



OFF THE BACKBOARD

By J. E. O'BRIEN

Coach Johnny Wooden was hurrying his South Bend Central Bears out of their brief playing togs and into the steaming showers, while a couple of onlookers stood and wondered how much these long lads would have to duck to get under the showers.

"Don't forget that rubdowns after your shower. Take a good one," warned Wooden. A undersized blizzard was playing hide-and-seek around the Big Davis gym, and Johnny wasn't taking any chances on his vertical greyhounds getting a cold or even the sniffles. Johnny knows the valuable cargo he's conveying this season.

"You didn't see us at our usual game tonight," Wooden said. "They wanted to play it the wild way and we were willing. We're not that helter-skelter most of the time."

The Ben Davis homefolk, however, saw enough of the Central attack to more than satisfy them. Coach Herman Hinshaw's Giants (definitely a misnomer in this instance) had a short frolic at the start of the game before the Bears could stoop down and catch their host's numbers.

Those Bears Average 6-Foot-1

After that, Ben Davis had to depend on sheer fight and spirit and that seldom is any match for a combination of height, speed and accuracy. Central's first five is a cold, business-like corporation that averages 6-foot-1 and thrives on sprinting. The Bears will proceed at a walk, however, and then open with a series of passes you'd swear were just clearing the rafters. This technique is designed to uncover Harvey Martens, Jim Farmer or Ed Ehlers under the basket.

Undoubtedly the Bears resort to long-range artillery when they're pressed, but against the Giants they chose to drive as close to the basket as possible before shooting. While the aforementioned three do most of the shooting, the Bears' other two first-string hands, Parsons Howell and Tom Rzeszewski, perform capably as floormen and defenders.

Ehlers, incidentally, is also a big-league basketball prospect. The 17-year-old athlete who scored 11 points against Ben Davis, last summer played third base for the Conservative Life amateur team of South Bend, which finished fourth in the national Amateur tournament. The Lifers were the state champions, with Ehlers' big bat leading the way. For a while he was a utility man with the Studebaker A. C. amateur nine.

The Bears, who have lost only to Huntington and claim among their victims Muncie Central, Ft. Wayne North Side, Mishawaka, Bedford and South Bend Riley, live a rigid life these days. It's out of bed each morning at 6 o'clock and to practice at 7:30 for a two-hour sun-up drill before going to class.

Their chief contender for northern Indiana honors now is Goshen, and the two teams meet Jan. 17. You might keep your eye on that one.

Blue Devils Tardy Again

Shortridge's Three Musketeers—West, Benjamin and Strack—were late to work again Saturday night but finally lassoed the Lafayette Broncos in the best rodeo finish. Six points by West and another six by the other pair exploded Lafayette's 21-18 three-quarter margin, and the Blue Devils took their sixth victory of the season, 32 to 27. By an identical score Cathedral's Irish won their fourth game, this one from Danville. Coach Joe Harmon's shock-troop strategy put the Irish behind at the outset, but the Shamrocks were in control at the halfway point and there they stayed. The up-to-the-minute rundown on city teams:

	Av. Pts.	Op. Pts.	Per. W.	Per. L.	TP	OP	Game	Game	Av. Dif.	Av. Pet.
Crispus Attacks	4	1	162	123	22.6	24.6	7.8	8.0	.590	
Shortridge	6	2	235	227	31.68	28.38	3.5	7.59		
Howe	4	2	150	139	25.	23.17	1.83	6.67		
Sacred Heart	5	3	250	227	31.25	28.38	2.87	6.95		
Manual	4	3	175	193	27.66	27.57	0.29	5.71		
Cathedral	4	4	223	232	27.38	29	-1.12	5.00		
Broad Ripple	3	3	149	168	24.33	28	-3.17	5.00		
Tech	2	7	271	305	30.11	33.89	-3.78	2.22		
Washington	0	6	113	211	18.33	35.17	-16.34	0.00		

Next Stop: Notre Dame

Tony Hinkle can't be happy about his Bulldog's date Saturday night with Notre Dame, but he can smile about their 57-to-33 victory over Xavier University of Cincinnati.

Previously, Xavier had won five of seven games and had been averaging no less than 58 points per 40 minutes while Butler had lost three previous starts and couldn't hit an overstuffed davenport.

Against the Musketeers, however, Butler harvested a good two dozen field goals out of 89 shots and sank nine of 16 free throws. The Musketeers fired 76 shots, mostly one handed from far court and connected on 11, the same number they hit in 18 free throw attempts.

Hinkle used 14 players against Xavier and 10 figured in the scoring. He hopes the experience will give them more confidence against the Irish, whose ball hall always is a jinx. Butler took a 55 to 39 lacing there last year only to edge Notre Dame, 39 to 38, in the season's finale here.

Between Fred (Red) Hunkeler's opening pivot shot and Herb Schwoneyer's closing long toss Saturday, Xavier never showed the slightest possibility of threatening. The Musketeers forgot defense for the sake of concentration on long shots. Meanwhile Capt. Bob Dietz, who finished with 15 points, and Hunkeler were slipping under to give the Bulldogs a 23 to 16 advantage at the half.

Jim McCrary, senior guard, who had been benched in favor of sophomore Bob Fletcher, outclassed all Xavier attempts in the second half with 13 points to add to his own of the first period.

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State Cue Players Return to Action

Competition is to be resumed in the state three-cushion billiard tour at the Cooler parlor tonight when Al Maloof, Indianapolis, comes cues with Hafford Heitzel, Angola, at 8 o'clock, in a 50-point match. Other games this week:

Tomorrow—Morris Morris vs. A. Green.

Wednesday—Phil Greenberg vs. A. Green.

Thursday—Walter Ramsey vs. Al Green.

Friday—Joe Pitt vs. Heitzel.

Harry Coker, Ramsey, Morris and Neal Jones are undefeated in three starts. Best run in pre-holiday competition was eight by Morris and Ramsey.

Fish, Game Leaders Install Officers

Dr. Herman G. Morgan will be guest speaker tonight at the Marion County Fish and Game Association's meeting at Municipal Gardens, 8 o'clock.

Installation of officers will take place and a program arranged by Al Hoffman will include a five-reel talking picture in technicolor.

In 1940 the local game association released thousands of game fish in and around Marion County and liberated approximately 150 quail.

Hermann's Winner In Schalk Classic

CHICAGO, Jan. 6 (U.P.)—The Hermann's Underwear team of St. Louis today received the \$100 prize for winning first place in the fifth annual Ray Schalk Sweepstakes bowling tournament with a 4791 total.

Indianapolis teams were off form Bowes Seal Fast, tournament defending champs, rolled 3807; Falls City High Br. 736; Marot Shoes 3717; Herr-Jones 3649. All finished out of the money.

Down the Mountain

LAKE PLACID, N. Y., Jan. 6 (U.P.)—Bob Washburn Jr., son of the 1936 Olympic bobsled team member, won the half mile, two-man novice race down the Mount Van Hoevenberg bobsled in 2:48.50 yesterday. Munroe Flagg of Saranac Lake was second. Three heats were run.

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