

Golfers to hit White Bear

THREE RETURNING LETTERMEN

P. J. reports the sports



Dan Johnson, senior, orbits the shot put in the Suburban Conference Meet at the U of M fieldhouse.

by Paul Johnson

Ramsey's golf team will open its season April 16 against WBL. The match will be held at the WBL Yacht Club.

"It's almost impossible to tell how good the team will be since none of us have been on a course since last summer," said Ward Morgan, senior captain of the team.

Head coach Dick Mraz added, "We have a new net this year, and have been getting a lot of practice driving practice balls in the gym."

The Rams have three returning lettermen. They are: Morgan, Charlie Meyer, senior, and Henry Blake, senior. "Competition for the team is wide open though, and nobody has a place sewed up on the team," said Morgan.

Mraz named some other prospects for the squad as Steve Curley, Dan Carlson, John Haas, Gary Lewandowski, Jim Stauff, Al Teves, Bruce Kapitan, Vern Svac, Bob Rukavina, Greg Porten, Mark Eagles and Bob Grazinger.

"Kellogg, White Bear, Mounds View and Hastings all have a majority of their teams returning and should be the tougher teams in the conference," said Mraz.

Midland Hills will be Ramsey's home course this year. Matches will also be played at Keller, Coon Rapids, North Oaks and Hastings.

Golden Rule

"It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game that counts." That is the "Golden Rule" of the sporting world. Supposedly.

Some people, however, prefer to twist the Golden Rule to read "It's not how you play the game, it's whether you win or lose that really counts."

The case I have in mind is the "great strategy" used by White Bear coach Paul Mork to defeat Stillwater in the District 14 basketball semifinals. With two seconds to play in regulation time the game was deadlocked. Then Mark Kroll of Stillwater was fouled. The point would have won the game for Stillwater and bumped White Bear from the tournament.

inexcusable "strategy"

As Kroll toed the line and set to shoot the basket, Mork called time out and his team returned to the court about a minute later. Once again Kroll got ready to shoot. Mork called another time out. Another minute or so later Kroll finally shot, and missed. The game went into overtime and White Bear ended up winning.

Is it any wonder Kroll missed his shot, with all the pressure on him in a situation like that and then to be interrupted, not once but twice while getting ready to shoot? Pulling the kind of shenanigans that Mork did was inexcusable.

Sports, besides being a constructive emotional and physical outlet, has another more important purpose. It is supposed to be a character building experience in many ways. Through friendly competition it should teach the athlete how to be a gracious winner, an equally gracious loser, and above all a fair player.

the coaches responsibility

A coach, especially in high school, amateur and college ranks, is supposed to teach the players under him the essentials of fair play. The trick that Mork pulled is the nearest anyone could get to outright cheating and certainly entails all that is considered poor sportsmanship. To set an example like that for his players and to have it condoned, let alone praised, as it was by the press, is entirely unjustifiable in my book.

Adversity is as big a part of sports as victory and should be treated as such. It was a bad break that White Bear, by fouling Kroll, lent itself to a situation where they could easily lose. But bad breaks are part of adversity.

a sad situation

When winning becomes an indulgence and the premium over fair play, it is a sad situation indeed. Mark is not the first nor will he be the last coach to violate the all-important Golden Rule. He is just a case in point. It is just a shame that such an influential person as a coach, a leader of men so-to-speak, would set the example of "Doing anything" to be the winner.

The switch of emphasis from fair play to winning at the cost of good sportsmanship and indeed fair play is plaguing to amateur sports. Winning is nice and is naturally the goal of the athlete but it should never be the emphasis. And when the "do everything for anything and anything for everything" attitude is condoned and as highly followed as it is today cast a shady light on our society.

Coming Events

Baseball

April 14-Anoka-there

April 16-Stillwater-here

Track

April 11-North Suburban Meet at Coon Rapids

April 14-Kellogg and Stillwater at Kellogg

April 16-No. St. Paul and Mounds View at No. St. Paul

Tennis

April 14-Anoka-here

April 16-Stillwater-there

Ram baseball title outlook: dim

by Jeff Johnson

A mediocre season is all that can be hoped for by the 1970 Ramsey baseball team. With only five returning lettermen, the outlook seems not too bright.

Last year's lettermen are Bill Cafferty, Ed Olson, Dave Bonestoo, Mark Czaia, and Steve Sigstad. All are seniors except Bonestoo, who is a junior.

"I'd have to rate Sigstad to be as good as any outfielder in the conference," said Coach Jim Carlin. Other outfielders are Jon Kelsey, Ed Olson, Paul Tegengefeldt, Dave Kath, and Bill Walker.

So far, all positions are pretty

much open. Pitchers are juniors Bonestoo and Brad Rasmussen and seniors Cafferty, Kelsey, and Olson. Terry Backus, senior, and junior Jim Heller are the catchers. Trying out for first base are seniors Cafferty and Ted Becchetti. Second base hopefuls are Charlie Shine and Max Thompson, juniors and senior Dave Cody. Third base brings out seniors Czaia and Dale Wessel and junior Jeff Mettayer. At shortstop are juniors Bonestoo and Tom Brigl and senior Bob Strommen.

Carlin rated North St. Paul, South St. Paul, Kellogg, and Anoka as strong conference contenders.

"It's too early to tell what we must work on," reported Carlin. "We'll be attempting to find our weak spots in the next couple of weeks."



Russ Ferry, sophomore, paces the Rams at the Suburban Conference Track Meet last Tuesday.



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