

Former Olympic rower returns to oar wars

By CORINNE ABATT

During his years at Redford High School, Jim McIntosh of Farmington Hills would have sold his closest relative for an athletic letter.

The big "R" always evaded him, but eight years later an Olympic silver medal for rowing was dropped in his calloused palm.

The disappointment of his high school years may be one reason for his success at the 1956 Melbourne games. He doesn't dwell on it. The tall, muscular McIntosh, married and father of four, would rather talk about his family than his former triumph.

Once in a while, with a little coaxing, he will slip back to the victorious moment 18 years ago—"the highlight of my life."

Maybe if he had been a top Redford High athlete with a case full of trophies, he wouldn't have worked so hard and been a member of the come-from-behind four-man crew that upset the balance of our power.

As it was, in his late teens, Jim McIntosh of Detroit was a deter-

mined, slow-growing youth looking for an athletic home.

"Like many boys who have tried various sports—they either look until they find one or give up. I found one."

A friend steered him to the Detroit Boat Club and a coach "who was more interested in how hard people worked than natural ability."

THE FOUR who came in the back door at the Olympic trials and left by the front, silver medals in hand, still row together at the boat club. John Welch is bowman, Art McKinlay and John McKinlay are the number two and three positions and McIntosh is stroke.

The bowman calls the commands, and stroke sets the pace. And the pace they set at those trials astounded everyone.

Rowing is big sport on the East Coast, growing fast on the West, but still pretty much under water in the Midwest. Although the Detroit Boat Club is the oldest continuous rowing club in the country, possibly the world, few at the trials were expecting such a hot team.

"Winning the trials was the most exciting of all," said McIntosh. "It was a great upset when we won."

For one thing, the Detroit River is far from ideal water for the sport.

"It's very rough. The waves never stop, even on a calm day. Power boats will see a shell. They don't want to make waves, so they'll slow down and then speed up after they pass. We get the wake, and since the river is banked most of the way with steel or concrete, the waves hit and come back."

MCINTOSH GIVES some of the reasons why the sport doesn't draw many participants. There are long distances to travel to train. Equipment is expensive—most will want to buy either a single or double shell. These are made of cedar.

The special appeal of the sport is not as easy to describe. It is a precise team effort combined with a special magic.

It isn't always the most powerful or

the guy with the biggest shoulders who is the heavy.

"Neither does the strongest boat always win. You can win on finesse," said McIntosh. "Sometimes lesser talents row neater. A good crew—a nice moving crew—that in itself is a picture to behold."

McIntosh, seated beside a swimming pool where he had just done five laps, pulls his knees close to his chest, then stretches out demonstrating that rowing is a whole lot more than dipping oars in and out of the water.

He moves his arms and shoulders in a smooth, wide sweep.

"If everybody isn't reaching out and pulling over the keel, you'll get dropping in, and the boat will fall to that side."

"The spectators may not know, the coach may not know, but the guys in the crew know who is weak and who is strong. I wasn't as good as some of the others, but I didn't upset the boat."

THE SAME 1956 crew rowed in a Detroit Boat Club regatta this month against a crew of former greats from New Haven, Conn.

McIntosh isn't sure if he and his fellow silver medalists will continue to look for competition. He likes to spend what free time he has with his family. His time is limited.

By day he is in industrial sales. Ever-ange he is a test driver for GM.

But the love of the sport will always be with him. He speaks of Harvard, "where the strength is," because of coach Harry Parker and the help which John B. Kelly (Grace's father) gave the Vesper Boat Club of Philadelphia.

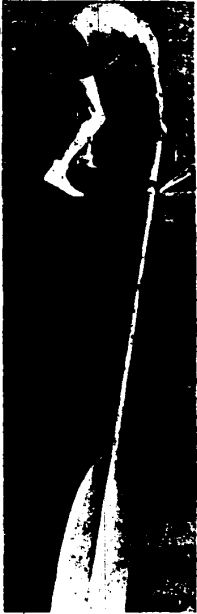
He describes Kelly's son, Jack, as "a real, nice guy—rows basically single and occasionally doubles and quads."

The Canadians took the gold medal in the Melbourne Olympics. But McIntosh said to count on the Australians and New Zealanders to put out good teams.

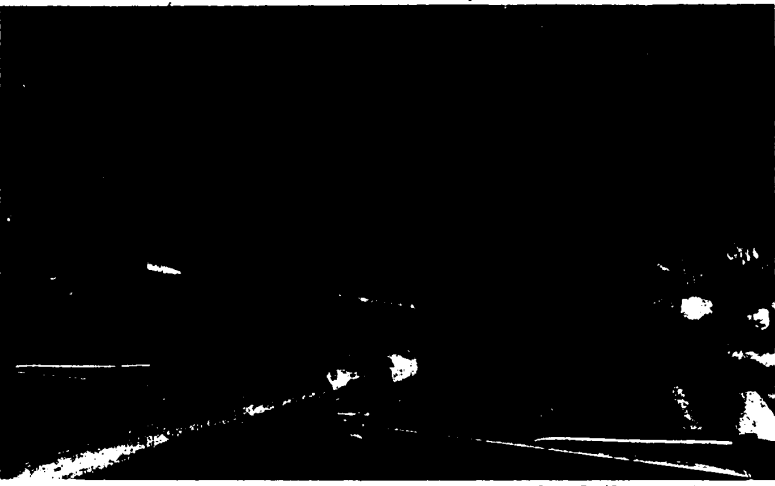
"Occasionally, a good crew will come out of South America, and Europe is loaded with good ones."

While saying he hates to give up the time to stay active in the sport and that he is somewhat out of touch, he mentions the youth crew program at the Detroit Boat Club and in other parts of the country.

"The boys are 17 and under. They travel to Europe to compete. It's a splendid opportunity for young men with a limited amount of experience."



Although row on a hot afternoon on the choppy waters of the Detroit River wouldn't lure most middle-aged suburbanites. But Jim McIntosh of Farmington Hills spends many summer afternoons in just such a manner. He was a member of the U.S. Olympic rowing team in 1956.



Jim McIntosh (right) strains at the oars during a rowing session near the Detroit Boat Club.

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Farmington falls twice to Waterford Legion

By TOM BAER

Waterford, Chief Pontiac's Jim Crosby pitched a two-hitter to help his team beat Farmington, 6-0, in the first game of a makeup doubleheader Saturday in the American Legion's 18th District.

But Crosby wasn't celebrating after the game.

Instead, he was nursing a broken finger on his pitching hand suffered when he tried to stop a hard ground ball off the bat of Farmington's Paul Rogind on the last play of the game. Crosby struck out five and walked none during the seven-inning contest.

Waterford catcher Bob Swindell supported Crosby's pitching with a two-run homer in the fourth inning. Waterford scored four runs on six hits off losing pitcher Dan Perry, who was making his first start after being injured in a collision at home plate earlier in the season.

Farmington stranded runners on second base in the fourth and seventh innings. Both times, there were no outs when the runners reached second. What happened?

"Ground outs. Pop ups. Taps back to the pitcher," said Farmington manager Wally Christensen.

Waterford won the second game, 8-2, on Mike Colard's four hitter. Colard fanned two and walked two, pitching out of trouble in the second inning when Farmington had two on with nobody out.

SWINDELL CONTINUED his heavy hitting in the second game with a double and a triple good for four runs batted in. Waterford scored twice in the first inning on a double and two singles.

Both Farmington runs came in the

seventh inning. Jay Cummings doubled and scored on Randy Meier's single. Jay Herberholz' triple knocked in Meier.

"We had gone exactly 21 innings without scoring a run," Christensen said. "When we scored those two runs against Walled Lake (Friday), it was the second inning. We didn't score again until the seventh inning of the second game against Waterford."

"Our kids are hitting, but they're hitting the ball right at people. The hits'll start dropping in pretty soon, I hope."

In Friday's game, Farmington and Walled Lake played to a 2-2 tie, with darkness halting the game after nine full innings.

Farmington, now 3-4-1, plays next on Friday against Rochester in a doubleheader. The first game begins at 1 p.m. at Farmington's Drake Park.

when Maroney walked. Jeff Kreiger was safe on the shortstop's throwing error, and two runs scored on the overthrow. Cort Otterbein's single drove in the third run.

Shonta praised his team's defense. Maroney and Kreiger saved the game with sparkling fielding, he said.

"Maroney had three put outs," Shonta said. "One was a real outstanding play. It was a high bouncer over his head. He leaped really high and caught it in the webbing of his glove and threw the man out."

"TROY-CLAWSON had the bases loaded with nobody out in one inning. There were two straight ground balls to the shortstop, Jeff Kreiger. He threw to home both times and got the men out."

Troy-Clawson's Dan Austin pitched and hit his team to victory. Austin allowed just four hits, all singles, and

Southfield drops double header

SL splits twin bill

Better things could be coming for Southfield-Lathrup's American Legion baseball team.

Lathrup's new entry into the Legion's 18th District this summer, lost its first five games before righthander Mike Maroney tossed a four hitter at Troy-Clawson to help Lathrup win, 3-2, in the first game of a doubleheader Sunday. Troy-Clawson won the second game, 6-0.

Maroney struck out five and walked one. Troy-Clawson's four hits (three singles and a double) were well scattered.

"His fast ball was moving real well, and he had that good hard curve ball which was getting over," said Lathrup manager Don Shonta. "I think that was his big pitch: that big hard curve."

Lathrup scored three runs in the second inning. Brian Desmond led off with a single and advanced to second

struck out 10 and walked three. He went three for four at the plate and drove in two runs.

Lathrup's Dave Grossman had two hits, while Russ Rivera and Bruce Beers each contributed one. The doubleheader split left Lathrup with a 1-4 record.

In another 18th District doubleheader Sunday, Waterford stopped Southfield twice, 9-1 and 6-1. Southfield batters collected just nine hits in the two games.

Southfield manager Greg Shilwa was ejected from the game when he protested a close call at first base. A one-game suspension goes with the ejection.

"I thought that the throw pulled their first baseman way off the bag, but the umpire called our runner out," Shilwa said. "A run would have scored on that play. It was important for our momentum."

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