

Area prep basketballers dip to .412 winning percentage

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor



Observerland prep cage squads dipped to a .419 winning percentage this week as the 19 area squads slipped to an overall, 76-105 showing.

Livonia Bentley, Livonia Franklin, Garden City West and Plymouth Salem wound up as winners on Tuesday's basketball card with St. Agatha, Redford Union, Clarenceville, Farmington Harrison, Stevenson, Plymouth Canton and Southfield Southfield Lathrup chalking up another notch in the loss column.

Two area schools are still in search of that No. 1 victory.

St. Agatha, now 0-9 fell to Ann Arbor St. Thomas, 9-47, and winless Plymouth Canton dropped its ninth game at the hands of Dearborn Annapolis, 55-38.

Suburban Eight com-

petition took a turn to the wild side with four clubs sporting 3-1 marks in action. Plymouth Salem and Livonia Bentley survived to find themselves in a tie for first with identical 4-1 marks while Dearborn and Allen Park slipped to 3-2 showings. Salem had a comeback victory over Dearborn, 59-50, while John Farrar's Bulldogs just did get by Redford Union, 47-46.

RU moved ahead in the early stages, 8-7, but Bentley took an 11-9 first quarter lead and 22-18 halftime advantage. It was 37-33 after three quarters as Bentley found an 11-point lead in the stanza vanish and an eight-point difference in the fourth sliced to 47-46 with 13 seconds and RU had the ball.

With five seconds remaining, RU missed on a scoring opportunity and Bentley's Dan Dinsmore was fouled on the rebound but missed on a one - and - one opportunity to let it stay at one point.

Bentley shot 39 per cent from the floor, 19 of 49, Randy Litke scoring 19. RU hit 17 of 50 for 34 per cent, Jack Helzer scoring 18 points. It was RU's eighth defeat in 10 outings, and Bentley's seventh victory overall against two setbacks.

Garden City West jumped to a 5-0 mark in the Tri-River race to keep pace with Riverside and set the stage for the West - Riverside showdown next Friday (Jan. 25).

West humbled Schafer, 78-38.

It was 15-11 after one quarter and 31-23 at the half. West then went to the boards and collected 16 of its 24 defensive grabs and outscored Schafer, 47-15, in the second half.

West hit 29 of 59 for a floor shooting percentage of 48 per cent and Schafer connected 13 of 54. Ken Kinsvater was high for the now 8-3 Tigers with a game high of 22 points.

The Blue Jays of Southfield were crushed by Birmingham Groves in a non-leaguer, 90-59. It was Southfield's seventh loss in nine contests as Groves jumped to a 26-12 first quarter score and was never headed. Greg Miller and Robin Richards popped in 18 and 16 points respectively for Southfield.

Bloomfield Andover handed Farmington Harrison its fourth straight defeat, 76-49.

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DRIVING IN FOR TWO POINTS is Bentley's Randy Litke (51) with Gregg Wood (21) of Redford Union looking on. The Bentley Bulldogs survived a Suburban Eight scare and nipped RU, 47-46. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Salem jars Dearborn, 59-50

A strong second half comeback gave Plymouth Salem one of its most valued road victories Tuesday with a 59-50 win over Dearborn. The Rocks ran their Suburban Eight record to 4-1 and their overall mark to 9-2.

Although sophomore Jim Ellinghausen led the Salem attack with 27 points, it was the balanced fourth quarter scoring of five men that finally subdued the pesky Pioneers and made the victory decisive.

This and results of three other Sub '8 games Tuesday

left Plymouth and Livonia Bentley tied for first place at 4-1. Dearborn, Allen Park and Edsel Ford all a length behind at 3-2, Belleville next at 2-3 followed by Redford Union 1-4 and Trenton 0-5.

RU will be at Plymouth tonight as Dearborn invades Bentley.

Dearborn, picked in some quarters to succeed Allen Park this year as Sub 8 champion, went at the Rocks with a bothersome full court press from start to finish.

The Pioneers also demonstrated that their ball con-

trol, sleight of hand, quick-passing game is one of the best in the area as they hustled to 13 - 12 and 26 - 22 leads after the first and second quarters.

The off-balance Rocks were guilty of 16 turnovers in the first half alone. Had it not been for point-a-minute Ellinghausen's eight buckets for 16 of the team's 22 points in that half the ultimate victory might have been out of sight.

Jim Vanderhull, son of the Dearborn coach, and Jim Tracz fired the Pioneer offense with 21 and 15 points for the night, but Plymouth's 19 - 11 third quarter edge put the Rocks in front 41 - 37 at the three-quarter pole.

Dearborn fought back to a 43 - 43 tie but with 5:23 remaining Bruce Johnson's free throw gave Salem a 44 - 43 edge and it was all Plymouth from then on, with

Johnson, Ellinghausen, Rick Neu, Dan Moore and Eric Agardy combining to outrun the Pioneers in the final eight minutes, 18 - 13.

Plymouth had a 45 - 33 edge in rebounds, thanks to second half hustle, and a general clear-cut advantage in overall statistics in what throughout was one of the season's most physical man-to-man encounters. Dearborn is far from out of it as a title contender.

In the preliminary game the Plymouth Jaycees eked out a 66 - 65 win to put their record at 9-1.

PLYMOUTH SALEM (59)
Neu 1-6-5-8; Moore 2-0-0-4; Agardy 2-1-3-5; Ellinghausen 12-3-8-27; Johnson 2-3-7-7; Ziel 1-0-0-2; Pruster 0-2-3-2; Lamirand 2-0-1-4. TOTALS 22-16-28-59.

DEARBORN (50)
Krause 1-0-1-2; Askins 1-3-3-5; Mason 1-0-0-2; Huff 2-1-2-5; Vanderhull 8-9-13-21; Tracz 6-3-3-15. TOTALS 17-16-23-50.
Plymouth..... 12 10 19 18-59
Dearborn..... 13 13 11 13-50

Prep Schedule

BASKETBALL CARD TONIGHT (Friday)

ST. FLORIAN at St. Agatha
Dearborn at BENTLEY
Shrine at BISHOP BORGESS
Plymouth Canton at CHURCHILL
Clarenceville at ANDOVER
STEVENSON at Farmington
NORTHVILLE at Farmington Harrison
North Farmington at FRANKLIN
OAK PARK at Garden City East
GARDEN CITY WEST at Southgate
Thurston at JOHN GLENN
Redford Union at PLYMOUTH SALEM
SOUTHFIELD at Royal Oak KImball
Eisenhower at SOUTHFIELD LATHRUP

TUESDAY (January 22)

CHURCHILL at Bentley
Sacred Heart at BISHOP BORGESS
Clarenceville at NORTHVILLE
Melvindale at GARDEN CITY EAST
Plymouth Canton at STEVENSON
Wyandotte at SOUTHFIELD
Southfield Lathrup at DEARBORN
*****Probable Winners in Bold-Face Caps*****
(Tuesday's Predictions, 10-1; Overall Mark, 110-31)

Churchill matmen blank Canton

The Churchill High matmen opened their Western Six loop competition with a perfect showing.

Churchill whitewashed first year Plymouth Canton, 63-0, to stand at 1-0 in the league and 4-2 overall. The Chargers tuned up for the league with a 49-12 win over Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 49-12.

Meet results: Livonia-Churchill 63, Plymouth Canton 0
100-Larry Mills (LC) pinned Darrel Healdum (PC): 89
107-Mike Basie (LC) dec. Guzman (PC): 9-0
114-Marc Smellie (LC) dec. Ross Haarz (PC): 7-2
121 - Pat Mullin (LC) pinned Steve Van-Slyke (PC): 3:59
128-Steve Williams (LC) pinned Marco Chiana (PC): 1:51
134-Bill Mills (LC) dec. Harvey Walker (PC): 4-3
140-Tom Knoeni (LC) pinned Rick Asher (PC): 3:39
147-Mark Barry (LC) pinned Greg Barnes (PC): 1:59

157-Win Likert (LC) pinned Joe Roy (PC): 1:58
169-Mike Zakeraki (LC) pinned Randy Urban (PC): 3:41
187-Bill Anderson (LC) pinned Jim Moore (PC): 3:49
HWY-Dave Kuhn (LC) pinned Gregg Burke (PC): 1:15

Meet Results: Livonia Churchill 49, Dearborn Heights Crestwood 12.
100-Larry Mills (LC) dec. Frank Gatto (C): 3-2
107-Mike Basie (LC) was pinned by Tony Zeppa (C): 1:25
114-Marc Smellie (LC) pinned Dan Alania (C): 1-31
121-Pat Mullin (LC) pinned Manuel Darloto (C): 1:08
128-Bill Mills (LC) dec. Kurt Hopkins (C): 11-0
134-Steve Williams (LC) pinned Bob Glass (C): 1:40
140-Nick Stroyan (LC) was pinned by Chuck Economou (C): 1:19
147-Mark Barry (LC) pinned Mark Germain (C): 5:15
157-Winston Likert (LC) pinned Rick Pyzo (C): 3:42
169-Mike Zakeraki (LC) won on a forfeit
187-Bill Anderson (LC) dec. Larry Helle (C): 12-5
HWY-Dave Kuhn (LC) dec. Mike McKenty (C): 12-2

RU hosting 6th wrestling tourney

Eight schools will be in action this Saturday (Jan. 19) in the sixth annual Redford Union wrestling invitational. Farmington Harrison, Farmington, North Farmington, Southfield, Crestwood, John Glenn, Thurston and host RU will be in competition. The preliminaries are set for noon Saturday and finals slated for 7 p.m.

RU won the first invitational in 1969 with North Farmington, John Glenn, RU taking it again in 1972 and Farmington the five year champions. Farmington which finished second to Wayne Memorial in the 32 schoolcraft Invitational, has to be the favored squad to make it two RU crowns in a row.