

# Basketball tournament unites former rivals

By JOHN LUTTERMOSE

There are no uniforms, just shirts against skirts. The audience consists of two girls, and the shouting is confined to the players.

You'd never know that this was an out-of-control holiday tournament. Every year during Christmas vacation, some of the alumni of Andover and Lahser high schools organize teams, get together and have a tournament. This year they held it at Lahser last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The teams are all identified with a graduating class of one of the two schools, with Lahser's class of '74 and Andover '72, '73, and '75 fielding teams this year. But it's really not that structured, and anybody who wants to play can get on one of the teams.

MOST OF THE PLAYERS used to play varsity basketball at one of the schools, but even those who didn't get plenty of chances to play. "Everybody pretty much gets tired," explained Ken Heidel, captain of the Tornadoses, the Andover '72 team.

The ex-varsity players were the original reason for the tournament, according to Ed Wichert, director of the Bloomfield Hills Recreation Department, which runs the event as part of its Holiday Vacation Programs.

"We kept having a lot of players come back, and they always wanted to play the varsity," said Wichert, who was head basketball coach at Andover from 1960 to 1963. The tournament was first held in 1965. Andover also holds an alumni-varsity game every year.

"It's really a chance for these guys to get back together. I expect us to get into this with the girls soon. I think they're about ready."

SAM SAKORAFIS OF the Dukes agreed. "When you're in high school, it's Andover or Lahser, there's a barrier between the two. But then a lot of guys go to the same colleges. You know each other's names, and with this you get to know each other a little bit."

The tournament also provides an escape from the vacation doldrums, and as Rick DiPasquale of the Dukes pointed out, a chance to "work off our Christmas dinners. The first day everybody was just draggin' out here."

This year's turnout of four teams was a disappointment. "I've played for three years in a row, and there's always been at least eight or ten teams," said Rich Walden of the Tornadoses.

"We could have had more but we organized Monday," said Stan Wareck, who runs the tournament for the recreation department. "Two or three teams wanted to get in on Tuesday, and it was too late."

"I think a lot of U of M kids went to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl," added Paul Mallon of the Dukes.

THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT was marked by balance, however. Three of the six games were decided by one point. Nor is that unusual, according to Wareck, who said the games are close "as a rule."

They are also taken seriously by the players. That was made evident by the plaintive cry of referee Rick Berlin when he learned just before the start of the championship game that he would be the only official. "You tryin' to kill me here?" he asked Wareck.

"It's serious," nodded Jim Knudson of the Tornadoses, who played four years of varsity basketball at Albion College.

## Swedish icers top Southfield

Two Swedish youth hockey teams, the Boras Open and the Boras A squads, are touring the country, and their itinerary included a stop in Southfield for a couple of games on Jan. 2.

The Boras Open team defeated the Southfield Bantam (13 and 14 year olds), 3-1, last Sunday morning at the Beechwoods Arena. Mike Thornton scored Southfield's lone goal. Later that morning, Boras A and Southfield's Bantam A teams played to a scoreless tie.

The Swedish teams were then hosted at a luncheon and given a tour of Greenfield Village. A Southfield Midget (15 and 16 year olds) Travel team will visit Sweden for a playing tour in February, according to Karl Mannino, of the Southfield Hockey Club.

## Meeting set for umpires

An organizational meeting for prospective umpires in Southfield will be held at 8 p.m. on Jan. 27 at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen Road. All those who intend to umpire sandlot baseball in Southfield this summer are asked to attend.

College. "They get into it and want to win, there's no two ways about it."

There was much criticism of Berlin's judgment in the game, but David Pfister of the Tornadoses was sympathetic towards the group of volunteers who officiated the tournament.

"They try," said Pfister. "I don't know if they've ever been on a court before, but they try."

BOTH THE DUKES AND the Tornadoses, the two finalists, approached the championship game in a confident

mood. "We're the Cinderella team," said Don Smith of the Dukes. "We had an opening game defeat. We had to come back to win four straight to take it."

"I figure we can blow 'em out because they're older than we are," said Ross "Duke" Berlin, the team's captain and namesake, who earned his nickname by being a fan of John Wayne movies. "For Christmas my parents gave me a big John Wayne picture and frame," he said.

But Tornadoses' captain Heidel pre-

ferred to look at his team's age as an edge in experience. "You learn how to foul and cheat better," he explained. "We know the tricks," nodded teammate Paul Denzer.

"Of course you missed the game yesterday where I had 51 points," added Heidel as proof.

The game was another close one. The score was 16-16 after the first quarter, and the Dukes led 40-33 at the half.

EARLY IN THE third quarter, the

Dukes pulled away to an eight-point lead. "I'm doing a study on sex before athletic competition," alibied Ken Kareem of the Tornadoses. "I'm playing awfully today."

Then Kareem and his teammates started to battle back. By the end of the quarter, they had cut the lead to 57-54. They tied it with 7:30 to go, and with about four and a half minutes left they led, 66-64. "Panicking," muttered Duke.

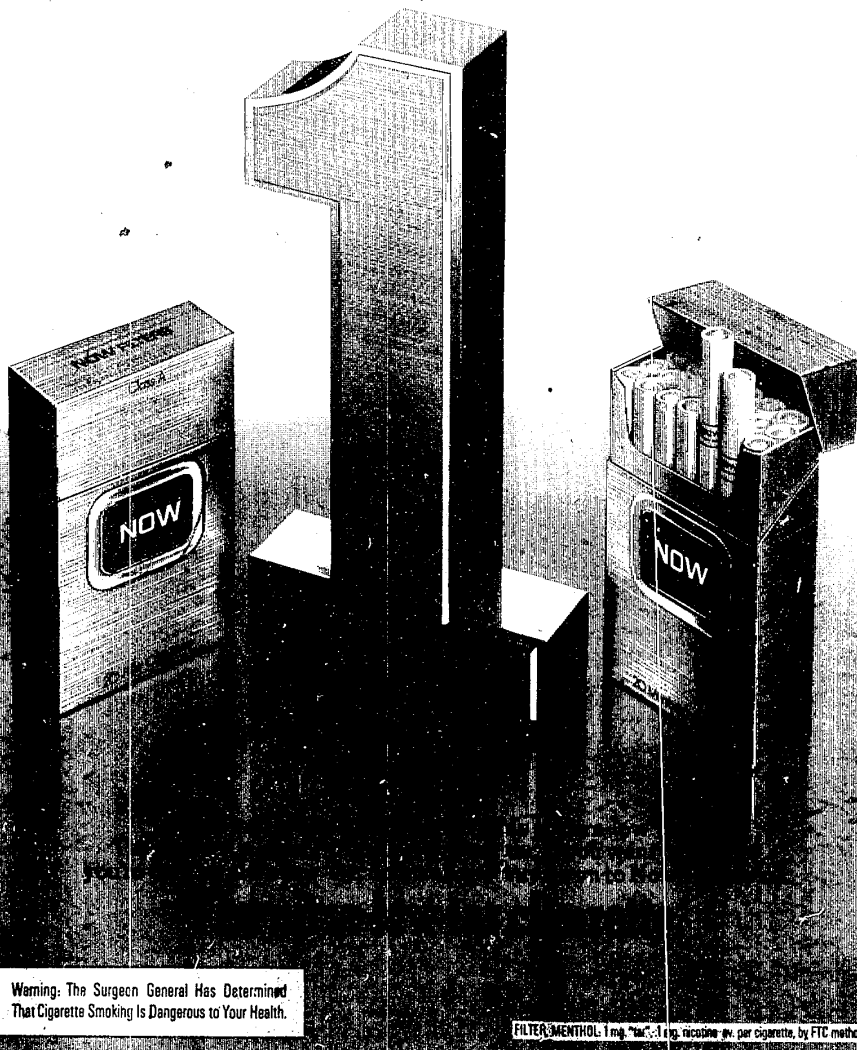
But his concern was unwarranted. The Dukes rallied to a five-point lead

with 1:30 left and held on to win, 78-74. "The difference was that first game," said Duke mysteriously about his team's early loss. "The pressure was on us, we had to come back and we did it."

"OK, what's our excuse," said Kareem. "The ref? Yeah, you could say that. Our unorganization? Yeah, you could say that. But I think the biggest reason was Mark Jones's party last night."

Referee Berlin just winced and said "I'll never do it again."

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