Platter Chatter & The Sports Crier By Michael Bihum

Compiled from: The Burgettstown Enterprise

Fort Vance Historical Society

By Michael Bihum

Willard Dhans, captain and great play maker of the Union High cagers the last hardwoods season had his efforts officially recognized recently. He was elected Honorary Captain of the 1947-48 Blue Devil's basketball club.

Although Atlasburg's Chuck Havelka was given a boost in pay to play with the Federalsburg, Md., ball club this season, he may not sign. Chuck is the team's infield key and they don't want to move him. All newspaper reports have him pegged as exceptional baseball timber, and deserving of a chance in faster ball. Chuck wants th a t chance, and has stated that if he doesn't make good, he's willing to return to Federalsburg. But the club hasn't found a capable replacement and are sure that if they move Chuck, they'll lose him for good. For Havelka's play has been the talk of the entire circuit. He's rated at the top of the league's second baseman, and better than a .350 stickman.

Coach Bob Canning entered his undergraduate basketball club in the Washington County Undergraduate Basketball Tournament which begins in Washington this week. And, what an opponent Union drew! They meet Donora at 9:30 p.m., on Friday in the first round. One loss eliminates the contestant.

Baseball coach Don Hall, began workouts with his pitching and catching staff in the high school gym last Monday. Pitching candidates are: Cunningham, McConaughey, Linkesh, Downer and Strongosky. Catchers—Stankovich and Maropis. Coach Hall intends drilling the afore mentioned candidates, then working in others gradually. In a baseball meeting held last week to get a line on the talent available, Mr. Hall reported that over 70 boys turned out.

The WPIAL football committee classified all member schools for competition in the 1948 season, and again placed Union High in the Class A group. Our guess is that if the school's enrollment dwindles like it has it won't be too long before Union will be rated as a class B competitor.

In reply to the countless inquiries as to what is the actual "score" between Scott Service and the rest of the league--you'll find the dope elsewhere on this page.

UNION HIGH	VARSITY BA	SKETBA	LL AVE	RAGES	
NAME	FG	FA	FM	PCT.	TP
A. Taverne	75	84	49	.583	199
J. Darras	45	49	22	.488	122
W. Dhans	20	71	38	.535	90
D. Beaumont	25	53	27	.509	77
D. Cunningham	9	30	11	.366	29
H. Strongosky	8	16	7	.438	23
G. Golubofsky	1	25	15	.600	17
W. Tomich	2	8	3	.250	7

The first five men; Taverne, Darras, Dhans, Beaumont and Cunningham were selected by Coach Bob Canning to wear the varsity U for their basketball play during the 1947-48 season. This being the second varsity basketball letter awarded to each man, one last season, the above five players are entitled to two stripes on their sweaters. The team's record for the past season is 5 wins against 13 losses.

UNION HI	GH RESERVE	TEAM	AVERAG	ES	
NAME	FG	FA	FM	PCT	TP
G. Golubofsky	28	50	28	.560	84
W. Tomich	20	57	28	.490	68
Semenick	24	30	14	.466	62
Evans	18	35	16	.460	52
McConaughey	13	32	17	.531	43
Prata	11	24	11	.490	33
Cindrich	10	22	8	.367	28
Strongosky	9	13	7	.538	25
McGraw	0	24	12	.500	12

Everyone of the reserves was awarded a letter for HIS 1947-48 basketball play with the exception of McGraw. Four men: Golubofsky, Tomich, Prata and Cindrich were the only members to receive the reserve U twice. They also received a letter last season. The reserve squad's record for the past season is, one win against 17 losses.

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-March 11, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

With President of the league, Bob Canning, president, the National Division of the Washington County Baseball loop wound up its final reorganization plans in a meeting held in the Burgettstown Italian Club last Thursday. With forfeits posted and the roster closed, the loop will operate with 10 clubs in the fold. Oakdale made application for a franchise at this meeting, and was accepted. Sunday, May 2nd the barrier will be sprung and the teams will be off. Raccoon visits Cedar Grove, Avella is at Oakdale, Midway treks to Atlasburg, an d Imperial visits Bulger, while Santiago plays hosts to Champion Hill.

In a bitterly contested basketball fray last Wednesday, the Burgettstown Girls tamed the highly touted Washington Murphy's girls for a 52-49 victory on the YWCA floor. With both clubs contributing the very best in girls' basketball play, the game was acclaimed as the most outstanding contest played in the tourney so far. In copping the decision, the Burgettstown Misses, definitely the class of the tournament, are just one step away from the Washington, Pa., girls basketball championship. They have one more club to defeat, and then they sack up the pennant. Leading her star cagers to the 52-49 win was Erla Eelle Malone with 25 points. The sharpshooting forward swished the cords with 9 from the field, and 7 free throws. Kosier pumped in 11 points, while McLain and Trenary ran a deadheat for third honors, each netting an 8. Visnich and Pappas turned in a very creditable exhibition with their brilliant defensive game. Burgettstown racked up 21 from the field and 10 foul conversions in garnering the decision, and held their opponents to 20 and 9.

The Pittsburgh Pirates Farm Director, Ray Kennedy, has a nnounced that a baseball school is being planned for district youths, sometime this spring. Phobably after the conclusion of the high school baseball season. The tryouts are scheduled for College field, Washington.

Bulger's Bob Skinner and Lou Dellapina, two of this district's most promising baseball timber, have signed their contracts with the Erooklyn Dodgers. They leave April 4th for Cambridge, Md., a Dodger farm club. Their departure for play in organized ball leaves a big gap in Biggie Dellapina's county league nine. The Bulger club, under the direction of the firey, but colorful Biggie, is reported to be THE team of the National Division.

Something for the interest of this district's bowlers, who have become the most enthusiastic keglers in the county—A novelty bowling short, featuring the world's most sensational bowler, Andre Varipapa, in an exhibition of unequaled tricks in the alleys, is on tap for the Keith Theatre, March 28-29-30. Varipapa never fails to either make a strike or to knock off a single pin despite the obstacles that the ball rolls through.

Glenn 'Dutch' Farner, the 18 year old pitching sensation of Cross Creek has inked a contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Farner leaves the latter part of this month for spring training with the Class D farm club of Rehoboth, Md. The local mound star made quite a rep for himself on district sandlots while performing for Hickory High, American Legion Post 698, and the Burgettstown Merchants. Last season, Farner was up for a trial with the Cleveland Indians.

Platter Chatter (pg. 1) Burgettstown Enterprise-March 25, 1948 Edition

The Pirate farm of Davenport, Iowa where Pete Maropis will report after spring training, is a Class B team, and is the Three I league.

After much correspondence, which rivaled that of an interested couple in the Lonely Hearts Club, Tech Vernillo and the officials of the Savannah, Ga., baseball club, Class A team of the Athletics, finally got together. And at Vernillo's terms. Tech got a raw deal last season, being shelved with Lincoln, Neb., which prevented him from rising into faster ball. The athletics realized their bad judgment, and are trying to atone for it by meeting Tech's terms, the very top for Class A ball.

In an official release from Wooster, Ohio college comes word that Langeloth's Bill Morris will be relied upon very heavily in the coming baseball campaign. Bill is the boy who paced Wooster to one of its most successful freshman basketball seasons, 18 wins in 20 games. He twiched the cords for a total of 131 points from his forward position.

The Scott's Service baseball club opens at home with just about the fastest team in the county as their opposition, Strabane. Hillman Field is the scene of the opener come 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 3rd.

The Washington County Umpires Association will conduct an Umpire school at Washington High School for one week from Monday, March 29 to Saturday, April 3rd under the direction of Dr. Cohen who is commissioner of the association. Classes will be from 7:30 to 10:00 each night. Any candidate seeking admission to the association must complete the course before he can obtain a card. Anyone interested should get in touch with Dr. Cohen of Washington, immediately. Registration closes this Friday.

In the effort to supply Burgettstown with the snappiest baseball entertainment possible, the Scott's Service club will compete with what is reportedly the fastest circuit ever in the county. Along with the red-hot league competition, famous name teams will also show on Hillman Field. Some of the clubs which have already been contracted are: Lawrenceville Tigers for Sunday, May 2nd; The Colored National League's New York Black Yankees on May 14th; and the Homestead Grays for June 1st.

Midway will be without their ace hurler for this coming diamond campaign. For Gillis has signed with the Cleveland Indians and will report to their Suffolk, Va., farm club on April 4th. He was up with Johnstown, a Dodger farm, for a trial last season.

Because of the scarcity of diamond talent in the Raccoon district, Manager Greenie Scopel is hard pressed in his efforts to field a fast club for the tough National league race. Cedar Grove, which won only three games last season, should have a very much better year with Bernie Lis at the helm. They will play their home games on their newly completed diamond. From here it looks like Bulger and Avella. Santiago will be pressing the leaders, along with Champion Hill of Sturgeon. Oakdale and Atlasburg, in their first season of County ball, aren't regarded as being too strong. Imperial, with their same club as last season should be up among the pace setters, as their youthful aggregation will be in its won't stop this year. They should improve their standing of last season. We're trying to get full coverage on the se National loop teams for you, and will have it before the barrier is sprung. The clubs are all in the midst of signing players, and our information isn't complete as yet.

Platter Chatter (pg. 2) Burgettstown Enterprise-March 25, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

A slim crowd of shivering fans braved the inclement weather last Friday, and witnessed the home unveiling of the Scotts Service baseball club. The team made a very good impression in their new togs, showing plenty of hustle and fight, and performed in the style of a well seasoned outfit. Their 5-0 shutout of the Weirton P & W's, a top W. Va., club, gave note that they are a top flight aggregation that will make Burgettstown highly regarded in Western Pennsylvania sandlot circles. Charles Merenda, a 20 game winner last season and whose trustly left arm was largely responsible for Burgettstown winning the two championships last year, toed the rubber in this fray. Continuing his brilliant hurling, Merenda set Weirton down on two scant hits over the distance. Only one runner reached second, via a double in the final frame when Merenda eased up. Babe Vernillo, spark plug of last year's club, had a perfect day to pace Scott's 10 hit attack with a double and a pair of singles. Lukon went 2 for 2, double and single. Johnson doubled, while Vukas, Muscaro, Stanish, and Merenda each singled. Demnyan and McGinnis were the only ones that failed to hit.

Montreal has optioned Joe Tepsic to Nashua, New Hampshire, the Brooklyn owned Class B club of the New England League. Joe expressed extreme dissatisfations over Brooklyn's move without giving him a fair shake, and threatened to quit baseball.

A very nice letter from Andrew Sherockman, former Union High teacher, hit this desk recently. Along with the welcome note was enclosed a story on Beaver Falls winning the National American Legion Basketball Chompionship. A key man on the club which weathered a three day tourney of 24 clubs, to emerge Champions, was a former Union High player under Bob Canning, Stanley Navage.

That grin on the Davenport, Iowa manager's face is getting bigger and bigger with each game that Pete Maropis appears in. The fleet footed ball hawk who is in his first season of organized ball is sparking his club in the vein of a veteran. Pete's potent stick work is gaining him much respect from rival hurlers. In his last game he came up three times, singling once and smashing a 370 ft. round tripper over the center field wall in another trip. The Pittsburgh Pirates are watching Maropis very carefully, as they expect great things from him when he hits the big time, which shouldn't be too far away. His showing with the Class B club has created quite an impression with the Pirate farm management.

Taken from a report from one who has seen all of the high school teams of the section 3 of the WPIAL in action—Don Halls Blue Devils are the strongest of the lot. But for a couple of bad breaks, they would be undefeated. The two games which they did lose, came by one run, and on days that everything went against them.

Heavy rains on Sunday washed out the opening tilts of the National Division, and Scott's exhibition with the Lawrenceville Tigers.

OFF THE CUFF—Tud Klein is batting .500 on the Keith Maple Lanes. His 10 pins high score copped the February

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-May 6, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum



The Langeloth Sportsmen held their first trap shoot of the season on the Langeloth ball diamond last Wednesday. Walter Robertson continued to display his amazing shot gun artistry by smashing a perfect 25. He must have shot left handed in his second round, for our report has him getting only 14. Sam Yazebac drilled out a 17x25; Jim McNally downed 15 in his first round and 11 in the second. Bill Robertson, the youth of the "Sergent York" duo, brought down 15, then 10. An added feature to the evening's shooting came

about when Mr. Robertson challenged his son to a match. "Why did I have to open my big mouth", is what Mr. Robertson probably said after his dare. For, the youth snowed him under with a blistering 22x25 to his 18x25. The trap shoots are held regularly every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

The Union Blue Devils treked to Trinity last Thursday and were shaded, 5-4, when Trinity scored one in the final stanza. Trinity leaped to a 4-0 lead in the first three heats, but Union deadlocked the count with a four run rally in the sixth. In their last tips, Trinity shoved across the winning tally. McConaughey, Downer and Stankovich was Union's battery. Harry Fulmer tripled for Burgettstown.

Joe Tepsic is now with Montreal's Lancaster, Pa., farm of the Class B Inter-State League. After batting left handed during spring training, Tepsic has switched to the right side of the plate. Tepsic said that he's not a natural switch hitter and never did feel right swinging from the port side. Now, he's getting those base knocks.

The dream million-dollar auto racing speedway at Heidelberg, reputed to be the country's fastest racing strip, has announced a crack seven-event program for May 30, Memorial

Day. Operators of the giant 87-acre speedway promise a lot of spine tingling action, and thrills to district auto racing fans. Many of the country's ace money-winning drivers will be on hand with their blistering fast, fully grown racing cars, for the special events on Memorial Day. If you like racing, this is your spot, and it is right-handy to Burgettstown, too.

Pete Maropis has been sent to Fargo, N. D., of the Northern League on a 24 hour recall by Davenport, Iowa. They aren't letting him get too far away after watching Pete slam out three homers in as many games, one coming with the hassocks loaded. His terrific long ball clouting and fleet footed outfielding, has made quite a mark with the Pirate chain.

Glenn Farner has clinched a regular starting berth on Reheoboth Beach's mound staff. The club opened their regular season last Friday and we should be getting more reports on him next week.

The fans sure like the baseball club of Scott's Service which is representing Burgettstown in sandlot ball this season. Well, give them a few more games under their belts, and you'll see just about the fastest stepping team in the tri-state area. Their roster—Pitchers John Andrikanich, Harry Dowler, Floyd Hanlin, Bernie Lis, Elmer McGinnis, Charles Merenda, Jimmy Tropek and Steve Vukas. Catchers: Joe Dubich, George Johnson and Stush Zdybicki. Infield: Paul Demnyan, Charles Havelka, George Davis, Johnny Lukon, Bill Morris, Chester Stanish. (Vukas is now playing first base) Outfield: Romeo Garritano, John Gelestor, Domenick "Babe" Vernillo, Harry Meholic and Pete Muscaro.

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-May 13, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

Sure has been louzy baseball weather hasn't it? Rains and wet grounds have been playing havoc with the district clubs' schedules and have the baseball hungry spectators almost mad because of the lask of their favorite pastime. We think that we have trouble, but you should see J. T. Davis, booking manager of Scott's Service! The inclement weather has him pulling his hair out in scheduling and, rescheduling ball games. If the weather doesn't break soon, Davis will go mad in trying to satisfy the baseball appetite of the district fans.

Scott's Service had to just make an appearance to gain a win at Muse the other day. The game, originally slated for last Friday, was moved up by agreement of both managers, to Thursday, so that Scott's would be able to play the N.Y. Black Yankees on Hillman Field on Friday. Incidentally that game was rained out, and will be scheduled at a later date. Well, Muse failed to show on their own grounds, and after the usual procedure in matters of this kind, Scott's was awarded the game by the umpires, a 9-0 forfeit.

The Langeloth Sportsmens' Trap Shoot scores-Bob Hulick shooting three rounds, posted a 19-17-13 out of 25. Ziggie Tope shot a 19-17-11 in his three heats. Joe Brizzoli came through with a 18-18-13 in three cantos. Chuck Thornburg entered two stanzas and downed 15 and 10. Shoots are held every Wednesday.

Friday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m., is an important event for the Langeloth Sportsmen and all are urged to attend. Mr. Russell Gee, President of the Washington County Sportsmens' Association, will be on hand to enlighten members with some very important and interesting information. The meeting will take place in the Club House.

The Langeloth Sportsmen hold their regular meetings on Friday of the third week of every month. Your attendance at every meeting is needed to keep this famed club at the top of district Sportsmen's associations. A Bar-B-Q is being planned for July 10th.

After screening several reports, we find that Pete Maropis of the Pirates baseball chain, got a raw deal/from Davenport, Iowa when he was sent to Fargo, N. D. He made an outstanding showing while with the Davenport club, but for reasons which we haven't been able to get, he has been shuffled off to Fargo.

Guy 'Zeke' Tomlinson, a pepperpot on the diamonds in both, the pro and semi-pro loops in the days of the flying razor sharp spikes, is aiding greatly in getting district talent a start in organized baseball. His later proteges are Glenn Farner and Pete Maropis. Tomlinson a personal friend of Leo Mackey of the Pirates farm chain, is using his influence with the Pirate club to gain berths in organized ball for This recommendations. Because of Tomlinson's brilliant displays while performing on the diamond, and his keen eye for talent, his recommendations are given serious consideration. This sure gives district talent a swell break.

Last, but not least, a bouquet of orchids to the Burgettstown and Smith Township School Board for so graciously permitting the use of the Hill Memorial Stadium bleachers to the Hillman Field committee. The seats have already been erected along the first and third base lines of the ball park. Our hats are off to the members of the Boards for their splendid co-operation with the committee in advancing the good ole Community Spirit policy.

Next week, we'll publish the official season averages of the Union High Blue Devils baseball club, as released by Coach Don Hall.

When the flag is flying above Hillman'Field, the game scheduled for that day, is on.

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-May 20, 1948 Edition

UNION HIGH BASEBALL AVERAGES-1948 SEASON

NAME	AB	R	Η	RBI	PCT,	PO	Α	E	
Ulrich	28	11	12	8	.428	5	7	8	
Maropis	25	7	9	6	.360	35	2	1	
Taverne	42	12	15	14	.357	15	3	4	
Fulmer	37	13	13	14	.351	17	15	3	
Strongosky	37	8	12	4	.324	8	17	5	
Kosovec	31	11	10	7	.323	46	2	6	
Cunningham	22	13	7	9	.318	11	3	2	
Stankovich	32	8	10	5	.313	70	3	5	
Tustin	13	2	4	4	.308	3	4	1	
Linkesh	14	4	4	3	.286	13	5	0	
Downer	17	4	4	2	.235	5	3	0	
Kortyna	5	1	1	0	.200	4	1	1	
McConnaughey	11	5	1	0	.091	5	6	1	
Robertson	8	1	0	1	.000	1	4	2	
Dellapina	2	0	1	1	.500	0	0	1	
McNally	1	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	
Zilich	3	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	
Deliere	1	0	0	0	.000	1	1	1	
Maltony	1	0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	
Ceccato	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	
Martin	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	
						240	76	42	

TEAM BATTIING AVERAGE—.310 TEAM FIELDING AVERAGE—.867

TEAM FIELDING AVERAGE-.807

Extra base hits—Doubles: Fulmer 3, Taverne 2, Kosovec, Maropis, Kortkna, Stankovich, Cunningham.—Triples: Fulmer 2, Stankovich 2, Taverne, 2; Ulrich, Strongosky.—Home Runs: Taverne.

Double Plays—Cunningham to Fulmer, Downer to Ulrich to Fulmer, Fulmer to Strongosky to Kosovec 2; Maropis to Fulmer to Kosovec; Strongosky to Fulmer to Kosevec.

PITCHING RECORDS

NAME		1P	H	R I	ER	HB	BB	SO	W	L	
Linkesh	15	1-3	10	8	5	5	9	19	2	0	
Tustin	5	1-3	4	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	
Cunningham	10	1-3	13	8	2	0	3	14	1	0	
Downer	17		7	10	3	1	7	26	1	0	
Strongosky	6		5	-2	2	0	1	5	1	0	
McConnaughey	21		' 21	20	11	4	9	22	1	3	

Lettermen for the 1948 Season—Capt. Art Taverne, Sr., Don Cunningham, Sr., John Stankovich, Sr., Harry Fulmer, Jr., Karl Ulrich, Sr., Harry Strongosky, Soph., Pat Maropis, Soph., Jim McConnaughey, Soph., Ken Downer, Jr., John Kosovec, Sr., John Linkesh, Sr., Ray Tustin, Sr. Student Manager—Frank Koraido. Manager-Frank Koraido.

1948 Record-Defeated-Hickory, 5-1; Findlay, 11-2; East Washington-11-6*; Chartiers, 6-5*; Findlay, 25-3; Chartiers, 8-2*; East Washington 10-7*; Washington, 10-3*. LOST TO-Trinity 6-5*; Washington, 8-7*; Trinity, 5-4*. (* denotes league games). Season Record-Win 8-Lose 3. Placed second in Section. Baseball Notes-Harry Fulmer was the only regular on the club who didn't strike out all season. All regulars, with the exception of pitchers, hit .300 or better for the season. The 1948 season marked Coach Don Hall's third term at the helm of Union High baseball clubs. Over the three year span, his teams won 24 games and lost 10. 1942 was Don Hall's first season as coach of Union High's baseball team, and piloted them to the section championship. They lost out in the semi-finals. This was the year that Stanley Navage pitched two consecutive no-hitters. In 1947, the Don Hall men placed third in the section, winning 6 and losing 5. 1948 saw the club win 8 and lose 3 to place second in the section. All three losses the past season, were by one run.

Platter Chatter By Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise- May 27, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

He has done so much for us, let's show his our appreciation. Attend the dance in the Illig Memorial Hall next Wednesday and the All-Star game at Hillman Field, Sunday, June 13, to honor the dean of pan-handle baseball and one of this communities leading citizens, Dr. G. L. McKee.

Although outhitting the visitors, 12-9, Scott Service dropped a 4-3 verdict to the bearded beauties of the House of David on Hillman Field last week. Scott's trailed all the way and almost tied up the game in the eighth frame, only to have Gumps Stanish thrown out at the plate. Demayan played a sensational game at short; with Havelka starring at the platter, rapping out four singles in five trips. Dutch Farner twirled the distance. The fans were disappointed in not seeing the bearded diamondeers go thru their much hearlded antics.

The Hillman Field Athletic Committee is deserving of heaps of praise for their excellent work which is speedily progressing at the ball park. The dugouts which are already installed, rival those of any Major Leaguers'. The field house will be complete within a week or so, and this community should see one of the finest baseball parks in this section of the country soon. The committee has spent every cent that they have and even went in the hole, in order to beautify the field for our benefit. It certainly would be a nice gesture, if the clubs using the field would play a couple of benefit games to pull the committee out of the red, and give them a little working capital.

The Washington County Soccer banquet which was staged last week, gave all indications that soccer may likely become a regular part of the sports program in district high schools. Everyone of the coaches in attendance talked favorably on the subject, including Bob Canning, Coach of Union High School, who was very strongly for it. Bill Amos acted as M.C., at the affair which was attended by a crowd of 300, and although it was his first soccer banquet in his 42 roles as M.C., he was the hit of the evening.

Glenn Farner was given his release by the Pirates' Rehoboth Beach, Md., farm club, after very little consideration. Farner pitched in two league games, allowed 1 hit in four frames against Salsbury, and no hits in 2 innings against Federalsburg, setting 'em down 1-2-3in both frames. Farner is now home in Cross Creek, and has signed with Scott's Service, despite the vigorous efforts, by the Canonsburg Transformers 5 expended in trying to secure his services.

Charles Mulholland, the new manager of the Burgettstown Community Park, has a very interesting sports program all lined up. An athletic slate has been arranged for all boys who desire to participate in baseball and basketball, between the ages of 12 thru 15, including those who attended freshman class during the past year. Mr. Mulholland intends to divide the teams into districts, and have a club representing each district. He also has a swell idea in having the older men form horse-shoe and quoit pitching teams. The equipment is already on hand, and if enough interest is generated, leagues in each sport will be formed.

Johnny "Tech" Vernillo, playing sensational ball with the Savannah, Georgia Athletics, is rumored to be moved up soon. Clubbing at a red hot pace of .346, Tech leads the club in: most hits, RBF's, stolen bases, walks and extra base knocks. His popularity matches his brilliant performances, and is the idol of the Savannah fans. Just recently, a fan had six bats made to Tech's specifications, and presented them to him in appreciation for the thrills that Tech's playing gave him.

Bill Morris, recently elected co-captain of the Wooster college frosh nine, will arrive in Langeloth this Friday for summer vacation. If the Wooster press raves on Morris's diamond performances hold up, there will be a mighty battle for the first base position on the Scott Service club. In the event that Vukas, who's playing a nifty game and hitting like a mad man, is moved from first, he would be placed in the outfield. Steve is a versatile diamond star who can play anywhere. And, you can bet that he won't be out of the lineup. For, Vukas is really clouting that ole persimmons at a terrific pace.

If Johnny Sarracino comes up to you and tells you that he'll bring you some fish if you want them, don't believe him. Because, for the last three weeks we believed him and starved every Friday. Believeing his offer, we told the boss lady on the past three Thursdays, not to but anything for the next day, cause Johnny was going to bring us some fish. Well, she didn't, and we went hungry. No more, though! After checking up, the Sarracino family has been going hungry on Friday's, ever since the fishing season began

Paulie Demnyan has worked himself into the hearts of the district baseball fans with his vim and vinegar hustle. Playing anywhere on the diamond, Demnyan has always come thru with a sensational game. His brilliant fielding has received much applause, and his terrific platter-chatter war club is rapping out plenty of base knocks. He's always out there hustling to win, and gives it all he's got every step.

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-June 3, 1948 Edition

PLATTER CHATTER

By Michael Bihum

Doc McKee called us over to his office the other day to raed one of the many letters congratulating him on the Burgettstown Community sponsored "Doc McKee Day". This particular letter was from Pete Howe, a very familiar name to district baseball fans. Pete a faithful follower of local events via the Enterprise, concedes that the Scott nine is a pretty rough outfit, but says that the Burgettstown club of 1938. could have handled them without too much trouble. This 1938 teeam was touted as the fastest in the Tri-State area, and had a brilliant record to back up their reputation. Some of the players on this championship club were: Pete Howe and Steve Vukas-pitchers, Tootie Wade-c, Tech Vernillo-cf, Matt Kuzior-2nd base; Austin Malone-1st. base, Pete Muscaro-rf, Mickey Malone-p, Bud Sovayak-3rd base, Eddie Lukon-rf, and Johnny Lukon-ss. Pete Howe is now in Miami, Fla., assistant secretary-treasurer of National Airline, Inc. He has three children. Pete still plays a little baseball, holding down the shortstop position on his company's team. He leads the league in home runs, with six, and is belting at a .368 clip. Pete is another one that Doc McKee ushered into this world, and credits Doc for the baseball that he's been able to produce on the district sandlots.

NOTES COPIED OFF THE CUFF-After asking for a release from the Scott Service club, so that they might be able to hook up with a team that they could play regular with, Bill Morris and Harry Mehalic have signed with Cedar Grove-While Bulger's Biggie Dellapina has been employed on the afternoon trick, Pete Dellapina has been managing the ball club-The National Division player roster has been increased to 25, from the original of 20-Steve Vukas has guit the Scott club, and George Johnson, originally the catcher, is now playing first base. Jimmy Harrington, donned the catching togs, the very first day that he became eligible-Now, wee've seen everything-Tud Klien, one of the elite bowlers of this district has taken up playing the pin ball machines for recreation. The other day we spied him sitting on a pop case, which was setting on a chair, giving him the right altitude to manipulate the bell ringing-light flashing mechanism, without too much discomfort. It was a cold supper for Tud that night, for he put in a good shift on the thing. He looked as if he had the hee-bee-jeebees on his way home after completing the session, just trembling all over-Orchids to Atlasburg for the fine setup they are following in giving all of their own boys a chance to play baseball. They won't win too many games this season, but the policy will pay off in the long run. Jake Yandrich is managing the youths—Many fans are requesting that Scott's play the All-Stars again. They sure enjoyed that last game, and would like to see a little series. Don't see why it can't be arranged, huh?-We received a wire that, for the second straight year, the Burgettstown Businessmen had to purchase their fish for their annual fish fry. A huge crowd attended the shindig, and have their first fish to catch. Could be that some didn't even toss a line into the water?

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum The Burgettstown Enterprise-June 24, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

Members of the Burgettstown American Legion Post 698 are trying to build up their athletic fund. They are refraining from asking for contributions, but instead, they are selling theatre tickets for a benefit show. The tickets are the regular price admission, and you see a swell picture in the bargain. The "Fugitive" which will be shown on on the Keith Theatre screen, is the first of a series of benefit shows which will be capped by the showing of the "Babe Ruth Story". You'll probably go to the movie anyway, so how about giving a good cause a helping hand, huh?

We've been asked so many times why Pete Muscaro hasn't been playing with the local ball club. Well, from what we can gather, Muscaro and the ball club officials or official, couldn't see eye to eye on some things, so, their relationships were severed. We are sorry that things turned out the way they did, cause we feel that Pete was a definite asset to the club. Up to the time he quit, Pete was hitting .436, just about tops in the whole county. He only failed to hit in three games, and the locals dropped all three of them. He was the only player that was on hand for all of the games up to the time he stopped playing. (All the above information was taken out of the club's scorebook.) We may be wrong, but we still firmly believe that the locals would have been away out front, instead of having to battle like they are now, if he was still playing ball.

With the exception of that nine run inning, the National-American All-Star game was a pretty good ball game. We didn't think too much of Joe Stefka's selections for the classic, because he had much stronger timber to call upon than those selected. But, the way it turned out, players got into the game which would have never made it had Stefka called upon his best.

Avella and Scott Service, both undefeated in NBF play, are pitted against each other for this Thursday. The game is slated for the Avella diamond, but it may be moved to Hillman Field. So listen for the announcement over the P.A. and check the posters.

Lefty Merenda of the local mound staff, and conqueror of the Homestead Grays, has signed to pitch for New Castle of the Class C Middle Atlantic League. He hurled his first game last Sunday against Oil City, and lost, 7-3. Merenda gave up only five hits while his teammates, which are trying to get out of the league cellar, hammered out seven. You wonder why they're in the basement? Well, they spoiled Charlie's debut by committing four errors.

Burgettstown, with Moe Dowler twirling six hit ball, squashed East Liverpool in a Hillman Field exhibition last Sunday, 9-1. Moe Dowler had his pitching chore backed up by a nine hit parade which was featured by triples by Havelka and Gelestor, and doubles by Vernillo, Standish and Dowler himself.

We received a nice letter from Jakie Brunner, now a PFC stationed with the U.S. Army in Fort Benning, Ga. He has seen many games of the Sally League, and checks in with some swell copy about Tech Vernillo. Brunner reports that all of the fans are wild about Tech's baseball play and have made him their favorite because of his swell sportsmanship, hustle, and exceptional diamond abilities. Brunner says that it is certainly a treat to watch Tech run the bases. He races like the wind, and when he has to hit the dirt, he's down and up like a spring and ready to go again. Tech's immense popularity is evidenced by the fans always gifting him. Candy, cigarettes, clothing, ball bats, etc. Isn't it good to hear that a local boy is getting along so well away from home? Well, if he sees this, we want him to know that everyone back home is plugging for him, and wish him continued success.

We saw Joe Tepsic, late of the Lancaster, Pa., ball club, in Slovan the other day, but didn't get to talk with him. But, we do have some second hand information. Our scout reports that ole Jungle Joe h as quit the baseball squad and will go to the Pitt Steelers football camp and try for a position with the pro-footballers.

To those of you who have been picking losers in baseball games, Ole McGlook reports that he'll be back to get you even with his football predictions. He did O. K. last season you know, selecting all of the top games of the day and emerged with a stunning .866 average over the year. Yes, I know, what am I doing working at Climax!

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-July 22, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

District baseball suffered a tremendous blow in the loss of two of its finest, Butch Danek of Raccoon and Avella's Pete Knish. Both were not only keen competitors and a fine example of sportsmanship, but valuable citizens as well. Sorely missed by all who knew them, they can never be replaced. Their gloves and spikes are hung up for good, never to be used again.

We haven't recovered from the shock of their departure when another blow strikes us. One of the most popular and best known sport fans and boosters of this community, has gone. Opening day is but three short weeks away, but Glenne Nicholls, affectionately known as 'Nick' won't be around. He will live in the memory of everyone that knew him, especially the little guy. For, the little guy was the one ole Nick always helped and wanted to see go ahead. Nick was one guy you saw at all sporting events, whether it was baseball, basketball, or hockey. He always had room in his car for the little guy who didn't have a ride to the game. Nick always had a kind word for everyone as he lived up to his motto, "If you can't say anything good about a person, say nothing." He made and kept friends everywhere he went, and easily could have been called 'the official sports fan of Burgettstown'. Yes, he was especially our friend. He did a lot for us, things which we'll never forget. Many of us owe him a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid, and which he wouldn't want repaid. Everything that Nick did, he did for the sheer pleasure of doing, something good for his fellow man. That was his payment, the happiness of others. It was indeed an honor to be known to one so fine a guy as ole Nick.

A recent release from Los Angeles of the Pacific Coast League reports that they believe that they have the smallest outfield patrolers in the organized baseball ranks. Eddie Lukon at 5 ft. 8 inches, weighs 170; Dallessandro at 5 ft. 5 in., and weighs 160; and Garriott at 5 ft. seven and one half inches, weighing 170.

Avella and Molleneaur soccer clubs will battle under the lights in the Burgettstown High School stadium this Friday night for the Washington County Section 1 championship, and the right to meet Dunlevy for the county soccer tilt. If last week's soccer crowd at the Langeloth-Avella fray is any indication of the soccer fever in this area, Friday night should see a lula of an attendance. We don't know nothin', but, we'll pick Mollenauer.

Slovan's Joe Tepsic, now owned by the Dodger controlled Montreal club, is partaking in spring drills in Ciudad Trujillo, D. R. (where ever that is.) He is Montreal's regular left fielder and is making a determined bid for a berth in the Big show. In a recent game, Tepsic got the only hit of the game off Brooklyn's Ace, Ralph Branca.

Don Hall, coach of the Union High baseball nine, has cut his 40 hopefuls down to 25 after a week's workout on Hillman Field. Only the upper classmen are taking part in the drills, with freshman scheduled to work in a few at a time. Via the courtesy of the school board, the candidates for the club are transported to the field by bus, so that sessions could get under way at the scheduled time. Coach Hall hasn't as yet been notified as to the official opening date, or what section of the WPIAL Union will compete in. The season will probably open the week of April 12th.

Platter Chatter (pg. 1) Burgettstown Enterprise-April 1. 1948 Edition

Cecil Dvorsak was presented with a gayly decorated candy Easter egg by the Keith Maple Lane's management for posting the ladies' high ten pin score in a special holiday tournament, a blistering 176. Dorothy Fay's low score held up and in a gay ceremony, was awarded with a rainbow colored jelly bean. Jimmy Gilson has posted a natty 232 in quest of the March award in the male department.

Charles Scott sponsored a 'get acquainted' banquet a t Dugas's last Monday night. The gala affair was attended by prospects for the Scott's Service baseball nine which will represent Burgettstown in the coming diamond campaign. After a brief talk by Charlie Scott, who chose as his subject "Making and keeping friends, and the worth of an unquestionable reputation", sound movies of the 1947 World Series were shown. Charlie's words hit the hearts of everyone present with their plain 'horse sense' meanings during his informal chat, and upon concluding, was given a hearty round of applause for his warming chatter. And, should his policies be carried out, and we cannot see why they can't Burgettstown fans will see one of the finest teams ever to represent them. Keen competitors, with sportsmanship as their key note.

Johnny Lukon, the flashy shortstop of the Burgettstown Merchants last season, recently received a contract from Memphis, Tenn., of the Southern Association. Johnny has been on their voluntary retired list for the past couple of seasons, after playing for them for two years. The Chicago White Sox have purchased the 'Chicks' and are after Johnny's return by making him a lucrative offer. So far, no soap, from Lukon.

The Washington YWCA basketball tournament champs, the Burgettstown Girls, knocked off Tygart Valley, just for good measure, 55-32, in a game last Wednesday. Hester Kuzior paced the high stepping Burgettstown Misses to the steamrolling win as she caught fire to pump in 19 points. Ruth Trinary and Erla Malone closed in fast for scoring honors with 18 and 15 points respectively. Roaring away from the barrier at top speed, Burgettstown quickly made it a no contest by completely overwhelming the Valley gals with their superior basketball artistry and team play. Vukanich added two points in the landslide, while McLain posted a 1. Specializing in the guard play were: Gonzales, Visnich, Longo, Pappas, and Marvich.

The Burgettstown American Legion Post 698 was represented in the 25th District American Legion Junior Basebali re-organization meeting in Washington, last week. The program is again under the direction of co-chairman, E. S. Wheeler and Morris Weber. Post 698 has fielded a junior team the past two seasons, and twice they have won their section title, only to be eliminated in the district playoffs. Twice a bridesmaid, and never a bride. This year, Post 698 officials say, will be different! The meeting was an informal one, sort of renewing acquaintances. The meeting slated for April 9th should be all full of business. It was announced though, that any youth who will not be 18 until after August 31, 1948 will be eligable to compete. Previously, teams were limited to only two boys in this classification.

Platter Chatter (pg. 2) Burgettstown Enterprise-April 1, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

This Washington County Baseball League has set an example and deserves heaps of praise for the remarkable way they are holding together, despite rising expenses and decreasing attendance which is wricking sandlot baseball all over the district. With only a week or so remaining in the regular schedules, no less than 10 Pittsburgh clubs have dropped out of their respective leagues last week. Whether the teams of this area's league are at the bottom or at the top, they all are playing good competitive ball and are going to finish. Lack of patronage has hurt all the clubs, but with sportsmanship as their keynote, all district teams are sticking to assure the league a 100% windup.

Eddie Lukon really came into his own last week for the Los Angeles "Angels". A natty 10 for 21 which included two homers and three doubles. Mgr. Kelly of the Cub's Farm club reported that he discovered valuable versatility in outfielder Lukon who is doubling at first base in the absence of regular Jack Sanford.

This Burgettstown district gained another notch in the sports world when the Model Wings Club, a youthful aggregation who really know their stuff about planes, announced that they were granted permission by the Harmon Creek Coal Co., to use part of their property as their regular model plane flying field. The plot, which they have tabbed "ideal", is located on Bavington Road, a mile and a half from Route 22. The club's first formal competition is scheduled on Aug., 15th. We'll have more details for you in our next issue.

The California Legion Juniors copped the 25th District American Legion Junior Baseball Championship by taking a two out of three series from Canonsburg. Charles Merenda dropped his third start for the weak hitting, cellar dwelling New Castle club. A pair of homers by Johnston in the sixth drove Merenda from the box, and he was chalked with a 7-2 loss. Tech Vernillo continues to burn up the Sally League with his sensational play with Savannah, Ga. He leads the club hitting parade in just about every department, and sports a zany batting average of .313. No doubt of Tech getting a chance in the Big Time, according to all reports. Avella dropped their first NBF playoff game when thew treked to Rochester and came back on the short end of a 19-2 count. They had a 1-0 lead but Rochester exploded for 8 runs in the 3rd, then scored away. This was Avella's first NBF loss in 3 starts.

The 25th American Legion Junior Baseball District had 3 of their players selected for the All-Star game at Forbes Field next week. A total of seven weer picked from the game which was staged in Uniontown last Saturday. The Post 698 representatives, Harry Fulmer and Punola, appeared in 4 innings as second basemen. Although they failed to get a hit, they showed up very well in their fielding chances.

Boy, that rhubarb pulled at the Scott Service-Canonsburg game last week was one of the best. It all started when Demnyan slid into 3rd and was called out. Vukas put in a protest and was immediately evicted, leaving the locals stranded with only 8 players and had to forfeit. The popular opinion of the spectators had Demnyan safe easily, but the ump didn't see it hat way. Scott just wasn't supposed to win, that's all. Evicting Vukas because of his right to protest, that tops it! Seems that when a club is down, they don't get a thing, but tramped on. Especially where the Official Dr. Cohen umps are concerned. After that playoff incident last season, Burgettstown district clubs can expect very few breaks from the arbritrators. Well, we tried to swing the teams away from this poor class of umpires, but they wouldn't listen. The association, numbering about 60, has too many members interested in the fee, and possessing very little baseball knowledge. Tell you the truth. I don't see how the league carries on having to contend with some one of these misfits.

Popular opinion of the fans divulged that there are about 10 umpires in this association who know what the score it. Their keen love for the game, and excellent knowledge of it, is doing a heroic task of upholding the entire group. The others are in it for what they can get out of it, the fee. An informal poll taken in Burgettstown, has Falcione far and away the best arbritrator to work this area, this season. Always on the ball, and in complete control of the game all the way, Falcione has earned the respect of district fans for his very capable officiating. Burgettstown has lost games with Falcione umpiring, but never a squalk, because they knew that they got a fair shake from one of the best in the business. He's certainly an example of a top flight official.

You know, it's easy to cheer a champion, but it takes a lot more. sportsmanship to root for a team that is in a slump and losing. That's when a team needs it most. The boys get in a rut, get discouraged and begin to press, as a result, everything they do, turns out wrong. That's when they need that support of the fans. But with Scott Service, a few of the critical fans are stomping them into the ground. The club played an excellent brand of ball all season up until a couple of weeks ago. They were due for a letdown. During this let down, the club had to play several games without their full strength, because some of the regulars were working. They lost a few of these games, and that's when the knockers begun to work. It's a blessing that we don't have too many of this type, for sports could never be a success. They are the class who sit on the sidelines or even at home, and don't say a thing when a club is winning, but let them get on a losing streak, and, oh my! We feel that the club officials made a mistake when they wanted to hike the admission, and installed the canvas. But, a lot of fans weren't aware of the reasons. Baseball is a pretty expensive proposition, and Scott Service had to schedule quite a few nationally reputed teams to show here, which required costly guarantees. They at least wanted to break even in presenting to Burgettstown the tops in baseball entertainment, so proposed a hike. It didn't work out, and the plans were dropped. Patronage fell off as a result. Now, the' reason why Charles Scott assumed the backing of a Burgettstown club was for advertising and in the interest of sports. He got one of the best in the district for his manager, a fellow who's excellent baseball reputation proved that he knows the business, Jake Schneider. In turn, Schneider got the best available timber around to give Burgettstown a first class club and do justice to one of the finest ball parks in this tri-state area. And the club is one of the best in this district. At full strength and playing their usual brand of ball, they're mighty rough. The boys are trying, giving it all they've got, but can't seem to shake off that slump. They fell away from first place, but are assured of a playoff berth. That's the money series, the blue chips are really down. Let's help them to the Shaughnessey championship with all of our morale support, and attendance at the games. They represent Burgettstown, let's support them!

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-August 5, 1948 Edition

By Michael Bihum

Well, the County Baseball League officially wound up its regular season last week. The Shaughnessey Playoffs began this week with the first and third place clubs, and the second and fourth place teams, playing a best out of five game series, as the preliminary. The semi-finals will have each winner going in another best-for-five for the Shaughnessey Championship of their respective divisions. Then, the winner of the National Division meets the winner of the American Division for the Shaughnessey Championship of the Washington County Baseball League A best-of-seven series.

In the National Division it's first place Bulger against third place Avella and second place Imperial against fourth place Midway. In the American Division, two clubs wound up in a tie for fourth place, Cecil and Strabane to temporarily hold up the playoffs in this section. A best of three game series is being staged between these two deadlocked clubs to determine the number four team. The playoffs will pit second place Scott Service against Cecil or Strabane this Wednesday or Thursday, and first place S. A. Myers against third place Canonsburg.

In our May 6th issue, we predicted how the two sections should wind up. In the National Division we had, Bulger, Avella, Raccoon and Santiago in the first division, with Imperial and Midway rated as dark horses. It finished with Bulger, Imperial, Avella and Midway. In the American Division we had Scott Service, S. A. Myer Cecil and Strabane in that order. The section closed with S. A. Myers, Scott Service, Canonsburg and either Cecil or Strabane So, I don't think that our touting was too bad for an amateur, huh?

We have been criticized for the chewing out we've been giving the umpires in this area, well, let me cite another instance for you on which we base our gripes. This took place in a Scott Service game last week. The umps were giving manager Schneider a bad time and by the fifth frame, behind 4-1, Jake was fit to be tied. Well, Gelestor opened the sixth with a single, Vernillo doubled, and the third batter, Demnyan slammed out a homer that knotted the count. The base ump, being in a fog from the very start of the game, then asked Jake, who was coaching at first, "how many out?" Jake replied, "two!". The ump accepted this and relayed the count to the opposition. The team in the field was amazed that two were gone already, and really began to spark it up. Was the ump's face red when a couple of plays later, he finally found out what the actual count was! We could go on like this but, we've raved enough. But, if you still aren't convinced, ask Greenie Scopel or Biggie Dellapina what they think!

OFF THE CUFF-Glenn "Dutch" Farner, the hard luck pitching sensation of Scott Service, enlisted in the U. S. Army and left last Saturday for training in New Jersey. Glenn always hurled good enough ball to win for the locals, but it seemed that every time he took to the mound, the locals either went weak at the platter or slumped in their defense. The Washington County Soccer League will hold its second meeting of the 1948-49 season on Friday, August 13 at 8 p.m., at the National Stores in Washington. This flashy miss that Frank Bailey signed for the Burgettstown Community Girls' Softball Club, Ann Cindric , really thrilled the fans in her first local showing. Two doubles and a pair of singles in five trips, to drive in five tallies. Ann played a sensational game in left field. Ann hails from Muse where she was a regular on the widely traveled and nationally famous Cecil clubs of a few years ago. Her exceptional talents were recognized in the pro circles, and in 1947 she was signed with the Muskegan Lassies of Michigan, a very fast pro Girls' Softball club. She played that season, and two months of 1948, until she injured her fingers and had to retire. She sure is a valuable addition to the local team.

The Avella Merchants scored twice in the top of the ninth and then staved off a last-ditch Turtle Creek rally to collect a 7-6 victory in the quarter finals of the NBF playoffs. It was Kostival racking up the win, giving up 6 runs on 10 hits and fanning 6 And it was Kostival at the plate who paced Avellas 13 hit parade with a perfect 4 for 4. Barwedi Tonini, and Kubachka checked in with two bingles apiece, while Scariot and Kovalchick each garnered a double.

With Morris, Lis, Ezarik, Fritz, Zick and Mehalic smashing out doubles, Cedar Grove swamped Wintersville in an exhibition last Sunday, 10-6. Zick chucked the distance and gave up 6 hits. Mehalic paced the winner's 14 hit attack with 3 for 4, followed by Morris with 2 for 4. Cedar Grove, who started out very slow in the regular season play, but are now, hotter than jail house coffeee, are challenging all comers. Wanna a game? call Mike Lis at Avella 5911.

The most popular player in the Sally circuit, Tech Vernillo had the thrill of his life last week while playing with his Savannah, Ga., club. Two successive home runs which won the ball game! The next day he got another to bring his season's total to nine. Boy oh Boy, what a year Tech is having! We just received a packet of mail from the ball team containing news paper clippings and releases, and in them, nothing but raves and praises about Tech's brilliant ball playing. One release says that Tech is the only player in the entire league, who acknowledges the plaudits of the fans after homering. After crossing the plate, Vernillo politely tips his cap to his admirers. And he is sure their hero, for they shower him with gifts. What a spot to be in, huh?

It was sure tough for the Owls that they didn't get into the playoffs. Always a red hot competitor, the Scopel managed Raccoon club suffered the same fate as did Scott Service. Rounding the final turn and into the home stretch, their key players were unable to play regular because of working split shifts. Fortunately for Scott, they had lead enough to weather the storm. But the Owls weren't so successful. And, losing all of their games to Bulger didn't help either.

Platter Chatter by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-August 12, 1948 Edition

PLATTER CHATTER

By Michael Bihum

Say, don't say nothin, but you'll sure have to go a long ways before you will be able to find a nicer and more complete field house than what the Hillman Athletic Field committee has had erected in our local baseball park! The "on the ball" operations of the committee, has left no stone unturned in making it one of the most outstand- Service ing buildings of its type. The elite affair is divided into three sections; an up to date concession stand, and two modern change rooms. Each change room is beautifully tiled, complete with showers. wast stand, .etc. Honestly, you'd be amazed with it!

We've had a lot of requests as to information about Pete Maropis. Well, here's the latest on one of Langeloth's outstanding athletic products. Maropis has been moved down to Bartlesville, Oklahoma by the Pirates' farm director. The reason for his move from Fargo, N. D., was that Bartlesville is in the thick of the race for their league pennant, but needs help. So Pete, along with a couple of others, was sent down as added strength. Pete played the outfield in brilliant fashion, and had his war club thumping at a terrific pace, a performance that has had the eyes of the Pirate Directors on him all season long. On e day last week, the club manager came into the dressing room and asked for a volunteer catcher because injuries had put his other two receivers on the sidelines. Well, Pete volunteered. And, after the game, which Peter worked so well and cut off three runners, the basepaths with his rifle arm, the manager walked up to him and putting his arms around him said, "Boy' where have you been all year?" So, don't be surprised if Pete is now their regular reliever!

Charles Scott, the angel of the local ball club, was the hit of the show the other evening at Cecil, despite Burgettstown's 7-4 loss. He was all decked out in a uniform, complete with sliding pads, etc., and coaching first base. He kept up a running patter all thru the game, and before it was all over, had a groove about six inches deep worn in the coaching box. Between the fans and ball game, Scotty was sure one busy guy!

SHORT STUFF-In his first two games with Cedar Grove, after requesting his release from the local club, Bill Morris has slapped out a 3 for 4, and 3 for 5. With the pressure off, Bill has started out in excellent style. Playing first base, and with his bat in tune, Bill is a definite asset to the Cedar Grove nine. Marshall Cuervo, another lad who requested a release from the locals, is going great guns as an infielder for the Raccoon Owls. And, Joe Fernendez is sparking the Midway club with his dazzling performance as shot stop, and power hitter for Madway.

A huge throng, gathered around Gene Johnson's place of business the other night to witness the heavyweight championship fight, via television, came away disappointed. He had a perfect set, but, I guess that television just ain't arrived here yet. Gene was sure sweating it out this night. He kept calling radio stations and other owners of sets, all evening, inquiring about their reception. But, no one caught it, due to failure of equipment on the relay plane. The fight was a stinkreroo, anyway, Gene.

Say, you don't want to forget the Swim contest scheduled for the Community Pool on Monday, July 5th. The meet covers entrants in all age groups, and promises to be a gala affair.

their hold on the runner-up spot but both came with a lot of men with a 4-0 whitewashing of Sturgeon. The winners teed off on fifth, Merenda with a double over Buck in the sixth and splashed four runs across the platter before he could stop the rally. C. Shearson hurled the shutout for Bulger in giving up five scattered hits. Sandri, P. Dellapina, Little, Mehalic, J. and C. Shearson each connected safely in the Bulger victory.

Lightly regarded Cecil greased the skids under the locals and up ended them, 7-4 on the Cecil grounds. Patsy Yanni went to the well for his first trip in the togs of Scott, and was losing pitcher. Unable to get into his usually very effective stride, and show the class of which he's capable, Yanni was in trouble nearly every frame. He couldn't find the range and singles over the distance. Avella

Second place Bulger continued He was touched for only two hits. on. With Scott trailing 5-4 in the the third base sack to make the score read, 7-4. Scott Service out-hit the home club, 9-3 but left runners stranded. Vernillo did the heavy sticking for the locals, coming thru with a 3 for 4 including a double. Muscaro went 2 for 3, also getting a double.

Avella took a firmer grip on first place with a 5-1 win over Santiago, Hammering seven hits off R. Perko, including a double by Scariot, Avella commanded 5-0 lead before Santiago could break into the scoring column. They averted a shutout by plating a tally in the final frame. Hlavac went the route for the winners, walked five while hitting three. spread their hits over seven men.

BASEBALL MENU Hillman Field

Wednesday, S. A. Myers at Scott Service Friday, Muse at Scott Service

Sunday, Carnegie at Scott Service

Wednesday, Strabane at Scott

District Games

Wednesday, Sturgeon at Avella; Atlasburg at Imperial. Thursday, Oakdale at Bulger

Friday, Bulger at Oakdale; Midway at Avella; Raccoon at Sturgeon

Sunday, Atlasburg at Cedar Grove; Avella at Raccoon; Bulger at Santiago

Monday, Atlasburg at Santiago

Tuesday, Avella at Cedar Grove; Imperial at Raccoon; Atlasburg at Oakdale

Wednesday, Raccoon at Santia-go; Bulger at Midway

MOE DOWLER HURLS NO HIT, NO RUN, GAME

Lanky Moe Dowler pitched his second no hit, no run game, of his career in stopping Cecil, 19-0. His first trip into the mythical hall of fame came at the expense of American Zinc, which he won 7-0. In crossing the golden threshold for his second time, Dowler fanned four and walked three. While Scott Service backed him up with terrific 17 hit barrage, Dowler kept getting sharper and sharper, and could have continued all night with issuing a safety. He was really on, and no one could have done a thing with him.

Havelka, Johnson and Stanish sprang their batting average up into the ozone, getting three hits apiece. Vernillo, Demnyan, and Muscaro came into the show with a pair of hits apiece.

SCOTT SERVICE WINS Scott Service padded their American Division lead by defeating Canonsburg 7-4. Clouting 13 safeties, paced by Muscaro with a 3 for 4, the locals overcame a 1-0 lead and went in front to stay. Farner was credited with the win, fanning four while giving up six hits. Lukon, Harrington, and Gelestor came in for a share of the spotlight by pounding out a pair of hits apiece.

SCOTT SERVICE UPSET Scott Service smashed Strahane 9-4 to retain their two length lead in the Americaan Division race. Two four run frames, the first and sixth, did the trick for the locals. Farner pitched the route for the winners and gave up seven hits while fanning 4. He issued six free passes, but swell infield play took him out of several jams. The locals hammered out ten hits. paced by Demnyan with 3 for 4, including a triple. Muscaro and Gelestor pounded out two hits apiece, a singel and double each.

PARK SPORTS

League standings of the Community Park Baseball League-Francis Mine leads with two wins and no defeats. Then Slovan with 1 and 1; Bulger, 1 and 1 Burgettstown, 2 and 1; Langeloth with 1 loss; South Burgettstown with 2 losses.

Erie Mine, with McGraw sparking the platter-chatter, laced Eldersville in a challenge soft ball grudge battle, 8-2. Harry Mehalic was another standout in the victory

There was sure a nice bit of sportsmanship displayed when Bulger and Francis Mine clubs refused to accept a forfeit from South Burgettstown by their nonappearance. The clubs learned the South Burgettstown boys were attending church services and couldn't meet their schedule, so have offered to play on other dates.

With Clair doing a swell job on the mound for Langeloth in their game with Bulger, the contest gave evidence of being one of the finest ever played on the Park grounds. Rain in the fifth frame halted the verdict as to who is the top club.

Harry Fulmer sure deserves a lot of credit for getting together a fine Langeloth club.

Francis Mine's Joe Zamberlan looks as if he might become the top hurler of the Park circuit.

Outfielder Bianchi and first baseman Penderville, both representing the Bulger club, show a lot of promise of becoming standouts in the game of baseball. Starring at the initial sack for South Burgettstown is Dan Capazzoli. His play is a spark plug.

Howard Dunbar, the master of the horse-shoe pitching set, sure has a lot of fans at his games. Barring nobody, Howard is setting down all comers.

Plans are being laid for a top flight soft ball tournament to begin the second week of July. Clubs from the Tri-State area have already submitted entries. It promises to be a gala event for the entertainment of district fans.

RACCOON WINS

Raccoon retained their grip on fourth place by outrunning Oakdale in a straight 17-11. The Owls, with everyone in the lineup coming thru rapped out a dozen hits and never lost their lead. Oakdale strated several fires and manager Greenie Scopel had to call on three pitchers to halt rallies. Sydlawski, McBee and Kuzior each took their turns. Extra base clouts for the winners came off the clubs of, Kuzior and Sydlawski for doubles, a triple by Kranak, and a booming circuit clout by Evans.

AVELLA RETAINS LEAD Avella overcame a 2-0 lead and dumped Atlasburg, 4-2 at Avella last week. Gardner went the route for the winners and gave up only

Platter Chatter The Burgettstown Enterprise-September 1, 1948 Edition



BY MICHAEL BIHUM

When the flag is flying at Hillman Field, the ball game scheduled for that day, will be on.

Ray DePaul, the sensational rookie of the Raccoon Owls and recent graduate from the American Legion Post 698 Baseball Program, is really making himself heard in the County league circuit via his thundering war club. In fifteen official trips to the plate, DePaul has rapped out a total of 12 hits for a collossul .800 average! (June 1st).

Joe Tepsic was shifted around in the St. Paul batting order last week and found himself batting ninth, behind the pitcher. This made him see red, and he bashed out a home run to let the manager know that he was insulted.

Steve "hambo" Kubuchka, the right fielder of the Imperial nine, and the same guy who rapped out two doubles against Burgettstown, is formerly of Francis Mine.

Say, isn't that Hillman Field a nifty baseball plant tho? Well, it will improve to a much sweller ball park after the rental fees begin coming in. The committee will collect a flat 10% from the home team's collections to aid in making the improvements and for the upkeep of the park.

Sports by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-June 5, 1947 Edition

by Mike Bihum

If this frigid Siberian weather breaks, the local Main street basketcall arena should see just about the largest crowd of the season when the Blue Devils go into action against Waynesburg on Friday night. Both clubs are perfectly matched with identical records of 7-2 (not including Tuesday night's game.) and a super-duper of a contest should result. Union is roaring along at a white-hot pace and is certainly deserving of a packed-house following as one of the best cage seasons in the school's history is in the making. The locals have been playing in foreign territory the past three games and are due back on the road for two more tilts before returning home again. So, this Waynesburg tussle will be Union's last home appearance until January 23, when Canonsburg will visit here. Coach Bodie Nicksick has molded this 1950-51 Blue Devil club into a precision operating unit, and the boys click beautifully on their victory diet. Possessing a healthy appetite, the Blue Devils want more of the same. And, from their sensational court play to date, rival ball clubs had just better forget about "breathers" of past Union contests. This team is not to be taken lightly!

Senator Scott Lucas is getting plenty of touting for Happy Chandler's job as baseball Commissioner. But, I believe that public opinion will keep Happy in thehe for a long time yet—I see where Don Hall, coach of Union's baseball nine, has put in an order for a bunch of innersoles. Seems that some of his boys have been popping out from hitting just a fraction of an inch under the ball!—What major league ball club has the best keystone combination? Probably I'm all wet, but I like: Rizzuto and Coleman of the Yankees as tops. Then come: Reese and Robinson of the Dodgers, and Dark and Stanky of the Giants.

I remember Coach Mervosh saying this to his Union High football eleven last season, (maybe he'll carry it out this year). "The next time any of you backfield men fumble twice during a game, you'll be given a football to carry around with you wherever you go for the whole next week!" Wonder what in the heck a guy would do with a football when on a date with luscious Effie? There's a simple solution to all this squabble that the Pacific Coast seems to be having in renewing its pact with the Big Ten for the Rose Bowl participants. Since the Big Ten has swept all games of the first five year pact, Illinois, Northwestern, Ohio State and two wins by Michigan, why not pit the champion of the coast against the last place club of the Big Ten? Wouldn't that make things kinda even?

My definition of a good high school basketball player? A boy who has a little ability, plenty of stamina, a good shooting eye, cool head, a stickler for team play, and one who can keep his eye off the pretty little thing in the stands!

Anyone listening to the Duquesne-Cincinnati game last Monday night must have thrilled when Chick Davies, former Duquesne Coach, compared the visitors' play with that of Teddy Nicksick and the T.W.C. cagers when they snapped an undefeated 13 game win streak of the Dukes a few seasons ago. That full court press and race-horse offense of the Texas underdogs, combined with the firebrand play of little Teddy Nicksick, so befuddled the Dukes that they just collapsed. Speaking of Teddy, he's doing right well in his role as Jayvee coach of the Texas State College club. He has piloted his boys to a 10-1 slate to date and is receiving heaps of praise for his successful coaching methods. Teddy's court strategy is just one of the features which is propelling him into big time. Another one getting him plenty of recognition is his style of dress. A stickler for a neat appearance, Nicksick's ever present bow-tie and natty attire never fails to be mentioned in all of th e clippings I've seen from the Texas newspapers.

I couldn't get the complete line on Avella's Section 17 cage opener. All that could be received on it was that they dropped the contest to Robinson, 76-37.

On this basketball officiating business. Every school in the country is crying about the poor quality which they've been receiving. Well, in this area, I think what the whole trouble is that there are too many associations in the fold. This tends to split up the efficient men instead of coming from one group. Each association has a few really good ones with the rest of the roster filled up with guys who think that all they need to be an official, is a striped shirt and whistle. And some of the coaches don't help matters when they threaten to discontinue their services if the officials don't side in with them. It works both ways, at home and on the road. Who suffers most? the boys who play their hearts out!

The owners and officials of the new Waterford Downs race track at Newell, W. Va., owners of the Charlestown strip, will probably get a 41 day meet beginning May 19 to July 4. Then, Bill Lias will take over at Wheeling Downs. Result? it'll keep the 'gee-gee happy' fans in this district broke all summer! The Newell track cost two million to erect and Wheeling is planning on more improvements. Where's the lucre coming from?

The Harlem Globetrotters have chalked up 45 wins in 45 starts this season and have drawn 200,000 fans to date. The colorful quintet, playing a backbreaking schedule, is touted to be on its way to the greatest record for fans in basketball history. A little Pro-Football chatter: Cleveland's Motley won the ground gaining championship with 810 yards in 140 attempts. Zeigler of the Eagles was second, Geri of the Steelers third, Price of the Giants fourth and Perry of the 49ers fifth. Champion passing title won won by Van Brocklin of the Rams with 127 completions in 233 attempts for a yardage of 2,061 and 18 touchdowns. Trailing him were: Graham of the Browns, Geri-Steelers, Ratterman-Yanks and Conerly-Giants. Doak Walker of the Lions copped the scoring title with 128 points on 11 touchdowns, 38 conversions and 8 field goals. Trailing were: Lujack-Bears, Waterfield-Rams, Groza-Browns and Shaw-Cards. Pass Receiving title went to Fears of the Rams. He caught 84, for a new league record, accounting for 1,116 yards. Next in line came: Edwards-Yanks, Box-Lions, Salata-Colts and Shaw-Cards. Morrison o fthe Bears won the punting championship with his 57 punts averaging 43-3 yards. Then came Gillom-Browns, Sanders-Yanks, Reardon-Eagles and Smith-Lions. Topping the pass interceptions department was Saunder of the Yanks who snagged 13 for 199 yards. Following were: Lewis-Rams, Doll-Lions, James-Lions and Maggioli-Colts.

Don't forget the change of schedule in Union's wrestling program. Instead of meeting the East Liverpool club in the local arena Tuesday, Jan. 16, the Mervosh-men will trek to the Ohio city.

In answer to the question why there isn't more chatter about local boys in the sports picture—My crystal ball doesn't give that information, but, if interested people would drop a line to this department, we certainly would relish receiving and using the copy.

The Sports Crier Burgettstown Enterprise-January 11, 1931 Edition



By Michael Bihum

tail-end of a duel bill between the hand Toth his first loss. Reds and Cardinals, Cinn. had a man on and were trailing 2-4, 4 ply clout of last Sunday, in the win for Gratchen. "clutch" proved that he's got the "stuff" and can "go". He'll break That blow restored his confidence in himself, just what he needed to put him back in the Red's outfield, now watch him gol

"Chuck" Havalka is putting his name in lights by his sensational play for Federalsburg, Md. He's their leadoff man and is hitting at a merry clip, better than .300 the records say. Chuck covers the ground around 2nd base like an octapus, robbing batters right and left of balls that should be chalked up as hits. Shouldn't take lon for this boy to make the grade

Wel, Burgettstown finally cam out of "it", and what a roug outfit they had to knock off t get into the win column, non other than the league leader Cherry Valley! They sure looke like a real ball club as they drubbed the boys from the Val-ley, 10-2. And what a pitcher the June 4th, Avella at Cherry Val-

Eddie Lukon strolled to the to lead the hit parade. Vernillo platter in the role of a pinch bingled twice as the Merchants hitter in the 7th frame of the put 9 hits together for 10 runs and

Raccoon, licked their wounds Barrett was on the rubber for St. received from the 4-2 defeat Louis and it looked like a double handed them by Sturgeon for win for his club, But Eddie eyed their first loss, jumped on the a couple of the pitchers, picked Vets of McDonald and stomped one to his liking and SOCK! into all over them 15 to 2. "Yap" Duthe R. F. stands for a home run. bich hitting at a .656 clip, really With the score tied, the Reds took hummed today, 4 for 5, while on new life and tallied once more Kuzior got 3 for 3 and S. Danek, in the 8th that gave an even split 3 for 4. Every one hit with the with the "Champs". Lukon hasn't exception of Demo and Gratchen been in the lineup very much as Raccoon bashed out 16 hits since that error a while back, and and rode the Merry-go-round for only as a pinch hitter, but that 15 tallies. It was the 2nd straight

Bulger committed 6 miscues as a lot of the opposition's spirit they bowed to Sturgeon 3-6. once he gets back in as a regular. Sturgeon put 11 hits together for their score and Bulger was only able to garner 2. V. Pregal went for the winners while Shearson suffered the loss.

> Avella, behind the 2 hit pitching of Poreli, shut out Houston 7-0. Avella caught fire in the 4th, and before their side was retired, they had sent 5 runs across the rubber to win easy.

League Standing

g		W	L
5	Raccoon	5	1
	Cherry Valley	3	1
e	Sturgeon	4	2
h	Avella	3	2
0	McDonald	2	3
e	Bulger	2	3
5,	Burgettstown	1	4
d	Houston	0	.4
u u			

Schedule for the week-Tuesday Merchants had! my oh my! He ley, Houston at Sturgeon, Bulger fanned 11 in giving up 3 hits, as at Raccoon, Burgettstown at Mc-Cherry Valley, with their roster Donald. Thursday, June 6th, Burof sluggers, became putty in his gettstown at Avella, Sturgeon at hands. Oh yes, his name, "Lefty" Raccoon, Houston at Bulger, Mc-Melenda. What a thrower! Brown, the catcher worked him beauti- June 11-Sturgeon at Burgettstown fully to garner Burgettstown's Raccoon at Avella, McDonald at first win. Muscaro banged out 3 Houston. Cherry Valley at Bulger. for 4, including 2 tremendous We're kinda slippin' on our predoubles, as he took off his slump, dictions, 15 right against 8 wrong.

The damp weather that we've been having lately has sorta clouded up our "cracked crystal ball" and makin' us look kinda bad. Oh well, the sun will shine sometime, (we hope)!

Union Hi of Burgettstown dropped the curtain on their 1946 baseball season by bowing to E. Washington 4 to 7. The Blue Devils suffered a relapse in the 5th and the visitors tallied 5 times to sew up the ol' ball game. Union put on a great drive in the last frame and scored 4 runs, but the winners had too much of a lead, and the rally fell short. Della-pina twirled a 4 hitter, but aided in his own downfall by too many "Annie Oaklies". He got two of Union's 5 hits, while Buckwalter doubled, and Downer, and Enos each bingled.

The Big Four Hit Parade will be carried next week because our records aren't complete as yet.

Floyd Stoller of the Avella entry hurled himself into the Hall of Fame when he shut McDonald out minus a hit or a run, and won 2-0. The near perfect game was marred by a walk and two errors that permitted three Vets to hunched reach- first. Avella enough of their 6 bingles in the 4th to score two their 2 runs.

Cherry Valley took their spite of the Burgettstown beating out on Sturgeon and pumelled them 17-1. They hammered 16 hits off 4 Sturgeon hurlers in the rout, as they used every one but the water boy in the lineup.

Florio won his first start of the 1 season as Raccoon handed Houston their 4th straight defeat, 8-2. 1 Raccoon adjusted their hitting 2 2 caps in the 2nd and got off to a flying start by sending 4 runs 3 3 over the happy gum and were never headed as they made their way to the top of the ladder and now are setting in the throne in first place.

Burgettstown used 4 pitchers in the attempt to halt the march that Bulger sent over the platter, as they added another loss to the Merchants record, setting em down 10-3. Gatus gave up 4 hits one a triple by Sewasky as he halted the Burgettstown win streak at one straight. The locals used the same men in todays contest as they used in drubbing Cherry Valley, but what a difference in their performance oh, my! Thought that they came out of their slump, but they were weaker than ever today. The boys all are fine material, and should go. It's just too bad that they're in the rut at one time. They'll snap out of it soon and when they do, they're going to make it rough.

The Sports Crier Burgettstown Enterprise-May 30, 1946 Edition



By Michael Bihum



BEN KOBE, A "GEM" IN THE SPORTS BOOSTERS OF THIS COMMUNITY, sure rates an orchid for the way that he has aided the Merchants Baseball Club. Although the Merchants didn't win a pennant or anything, his efforts contributed much to the moral and financial standpoint. He donated the use of his Jeep all season; turned his restaurant basement into a locker room, complete with showers, for the comfort of the players; and gave liberally of his time and money towards getting baseball back in the pre-war groove in Burgettstown. And, whenever the opportunity permitted him to, he furnished the players with refreshments during their games. He was all for the "boys", win or lose, and was one of the most rapid rooters. We remember an incident that took place last year which was a typical Benny gesture; A group were snake-dancing down thru town on the eve of the Canonsburg-Union football game, (which, by the way, Union won) and in their demonstrations, accidently broke a window in Bards. Ben heard about it, and immediately went over to pay the damages! Then, to top it off, he treated the whole gang to refreshments! It's things like this, that has endeared Ben with the younger set of the town and for which he deserves some kind of a title. It's a "guy" like this that makes life worth while living. A 'good Joe"!

Ben Kobe, A "Gem" in the Sports Boosters of this Community Burgettstown Enterprise-September 26, 1946 Edition

Sunday, June 5 will mark a red letter day in Burgettstown's 1949 sports parade, the curtain raiser on the Yukevich Motor Girls softball club. The locals tangle with Pittsburgh's best in the game, the Arsenals, and a thrilling contest is on tap. Opening day should pack Hillman Field and give the locals a nifty sendoff on their trek to national fame. There are a lot of fans who have never witnessed this aggregation in action and don't fully realize their talents. One look at them will increase the attendance when it is learned what a classy outfit they really are. They display a fast game packed with all the thrills and action a red blooded sports lover wants to see. Meeting all of the top drawer clubs in the circuit, the Yukevich Motor Girls will provide plenty of entertainment for local fans. But, it is your support which will govern how high they will go atop the national ladder of fame, let's show them that we are on their bandwagon with our attendance! Sunday game time is at 2:30.

James R. "Bob" Canning of Burgettstown Union high school and Guy Tornabene of McDonald High, co-coaches of the Western Division for the first annual East-West County All-Star football classic are sure marking up a lot of table cloths with diagrams in preparation for the game which will be played sometime in August. As yet, very little publicity has been released, but the West players will come from Avella, Burgettstown, Canonsburg, Chartiers, Cecil, East Washington, Hickory, Midway, McDonald, Trinity and Washington.

Well, I believe anything can happen now! When Walter Lipnicky can get a hit in a baseball game, nothing is impossible! And, not one hit did he get in that Cedar Grove game, but two! a triple and single. Manager Andy Fuller was on the coaching line for Atlasburg on this momentous occasion, and just flopped over when Lipnicky came thru. The fans who witnessed this event said that Lipnicky settled himself in the box with a couple of rhumba motions of his hips, closed his eyes and swung! Result? a triple! Atlasburg reports say that it was his first hit in two seasons, must have been, for a guy has a salaam before he'll even talk with you.

Pete Maropis is sure setting a gallant pace with the Bartlesville, Oklahoma club of the Pirates. In 17 games, he's clubbing at a healthy .333 average and leading the club, too.

Bill Morris, outstanding first sacker of the Wooster College ball club, continues to wack away in guiding his club to victories. A showman in his defensive play, Bill is creating quite a reputation as a hitter and speedster. He received a rude shock the other day when he clouted a roundtripper with one on. But, around third base, he missed it and when the ball was thrown in and he was tagged out! he keeled over like a guy being hit on the head with a sledge hammer. "Boy oh Boy", he said when he came to, "A guy hits only a couple of homers a year, and he has to run into something like this!" Seriously though, reports have Morris as a groomed performer and he should be a big help t o any district club he signs with after school is out. Understand Raccoon has first choice.

And say, did you notice the pitcher who led Raccoon to victory over league leading Imperial, the other day? Yep, it was none other than Debby Clair, for years an outstanding moundsman around these parts. His curve will win a lot of ball games for the Owls. The Raccoon team has finally righted itself from the results of its past t w o games, knocking off the two National Division loop leaders, Bulger and Imperial.

Cedar Grove's 7-4 win over Atlasburg was a costly victory. A l Ezarik, number one catcher suffered a broken finger and will be out of action for a while.

Since going to Syracuse, the farm club of the Cincinnati Reds, Avella's John Parmesa is getting regular duty and gaining valuable experience. The Reds have him tabbed as a brilliant comer who should become a Major League standout catcher. They say he is a natural.

The Sports Crier by Mike Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-June 2, 1949 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

by Mike Bihum

Bodie Nicksick, newly appointed head basketball and assistant football coach at Union High, nearly threw my March 24th prediction in a cocked hat. On that date, I said that my guess, as to the coaching situation at the hall of the Blue Dev,ils, would be husky Nick Mervosh moving up from the assistant's berth and into the head coach's role; Don Hall to be mov-



ed up from his junior high berth to that of Nick's assistant; and that Bodie Nicksick would be assistant football coach and head basketball coach. Well, about a month later, it was confirmed by the Board. Then a few days ago, Bodie was offered a swell setup in a Texas high school, right out of Fort Worth. He sure was tempted to accept, but after sleeping on it a few nights, Bodie decided that a better future was in store for him at his ole alma mater, and turned the offer down.

"MIKE"

Well, we finally got all of you bowlers lined up. We have had several requests that we contact the Keith Bowling Emporium in

regards to setting up a district kegling loop. So, we have the ground work laid and it's up to you to get in touch with the management and get your clubs lined up. The ideal located maple lanes are getting a complete going over and will be in tip-top shape for the season's curtain raiser.

The American Division playoffs? well, Cecil copped their semi-final series by grabbing three games to Canonsburg's one.

I'd rather not go into the story of why I'm tagged with the moniker of "Doc". First, it's a long one, then it's a little embarrassing too!

Twenty clubs have posted forfeits in the Washington County soccer league and are all set to go, assuring Prez Johnny Page another banner season. The clubs have been divided into two loops, Section 1 and Section 2. Official play will get under way on September 11th with the following district teams seeing action; Burgettstown at Raccoon, and Muse at Avella. The Burgettstown club is sponsored by the Slovenian Home Association (Granish Club) and replaces Langeloth in the League.

The Slovenian Volunteer Fire Department sure deserves a bouquet of orchids for their concern over the playing condition of Hill Stadium. Last Friday this active group poured 1400 gallons of water on the stadium grass to help keep it from burning up in the terrific heat and dry spell which we have been experiencing.

Union High freshman and eighth grade football candidates will welcome this bit of news. Relieving the monotony of daily grind, bumping heads in an occassional scrimmage session between themselves or the varsity, and hardly anything to look forward to but week after week of steady plodding, will be a reward of a chance to participate in an actual game. A schedule of five games is in the process of being arranged for this once lightly regarded timber. The "B" squad also will have their own five games or so slate too. So, just about everyone who turns out for Union High football, will have a chance in active competition. And, if they can prove themselves in jayvee competition, I have no doubt but that Coach Nick Mervosh will see that they get moved up. This plan should also make the varsity boys keep hustling when they realize that someone else is gunning for their jobs. District Soccer clubs sure deserve better patronage than it has been receiving. Jam packed with thrills all of the way, this rough and tough sport has plenty of body contact and is kept going at a lightning speed. Maybe most spectators are like me, they think that a corner kick is part of a chorus routine, huh? Seriously tho, since I've been initiated to the game, I find it all the more interesting to watch with every contest. And I know that you would take to it like a duck to water if you would turn out and witness a few games.

Blue Devil coach, Nick Mervosh, is up to his elbows in driving candidates thru some mighty rough sessions in effort to get Union football back up the ladder and off of the ground where opponents have stomped them for the past few seasons. Leading the way for positions are nine returning lettermen, eight seniors and one junior. They are seniors: George Mc-Elhaney, Andy Orgovon, Jim Lewis, Owen McGraw, Jim Mc-Connaughey, Richard Semenick, Ed Maltony, and John Fedorsin. The lone junior is Quentin Capozzoli. Unless the sophomores and juniors can move up in there for berths, the 1949 club appears to be strictly'a senior team. Coach Mervosh had declared all positions open, and candidates are making a spirited bid for those eleven starting roles. With a lot of new faces on the gridiron this season, Union High fans can expect to see a Blue Devil club packed with spirit and hustle and giving their all in every test. Mervosh features the "T" formation which produces action crammed, thrilling football all the way, and is the spectator's delight. You'll sure want to back this club from the opening gun.

Eighth and ninth grade candidates will begin their session's with the opening of the school term and will be under the direction of Assistant Coach Bodie Nicksick.

In the passing out of orchids, we sure don't want to forget the men behind the success of Midway's baseball team and the community's sports program in genral. Leading the way are Jim Beatty, Matt Donovich, Art Hall, Ed Williams, Billy Jordon, and all of the Midway merchants. They certainly deserve a lot of credit for their unselfish contributions both in time and money.

Another record which the Yukevich Motor club has set along with their sensational season record of 31 wins in 40 starts, is a slugging title too. In the games to date, the club has blasted out 50 home runs. Mary Gross is the leader of the pack with 21; Agnes Krupar has 8; Fritz Kanzius has 7; Ann Cindrich has 6; Hester Kuzior, June Cox and Vilma Manni each have tagged 2; Bella Dumeret and Thelma Nicola each have tagged one.

The Sports Crier by Michael Bihum Burgettstown Enterprise-September 1, 1949 Edition

by Mike Bihum

More and more than ever, out of state colleges are realizing that the country's best athletic timber is developed right here in the Western part of Pennsylvania. And, to capitalize upon it, foreign schools are sending more and more scouts thru this part of the state. A proof of this fact was shown last week when several district boys were invited to consider the possibilities of attending out of state schools. With Union High coaches exerting every bit of their influence in alding their top timber to a chance at higher learning, more and more local boys will be getting an education which they otherwise couldn't afford. Union's football and basket-



ball coach, Nick Mervosh, along with assistant football and head basketball mentor, Bodie Nicksick, are both behind their lads in recommending their talents to people who can help them best. Don Clark, John Fedorsin and George McElhaney, along with Coach Mervosh, have been invited at a future date, to look over the Cincinnati, Ohio University campus. Coach Nicksick had as his guest last week, the nationally renowned "Tuffy Leemans", George Washington U's all-time football great, and brilliant all-Pro backfield standout with the N. Y. Giants a few years ago. "Tuffy" was very much impressed with the court play of Harry Strongosky and stated that he would like to help Harry very much upon his graduation. Making his visit especially to talk to Nicksick, Leemans said that he had the greatest faith in Nicksick's keen judging of athletic talents, and would act favorably upon each one of his recommendations. While being very enthusiastic about Strongosky, Leemans also was urged to consider John Fedorsin, Ralph Felton of Midway and Micky Delfine of Canonsburg. No doubt these boys will be invited for talks, soon. Other scouts have been very much in attendance at Union High football games of the past season, and are seen attending basketball contests of the current campaign. But, one thing has been a drawback with some very fine talent in this district, that of grads. Upon discovering that a boy is a little behind in his studies, the scout quickly erases that name, and that's that.

Sport' Schedule Boy, there's gonna be a dog eat dog scuffle in the Main street arena this Friday night when Union hosts Avella in a cage tilt. More than enough excitement is produced anytime an Avella and Burgettstown team clashes, and this one shouldn't be any different. To make things hotter, Avella is primed for this one, so don't miss it! On Tuesday, Jan. 31, Union hosts another traditional rival, taking on the scrappy McDonald five on the local court. This promises to be another slam-bang affair. Coach Mervosh's wrestlers have two more road shows before returning to their own mats. On Friday, they trek to Waynesburg to meet a club which tied the state's top scholastic team of Wash Hi. Then on Tuesday, Jan. 31, the Blue Devil matmen return a tilt with Claysville, a team which they drubbed, 52-0, in Union's home debut early in the campaign.

Jim Kernohan, formerly of Burgettstown, and now calls Indiana his home, was a recent visitor to his alma mater. Jim is very much involved in the sports world, scouting and directing baseball, football and basketball. Possessing top flight contacts, Jim has given many boys their start in the athletic world. He's another fellow interested in Union High's sports figures. Kernohan gave us a bit of information which will be of interest to many in this district. I'm refering to Dale Sprankle. Sprankle used to be a very important figure in these parts, having coached at Union during the hey-day of the late Dutch Hill. Well, Sprankle is doing right well for himself. Upon leaving 'Union, he went to Tarentum, then to Adrian College in Michigan, and now is Physical Director at Albion College in Albion, Mich.

Soccer Standings: Mollenauer 20 points and leading, Lincoln Hill is second with 19, Beadling 17, Gallatin 16. Avella and Sturgeon tied for fifth place with 15 points apiece, Burgetistown 14, Bishop and Canonsburg 12 apiece, Muse 8, Arden 6, and winless Raccoon 2 points. To many of you who are a little vague about the game, such as I am, two points are given for wins, and one for a tie. I don't know, but I've tried to latch on to this type of sport, and still don't know the score. I never heard of soccer until I came to Burgetistown in 1936, and since that time, I've witnessed many games, but just can't seem to get enthused about it. Oh, its a top sport, don't get me wrong, but maybe it's the weather they play in. Certainly not the type for comfortable watching.

Certainly deserving mention for their swell contributions in assisting the Union High cagers with their basketball play are, Steve Vukas, an outstanding Union cage star who had his best season in 1936 when he sparked Union to the WPIAL Class B championship; Mike Mergen, former Weirton High star and one of the county's outstanding players in Serbien Cage tournaments, Peanuts Latella, the ole Tucci Pro artist; and Teddy Nicksick of TWC fame.

Some of this and that- a note of interest to you gee-gee- followers, you'll have more days to drop your bundle when the Wheeling Downs get going. Opening July 22, the track runs for 61 days before get-away day on Sept. 30. If you pick 'em like me, about two days is enough, let alone 61. Up until game time Tuesday, Nicksick's basketball club has a slate of 5-7, although it is a much better team than its record indicates. Mervosh's wrestlers have a record of 3-2, and coming fast. Certainly a brilliant improvement over last season when they scored only one victory. No, Ben Kobe hasn't turned his restaurant into a Grand Central Station. Accounting for the terrific crowd in this popular sports spot is a community checker playing tournament. Still haven't heard a word about a Burgettstown baseball team yet. And with one of the swellest baseball plants in the state in Hillman Field. I wonder who's going to use it besides the juniors and high school club? It sure will be a rough blow to the highly successful record of Burgettstown sports ventures, if a senior team isn't fielded, won't it? Especially when Raccoon, Bulger, Midway, and Atlasburg plan to enter a loop again. Possibly Avella too, if Cedar Grove doesn't soon make up its mind.

The Sports Crier by Michael Bihum The Burgettstown Enterprise-January 26, 1950 Edition

by Mike Bihum

The Raccoon Owl's, 1950 champions of the National Division Baseball League, successfully opened first round Shaughnessy playoffs by drubbing third place Santiago, 12-6. The Owls got off to an early lead and coasted over the route as they combined 14 hits with nine walks off Johnny Perko. Harry Elias led the parade with a 3 for 4, as Ray DePaul, Zig and George Danek each collected a pair of safeties. Everyone in the lineup of the winners got at least one hit. Matt Kuzior picked up the verdict in spacing 10 hits.

That county All-Star football game last Friday was a big disappointment. It was almost strictly a defensive show with none of the thrills and excitement usually in evidence with this kind of a match. George McElhaney was easily the most outstanding lineman of the night with his fine tackle play featuring the defense and offense, both. Don Clark, John Fedorsin and Ed Maltony were very impressive on the defensive, but lacked their usual fine spark on the offense. Pete Sergakis was used sparingly because of an injured leg. Avella's Ken Page and Midway's Billy Pyle also came thru with commendable performances. But, like I said, the game was very dull!

Say, here's a chance to save your sugar—There is to be a bake sale this Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., in the Raccoon school house. All proceeds are slated for the benefit of the Raccoon Baseball club.

Supervisor Nick Mervosh and his directors of the Smith township Recreational program are busy selecting the outstanding talent of their junior baseball and basketball teams, senior basketball, and girl softballers. Their names will be carried in next week's issue of the Enterprise.

The admission price for adult football fans to the U.H.S. games in Hill Stadium this season, has been hiked to 85 cents.

With football practice beginning next week, I sure hope that coach Mervosh can come up with an extra-point kicker! Boy, how many games are won and lost because of that one stinking point! Say, coach, if you don't fare to well with your candidates, how about trying the band or the home Ec class! We just gotta stop losing them one-point decisions, or be satisfied with a tie game!

During a recent sports banquet, a well known WPIAL coach said, "If a boy with football ability and who can carry well with his studies, doesn't get an education these days-it is his own hard luck and great mistake. The opportunity is there if a boy will settle down to work while in high school and prepare his way to college. This territory is carefully and closely watched by enthusiasts from schools all over the country. It's a tribute to the type of players turned out in Western Pennsylvania."

The Yukevich Motor Girls split a double bill on Hillman field last Sunday. They drubbed McKeesport, 10-2 in a league tilt behind the one-hit twirling of Cotterall. And, in the evening contest, the locals bowed to the Cleveland Rangers, 5-1. Rose Klipich was charged with

the loss. Although he has very much to learn yet, being only 16, young Bob Cowden has been investigated by many big timers of the Major Baseball Leagues. They've held off contacting him personally because of his age, high school and Junior Legion eligibility. He sure has a great future in store doesn't he? Another example of what America Legion competition can do for a boy!

The Sports Crier Burgettstown Enterprise-August 17, 1950 Edition

Ine Sports Crief District gridiron fans sure a r e raving about the play and success of the Union High 'B' squad football eleven. The club, showing exceptional spirit and will to win, clicked brilliantly together in terrific team play while going thru five tough engagements undefeated. Playing a thrilling and inspiring brand of ball, the locals copped victories over Trinity, W e s t Allegheny, Washington, Weirton and Canonsburg 'B' clubs.

The former Blue Devils a r e making the Wyoming Cowboys a much talked about football aggregation. Johnny 'Hunchie' Melton has spearheaded the team to a spot among the nation's top seven undefeated college elevens with seven straight victories. He's the Cowboys' bruising main line fullback. The other lad, John Fedorsin, has played practically every minute at tackle in sparking the Frosh eleven to an undefeated season of a five game schedule.

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The Union Junior High Little Blue Devils caught fire in their last two starts and racked up North Strabane and West Allegheny. Posting a record of three wins and two losses, the locals certainly deserve a lot of praise for their success. And, if they were to again play Follansbee and Canonsburg, the story might be a little different now that they have got to clicking together.

The Union High Blue Devils ring down the curtain on the 1950football campaign by hosting Monaca in a Hill stadium duel this Friday night at 8 p.m. Fans will get a last look at Monaca for a while as it has been cut off Union's 1951 slate. The locals will play only a nine game card next season. Union, with two losses and seven defeats should pick up win number three in closing down the lid.

Coach Martin Flannery of the Avella High Eagles turned in an acceptable chore in directing his proteges to three wins in nine starts, especially with the Avella football wheel spinning the other way as far as material is concerned. The squad was small and although full of hustle and spirit, the lack of reserves made it a tough row to hoe in face of a grueling schedule. Yep, Flannery, in h is first coaching job, did alright.

It must be a habit. The Southwestern Class A Football Conference was formed in 1947. Trinity won the title, then repeated in '48. Canonsburg won the trophy in 1949 and repeated in '50. Canonsburg, Union, Trinity and Waynesburg comprise the conference. But, the league will undoubtedly grow larger with more teams coming in, from the terrific interest shown already.

Sports Crier Burgettstown Enterprise-November 9, 1950 Edition