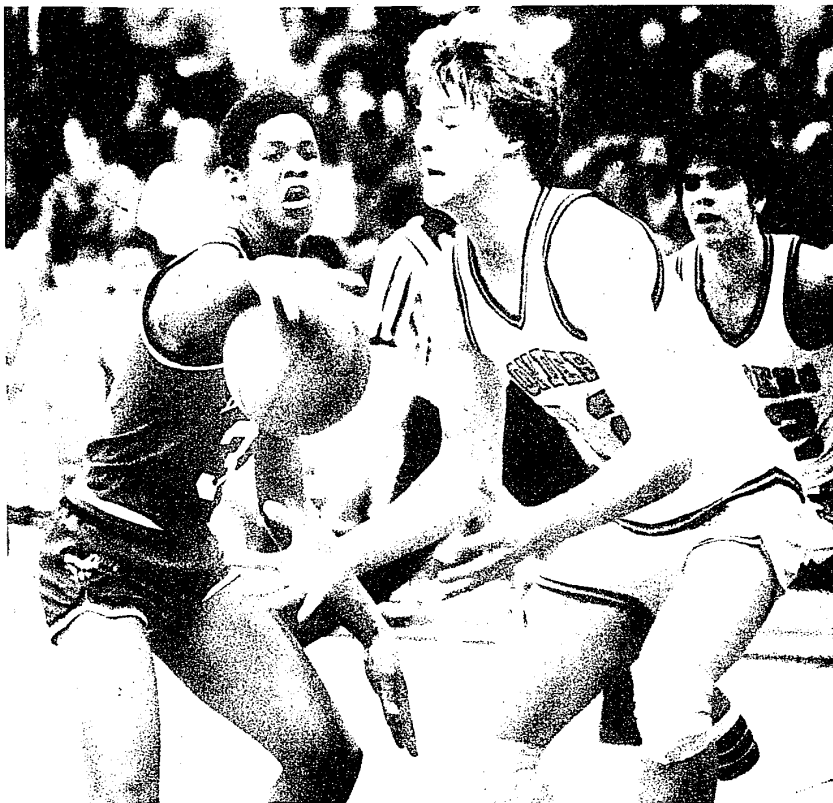


So close!

Lathrup falls in MSA battle



Lathrup's Paul Bobbitt (left) battles Dondero's Jim Lama for a loose ball during this Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) showdown Friday night. Dondero edged the Chargers, 58-55, to assure the Oaks of at least a tie for the crown. (Staff photo by Mindy Saunders)

Southfield-Lathrup got a big break — but couldn't capitalize on it — last Friday in its 56-55 loss to Royal Oak Dondero in the show-down Metro Suburban Activities Association basketball game in Dondero's gym.

Dondero, known for its height with George Heike (6-foot-7) and Jim Lama (6-8), was forced to play much of the third quarter with those two standouts on the bench with four fouls each.

So, Lathrup's fans leaned forward, waiting for their team to make its move against the weakened Dondero five. Some move! Dondero went up by five and finished the quarter with 12 points to Lathrup's seven.

"We did what we wanted to do — we got their big men in foul trouble," said Lathrup assistant coach Bob Herm. "But it just didn't work. They went five up on us with those big kids on the bench."

DOWN BY FIVE (41-36) after three periods, Lathrup came back to outscore Dondero, 19-15, in the last quarter. The game was close until the end as Lathrup's Scott Shafer made a layup with two seconds left to play.

By winning, Dondero's Oaks raised their league record to 8-9 and clinched at least a tie for the MSAA basketball championship. Lathrup fell to 6-2 in the conference — both losses to Dondero.

Heike and Lama finished with 16 and 12 points, respectively, and Dave Otto chipped in with 10.

Sam Gunn, Lathrup's 6-3 senior center, scored 15 points. Paul Bobbitt added 11 points and pulled down 15 rebounds, and 6-2 sophomore Shafer had 10 points.

SURPRISINGLY, Lathrup dominated the boards, 38-26. Both teams made 22 field goals. Dondero made 12 of 22

free throws; Lathrup dropped in 11 of 17.

In the junior varsity game, Dondero beat Lathrup, 51-36.

Lathrup, now 12-5 overall, plays next on Friday at home against Troy Athens. Game time is 8 p.m.

ADAMS 78 GROVES 76 (2 OTs)

Rochester Adams High School's basketball team may start to unionize if this continues.

For the second straight game, the Highlanders were forced into a double overtime situation, but this time the results were different. Adams won, 78-76.

In their last outing, the Highlanders were defeated in double overtime by the Bloomfield Hills Lahser. The overtime against Groves was the fourth this year that Adams has gone into an extra session.

IT WAS ADAMS' first overtime victory, however. The Highlanders had previously lost to Mount Clemens and North Farmington, as well as Lahser.

Groves actually had two chances to win the game.

The Falcons, who staged a fourth-quarter rally to tie the game, had a chance to win the game on a last-second shot as regulation time expired. Groves also had the last shot of the first overtime that missed.

Then the Highlanders reeled off the first four points of the second overtime and held on the rest of the way.

Richard Giles and Gary Lamphier each scored 20 points for the Highlanders, who are now 8-8 overall. Adams is 5-3 in the Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA).

(Continued on Page 4C)

Swimming roundup

Andover tankers win

What a meet! In a battle between two of the top swim teams in the state, Bloomfield Hills Andover remained undefeated with a 96-76 upset victory over Birmingham Seaholm Thursday night.

The Barons won nine of the 11 events and recorded some of their best individual times of the season. Andover's record is now a sparkling 7-0.

"This was a close meet. We won by 20 points, but some of the races were very close," said Andover coach Mike Lane. "Seaholm has a lot of depth, but we just swam awfully well."

Andover's 200-yard medley relay team of Dan Davis, Scott Hammond, Bruce VanMeter and Charlie Myers swam a 1:1.0 — a state-best time. Davis' time of 55.8 in the backstroke is also a state-best mark.

"We knew we could go that fast," said Lane. "And we know that these times will be bettered at the state meet."

Andover won the 500-free for Andover with a time of 5:01.5, and teammate Guy DeFranco won both the 50- (22.6) and 100-

yard (49.5) freestyle events. Mike Wantuck took the diving with 318 points.

Seaholm's winners included Mark Hoisington in the 200-free (1:51.3) and Jeff Lundy in the butterfly (54.9).

Andover will swim at West Bloomfield 7 p.m. tomorrow.

GROVES 93 LATHRUP 74

Southfield-Lathrup won six events, but couldn't handle Groves' depth in a Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) swim meet Thursday evening.

Groves, at 4-0, is tied for the MSAA lead with Rochester Adams. The Highlanders and Falcons will meet Thursday evening at the Groves pool.

The Chargers won both relays, and four of the nine individual events. Paul Vincent won the 200-free, and Greg Hummon took the 200-IM and breaststroke.

Josh Sberbin (diving), Paul Koenig (butterfly), Scott Hieskamp (100-free), Pete Webster (500-free) and Dan Quill (backstroke) were the Falcon winners.

ADAMS 96 LAHSER 76

The stage is set for a Birmingham Groves-Rochester Adams first-place showdown in the Metro Suburban Activities Association later this week.

Adams, undefeated in 10 dual meets this season, geared for its MSAA title chase with a 96-76 victory over Lahser last week. Groves has won the league championship ever since the MSAA was established nine years ago.

Adams and Groves are both 4-0 in the league. Groves, which defeated Southfield-Lathrup last week, is 5-3 overall.

Groves will host Adams Thursday evening.

The Highlanders won the 200-yard medley relay, plus six of the nine individual events.

Mike Kowalski was a double winner for Lahser, taking the backstroke (59.9) and 200-IM (2:08.6). Lahser also won the 400-yard freestyle relay.

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