

Stevenson stops G.C. East; Borgess loses

Ron Reed, a junior center, tossed in 20 points to lead Livonia Churchill to a 59-54 non-league basketball victory Tuesday over Redford Union.

The Chargers, 1-1 after a pair of non-conference games, open their Western Six League season Friday at Waterford Holt.

"It (Churchill-RU encounter) was not a picture-perfect game, but it was a

Victory for the Chargers," said coach Fred Price. "At this point, we'll take it. I think the kids will be ready (for Monday)." Churchill led RU 12-6 after the first quarter, 28-20 at the half and 39-30 after three periods.

The Panthers used a press to whittle their deficit, but Churchill was able to hold on.

Brian Kersten helped carry the offensive load for the Chargers by contributing 12 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

"Ron (Reed) did an excellent job for us. He also had eight rebounds, about six steals and played an excellent ball game," said Price. "We had balanced scoring by the other people who played."

"We had them down by 10 points, but

they made us make turnovers. They put the pressure on and came within three. We committed 38 turnovers and they had 27," said Price.

Only four players scored for RU and all hit for double figures. Todd Hillis notched 17 points, Jerry Burk 13 and John Utch and Glenn Roberts 12 apiece.

"They were very cold at first and we were quite hot at the start," said Price, who added that RU had a slight rebounding edge even though the Chargers were taller.

Most of the Panthers' rebounds came at the offensive end of the court.

Churchill blitzed RU in the JV game 68-53.

The win was the second of the season for the Bulldogs in as many outings on the road.

Bentley trailed by three points with a minute and a half remaining, but turned the tide on a basket by Craig Evans, a field goal by Kurt Thorderson and two free throws by John Bednarski.

Evans finished with 18 points, Thorderson 16 and Bednarski 10.

Neither team held more than a three-point lead throughout the tussle. The score was tied 12-12 after the first eight minutes and deadlocked 24-24 at the half. The Thunderbirds led 40-38 going into the fourth quarter.

Bentley coach Jim Komula said that the defense was the key. "We changed it around quite a bit but we were best in the man-to-man. That, plus the will of the kids made the difference. They

believe they're winners.

"This group of kids just never says die. They're really an unusual group," said Komula. "They're not good shooters, they're not real big and they're not talented, but they come to play. They're coachable."

"I think Bob Ellis, our little, quick point-guard, had nine assists," Komula added. "He had two steals which were important at the end, but he just causes so many turnovers. In the last four minutes, he caused five turnovers."

"Evans, our other guard, is so complementary. He's bigger and plays good defense. He's a smart player," said Komula.

The Bulldogs will try to make it three in a row when they visit Belle-Vue Friday.

Edsel Ford defeated Bentley 75-63 in the JV game.

Athens relays dropped

The Athens High School-Troy Optimist Club-Observer & Eccentric Swim Relays will not take place this year.

The meet was scheduled for Saturday, and would have involved some of the best high school swim teams from five Midwestern states. Besides Michigan, other states represented would have been Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

"We ran into financial difficulties, and we just ran out of time for ordering all the medals and ribbons we give to everyone," said Athens coach Dale Rahn, the meet originator and organizer.

"So, instead of running a meet without ribbons and medals, we decided just to cancel for this year. It's unfortunate, and everyone is disappointed."

This was to have been the third straight year for the Athens Relays, which was won the first two years by Upper Arlington High School (a suburb of Columbus, Ohio). Teams were awarded a four-foot travelling trophy sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, medals for first to sixth place winners, and ribbons for all other participants.

However, because the medals and ribbons were not ordered on time, Rahn decided to cancel the meet last week.

"The people who were supposed to have done the ordering (of ribbons and

medals) didn't do it," said Rahn. "I assumed they were ordered this year because they have been ready on time the past couple years. Next year they will be here on time because we're going to take care of the ordering ourselves."

"It's just that this year nobody could assure us that we would have received (the medals and ribbons) on time for the relays," he said. "So, instead of just going halfway on it, we decided to cancel them all together."

The relays have been very competitive over the past couple of seasons because of the quality of swimmers involved. Most of the schools which participate are annually in contention for their respective state swim titles.

The Michigan schools scheduled to have participated this year were Ann Arbor Huron, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Birmingham Groves, Bloomfield Hills, Dearborn, Dearborn Edsel Ford, Grand Blanc and host Athens.

The two Indiana schools included South Bend Riley and South Bend Adams. Hinsdale Central was to have represented Illinois, and Bethel Park was to have come from Pennsylvania.

The Athens Relays occurs on one day, with preliminary events in the morning and finals in the afternoon. Most of the outstate swimmers are housed either by area families or local motels.

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December 19, 1979

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