

Top Sports Events That Made News In 1964

World Open Rated 1st Among Year's Thrills

By DICK ZEMMIN
Sports Editor

Without a doubt, the past 12 months will go on record as one of the most exciting and action-packed periods ever witnessed by the local sports contingent.

Not only did the area's prep athletic teams supply fans with an abundance of talent, along with their normal share of titles, but spectators were treated to the glamorous Detroit Horse Show and the first Carling World Open golf tourney.

All in all, 1964 provided as diversified a field of athletics as sports enthusiasts could ever hope to see. And most of it was high in caliber.

IF ANY ONE event was to be singled out as the top sports activity during the past 12 months, the Carling World Open would certainly get the nod from most fans. Worth more than \$200,000, making it the richest total purse on the tour, the World Open was staged at Oakland Hills Country Club, Aug. 27-30.

As its name implied, the Carling was truly a world tournament, embracing top professional and amateur golfers from most parts of the globe.

Qualifying rounds were needed to select the fortunate 155 who launched an assault on "The Monster" for four rounds of 18 holes apiece.

The grandeur of the event was reflected in the television and newspaper coverage, the huge crowds and the planning that was necessary for such a spectacular.

BUT, MOST of all, the Carling supplied golf, top-flight golf, for local sports fans and those watching on TV.

When Bobby Nichols dropped his winning 18-inch putt to earn the

\$35,000 top prize money, it climaxed four days of red-hot golf that thrilled the galleries.

Bantam Ben Hogan's fine showing, reminiscent of the U.S. Open, Arnold Palmer's heralded charge, Chi Chi Rodriguez' antics and Nichols' well-earned victory will long be remembered by visitors at Oakland Hills.

Local golfers, too, shared in the limelight during 1964. Club tournaments provided an abundance of thrills and in the swimming pools, like Dr. Sigler's victory at Birmingham Country Club becoming the rule rather than the exception.

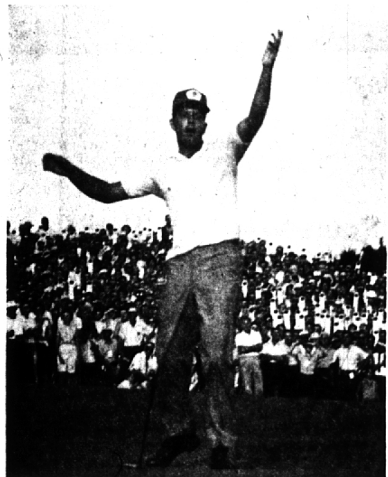
But other sports were also a part of the 1964 scene. The spectacular Detroit Horse Show, held at the Bloomfield Open Hunt in July, was one of the biggest and best riding shows in the nation.

Featuring the debut of the Fort Riley Classe, the Detroit Horse Show rates highly as one of 1964's top attractions.

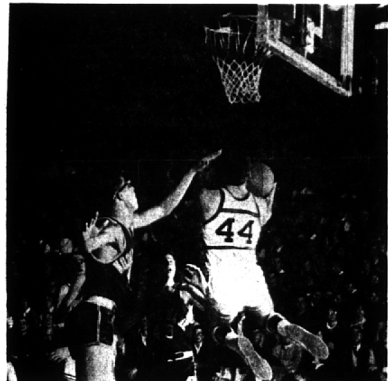
ON THE PREP scene, athletes excelled on the basketball court, the cinders and in the swimming pools.

Last March Bloomfield Hills and Seaholm each earned a piece of their respective league titles and the Maples went on to win their state district competition, thereby setting the stage for another top sports story, although undoubtedly the most regrettable.

Seaholm, after winning their first regional game at Ferndale against Redford St. Mary, was disqualified when the State Board of Athletics ruled center Jeff Meyer ineligible due to his participation in a church pick-up game. (See THRILLS, 2-E)



A JOYOUS Bobby Nichols drops his putter and waves his arms in the air after canning an 18-inch putt that made him winner of the first Carling World Open. The event, held at Oakland Hills Country Club in August, totaled \$200,000 in prize money, \$35,000 of which was awarded to Nichols. The 28-year-old Nichols had rounds of 72-68-66-72—278 to break the existing record set in tournament play by Gene Littler and Ralph Guldahl.



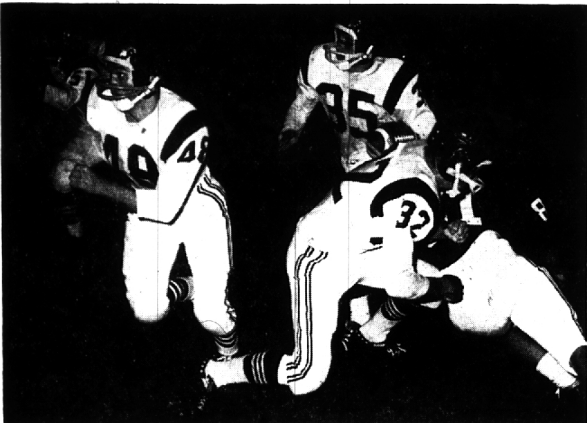
WAY BACK in January, Brother Rice was riding the crest of the basketball wave. The Warriors started by upsetting Notre Dame as guard Paul Jagels (44) sparked the offense with plays like the one pictured above. The Warriors went on to win nine straight games and pace the Catholic loop before they dropped their final two and finished in third spot. Entering 1965, Rice is only a half game off the pace set by undefeated U-D.



BLOOMFIELD HILLS proved it was no fluke that they were defending champs of the Mt. Holly Invitational High School Ski Meet when they repeated their winning ways in February of 1964. The Barons won both the boys and girls team trophies, led by 15-year-old Cheryl Smith, pictured whipping past the last gate en route to her first place finish in the 36-gate slalom.



BOB RICHARDS, Bloomfield Hills miler, turned in one of the top individual performances in 1964. The senior thinned set a new school record of 4:16.2, fastest in the state for the year, and only three seconds off the state mark. He also won the mile in the Huron, Spartan, Mansfield and Waters Relays.



GROVES AND Seaholm kicked off the 1964 prep football season with their annual intra-city battle in September. The Maples kept their victory string in the event intact with a hard-earned 20-14 win over a stubborn Groves eleven. John Kingscott (35), here returning the opening kick-off, scored on runs of 23 and 58 yards. Blocking for Kingscott are Rick Snyder (48) and Bill Kennedy (32).



ONE OF the reasons for the area's fine showing in athletics on the prep level during the past sports seasons was the high caliber of coaching in the community's schools. Three area coaches received special recognition in 1964 for their achievements, two by The Eccentric. Lew Parry of Seaholm (left) was the paper's basketball coach of the year, while Larry Mastellar of Country Day (right) received football honors. Kermit Ambrose (center) Seaholm's cross-country and track coach, was named coach of the year by the Michigan Track Coaches Association.

FROM MONTH TO MONTH

What Happened During 1964

At midnight tonight another year will come to a close and with it, the curtain will come down on another exciting and action-packed 12 months in the world of sport.

The past year was a great one for some teams and coaches, one to look back on with pride and happiness. For others, 1965 offers a chance to look ahead and move up a few notches on 1964 showings.

Regardless of how a team or individual fared, the past 12 months provided local sports fans with exciting drama, ranging from the professional level in the Carling World Golf Championship to the prep level during the football season.

In order to refresh our readers' memories, The Eccentric has prepared a chronological list of the sports events during 1964 that attracted the most attention on the local sports scene.

January

Brother Rice threw the Catholic basketball race into a scramble by upsetting previously unbeaten Notre Dame, 60-46, to move into a tie for first place.

Tim Wood, 15-year-old skating son of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wood, won the senior men's singles in the Midwest figure skating championships on Jan. 4 at Cobo Arena. A

week later, he went on to capture the U. S. junior men's crown in the Nationals in Cleveland.

SEAHOLM TANKERS won the final event, the freestyle relay, to nip Royal Oak Kimball, 54-51, for one of their biggest dual meet wins of the year at Seaholm, 60-58. Seaholm edged Ferndale, 60-58, when Bruce Nyberg sank a jump shot with six seconds to go. Bloomfield Hills, meanwhile, dumped Northville, 68-48, to tie Clarkston for first.

February

Jimmy Johnson, eight-year-old Birmingham speed skater, added a few more trophies to his collection when he won the Central Michigan Championships at Bay City, the Northern Michigan crown at Petoskey and the Pony Boy's title at Alpena.

Seaholm showed its power and depth by defeating a strong Groves

swimming squad, 72-33, in the annual dual meet between the two schools.

Bloomfield Hills scored two local basketball victories, nipping West Bloomfield, 69-68, and then edging Groves, 66-60.

Brother Rice, after winning nine straight games and leading their loop for weeks, dropped a 65-61 count to U-D and then lost the title by losing their final game to Notre Dame.

SEAHOLM PUT DOWN a strong challenge from Kimball to win their second dual swim meet of the season, 60-45, in a match that was televised on closed-circuit to the overflow crowd in the Kimball gym.

Bloomfield Hills skiers, capped both boys' and girls' crowns in the fourth annual Mt. Holly Invitational Ski Meet. The Barons outskied 17 schools. Cheryl Smith was girls' champ.

March

Bloomfield Hills and Seaholm each earned a share of their respective basketball league titles for 1963-64. The Barons tied with Clarkston at 12-2, while Seaholm and Ferndale each sported an 11-3 mark.

Groves and Seaholm swimmers each posted dual meet victories to reign as dual-meet champs in their various leagues. A week later, both schools won their league meets with impressive showings.

Cranbrook defeated Nichols and Western Reserve to wind up the basketball season with a 13-3 mark and a share of first in the Interstate Prep League.

Seaholm scored three successive wins to wrap up their basketball district and move into regional play at Ferndale.

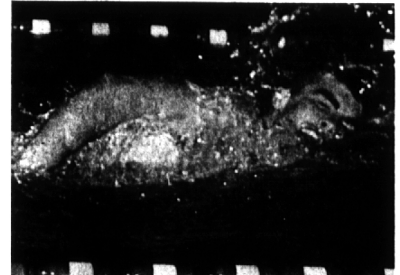
Seaholm trounced Redford St. Mary, 77-57, in regional play but was disqualified when officials ruled Jeff Meyer, Maple center, was ineligible for state play for having participated in a church pick-up game earlier.

Seaholm's powerful swim squad captured its second straight Class A swim crown at Ann Arbor after having tied for the title with Groves Point a year ago. The Maples accumulated 92 1/2 points. Groves finished sixth with 25.

DAN GREIG of West Bloomfield, Dan Mautte of Bloomfield Hills, Bruce Nyberg of Seaholm and Paul Jagels and Bill Moore of Brother Rice were selected to The Eccentric's All-Area basketball team. Lew Parry was named coach of the year.

Seaholm kicked off the 1964 track season with a resounding victory at the 10th annual Huron Relays, outdistancing 55 other schools. (See HAPPENED, 2-E)

Sports Calendar	
BASKETBALL	SATURDAY
Austin at Brother Rice	
TUESDAY	
West Bloomfield at Holly	
SWIMMING	SATURDAY
Seaholm at Ann Arbor	
WEDNESDAY	
Redford U. at Southfield	
WRESTLING	TUESDAY
Southfield at Redford U.	



PETE ADAMS of Seaholm grabs a breath of air as he churns his way to victory in the state Class A 200-freestyle at Ann Arbor last March. The Maples, defending state Class A champs, repeated in 1964 with an all-around team effort, outdistancing 55 other schools. Groves swimmers placed sixth, aided by their winning freestyle relay team which set a new county record.

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