Old-Timers Of Milton, Cambridge City To Do Basketball Battle For Benefit

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CAMBRIDGE CITY – The glory days of the Cambridge City-Milton basketball rivalry will be recalled - maybe - in a benefit game scheduled at 7 p.m. Saturday, November 13, 1976 in the school gymnasium here.

Most participants and promoters agree on the word "maybe." The names of those playing will be the same as those who competed for the two schools before they were consolidated.

Whether their physical conditions will permit a reasonable facsimile of their previous form is the question, observers agree.

At any rate, the game is for a good cause. It's promoted by Sports Unlimited, the organization which has raised funds for the Girls' Athletic Association and other projects in the Western Wayne Schools.

A full house of more than 1,900 is anticipated and tickets, while still available, are moving rapidly, it is reported.

Preview Of Varsity

A certain legitimacy to the night also is scheduled. That will come when Coach Mike Martin's Lincoln High School varsity team stages an intra-squad tussle - after the old-timers run out of breath – for the benefit of 1971-72 fans of the Golden Eagles.

Meanwhile, plans - and rules - for the first game still are being/made. The rules include:

Absolutely no fast breaks. The defensive team must be in its area before the offensive team crosses the 10-second line. It's believed all members of both teams voted unanimously for this rule.

No practice sessions. However, that rule already has been violated and more practices are on tap.

Players for both teams were recruited from the ranks of those who played from 1950 through 1963. (The two schools were consolidated in 1964). However, that rule has been violated, also. A few old pros of the pre-1950 era have enlisted to show the younger ones they still can make it - up and down the floor, that is.

Other highlights:

Cheerleaders from the same era will lead the rah-rahs for the two teams. It has been learned that one of them laid abed most of the night recently, recalling the cheers of 20 years ago.

Another note of legitimacy is a chili supper, sponsored by the Boosters Club, which will precede the 7 p.m. struggle.

And a pep band has been organized which will play the fight songs of the former Wampus Cats (Cambridge City) and Sharpshooters (Milton).

Referees also have been selected and both of them are well-known in high school basketball circles - Ray Mitrione and Cliff Dickman, both of Richmond.

Coaches and student managers are Don Dillon, coach, and Bob Davis, assistant coach, for Milton, with Chuck Reisert as student manager. Boozy Boyd will coach the Cambridge City team with Jack Copeland as his assistant. Wayne Oldham, veteran Cambridge City fan who attended his last high school class three decades ago, will be the student manager.

Cambridge City cheerleaders will be Mary Lou (Donieker) Woolard, Eddie Zook, Nancy Muckridge Kirlin (whose husband will play for Milton), and Rusty Rodewald. Milton cheerleaders named so far are Flossie Jann Brothers and Mary Sweetwood Adams. Mrs. Adams has a case of nepotism going for her - she has three brothers on the Milton team.

Team members -the more the merrier - are still being signed up, but the rosters to date include:

Milton - Merrill Ferris, Charles Kirlin, Bob Kirlin, Bill Jobe, Don Jobe, Don, Mike and Ron Sweetwood, Mickey Bertsch, Stanley Jenkins, Don Jenkins, Max Huffman, Gary Bertsch, Jim Pitcher, Joe Pitcher, Paul Hicks, Bill Pebworth, Bobby, Jack and Jerry Bohlander, and Jon Higbie.

Cambridge City - Jim Clark, Jim Miller, Al Chapman (a recent grandfather), Phil Newhouse, Jerry Thompson, Ron Matney, Verus Miller, Ron Close, Buzzy Duff, Carl Henderson, Leo Henderson, Paul Close Jr., Ron Anderson, Paul Wessler, Bill Walters, Johnny Skates, Pete Richardson, Glenallen Roettger, Jim Brumfield, Tom, Les and Arnold Bryant.

Meanwhile, Sports Unlimited officials are stingy about one thing - free passes. They want to boost the fund as much as possible and they anticipate a \$1,900 gate.

However, with the fervent hope that their services won't be needed, complimentary tickets have been sent to all medical doctors in the area.