

# Local Soccer Star, 18, Gets Chance for Olympic Berth

**A**N 18-YEAR-OLD Buffalo soccer "veteran" has been chosen to participate Saturday in preliminary soccer trials in New York City for a berth on the U. S. team in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia.

He's Howard (Howie) Maierhofer, a University of Buffalo freshman who, despite his youth, will be one of the most experienced players in the competition.

Maierhofer was one of four players considered by the North-Western New York State Football Association for the Olympic trials. After screening, he was the lone athlete selected.

A member of the city-champion Simons this year, Howie will draw on ten years of experience when he makes his Olympic bid.

#### Helped, Becks Win 2 Titles

At the age of 8 he started playing on Becks Field with a team of youngsters organized by his father, Edward, an outstanding player in Germany in the 1920s and a member of the Buffalo Germanias, one of the nation's top teams of its day.

Howard advanced to the Genesee Park Kickers at the age of 12, and in 1952 joined the Buffalo Becks, now the Simon Pures. In 1953 he helped the Becks win the North-Western New York soccer supremacy, and in 1954 the Buffalo Inter-City title.

Meanwhile, Howie earned an athletic scholarship to the Park



HOWIE MAIERHOFER

School in Snyder, after attending Kensington High School. At Park he competed in baseball, soccer, basketball and track.

#### Freshman at UB

This 5-foot, 10-inch, 170 pounder was adept at any of the half-back positions on the Park soccer team and was noted for his speed, stamina and artistry at heading the ball. He was named to the Conference of Upstate New York Private Schools All-Star team in 1953 and 1954 and to the

All-Star basketball team his senior year.

This year Howie enrolled at the University of Buffalo, where he is a member of the freshman basketball team.

A brother, Ronald, stationed with an airborne unit in Ft. Jackson, S. C., also was an all-around athlete at Park School.

Another brother, Tom, who lives with his mother and father at 842 East Delavan Ave., is 10 and already shows athletic promise.

## Park Dominated CUPS Sports in '55

Except for DeVeaux's clinching of the six-man football title with its first undefeated season, Park School of Snyder again dominated 1955 sports competition in the Conference of Upstate Private Schools. Park won the baseball and track titles and tied with Allendale for the basketball crown. Park was runner-up in both football and soccer.