

# Area cage teams eye titles

There will be the scent of potential championships to five of Observerland's prep basketball attractions tonight and Saturday with Plymouth Salem, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Westland John Glenn and Garden City West sharing the limelight.

Plymouth has an unusual home date Saturday with Dearborn and can clinch its first Suburban Eight outright championship since 1969 by defeating the second - place Pioneers. Plymouth is 10-1 in the league to Dearborn's 8-3.

Fred Thomann's Rocks also will be gunning for a school record, their present 15-2 mark matching the most victories ever posted in one

season by a Plymouth club.

On the same court tonight, Churchill will be a strong favorite to knock off Plymouth Canton and if the Chargers do they will be assured of no worse than a tie for their second-straight Western Six crown.

Churchill is 9-0 in league play and is rated No. 1 among all area teams with a 16-1 record.

Franklin will be at North Farmington for a key North-west Suburban battle and Bob Visser's Patriots need a victory in this one to be sure of at least a share of the championship. They now are 7-1 in the league and 14-3 overall.

At the same time John Glenn, second in the North-west Suburban at 6-2, will invade Thurston hoping to keep title hopes alive with another win.

The most frantic race in the area is that in the Tri-River League where Garden City West, Inkster Cherry Hill and Dearborn Heights Riverside share the top rung, all at 10-2. West will host Southgate tonight and knows

that a victory will mean staying alive.

Other games tonight feature Bentley at Redford Union, Andover at Clarenceville, Farmington at Stevenson, Harrison at Northville, Garden City East at Oak Park, Royal Oak Kimball at Southfield and Lathrup at Eisenhower.

The regular season will end for all clubs next weekend and state tournament district action will open Monday, March 4.



## Both on scoring binge

# West, Franklin romp to victories

Garden City West and Livonia Franklin shot the eyes out of the basket, as an old cliche saying goes, as they rolled to impressive victories Tuesday.

For West, the '94-52 rout of Southgate Schaefer was a milestone marking the 100th victory for Coach Chris Babler since he took over as coach seven years ago. Rarely, if ever, has one of his teams had a 'hotter hand from the floor than this one, West hitting 59 per cent of its shots.

Franklin was almost as ef-

fective with a 56 per cent field goal average in dumping Farmington Harrison, 88-56, in another scoring binge.

Other mid-week Observerland results were: Thurston 71, Redford Union 68; Southfield 68, Bloomfield Hills Andover 56; Ferndale 70, Southfield Lathrup 48 and Dearborn Edsel Ford 64, Livonia Stevenson 58.

Paul Tatro led Garden City West's attack with 20 points in a game that really was no contest after West piled up a 48-25 halftime lead.

The victory kept West in a three-way tie at the top of the Tri-River League standings with Inkster Cherry Hill and Dearborn Heights Riverside. All are 10-2 in the loop.

Franklin's non-league triumph over Harrison was the team's 14th in 17 starts and saw Kevin Kaseta hit the hoop for 29 points. Kaseta went into the game as Observerland's leading scorer with an average of 22.1 per game.

Keith Blazaitis and Jim Baigrie also were in double

figures for Franklin with 17 and 12 while Mark Brozek paced Harrison with 11. Franklin led at the half, 49-24.

One of the most cherished victories of the season was Thurston's backyard triumph over RU which ended a 12 game losing streak and gave Thurston a 2-15 record compared to RU's 6-11.

Thurston broke on top by hitting the first five shots but led at the half only 35-33. Curt Beadle with 23 points, Cory Rodriguez 16, Jeff

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STARTING TO FEEL the pressure of being No. 1 is Churchill basketball Coach Pat Montagano whose now 16-1 Chargers slipped by Ann Arbor Huron, 52-51, to make it 10 straight since losing to Franklin. Montagano's pressure is sure to mount with Plymouth Canton and Waterford Mott next in line before the state tournament kicks off. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)



FORMER FRANKLIN HIGH TANKER Tom Segasser has made the Michigan State University varsity swim squad in his freshman season. The freestyler has been in action against Eastern Michigan and Illinois.

# Prep wrestlers begin tourney action

The format is set for the 1974 Michigan high school state wrestling championships.

Eighteen of the area's 19 schools will be in competition with 24 district and 16 regional sites announced for the four classes.

Class A and B districts will be held Feb. 23 and the regionals March 2. Classes A, B, and C lower peninsula final wrestling tournaments will be held March 8-9 - Class A at Grand Rapids Calvin College; Class B at Kalamazoo Western Michigan University and Class C at Haslett High School.

Opening district rounds show 12 area schools in the Walled Lake Western meet.

Redford Union, Thurston, Farmington, Farmington Harrison, North Farmington, Garden City East, Garden City West, Bentley, Churchill, Franklin, Stevenson and Plymouth Salem will be up against Annapolis, Crestwood, Millford, Northville, Walled Lake Central and host Walled Lake Western.

Westland John Glenn is in the Trenton district along

with Allen Park, Belleville, Dearborn, Edsel Ford, Fordson, Cherry Hill, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Monroe, Romulus, Southgate, Taylor Kennedy, Taylor Center, Taylor Truman, Temperance Bedford, Wayne, Wyandotte Roosevelt and host Trenton.

Southfield Lathrup, Southfield High and Bishop Borgess will be up against Berkeley, Detroit Center Line, Catholic Central, North-western, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Highland Park, Lampshire, Oak Park, Dandero, Kimball, Warren Cousino, Fitzgerald, C.S. Mott, Warren and Warren Woods in the Warren Fitzgerald district.

Class B action pits Plymouth Canton in the Ypsilanti Willow Run district and Livonia Clarenceville in the Auburn Heights Avondale district.

Canton will be competing with Brighton, Carleton Airport, Chelsea, Dexter, Grosse Ile, Milan, Monroe, Jefferson, Huron, Pinckney, Riverview, Saline, Aquinas, Schafer, South Lyon, Tecum-

sch, Lincoln and Willow Run. Clarenceville will be running up against Algonac, Avondale, Cranbrook, Lutheran West, Hartland, Madison Heights, Bishop Foley,

Madison, Marine City, Mt. Clemens, Chippewa Valley, Clintondale, Anchor Bay, Novi, Port Huron Central, Richmond, St. Clair and Warren Tower.

## Les Anders dates set

The 1974 Les Anders Invitational High School Baseball Tourney, co-sponsored by the Livonia Parks and Recreation, the Livonia Optimist Club and the Observer Newspapers will be held on May 11, 18, 27 and 29.

A total of 20 invitations have been sent to the 19 schools in the Observerland area along with Wayne Memorial.

Southfield Lathrup is the defending champion as it knocked off Westland John Glenn in the final last season. There is no entry fee but each team is required to furnish two baseballs for each game it participates in. The tourney will be a one-game knock out and team trophies will be awarded to the winner and runnerup.

## Brother act

Michigan State world-class intermediate hurdler Bob Cassleman has younger brother Chris, also a hurdler, as a teammate on MSU's varsity in 1974. Both prepped at Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

## Back home

Former Michigan State fullback great Bob Apisa now is back in his home area of Hawaii, coordinating Samoan affairs for the state. He also helps with Honolulu's Quick Kokua activities program for under-privileged children.