

Starts Career With Winning Season Vermontville Coach Robert Gelina Surprises Fans With EBI Crown

Vermontville—At the helm of Vermontville's sensational basketball crew that has won 18 out of 20 court battles in making off with the Eaton-Barry-Ionia loop championship, Robert Gelina has good reason to be proud, for he has achieved a success in his first year as a coach that many take several seasons to realize. Not only is his Wildcat quintet currently considered a top threat in class D state cage circles, but his baseball team is believed by EBI wiseacres as a near cinch to take the league crown this spring.

Lost Stars.

The exceptional record that Gelina's cagers made this year proved quite a surprise to Vermontville fans, who thought the Wildcats, missing two of their stars from last year's team, would not be able to do better than the 8-won and 8-lost record set during the 1946-47 campaign.

Gelina, who came to Vermontville immediately after graduating from Northern Michigan college at Marquette last summer, didn't lose any time in coming up with a winning combination. While most Vermontville athletes put on their baseball suits with the start of school in the fall and continued play even after the world series flag was tucked away by the Yanks. The Wildcats, behind the sensational pitching of Kenneth Beardslee, who is also a regular on the hoop team, set an impressive fall record of five straight diamond victories. With baseball season just around the corner, Vermontville has high hopes of continuing its winning ways.

Not "cocky" with his early-found success, Gelina expects the going to be far from easy for Vermont-



GELINA.

ville's quest of a district title. The Wildcats face their first tourney test Thursday against Woodland, a scrappy club which the popular Vermontville coach asserts may give his boys a lot of trouble before the smoke has cleared.

Hailing from the upper peninsula, Gelina wrote a very impressive athletic record in three sports, football, basketball and track, while attending Graveraet High school. As a line-cracking fullback, he was named on the upper peninsula's all-star grid team when a junior. His other prep laurels include playing on the upper peninsula's championship class B quint in 1940 and setting a new record in the 440-yard run which has stood for seven years.

He found little trouble at North-

ern Michigan college in making the varsity grid team three years, the cage team two seasons and the cinder cat team three years. He spent summer vacations with his family in the Lake Superior district. While working for the conservation department as an athletic director at a camp and a guide in the Lake Superior district. Mrs. McConkey died Sunday at the home. She was a resident of Lansing for 45 years.

Mrs. McConkey, coming here from Milford, Ind. She was a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, a past president of the Lansing Women's club, past president and organizer of the Home Garden club, a member of the League of Women Voters, and formerly a board member of the Women's home. Before moving to Lansing she was noble grand of the Rebekah lodge in Milford, Ind.

Funeral services for Mrs. Jessie McConkey, 81, of 616 S. Grand ave., will be held Wednesday at 2:30 p. m. at the Estes - Leadley Colonial chapel. William Brown will read the Christian Science service and burial will be in Deepdale cemetery. Mrs. McConkey died Sunday at the home. She was a resident of Lansing for 45 years.

Rites Wednesday

Funeral services for Mrs. McConkey will be held at the Estes-Leadley Colonial chapel at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday afternoon. William Brown will read the Christian Science service. Interment will be in Deepdale cemetery. The bearers will be Donald May Holloway, Hugh Holloway, Linton, Jr., Richard Underwood, Howard Hoson and Robert Underwood.

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