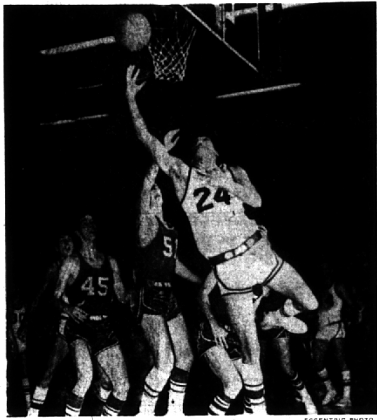


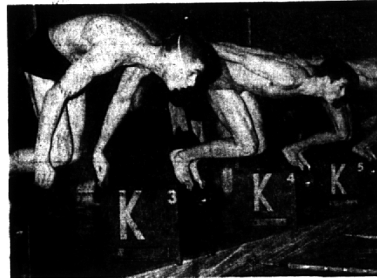
Top Sports Events That Made News In 1963



BRUCE NYBERG (24), Seaholm's cage captain, puts the cap on an exciting year of sports as he lays one up after passing under the basket against Groves. The game, played Friday night, ended in a 47-36 Maple victory and brought an end to high school sports for 1963. Groves, trying to slow the game down, came within seven points but couldn't catch Seaholm in the fourth quarter. Area high schools resume action next Friday.



JUBILATION FILLED the Bloomfield Hills shower room in May of 1963 after the Barons had captured the Wayne-Oakland League baseball championship by defeating Clarenceville, 5-1. It was the Hills' 11th straight triumph after dropping the first



THIS ACTION took place in the Eastern Michigan League swim championships in March. Tom Coupe (second from left) of Seaholm set a new EML record in the 100-free style with a time of 50.9 as the Maples won the league title. Exactly one week later in East Lansing, Seaholm emerged with the state Class A crown.



TWO OF THE WORLD'S greatest golfers, Gary Player (left), and Arnold Palmer played an exhibition match in August at Orchard Lake Country Club. Both golfers shot one-under-par 71's. The real winner was a new boy's ranch at Camp Oakland's Oxford branch, to which all proceeds were donated. Mrs. Ben D. Wills, chairman, is pictured with the stars.



KEN HEFT (20), Seaholm's star halfback slashes through the Groves line for considerable yardage in the September football opener for the two schools. Seaholm won a tough, close game, 12-0, as Heft scored both TD's. Groves went on to capture the Northwest Suburban League crown, while Seaholm finished second in the EML. Heft, besides being voted Back-of-the-Year by the Eccentric, also won the state Class A diving championship.

Athletics 'Come of Age' In Area High Schools

By DICK ZEMMIN
Sports Editor

With just five days left in 1963, most of the cheering, shouting and screaming that was so prevalent on the local sports scene throughout the year, has subsided.

There were disappointments, of course, but a glance backward at some of the major sports events in the area is enough to serve notice that the quality of athletics in the Birmingham-Bloomfield locale is steadily on the rise.

It might be said that 1963 was a year when high school sports "came of age." The level of competition, both in victory and defeat, reached a point of near-perfection.

FOR SHEER drama and excitement, the nod for top sports story of the year must go to Seaholm's determined drive enroute to capturing the state Class A swimming title.

The Maples, co-defending champs with Grosse Pointe a year ago, didn't settle for a tie in 1963. They piled up 98.6 points compared to runner-up Ferndale when Roseville upset them.

Groves made probably the biggest jump in the field of athletics among the schools in the area. Their year-round improvement made for another top sports story in 1963.

The Falcon swim team, over-

looked by some schools, surprised favored Thurston and captured the North Suburban League meet.

JIM KINNISON, the youthful Falcon football coach, brought his team from the bottom of the league in 1962 to win the first Northwest Suburban League title with a fine 6-1-1 record.

In the spring of the year, Falcon track coach Ray Vavruska led his team to its second straight Tri-River championship.

Bloomfield schools also shared the limelight in the world of sports in 1963. Bloomfield and West Bloomfield finished in a tie for the Wayne-Oakland League basketball title, after sharing the football crown in 1962.

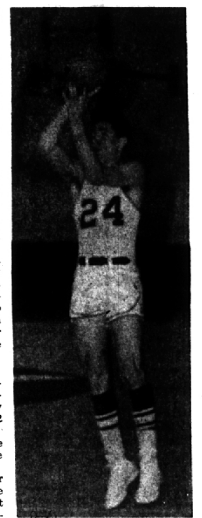
Bob Richards of Bloomfield won the individual state cross-country run in record time and the school's baseball team netted the Wayne-Oakland baseball championship which enabled Bloomfield to win the league's All-Sports trophy for the first time in the history of the school.

ALL IN ALL, 1963 was a banner year for sports in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. And, early signs point to another fine 12 months in 1964.

Brother Rice has a chance to tie for the basketball lead after the first of the year.

Cranbrook, unbeaten in four starts on the hardwood, could be a top contender for the area's best basketball "five." Bloomfield is unbeaten in its league and first co-leader Clarkson Jan. 3, while Seaholm is only one game off the pace in the EML.

SO, AS 1963 comes to a close and a new year of sports begins, The Eccentric pauses to congratulate all the many fine coaches and players that have helped make this area a top sports center and wishes all good luck in '64.



IT WAS BACK in January when Groves' Russ Bitzer had a night all high school basketball players dream about. The six-foot senior went on a scoring binge against Oak Park and set a new Groves record in the process. Bitzer hit for 50 points, the highest in the area throughout the year, as he paced the Falcons to a 74-65 victory.

FROM MONTH TO MONTH

Year Provides Sports Thrills

Wednesday marks the end of another year and with it, the close of a hectic, but enjoyable 12 months of sports.

For some coaches and athletes, 1963 will hold fond memories of championships and come-backs. Other not-so-fortunate individuals look anxiously to 1964 and a chance to prove their "wait till next year" cries.

From the spectator's viewpoint, the past year abounded with exciting sports battles. Locally, young and old were treated to thrilling high school, grade school and recreational contests. In order to refresh our readers' memories, The Eccentric has prepared in chronological list of the top sports events that appeared in the paper throughout 1963.

January

In the first basketball action of 1963, West Bloomfield won the "battle of the Bloomfields" by downing the Barons, 58-49. Victory put the Lakers atop the Wayne-Oakland circuit alone and knocked unbeaten Bloomfield into second place.

Groves' senior sensation, Russ Bitzer, poured in a school-record 50 points as he led the Falcons to a 74-65 win over Oak Park.

TIM WOOD, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wood, of Bloomfield Hills, captured first place in the senior men's class of the Midwestern Sectional Ice Skating competition in Iowa.

Glenn Baldwin and Dennis Hohnke, local car enthusiasts, had their sports cars represented in the 12th annual "Sports Cars in Review" show at the Henry Ford Museum. Models were entered from seven countries.

Bloomfield Hills set a school scoring record enroute to trouncing Clarenceville, 88-37, in a Wayne-Oakland League game. Seaholm's powerful swim team racked up its 12nd consecutive tank triumph over a period of two seasons as the Maples defeated Hazel Park, 82-23.

CRANBROOK'S fine wrestling squad won its seventh meet of the year in eight starts as the Crane grapplers disposed of Lake Orion, 27-18.

February

Ferndale, eventual state class A cage champs, edged Seaholm, 50-

49, in the last second of play as Eagle Bob Palardeau notched the winning basket at the sound of the buzzer.

Groves and Seaholm tangled in a dual swim meet and in the course of the evening, two school and six pool records were broken. Seaholm defeated a strong Falcon squad, 69-36.

Dick Wood of Bloomfield Hills set a torrid pace on the slopes of Mt. Holly as Birmingham-Bloomfield skiers dominated competition in the Michigan Open Ski Meet.

Cranbrook guard Joe Kimble earned 40 points to lead the Crane quintet to two successive wins over Culver and Oak Park. The Cranes' two victories pushed the school's mark to 8-4 for the year.

GEOFF SMITH topped all boys in pacing Bloomfield Hills to first place in the interscholastic Invitational Ski Meet at Mt. Holly. Seaholm sprinted to a 57-52 win over upstart Roseville to clinch second place in the Eastern Michigan League basketball race between the state champ Ferndale.

March

West Bloomfield turned back Milford, 69-50, and Bloomfield upended Holly, 64-47, to bring about a first-place tie for the league crown between the two Bloomfield squads.

Seaholm, after fashioning an



JIM KINNISON, Groves' head football coach, is one person who will probably hate to see 1963 leave. After a disastrous 2-7 season last year, Kinnison directed the Falcons to a 6-1-1 record in 1963 and the first football crown in the newly-formed North Suburban League. For his fine performance, The Eccentric named Kinnison Coach-of-the-Year.

11-4 mark, and Bloomfield, both traveled to Pontiac and were eliminated from action by Pontiac Northern and Central, respectively. Cranbrook closed out its best season in 15 years, posting an 11-4 state and tying for the Interstate League basketball crown.

Groves surprised favored Thurston and Seaholm overpowered league opponents in the EML as both Birmingham schools captured their respective league swim championships.

BROTHER RICE and Groves, both striving for district basketball titles at Pontiac, fell to their opponents to drop the curtain on the local basketball scene.

Seaholm shook off Grosse Pointe, who tied for the state swim title with the Maples the year previous, and went on to win the state championship for the second year in a row. Ken Heft turned in his finest diving performance of his career to win the state title in that event.

Frank Whitney, a veteran of 17 years as athletic director of Birmingham Public Schools, was elected to the State Coaches Association Hall of Fame at Michigan State University.

April

Birmingham Seaholm placed in two events and chalked up 14 points to finish in fifth place at the annual Huron Relays in Ypsilanti.

"The Untouchables" — a quartet of top young riders at the Bloomfield Open Hunt, came from behind to win the A Junior Division Olympic competition.

JOHN AUGUSTEN, senior right-hander at Bloomfield Hills, fanned a total of 36 batters in two games, but the Barons lost both, one each to Clarkson and Holly.

Seaholm made the best showing of all Michigan schools in the mammoth Mansfield O. Relays, trying for 10th place with Worthington, O.

Brother Rice trackmen outdueled Shrine, 98-25½, as Warrior athletes broke six school records and served notice of their ability on the cinders.

Ken Tregenza, only a sophomore at DePaul University, was voted the most valuable varsity wrestler for the 1962-63 season.

May

Birmingham's Recreation Department, together with the Citizens Council for Youth Physical Education, presented the Physical Education Day at the Birmingham Convention Center. (See Sports Thrills, Page 5-2)



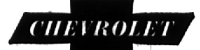
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