los Angeles, dragging the Giants behind them to San Francisco.

All this upset baseball's mediocrities. Veck called them the most of the blame. A clown, they called him.

It's no secret that many gloated when Veck was evicted out of buying the Detroit franchise. He was still on the blacklist, which was graying in color at the time as more than a few baseball chieftains began to encounter money trouble.

The mossbacks who owned clubs at the time operated under the theory that the great American public owed allegiance to the grand old game of baseball. Open the gates and collect their due.

IN TIME VECK was allowed to take over the ailing Chicago White Sox franchise, after Frank Lane had started a revival of the Chicago South Side. Bill installed a scoreboard that lights up and explodes bombs, and awarded the club up to a pennant winner, and the fans began to storm to a wash-up on Comiskey Park, previously called the dirtiest park in the nation.

ALL OF WHICH leads up to the recent news that Veck has peddled his interests to partners in the White Sox venture, A. W. Allyn Hank Greenberg, Veck's sidekick in the combine with Allyn, who has sold his share to Allyn but remains with the club as front office boss.

Veck explained his sale briefly. He's in tough shape physically and hasn't been able to participate in the operation of the club. He doesn't believe in absentee ownership, and so he's stepping out.

Unlike many owners in the game, Bill doesn't believe in operating the club as a toy or piece of prestige, or a tax dodge.

The so-called clown, the circus man, has displayed a greater loyalty to the game than those who have so often reviled him. Baseball once thought Allyn had lied of Veck. The game now needs him more than ever. There are no rugged days ahead. Expansion has its problems.

THERE WILL BE other franchises, and more new cities in the major leagues. There aren't many Vecks around to get the customers excited. And there aren't many of the Veck stamp who know how to build permanent winners. Significantly, the White Sox slumped without his active guidance.

In all the furor about Veck's clowning, many forgot that Bill is one of the soundest baseball men ever. He built a pennant winner in Cleveland and he did the same in Chicago. Veck has been the only front office strategist to consistently open the hold of the New York Yankees on the American League pennant. This often is overlooked.



Prediction: A thin, young golfer with smashing drives, infallible iron shots and near-perfect putts will win the 61st National Open Golf Tournament.

The heat will take its toll of the more rotund enthusiasts. Saturday's 36 holes will slow down the elder linksters and the course will take care of the others.

But can a thin man walk the 16 miles to the hole? It's estimated that he'll walk 16 miles during 72 holes of play each day. Can a young man take the pressure of the "toughest test of all?"

JACK NICKLAUS, now 21, but 20-years-old when he finished second to Arnold Palmer last year in the Open at Cherry Hills in Denver, has most of the stated attributes, but one.

The flaxen-haired youngster is stocky, not fat, just stocky. But he can hit the ball a mile.

AND TALK about youngsters . . . how about Pete Green from our own backyard, Franklin.

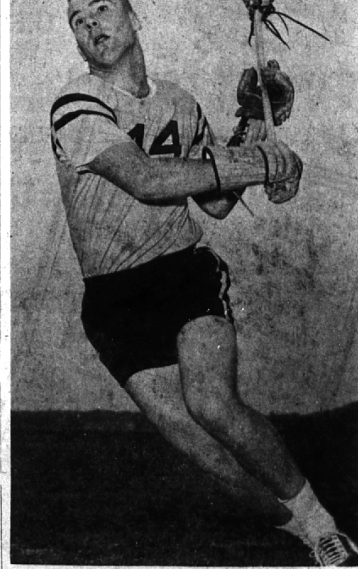
A hurried call to the press tent at the tourney site had most of the officials scurrying through registrations. They commented: "If Green's only 20-years-old he's got to be the youngest in the tournament."

Pete qualified at Washington, D.C., nearest qualifying site to his academic campus at North Carolina, where he enters his senior year this fall.

AND WHILE you scan the list of groupings for the first two days of play the name William Ezinkoff strikes a familiar note.

Oh, yes! Remember him? I'll bet Ted Lindsay formerly of the Detroit Red Wings hockey squad does. Some of the wildest fights in the history of the game took place between Ted and "Wild Bill."

But evidently Bill isn't as wild on the golf course as he was on the ice . . . he qualified for the national championship.



Versatile Franklinite

George Huffman Jr., of Franklin, letterman in football at the Naval Academy and an All-American in lacrosse, will appear on a taped program tonight at 7 p.m. on Channel 2. A son of George will accept a Navy commission after graduation. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Huffman, 26590 scenic.

. . . And This Is Where It Ends

Well protected is the cup which lies on a few other nearby. The tough course is in-18th green at Oakland Hills. A huge sand filtrated with traps and bunkers, five-inch trap is directly in front of the green and is 6,907 feet in length.

Like Father, Like Son? Bill Farrell Hopes So

By ELIZABETH VAN LOAN Special Writer

Bill Farrell, the good-looking 25-year-old son of Johnny Farrell who defeated Bobby Jones in the 1928 Open, arrived in Birmingham Sunday night on duplicating his father's record.

Thirty-three years ago, at Olympia Field in Chicago, Johnny Farrell, tied with Bobby Jones, brought in a score of 145 for a 36-hole playoff, one stroke less than the champion.

Since 1934, the senior Farrell has been the pro at Balfour Golf Club in Springfield, N. J., where Bill and his older brother, Jim, assist him.

JIM, WHO hasn't as yet tried the Open, spent last summer as pro at the Newport Country Club in Rhode Island, where he gave lessons to the game's most celebrated amateur, Dwight Eisenhower.

This is Bill's first Open. We met him, Monday afternoon, as he came in from his first practice round, drenched from the downpour which had sent everyone scurrying for cover an hour earlier.

"Don't ask me what my score was," he said with a smile.

WE CAN report, however, that he has won New Jersey's Orange Mountain Championship, finished second last fall at El Caminito, Oceanide, Cal., and placed among the first five in the last New Jersey State Open along with pro, Stan Mosel and Wes Ellis, Jr., also competing at Oakland Hills, this week.

Should Bill Farrell capture the 1961 Open, it would be the first time in the history of the event that a father and son have been winners.

There are many who are rooting for Slammmin' Sam to take the one crown that has eluded him down the years and gamers who'd like to see Ben Hogan bring "this monster to its knees" a second time and become the Open's only five-time winner.

But, nothing could be more apropos, this weekend, than Bill Farrell's return to New Jersey with the coveted honor. Sunday is Father's Day!

Fathers play a big role in the system also, by coaching and managing the teams. Many a dad is forced to recall his childhood ball playing days and to study up on the latest coaching techniques.

ONE CRITICISM of the Little League system has been that the rivalries develop between fathers coaching the different ball teams. Hot arguments sometimes take place between dads and the umpires.

Michigan joined the official Little League Baseball. The state's interest hit its peak in 1959 when the Hamtramck National League All-Stars won five World Series after rolling through (See LEAGUERS, 7-E)

Bobby Lambert Takes 3 Firsts

Thirteen-year-old Bobby Lambert gained more riding honors during last weekend's Grand Rapids Horse Show.

Representing the Bloomfield Open Hunt, Bobby took three firsts, three seconds and a third. Events won are Equitation over Fences, 13-and-under, Equitation on the Flat and Junior Working Hunter.

Bobby won the Michigan Hunt Perpetual Trophy and the Junior Hunt Championship of the show. He, along with many others from the BOH, will compete in the Detroit Hunt next week at the Open Hunt.

Swimming, Track Top 1st 'Olympic' Games

The Birmingham Optimist Club's first annual Optimist Age Group Olympics will be held Saturday at Seaholm High School.

The event is open to all boys and girls 13-19 years of age residing in the Birmingham and Bloomfield areas. Participants may not be letter winners, except for two events.

Proceeds go to the United States Olympic Committee to send a Michigan athlete to the '64 Games. The Seaholm High School physical education department is co-sponsor of the event.

SWIMMING EVENTS begin at 10 a.m. and track events start at 2 p.m. Swimming events include 50-yard free, fly, back, and breast styles.

ENTRY BLANK wish to enter the 1st Annual Optimist Club Age Group Olympics. See Age Event No. School

Also included is a 100-yard free open to all Michigan residents and letter winners is the olympic development 200-yard free style.

Track events are the 100-yard dash, high jump, distance baseball throw, 100-yard low hurdles, and running broad jump.

THE ONLY track event open to all state residents and letter winners is the olympic development 100-yard low hurdle.

Ebbson will be awarded to the first six places in each event. Medals will be awarded to the first six places in the olympic development events.

Entries may be turned in until free m. Meet time.

Michigan's STRUCTURE is divided into 8 districts, four of which cover the metropolitan Detroit area—which include Birmingham. Sixty-three franchised leagues, 380 major league teams, and 15,000 boys are active in the area.

Each district has its own commissioner, who makes up the Little League Congress, the official voice of the organization.

Each league has four to eight completely uniformed major league teams, with 13-15 players per team. Behind each league is a "farm system" of minor league teams for younger boys with less experience.

Fathers play a big role in the system also, by coaching and managing the teams. Many a dad is forced to recall his childhood ball playing days and to study up on the latest coaching techniques.

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Seaholm High School's combined sports record percentage for the past three years is 736, reports J. Jay Myers.

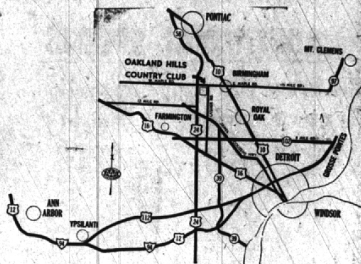
The track team topped all other sports with a 24-1 record. The team won six league trophies and five invitational championships.

In track, swimming, cross-country, and golf the Seaholm teams have placed in the top five positions at most State Championship meets.

SEAHOLM WON 26 Eastern Michigan League trophies during the three years, while the six other schools participating won seven.

Entries may be turned in until free m. Meet time.

Signature of parent or coach



How to Get There?

You don't need to be an expert navigator to get to the Oakland Hills Country Club where the 61st National Open Golf Tournament is under way today. Just follow this map.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SPORTS

PAGE 8 JUNE 15, 1961

Dodgers Top National With Only Shutout, 2-0

The Indians, lacking off like their big league namesakes, paced the American Major League last week, beating the Red Sox, 17-6.

The Tigers, however, remain in first with a 4-1 record. In other league action, the Cardinals of the National Major League beat the Dodgers, 2-0, in the week's only shutout.

The highest scoring was in the The Ball League where the National League's Billermeakers beat the Titans, 25-5, and the Continental-Federal League's Buckeyes outscored the Tartars, 25-15.

BIRMINGHAM MAJOR LEAGUE AMERICAN

INDIANS 17-Red Sox 6
Tigers 4-Dodgers 0
Phillies 3-Braves 2
Yankees 3-Reds 2

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

NATIONAL
Braves 4-Phillies 1
Cardinals 2-Dodgers 0

CONTINENTAL
Spartans 4-Titans 1
Hawkeyes 3-Braves 2
Wolverines 3-Phillies 2

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

FEDERAL
Seals 5-Mudhens 3
Sawtooths 3-Phillies 2
White Sox 4-Braves 1
Mudhens 2-Phillies 1

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

SEE (DODGERS, 7-E)

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