

1947-1948 Coaching Change

LOCAL COACH ENDS 8-YEAR CAGE CAREER

Western Michigan Signs Ex-St. Joe Star As Trainer

The eight-year tenure of Eddie Gabel as head coach of Ross high school's basketball destined to a close today following an announcement by the former St. Joseph's star that he was resigning upon completion of the district tournament at Sandusky in order to accept a position as trainer in football, basketball and baseball at Western Michigan State Teachers college at Kalamazoo, Mich.

Supt. U. E. Diener of the board of education declared it was unlikely either the athletic directorship or coaching berth would be filled prior to completion of the spring term. However, it is under-

Ross high school has 200 adult tickets for the Northwest District Class A tournament to be played at Sandusky junior high school gym commencing Wednesday. The Little Giants are not scheduled until the following night when they collide with Mansfield. Tickets may be obtained at the principal's office.

stood that John Titsworth, faculty business manager who replaced Mr. Gabel in the former position during the war, would probably be promoted to the director's post.

A graduate of Michigan State Teachers college at Ypsilanti in 1932, Eddie commenced his coaching career at Ross two years later as assistant to Bob Oldfather, now principal at Palinesville, O., in both football and basketball.

Won Two Titles

Gabel was elevated to head coach in 1938 and appointed director of athletics in 1941. His Little Giants have won two Buckeye League titles, in 1939-40 when they won 18 of 21 games, and 1940-41 when they turned in 17 victories in 21 starts. In addition, his teams have finished second three times and deadlocked with Fostoria and Bowling Green for runner-up honors this year. In 1942-43 and 1943-44 the Rossmen finished third, their lowest standing while under the tutelage of the colorful coach.

Eddie entered the Navy early in 1944, served five weeks of boot training at Great Lakes and thence was transferred to the Bunker Hill, Ind., Naval Air Station where he was football, basketball and baseball trainer. Upon the inactivation of Bunker Hill in November, 1945, Gabel was assigned to the NAS facility at Memphis, Tenn., where he coached the swimming team. He was discharged in December, 1945, and returned to Ross two months later.

The genial Ross tutor, familiar to local cage fans for his whole-hearted support and backing of his "boys" as well as his colorful antics during a game, will succeed William McDonald at Western Michigan. The latter, also a naval veteran, has accepted a civilian position with the navy at Glenview, Ill., as trainer.

Gabel, who played with the St. Joe teams of 1923-24-25, has developed some of the nation's outstanding basketballers, including Bob Shaw, formerly of Ohio State and the pro Toledo Jeeps as well as an end with the Los Angeles football Rams, and Jack Carroll, captain of Navy's great 1945-46 quintet. Others include Fred Rice, Mervin White, Bud Becker, Bill Jenkins, Dave Brocksieker, Bob Hall and Dick Rodenhausen.

Gabel's Little Giants collide with Mansfield in the district tournament at Sandusky Thursday evening. His resignation is not expected to become effective until the completion of this tournament.

His wife, Marie, will assume his general science classes at Ross for the balance of the term and the family—they have a daughter, Susan, 10, and son, Peter, 4—will spend the summer in Fremont.

Quits Ross!



Eddie Gabel

ROSS MERMEN TAKE DISTRICT SWIM HONORS

Eleven Little Giants Qualify For State Meet Next Week

Capturing five of the eight firsts, the Little Giant mermen swam to a rousing triumph in the district meet at Bowling Green State university Saturday, placing 11 men in the state classic to be held at Columbus this week-end.

The order of finish: Fremont Ross, 53; Toledo DeVilbiss, 43; Sandusky, 34; Toledo Scott, 17; Findlay, 7, Toledo Waite, 0.

Bruce Ransom and Don Wensinger continued their undefeated season with the former copping both the 50 and 100-yard free styles while Wensinger, despite a badly jammed toe sustained on his first practice effort, knocked off the diving.

Also qualifying for the state meet were Jim Pence and Harry Strauch in the breast stroke; Bill Kirsch in the 200-yard free style; Larry Price and Jack Howard in the 100-yard back stroke; Lee Koenig, Strauch and Johnny Bowlus in the 150-yard medley relay, and Bud Nord, Bob Bodenlos, Koenig and Bowlus in the 200-yard free style relay.

Regardless of the outcome in the state meet, the Little Giants gave indication they will bear watching in the next two years as three freshmen and two sophomores qualified in the BGSU classic.

Ransom had little competition in either of the free style sprints while Pence and Strauch finished 1-2 in the 100-yard breast stroke. Kirsch, freshman, placed third in the 200-yard grind, while Price and Howard, both second-year men, finished third and fifth respectively in the back stroke. Nord, another freshman, slipped at the start of the 50-yard free style preliminary and failed to qualify but swam the leadoff leg of the 200-yard free style relay in which George Gruse's outfit finished second to Toledo DeVilbiss. Bowlus, another freshman, swam the anchor leg of both the medley and free style relays.

Chief competition in the state meet is expected to be provided by the powerful Scarabs of Cleveland East Tech who have won all individual meets, the city championship, BGSU Invitational relays, Northern Ohio relays and the northeastern district title. East Tech placed seven men and two relay teams among the state meet qualifiers while Lakewood and Canton McKinley are expected to make the OSU affair a four-team affair.

The summaries:

50-yard free style: Won by Ransom (Ross); 2. Dressel (Toledo DeVilbiss); 3. Osborne (DeVilbiss); 4. Buder (Sandusky); 5. Snyder (Toledo Scott); 6. Hudson (Scott).

100-yard breast stroke: Won by Pence (Fremont); 2. Strauch (Fremont); 3. Koenig (Ross); 4.

WORLD WAR II VET SUCCEEDS EDDIE GABEL

Assistant At Ashland Joins Little Giant Athletic Staff

Al Ziemke, a native of Norwalk and veteran of 15 missions with the AAF over Europe, today was named head basketball coach at Ross high school, succeeding Eddie Gabel who resigned at the close of the 1946-47 campaign.

Ziemke comes to Fremont from Ashland, home of last year's district cage titlists, where he was assistant to C. E. Taylor in football and basketball and head baseball tutor.

The appointment, a distinct surprise to the greater majority of the Little Giants' followers, culminates a search of more than three months by the Fremont school board for a suitable replacement for Gabel who quit to join the staff at Western Michigan college.

Born 29 years ago in Norwalk, Ziemke is no stranger to most of the present coaching staff at Ross. As a member of the Norwalk high school football, basketball and track teams in 1933-34-35, he played against the Little Giants in the former two sports.

Wooster Grad

Following his graduation from NHS, Al matriculated at Wooster college where he received a bachelor of arts degree along with letters in football, basketball and track.

Leaving the Scots in 1939, he immediately joined the faculty at Ashland where he was assistant up to his entrance into the Air Forces in '42. Finishing pilot training, he was assigned to the 8th Air Force and completed 15 B-17 missions over Germany prior to the end of hostilities. His targets included some of the Rhineland's most noted cities, Munich, Stuttgart, Kiel, and Nuremberg.

Upon his release from service late in '45 as a first lieutenant, Ziemke returned to his former duties at Ashland where he is also in charge of the city's summertime recreation program.

The switch should not greatly affect existing athletic standards at Ross since the style of play in both football and basketball at the two schools is very similar.

It is assumed that Ziemke will fit into the local grid picture as backfield coach, a position which was formerly held by Gabel, with Bob Seale, former head coach at Tiffin Columbian who was added to the Little Giants' staff last Saturday, taking over the line-man. This latter position was held by Sylvester (Sive) Kohr who also resigned last month to enter private business.

Ziemke's wife, the former Berthanne Lamb, is also a native of Norwalk. Two-year-old Jackie completes the family picture.

The new Ross tutor is a cousin of Howard Ziemke, assistant football coach and senior member of the athletic staff at Sandusky high school.