

As Seen in The Mirror's

SPORTS REFLECTIONS

of Athletes and Events

At the time that Sam Arbes was hired as head coach at New Bern High school, he was thought of primarily as a gridiron mentor. An able replacement in the realm of football was needed to fill the vacancy left by Joe Caruso's departure.

Those who were disgruntled over Joe's forced exit have openly expressed doubt that Sam can measure up to the capabilities of his predecessor. Maybe he can and maybe he can't. As we see it, both men were blessed with good material. Each won some games and lost some games.

Whether either should have done more with what he had is strictly a matter of opinion. In weighing the pros and cons of the matter, prejudice is apt to tip the scales. Personalities enter the picture and cloud the issue hopelessly.

Joe and Sam are vastly different in their mannerisms, and their approach toward coaching youngsters. Caruso, to extent, was aloof. Either intentionally or otherwise, he saw to it that his players kept their distance. He did little fraternizing

with the boys, on or off the field. Perhaps he was right.

Sam, on the other hand, is bubbling over with congeniality. He could no more keep a boy at arm's length than he could refrain from chatting frankly, honestly and quite sincerely with a complete stranger who happens his way.

If unrestrained friendliness with players, coaches, fans and officials is unwise in the coaching profession, then Sam Arbes has exhibited a lack of wisdom. Some of us are introverts and others extroverts. Whatever we are, that's the way it is.

There are successful coaches in college as well as High school who are friendly like Sam. And, by the same token, there are unsuccessful coaches who are more or less stand offish, like Joe. Unfortunately for all concerned, no one type of attitude can achieve the utmost with boys collectively.

Some aspiring athletes need the warmth of friendship and a word of encouragement, while another boy overburdened with cockiness might need taking down a peg. It would take a Solomon to give each individual the special handling he could profit most from.

Neither Arbes nor Caruso is a Solomon, and we've never discovered one among the hundreds of coaches we've known fairly intimately. If a Solomon does come along, there'll be so many schools bidding for his services that New Bern High school's chance of landing him will be quite remote.

One thing we can say without reservation for Arbes. He has transformed the Bruin athletic program from a thing of limited scope to a well rounded, diversified as-

sortment of sports.

Never, in New Bern High's long history, has there been a program that even approached it in broadness. Such diversification not only provides an interesting menu for fans, but gives the boy who could never excel in football, baseball or basketball a chance to star in some other field of endeavor.

Trust him little who praises all, him less who censures all, and him least who is indifferent about all. —Lavater.

Tonight's the Night for Symphony Appearance

Tonight's the night for the North Carolina Symphony, under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Swain.

Memberships in the Symphony Society will be available before the 8:30 performance at the New Bern High school auditorium. Mrs. Robert L. Stallings, Jr., is membership chairman.

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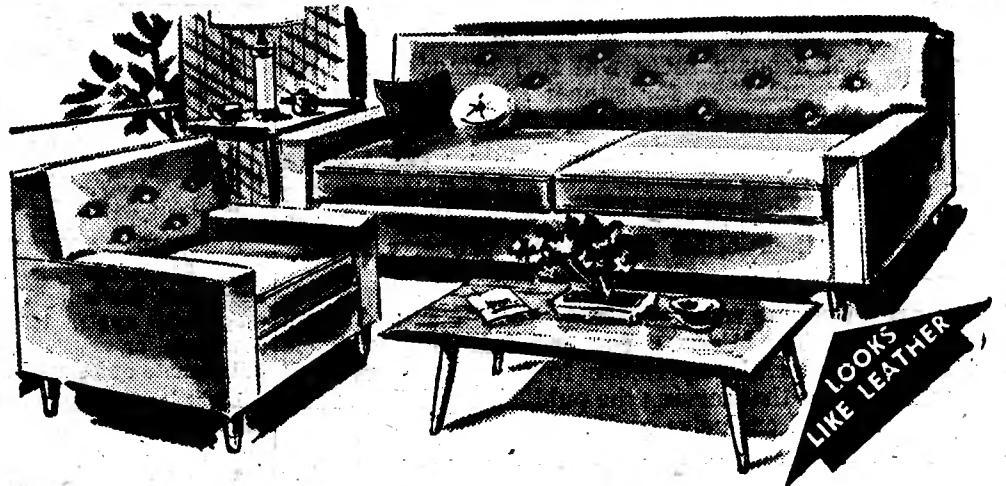
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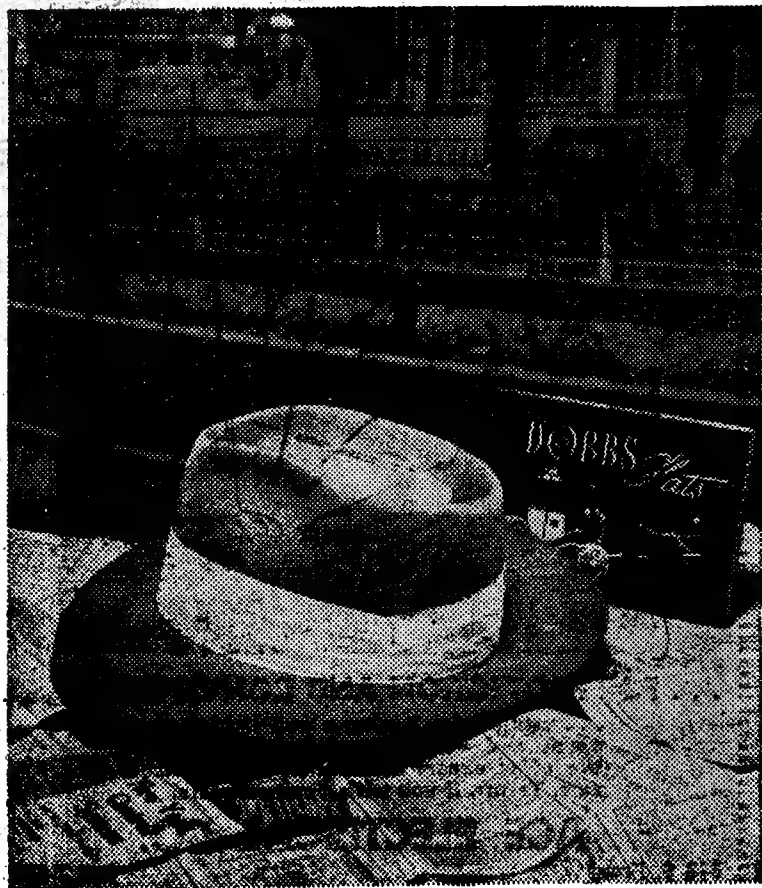
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