

Seaholm Thinclads Open Season at Huron Relays

By DAVE PHILPO
Sports Editor

Kermit Ambrose is an expert at dodging leading questions. The amiable track coach of long standing at Seaholm handed this one neatly last week: "Well, coach. Are you going to come up with another championship team this year?" He answered thusly:

"We had better balance last year. It all depends on if we can find somebody to do something."

CONSIDERING that Seaholm hasn't lost a dual meet in the Eastern Michigan League since 1958, with eight years as champions, it's pretty safe to say that Ambrose will come up with a pretty fair track squad.

Especially since he has 90 boys from which to "find somebody to do something."

Right now the coach and his boys are getting ready for the Huron Relays in Ypsilanti Saturday, an event that Seaholm has won twice. The Maples have made their most consistent showing in the pole vault, which they won every year from 1956 to 1962. Roger Massey tied in 1961 and came in first in 1962 at 12' 3".

Ambrose admits that he has some exceptional boys on the squad this year.

One of these is Jack Harvey, a shot putter, who as a junior last year, achieved a distance of 52' 10 1/4". In practice this year, he has bettered that mark considerably with a fine 56' effort.

ANOTHER senior, Gage Cooper, is the number two man in the same event. His best effort so far is 52' 1/4".

Harvey is rated as a top contender in the Huron events.

Ray Johnson, also a senior, has been clocked at 51.9 for the quarter mile, which Ambrose says is "exceptional for this early in the season."

Bill Schoen, a standout in cross country last fall, is the Maples' outstanding miler. He hopes to cut his current best time of 4:45 down to the low 30's. Schoen also will be used in the two-mile relay.

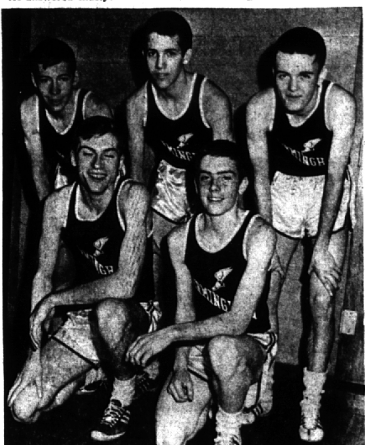
One of the busiest men at Ypsilanti will be senior Bob Drotter, who will compete in a 40-yard dash, the broad jump, the 880 relay and the sprint medley.

OTHERS competing in the Huron Relays will be Dave Kennedy, Tim Maker and James Dennis in the two-mile relay; Kim Bateman, John and Edson in the sprint medley relay; Jack Trumble, Howard Dubin and Johnson in the 880 relay; and Larry Bell, Ron Fry, John Kingscott and Bill Rohn in the mile relay.

Bill Bacheiler is entered in the mile run.

Ambrose has nine track lettermen back plus six more letter-winners from cross country.

After the Huron Relays, the Maples will compete in the Mansfield (O.) Relays. Their first league meet is at home against East Detroit April 23.



THESE FIVE Maples will carry the hopes of Seaholm in the two-mile relay Saturday at Ypsilanti in the Huron Relays. They are: (kneeling from left) Dave Kennedy and James Dennis. Standing, from left, are Tim Maker, Bill Schoen and Pat Richardson. About 90 men have tryouts for track practice this year. Seaholm will open its league slate against East Detroit April 23.

Bloomfield Baseball League Urges Prompt Registration

Preparing for a sixth successful season, opening May 1, the Bloomfield Baseball League, Inc., is now accepting player applications from boys and young men, ages 9 to 16, living in the Bloomfield School District, and the group advises immediate response.

The community's voluntary baseball program has grown so large—four leagues and 28 teams to accommodate 420 boys—that limited numbers of places on available teams will be filled on a first-come basis.

"Parents and sons are urged to make immediate applications," League President Earle W. Parcells, Jr., said, "because the scope of our program no longer permits last minute enrollments. Every boy who sincerely wants to play and applies early enough can have a place in the program, but latecomers will be left out."

APPLICATIONS have already been sent to all those who played last year, which heightens the emphasis on early enrollment.

Parcells emphasized that boys in the announced age brackets will have an opportunity to play competitive baseball, with proper equipment and safety equipment, in company with others of their own age and capabilities.

The 28 teams will be organized by age groups with special attention to 13 and 14-year old boys.

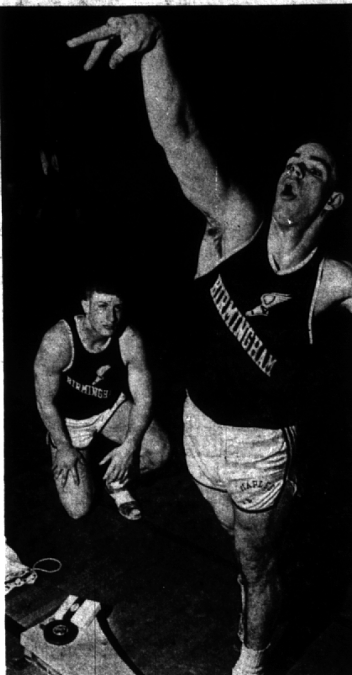
As a non-profit organization depending entirely on voluntary donations, the Bloomfield Baseball League counts heavily on the contributions that finance each boy.

All money received is spent for safety equipment, uniforms, bats and balls, insurance, trophies, maintenance of the playing fields, and services of pretrial umpires. However, no boy is barred from playing in this program because circumstances make a contribution a burden.

FIFTEEN boys will comprise each of the teams in the four separate leagues. National League for ages 9 and 10 will consist of 12 teams; American League for ages 11 and 12 will have eight teams; Continental League for ages 13 and 14, and the Federal League for ages 15 and 16, will consist of four teams each.

When the quota of applications is reached in any league, entries are closed in that league, and additional boys will be placed on a waiting list.

Officials want all boys to play on teams based at the playing field nearest to their homes. Eight sites have been selected as home fields. Bloomfield High School. (See BASEBALL, 4-E)



Jack Harvey (foreground) and Gage Cooper, both seniors, will share shot putting duties for Seaholm this year.

Pony & Colt Tryouts Slated at Two Fields

The new Birmingham Pony & Colt organization will be conducting tryouts for prospective players on two fronts all day Saturday. One session will be held at Seaholm High School and the other at Groves.

Pony League tryouts for 13-year-olds will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Groves and for 14-year-olds from 1 to 4 p.m. at the same location.

The 15-year-olds of the Colt League will be working out at Seaholm from 9 a.m. to noon and the 16-year-olds will take to the same field for the afternoon session from 1 to 4 p.m.

ALL YOUNGSTERS, 13-16, with the Birmingham School District, east of Franklin, are eligible to participate in the tryouts even if they did not register at the Community House Saturday.

Almost 300 boys completed registration forms in the four-hour session, according to Searles Deck, player-agent for the Pony League. "Every boy who likes baseball and tries will be given equal opportunity at the tryouts," Deck said.

The boys will be graded according to ability in pitching, catching, fielding, batting, sportsmanship and attitude. League managers will assist in the judging, Deck said.

"We will have some top-notch, experienced boys playing Pony and Colt baseball this year," said Deck. "Most of the ones that have registered have baseball experience either in Birmingham or other cities from which they have moved."

850-Average Teams Wanted for 1963-64 By Strike 'n Spare

Strike 'n Spare Lanes, 4067 W. Maple, Bloomfield Township, is searching for bowlers with 170 averages or better for teams in the 1963-64 senior house league, according to Eleanor Gorman, manager.

Only teams with 850 averages or better will be accepted in the league. The bowling establishment also will give a trophy each week to the high man bowler and high lady bowler.

For further information concerning the league and requirements, call Mrs. Gorman at Strike 'n Spare.

OVER 2,000 BOYS PLAY HERE

B'ham Little League Is World's Largest

This is the first in a series of articles concerning baseball leagues in the Birmingham area open to youngsters from ages 8 to 16. Next week's article will deal with the Birmingham Babe Ruth League.

By DAVE PHILPO
Sports Editor

The Birmingham Little League is the largest program of its kind in the world.

Composed of four separately franchised leagues and 86 teams, the program last year involved 2,600 boys between the ages of 8 and 13.

Another distinction, a matter of considerable pride to Little League officials, is the fact that Birmingham's is one of the few—if not the only—program in the United States entirely supported by voluntary contributions from parents.

that parents note closely the times for their boys to report.

Breaugh explained that major league tryouts have been scheduled on two Saturdays, April 6 and 13 at the places of registration.

The four leagues in the Birmingham program are divided into four geographical areas. The National League covers the area west of Woodward to the western limits of the Birmingham School District, between 15 and 16 Mile roads.

The American League involves the area west of Woodward but is confined to between 14 and 15 Mile roads; the Continental, west of Woodward, between 13 and 14, including Beverly Hills; and the Federal, east of Woodward, between 13 and 15 Mile roads.

AN 8-YEAR-OLD youngster begins his Little League career in T-ball.

The game is similar to baseball except there are no pitchers (for safety's sake); batters hit the ball off a rubber tee at home plate; and there are 11 players on each team.

"The purpose of T-ball," says Breaugh, "is to teach the boys to work together. We have found that it is an excellent way to prepare them for regular baseball."

At nine, the youngster steps up

the ladder to the minor leagues. Here, 12-year-olds may play but they cannot pitch because of their superior size, speed and strength. Pitchers are limited to three innings of the six-inning games.

If the boy is good enough, he will wind up in the major leagues. These players are drafted from the minors according to ability.

ANY BOY that registers and reports will play ball," Breaugh noted. "No boy is turned away. Those trying out for the majors and failing still get to play in the minors."

Is Little League a dangerous game for the smaller boy?

"We have had no serious injuries," said Breaugh. "Any youngster who is struck on the head or chest by a baseball goes to the hospital for a checkup."

In addition, during the past two years we have spent \$3,000 on an improved safety helmet which protects the forehead, back of the neck and top of the head.

All boys participating are covered by accident and liability insurance during practice, regular games and to and from the ball field.

THE LITTLE League has one fund drive per year—usually near the first of June. Letters are sent only to parents of boys in the program.

"We have had wonderful response," Breaugh declared. "About

90 per cent of the parents contribute something and each year we reach at least 75 per cent of our goal."

How do you explain the success of your financial program?

"It can be attributed to two things. First of all, we have a very good program. Secondly, we make a point of publicizing to the parents where their money is spent."

Indicative of the cost of a program as large as Birmingham's is the fact that Little League last year spent \$7,000 on equipment alone.

FATHERS and mothers have played important roles in the success of Little League. Over 500 are recruited each year as coaches, managers and "team moms."

"Managers and coaches are not selected on their baseball knowledge but how well we think they will work with the boys," Breaugh said.

The mentors are picked by a 16-man point board of directors, the governing body of Little League. Directors, elected from parents, may serve only one three-year term.

Following the tryouts and player selection, teams will be formed and (See LEAGUE, 4-E)

FLOYD L. BREAUGH
Little League president

THE LITTLE League launched its 13th season in Birmingham today by passing out application forms in all of the schools indicating where each boy is to report on Saturday, April 6, for registration and tryouts.

Floyd L. Breaugh, president of the joint board of directors, urged

1963 TRACK PREVIEW:

Groves Has Balance

It's a little early to tell yet, says Ray Vavruska, but Groves just might come up with its best track team in the school's history.

Vavruska, who has been coach at Groves for three years, is counting on a well-balanced squad to take up the slack resulting from the graduation of Art Schueler, the best individual performer the school has produced.

"If we stay solid, we'll more than make up the difference," he said. "By the end of the year we might just develop into a pretty good team."

Al Proctor, a junior, and Don Novak, a senior, both of whom Vavruska expects to use in the quarter mile and 220.

The weather has confined the squad's workouts to indoors.

"We've been practicing in the gym and in the halls," said Vavruska. "You really can't tell what the boys are going to do until they get outside."

As an afterthought, the coach mentioned another trackman who has good potential in the half-mile.

"Alan Wright—he's a junior—did a real good job in cross country last fall. We're expecting a lot of help from him this spring."

Groves' first meet is with Southfield April 23 on the home track.

IN TWO practice meets against North Farmington and Pontiac Northern—the coach's opinion has been bolstered.

"We won most of the events and going on the basis of these performances I think we will do all right in the Tri-River League."

THE COACH will take 15 boys to the Huron Relays at Eastern Michigan U. in Ypsilanti Saturday. Groves will compete in the 880 relay, the mile relay and the sprint medley.

"Even if we don't finish real well, it will be great experience for our boys," he said. Over 55 schools from Michigan and Ohio are expected to participate in the event.

In the shot put this season Vavruska is counting on Neil Granader, a junior, who in his sophomore year achieved a distance of 48 feet.

Another junior, Jim Speicher, is the Falcons' best prospect in the mile run.

SPEICHER's best time in practice for the mile is 4:58 and the coach believes he can cut 15 or 20 seconds off that time as the season progresses.

Two of the top relay men are



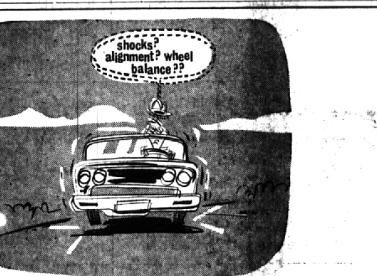
Neil Granader and the shot put figure heavily in plans for what could be Groves' best track season.

Babe Ruth League Schedules Clinic; To Register Boys

Registration and a baseball clinic have been scheduled by the Birmingham Babe Ruth League for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Community House.

American Legion manager Tom Lakos and someone from the Detroit Tiger organization will conduct the clinic, according to A. W. Bates, chairman of the league.

Registration forms have been distributed to all Birmingham schools this week, Bates said.



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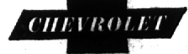
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