

# CROSSFIRE

## Where To Now, Dear Tigers?

By LOU CHIESI

The wayfarers returning from the Florida baseball camps apparently agree that the Detroit Tigers will be very fortunate to finish fifth in the upcoming American League pennant chase. That would be a first division berth, thanks to the expansion of the league to a 10-club circuit.

If the Tigers can't finish in the first division in a 10-team league, don't forsake them. After all, the American and National Leagues figure to become 12-team circuits within a few years. Then the Tigers can end up in sixth and make the grade.

It's an secret of the ages that the Tigers have a minor league infield, minor league catching, a strong outfield and a pitching staff regarded as one of the best in the league.

Obviously, the Tigers must receive excellent pitching all through the expanded 162-game schedule. This is higher than any other major league challenge for an even higher position. But a realistic view of the club demands a more realistic analysis of the club's pitching prospects. It isn't heartening.

FIRST, THE pitching staff will be backed by a very inexperienced infield. Two minor leaguers up there, then, the former Steve Boros and second basemen Jake Woods, can be expected to make mistakes.

First baseman Norm Cash is still trying to learn the position, having been an outfielder in his limited career. And shortstop Chico Fernandez, who can field the position, is the only one who happens to be in the mood, now has a longer season in which to get into one of his lackadaisical moods.

The Tiger infield reserves are Manager Phil Cuzzi, who has little to use for bench strength. That means the Tiger pitching staff must bear down all the time. The infield can be expected to get pitchers in trouble.

SECOND, the Tigers possess almost no established relief pitching. This factor also throws more pressure on the starters. Few clubs can advance far without strong relief hurling and the Tigers this season appear weaker than ever in that department.

Thus, starters Jim Banning, Frank Cary, Paul Foytack and Don Mossi face trouble. If Phil Reagan, the rookie, can come through as a fifth starter or occasional reliever, the staff will be much strengthened. But the pitching remains very thin. An injury to one first-line hurler could crack the entire staff.

And if Foytack can't come back strongly after a lost season in 1959, the pressure on Banning, Cary and Mossi may be too much.

ONE NEED NOT be overly pessimistic to imagine the Tigers falling apart in mid-season. It is very possible the club will be fighting to hold on to its spots in Boston and the two new clubs, Los Angeles and Washington.

With Chang and Cuzzi sitting on the bench as a fourth infielder, the Tigers may yet be forced into a trade for another pitcher or seasoned infielder. Maxwell isn't exactly powerful trade bait but he's expendable and might bring the Tigers at least a journeyman in return.

THE NERVOUS citizens of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., may be able to smile after swooning on the debt left by the college kids on their annual spring vacation spree down that way.

Next season the New York Yankees will train at Fort Lauderdale. A American League champions are leaving St. Petersburg for their base of many seasons, to invade Florida's East Coast city of canals.

The Yankees will add another jewel to Florida's Gold Coast.

And the good people of Fort Lauderdale may feel heart. The latest vote among college students, developing rapidly, is annual trips to run with the bulls in the streets of Pamplona. In time, perhaps the college crowd will forsake Fort Lauderdale for Pamplona. Thus, peace and quiet of a sort may return to the Gold Coast.

State high school basketball championships won by three Detroit area schools last weekend further pinpoint the foolishness of the Detroit public school system in denying its high school basketball teams a chance to play in the annual tournaments.

Detroit Catholic Central, Gross Pointe St. Paul and River Rouge apparently suffered no ill effects from winning championships. The players were not contaminated nor overworked.

The arguments against competing in state tournaments are pathetic and ridiculous.

One Detroit school official opposes state tournament play because it might cost tax money. In what way? The tournament gate pays for team expenses.

THE ARGUMENT that too many players and students must travel too far for tourney games doesn't hold up. District and regional games, and even quarterfinal contests, are played within a half-hour drive of most schools.

Only when a team progresses as far as the semi-finals in Lansing must players and students travel any real distance, and then some 90 miles.

The Detroit public schools are Class A schools. Only one or possibly two, could reach the semi-final round and make the Lansing trip.

Otherwise, state tournament games are no different from regular season contests.



Back in Service

This 1926 Graham Brothers fire engine was once the scourge of area fires. After resting peacefully in the garage of Rocky Craig, local real estate, the tired pumper will soon be put back into use—but as an amusement for children who go to Springdale Park. Ryan donated the engine to the city, which will keep it at Springdale for children to play on.

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## Groves Honors Athletes, Coaches at Sports Dinner

By JOE CADARIU Sports Editor

LAST TUESDAY, Groves High honored its swimming and basketball players and coaches with a winter sports dinner.

When presenting varsity letters, race Coach Tom Carlson informed the parents and students gathered in the school cafeteria that Dick Van Housen would be back next year, he's moving to Holland.

He also stated that he would have to mail Fred Hertzberg's letter, since Fred had already moved to Illinois.

TO ADD to Carson's troubles, leading scorer Mike Bearden will not be back next year. Because he missed a year and a half of school during a childhood illness, Bearden will be coverage for high school competition.

Rev. Hugh Clifford Ward, pastor of the Franklin Community Church, stated the ceremonies by introducing guests. He then turned over the program to swim Coach Jim Gilster.

Gilster commended the team on their fine showing this year, even though they were only 2-71 for the year. "The reason I'm so glad we're looking at this year," he said, "is we improved from meet to meet. I think we did fine, considering this was our first year in competition."

GILSTER AWARDED letters to 12 swimmers. They are: Donald (See GROVES, 7-E)

## Mavericks Finish First

Bloomfield Open Hunt's Mavericks took first place in Saturday's A category of the Junior Olympic team jumping competition at the Hills club.

The winning team was composed of Lucy Bates, Larry Gierke, Sue Foley and Peter Foley.

Nailing down second place was Grant's Irishmen from Chuck Grant's Stables. Members are Sue Woodhouse, Chris Jones, Allison Cram, Rick Cram.

Toledo Bombers finished third.

IN THE B category for intermediate riders and horses, Toledo Sparks came out on top, with Sally May, Patti Klug, Chris Paracheck and Chris Black leading the way.

Flintstones, from the Flint Riding Club, were second led by Meg Woodmeltin, Sue Bronson, Sue Bishop and Mary Davison.

Other teams were Flint Checkmates; third; BOH Colts; fourth; BOH Bets; fifth; Grant's Shamrocks; sixth and BOH Yearlings; seventh.

IN CLASS A individual competition, Peter Polony from Flint, Larry Gierke, second; Lucy Bates, third; and Allison Cram, fourth.

In the B category, Sue Blahin finished first, with Kay Tuoheti second, Mike Black third and Janet Polk fourth.

During the afternoon's events the 44 participants took a total of 1,258 jumps.



Inter-City Champs

Lathrup Village's cage team, which won 21 straight games, include the following: Burtin Ackles (15), Bill Collins (3), Gordie Dye (8), Mark Lobanoff (7), Jim McGaffin (6), John Ruskic (10), Ed Schlaff (5), Ned Simmons (12), and Phil Svalya (4). Not pictured are Jim Caddell and Tom Sweet. In the foreground are the mentors: Al Lobanoff, Frank Watta and John Chekaway.

# Maple Trackmen Take 5th In 6th Annual Huron Relays

By JOE CADARIU Sports Editor

"Now we've got to go to work," said Sealhorn's track coach Kermit Ambrose after Saturday's Huron Relays at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

The Maple trackists lost the title they had won last year, and finished fifth.

Manfield (Ohio) High School, getting a triple win from Henry Weaver, took the Class A division of relays with 35 1/2 points. Flint Northern was second with 28 followed by Ann Arbor 27, Waterford 25 and defending champion Birmingham 24.

THE SWIFT 240 senior entered three events and won the broad jump (21-3/4), 60-yard dash (5.3) and 65-yard low hurdles (1:7.8).

The Maples, who have lost a dual meet since 1955, began regular dual competition April 13 at Bloomfield Hills.

Only individual winner for Sealhorn was Roger Mason who was involved in a three-way tie for first with a 12-foot pole vault.

THE LOCAL sprint medley relay saw the 880-yard relay team of Pete Henderson, Purvis, Bill Henderson and Sweeney who took second with a 1:36.1, one tenth of a second off the school mark. Flint Northern won the event.

Big Bob Teichman threw the shot 51-9 for a fourth in that event. Bill Fitchett led in the steeplechase trial won the shot-put with a heave of 55-9.

Other winners were Jerry Page, Monroe, High Jump, 6-1 and Denzil Waterford, 65-yard low hurdles, :08.5.

FINAL CLASS A STANDINGS:

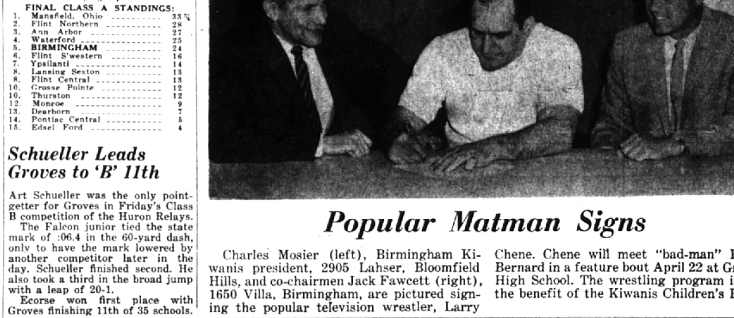
1. Mansfield, Ohio	33 1/2
2. Ann Arbor	27
3. Ann Arbor	27
4. BIRMINGHAM	24
5. Flint Northern	24
6. Flint Northern	14
7. Ypsilanti	14
8. Lansing	14
9. Flint Central	10
10. Thurston	10
11. Monroe	10
12. Dearborn	10
13. Pontiac Central	10
14. Edsel Ford	4

Art Schueller was the only point-getter for Groves in Friday's Class B competition of the Huron Relays.

The Falcon junior led the state mark of :06.4 in the 60-yard dash, only to have the mark lowered by another competitor later in the day. Schueller finished second. He also took a third in the broad jump with a leap of 20-1.

Coarse won first place with Groves finishing 11th of 35 schools.

Charles Mosier (left), Birmingham Kiwanis president, 2905 Lahser, Bloomfield Hills, and co-chairmen Jack Pavocott (right), 1650 Villa, Birmingham, are pictured signing the popular television wrestler, Larry Chene. Chene will meet "bad-man" Brute Bernard in a feature bout April 22 at Groves High School. The wrestling program is for the benefit of the Kiwanis Children's Fund.



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