

Sports

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game with the State Class A champs from Southern Michigan, but it wasn't allowed.

Makel's 1931 football team was dressed like a bunch of bums, or should we say like an old potato sack. Not one player on the squad was completely furnished with a good uniform, and the jerseys were of all colors with a potato patch on the back. They were called by their opponents as the Potato team.

Gaylord's biggest win that year was against Alpena. George Ely blocked a punt and recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchdown. Ely was knocked out colder than a mackerel on the play, but when they turned him over he had the ball still clutched in his hands. Ruling a touchdown and a Gaylord victory. Walton Fritz, one of the best centers in the state, played on that team.

It was a two-day trip to Alpena, and the rides were usually furnished by Floyd Lake, Joe Hale, and Harry Nichols. They usually hit Rogers City first, then played in Alpena the second day.

In 1932, Gaylord had a 16-9 record, reaching the regional finals before losing to Charlevoix. They won the Little C League football championship that year losing only to Alpena, 6-0.

In 1935, the Detroit Tigers came up to Gaylord to play a game with the Northern Michigan All-Stars. The game was played on the Fairground Field, and in the stands was Babe Ruth, up watching some of his buddies from the Tigers play ball. Also at the game were Cobb and Tommy Bridges. The threesome left after the game for a trip to Canada and some fishing. Bill Winship of Gaylord was one of the all-stars that day.

One cannot write a sports history without mentioning the famed "20-30 Club," sometimes known as the "Dirty 30 Club." They were the ones that put on the dances on the auditorium on Thursday nights. They used some sort of wax on the floor that was hard to get off, and the next night when the games were played, well, you can pretty well guess what happened. Also the "Pitchfork brigade" was a

common group of boys that would have to clear out the football field for the weekend games. It so happened that many times cattle would use the field as a resting place during the week.

DURING THE 1933-34 basketball season, the St. Mary Athletic Club formulated an Independent basketball team. They fashioned a 14-3 record under Maurice Fitzpatrick, Pete Kwapis, Al Kowaleski, and Kise McCoy.

GHS went to the regional basketball finals in 1935 before losing to Northport, 32-30. With Jerry Drake, Clare Glasser, Don Fitzpatrick, and Charlie Piehl, the GHS football team went 5-5 that same season. Along about that same time, Carl Carlson's 9th grade Boy Scout basketball team went undefeated. Carlson was also the founder of Peanut League basketball at GHS.

In 1935, the old Gaylord High School gym was started and built by John Cook. It took almost four years to complete the gym; it was finished by the fall of 1938. Gaylord won the opening game in the gym, a 29-17 win over Mancelona. That same season, Gaylord won the district tourney here. Bud Simmons was a member of that team.

The 1938 GHS football team battled to three scoreless ties in a row before finally winning a game. Jack Culliton was one of the team's better players. That same year the basketball team had a lowly 1-14 record, but beat Grayling (17-0 record) on the opening night of the district tournaments.

The 1939 season was a bumper year for Gaylord sports. St. Mary won their first district title and Gaylord was the Junior Champs in baseball under Glen Noiro. The team posted an 11-1 record.

Perhaps the 1939 football team was one of the best in the history of the school. With only 14 players on the squad, Gaylord won the NMCC football championship and won the Little 7 title. They went unbeaten in league play and went 6-1 on the season, losing only to powerful Traverse City, 7-0. The only league team to score on them that year was Mancelona, and that came on the waning moments of play in a 51-6 decision.

That team also beat Charlevoix, 28-0 for one of the few victories ever recorded against them by a

Gaylord squad. Bee Simmons quarterbacked that team, and Norm Glasser, Pete Duffield, and Jack Lovelace played. Gaylord also beat Petoskey, 13-0 in a dedication game of Petoskey's new football stadium.

That same year Gaylord also won the Little 6 basketball championship and had a real good season, winning the district championships.

GAYLORD HAD a championship basketball team in 1940, winning the Little 7 crown and going 12-2 before losing in the regional finals to East Jordan, 17-7. St. Mary had a respectable season but lost to Roscommon in the district tournaments. For some reason unknown to this writer, Gaylord played only part of their football season and then dropped football.

There was no football here in 1941-42-43-44 because of the War, and GHS went 0-3 in 1945. Basketball was still played, but only on a limited basis. In fact, St. Mary had to discontinue one year of basketball during that time because they couldn't field a team and because of the coal shortage. Many of the local athletes went to serve in the Armed Forces during that era.

Perhaps, too, the "Potato Vacation" of the 40's should be mentioned. This was a very important time, because all schools in the county would shut down for a period of 3-4 weeks, and all the kids would go and pick potatoes during the harvest. Each would be paid a tidy sum, and most were required to go and pick them. This caused an extreme hardship on the athletes, for they would be in the field all day, and forced to practice sports either before the harvest, or at the end of the day.

The 1946 season was a damaging one for GHS sports. The football team went 0-7 and didn't have much equipment. They were forced to drive to Alpena to get the old worn out spikes worn by previous Alpena footballers. They used old jerseys for most of the season until new ones were furnished late in the year.

1947
A big baseball and softball year in the county. After a seven-year lapse, Sparr took to the diamond only to lose its opener to Wolverine, 15-14. The Gaylord team whipped Sancta Maria behind the

home run-hitting of Lem Noiro. Gaylord Manufacturing won the city softball league championship with a 13-11 win over Atlanta. Mike Pomarzynski was the winning pitcher. Johannesburg lost the Tri-County League baseball championship to Millersburg, 3-2.

Oscar Carlson's GHS basketball team lost in the regional finals to Charlevoix, 37-36. In a town football contest, the Gaylord All-Stars and the Gaylord High Alumni battled to a 6-6 tie. Many of the all stars were comprised of former St. Mary's students with no football experience.

1948
A big fight erupted during the Vanderbilt vs. Afton title game for the Tri-County League contest. The umpires were attacked, and the fans literally tore apart the Vanderbilt dugout, injuring several Vanderbilt players. The fight, and rain that suddenly came down gave the championship to Afton. Many people blamed the fight on the Millersburg players that watched the game.

Don Tuszynski threw a 4-0 no-hitter as Vanderbilt beat Boyne City. Al McCoy signed a professional baseball contract and went on to play for Geneva, Alabama. Gordy Bachman was named the MVP of the GHS team. Chris Frieberg rolled a record 290 game and 740 series for the Post Office in the local league. And if you had trouble with athletes foot, Berry's Drug Store had the cure-all, a can of TE-OL. Guaranteed to work.

1949
Another big year in

Otsego County. The Gaylord Rifle and Pistol Club was formed with Jay Ivers taking charge of the meeting in the Peterson Skel-Gas Store. The Harlem Globetrotters defeated the Gaylord Gears by a 63-42 score. Lloyd Brazil was the speaker at the annual SM banquet Alex Kowaleski, a St. Mary coach during the 1927-28-29 seasons was the MC.

Wilfrid Reed, a top-notch golf pro, was hired at the Gaylord Country Club. Eddie McCoy was eyeing his second straight city golf championship. McCoy also starred as a first baseman on the Gaylord team. He was considered to be the most powerful hitter in the North. Bob Giffin was the MVP of the Peanut League and won the autographed Tiger baseball. Dave Manier, a 17-year-old Atlanta pitcher, signed a professional contract with the New York Yankees. Most Gaylordites were glad to see him leave town.

The Gaylord Eagles scored 52 runs in three games. Dale Crittenden, Jack Lovelace, Al McCoy, and Lem Noiro all played for the Eagles as they snapped St. Ignace's 26 game winning streak. Despite all this, the Eagles lost the championship to Hillman.

Jack Kurek, a star pitcher for the 1947 Gaylord baseball team, will play in the minors with the Clarksdale, Mississippi team this year. Frank Nephew won the lightweight Golden Gloves title in Boyne City, but lost a bid to win the state championship with a broken nose the following week. Roy Fitzek and Bob Moore led the St. Mary basketball team to a district cham-

ionship and an 18-4 record, the best ever at St. Mary. Gaylord also won a district title, and Vanderbilt under Tom Provost had a 13-5 season. Floyd Holborn starred for the Vanderbilt football team that went 4-4.

1950
Lois Vinitzki was the top scorer in the undefeated GHS girls basketball team. Boyne Falls defeated Wolverine, 115-7 in basketball, as Mark Carlson broke the Northern Michigan scoring record with 44 points. GHS won the district championship, but a last second field goal from Alpena St. Bernard's defeated Gaylord St. Mary.

Jack Lovelace was injured, and the Gaylord Eagles were never to be the same. Vanderbilt won their first football game, defeating Boyne Falls, 18-12 in Six-Man football.

1951
Behind a 39-point performance of Val Dreffs, the Johannesburg basketball team whipped Frederic, 102-49. Both Gaylord and St. Mary won district basketball titles, but lost openers in the regionals. The Gaylord Gears almost upset the professional Detroit Vagabonds, and played the House of David and the all-girl Arkansas Travellers later that year.

GHS won their first opener in football in 12 years, whipping Harbor Springs, 7-6. Del Sanders went 67 yards for a TD and Jim Schreur booted the winning extra point.

Ted Engel and Jay Stephens won the AuSable canoe race again. John Bresnahan tossed a no-

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THIS PICTURE of the Waters baseball team is thought to have been taken between 1910 and 1912. The team was sponsored by Tom Stephens and sources say that the team would play a game on Sunday and then during the week gather on the steps of the store to discuss what they should have or should not have done. The man in the back with the cap is the superintendent of the lumber company, Charles Wright.