

BASEBALL OF 1940

by Tom Meyers

Date	Winner	Loser	Score
Apr. 18—Royal Oak		Berkley	7-6
Apr. 23—Ferdson		Royal Oak	7-5
Apr. 30—Royal Oak		Mt. Clemens	3-1
May 7—Wyandotte		Royal Oak	4-3
May 10—Ferdson		Royal Oak	8-1
May 14—Royal Oak		Grosse Pointe	5-2
May 17—Royal Oak		Wyandotte	6-3
May 21—Monroe		Royal Oak	3-2
May 27—Monroe		Royal Oak	9-8
May 31—Lincoln		Royal Oak	2-1

Although not particularly successful in the win column the Acorn 1940 baseball season was notable for the fine freshman talent exhibited.

Barring serious injuries the R.O.H.S. baseball nine of 1943 will probably see Dick King, catcher, Bob Groves, infielder, and Tom Koschial, outfielder, dimaxing four years as regulars on the Acorn squad.

Switching from freshmen we turn our attention toward other outstanding players. Frank Penosa, playing centerfield, was feared by all opposing base runners for his accurate, lengthy, and speedy return of balls hit into the outer garden within thirty feet of him. Patrolling the outer extremities to the left of Penosa was seen Alno Simelli. Alno, although not always a dead shot when in the field, made up for it when at the plate. "Mighty Alno" kept within reach of the .400 mark all season with his power wallops.

Along with these two in the line-up during the majority of the games were "slim Jim" Shader covering the initial sack; "scoop" Tom McNeal hovering over the key-stone bag; Bob Groves at the "hot corner"; helping out between second and third was Bob Martin; Dick King squatted behind the plate to receive the offerings of pitchers Jim Bertraw, Marvin Hunt or Martin; in the left field territory "Judge" Jim Hartrick was most always recognizable. Thus did the Oak baseballers shape up in 1940.

TRACK

Date	Winner	Loser
Apr. 19—Ferdson	67.5	Royal Oak 37.5
Apr. 27—Wyandotte	67	Royal Oak 37
May 1—Royal Oak	52	Grosse Pointe 52
May 11—Royal Oak	55	Mt. Clemens 46
June 1—Monroe		Royal Oak
May 18—Regionals—third	with 29 points.	

Although our track team didn't have a very impressive record for the current season, many of our feet-footed stars bettered old track records which had stood for years. Clyde Johnson, who had been quite a success as a half-miler last year, ran the mile for the first time in his career against Ferdson. In the first meet of the year he broke the Cass Field record set by Art Willis, former R.O.H.S. track great, who graduated last June. Johnson's new record 4:37.5—Willis' old time 4:46.2.

Then Hal Carpenter, who ran the quarter last spring, tried the half for the first time against Wyandotte and sped around the oval in 2:02.4, just two seconds short of the record set by Brelford of Birmingham in 1938.

The thinclads then hit their stride in May, tying Grosse Pointe on May 1, 52 all, and then on May 11, Royal Oak beat Mt. Clemens for their first victory in three years. Then on May 18, they journeyed to Jefferson Field in

Ferdale and placed third in the Class A Regionals, qualifying six men to compete in the State Tournament.

Hal Carpenter burned up the cinders and broke a twelve year old State Tournament record by winning the half mile event in the sensational time of 1:58. The best Clyde Johnson could do was to finish third in the mile which was won by Woolsey of Jackson who turned in the mile in 4:30.8, the fastest time on record in State competition. Sammy Stout, who looked like a sure shot in the quarter, was unable to compete because of illness.

Bob Omsa, Gilbert McGeehan, and Johnson will be the only regulars lost by graduation, so next season should be one of, if not the most successful seasons enjoyed by any track team Royal Oak has ever produced.

BASKET BALL

Royal Oak 17	Ferdale 16
Royal Oak 27	Wyandotte 11
Royal Oak 27	Mt. Clemens 12
Royal Oak 13	Grosse Pointe 23
Royal Oak 30	Birmingham 27
Royal Oak 19	Ferdson 22
Royal Oak 18	Monroe 25
Royal Oak 29	Wyandotte 16
Royal Oak 24	Ferdson 18
Royal Oak 26	Pontiac 29
Royal Oak 26	Grosse Pointe 25
Royal Oak 45	Monroe 24
Royal Oak 27	Ferdale 25

Regionals

Royal Oak 21	Grosse Pointe 16
Royal Oak 41	Ferdale 26
Royal Oak 27	Pontiac 24

Border Cities League

	Won	Lost
Ferdson	8	2
Grosse Pointe	8	2
Royal Oak	6	4
Mt. Clemens	2	8
Monroe	5	5
Wyandotte	1	9

Coach John J. Baldwin and his basket ball team fooled the sports writers who predicted a bad season for them, by coming through as the dark horse and smashing their predictions with eight victories and six defeats. In the regionals held in Ferdale, they won from Grosse Pointe and Ferdale before being defeated by Pontiac.

Lincoln was the easiest team for the Oaks to beat, and for this reason they were defeated by the Oaks in two regular season contests and once in the regionals. Royal Oak was a constant threat in the Border Cities League competitions, beating each team at least once and Wyandotte and Ferdale twice. The league's final standings showed the Oaks in third place and only one game out of first place.

The most sensational and consistent winning combination was Tom McNeal and Bob Martin. McNeal is a forward, and broke the record for free shots; Martin, forward, has the least number of fouls called of all the cage squad players. Hal Carpenter was a most consistent scoring threat at center; Frank Penosa was a steady defensive player, and Jim Shader or Dick Jackson were long shot artists at the guard positions.

See Basket Ball, Tennis, Swimming, and Golf in Ad section