

Prep Cagers Open Holiday Meets Monday

It's Christmas week... and that means the week, too, for Observerland high school basketball teams to engage in special invitational holiday tournaments.

Three are on the docket to keep the preps busy on the court, while they are taking time off from their classroom studies.

The "major" tournament in the area is the annual Northwest Invitational which has attracted no less than five Observerland teams in its field of eight.

THIS MEET STARTS at Southfield and North Farmington Highs Monday and then switches to North Farmington for the balance of the action Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

Two other area teams will go to the River Rouge Invitational, while three quintets from Observerland will tournament in the tournament to be staged at John Glenn High in Westland.

THE TOURNEYS are unlike the state meet held

in March. One defeat doesn't mean a team is through.

True, a loss ends a team's bid for the overall championship, but there are consolation awards at stake and schools usually are assured of no less than three games—win, lose or draw.

The Northwest tourney alignment features Redford Union, Southfield, North Farmington, Bentley, Stevenson, Farmington and Walled Lake Central.

Stevenson, unbeaten in early action, shapes up as a major threat. Farmington, winner once by an 83-82 score and then loser by the same count, could surprise.

Bentley and Redford Union are known as good tournament teams and North Farmington would appear to be "in" for a good season on the hardwoods.

IN MONDAY'S opening action, it'll be Redford Union vs. Berkley at 7 p.m., to be followed by North

Farmington vs. Southfield at 8:30 on the Southfield court.

Meantime, Bentley will play Stevenson at 7 p.m. and Farmington will take on Walled Lake Central at 8:30 p.m. on the North Farmington floor.

Monday's losers play Tuesday night. The first night winners will be idle until Friday and all teams will be in action Saturday with a four-ring circus of games to be climaxed by the title game at 8:30 p.m.

SIX TEAMS are set to go at John Glenn with the openers Tuesday matching Livonia Churchill against John Glenn at 7 p.m. and Wayne vs. Belleville at 8:45 p.m.

Cherry Hill will play the Churchill—Glenn winner in Friday's first game while Plymouth takes on the Wayne-Belleville victor in the second half of the Friday schedule.

Plymouth and Cherry Hill rate high in the field with Wayne and John Glenn listed as the teams to watch.

Thurston and Garden City East will visit River Rouge for what annual rates as one of the top invitations in the state.

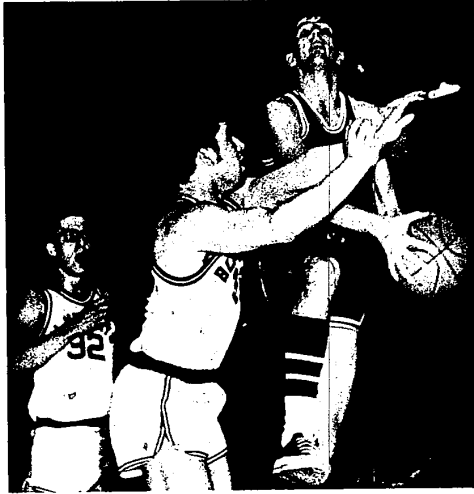
A four-game program will usher in the play at Rouge next Friday.

It starts with Highland Park playing Robichaud at 5 p.m. Then it's Edsel Ford vs. Garden City East at 6:30 p.m.; Thurston vs. Monroe at 8 and River Rouge vs. Ecorse at 9:30 p.m.

RIVER ROUGE is the pre-meet favorite on the strength of its brilliant tournament record. Rouge has won the state Class B title nine times and finished second on four occasions—a feat never matched by a Michigan prep team in any class.

The eight-team field at Rouge is one of the toughest ever assembled for a holiday tournament.

After engaging in the holiday action, the teams will join the few which won't be playing at all in any meets, in returning to regular season schedule after classes resume in January.



SMALL CHANCE for Farmington's Rick Chapman to get this shot off as he drives in for a layup during the game against Southfield. An unidentified Blujay appears to be ready to foul Rick before he gets the shot away. The Jays rolled to an easy win.

(Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

F'ton Cagers Dumped

With Brad Allen finding the basket for 31 points, Southfield went on to set an all-time scoring record for the school in defeating Farmington, 110 to 74.

Taking the lead in the first few minutes, Southfield dominated the game from the start. The winners built up a 29-16 edge in first quarter, increased it to 55-38 at half time and went into the final leading 71 to 57.

While Allen set the scoring pace, he was ably assisted by two teammates. Jackson with 27 points and Miller with 22.

Mark Miniewski led the Farmington shooters with 19 points. Paul White added 18 and Doug Carvell contributed 12.

Macomb Defeats Ridge

Orchard Ridge CC cagers fought into an overtime period, but the result was just the same—a third straight defeat at the hands of Macomb, 75-71.

The score was knotted 64-64 at the end of regulation time, but Macomb quickly built up a 75-70 margin in the early moments of the extra period and held on for the victory.

Schoolcraft To Meet Ridge

This area's two community colleges will be pitted against each other in the opening round of a basketball tournament over the holidays.

Schoolcraft College cagers will meet the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge (Farmington) campus quintet at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

The action will come in the Christmas Classic at Auburn Hills, east of Pontiac.

Holiday Prep Card

NORTHWEST INVITATIONAL

MONDAY

AT NORTH FARMINGTON—Bentley vs. Stevenson, 7 p.m.; Farmington vs. Walled Lake, 8:30 p.m.
AT SOUTHFIELD—Redford Union vs. Berkley, 7 p.m.; Southfield vs. North Farmington, 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

AT NORTH FARMINGTON—Monday's losers.

FRIDAY

AT NORTH FARMINGTON—Monday's winners

SATURDAY

AT NORTH FARMINGTON—All teams play with championship game at 8:30 p.m.

RIVER ROUGE INVITATIONAL

FRIDAY

Highland Park vs. Robichaud, 5 p.m.; Edsel Ford vs. Garden City East, 6:30 p.m.; Thurston vs. Monroe, 8 p.m.; River Rouge vs. Ecorse, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Four games involving Friday's winners in two, Friday's losers in other two.

MONDAY (DEC. 29)

All teams play. Championship game at 9 p.m.

JOHN GLENN INVITATIONAL

TUESDAY

Churchill vs. John Glenn, 7 p.m.; Wayne vs. Belleville, 8:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

Tuesday's losers, 6:15 p.m.; Cherry Hill vs. Churchill-Glenn winner, 7:40 p.m.; Plymouth vs. Wayne-Belleville winner, 9:20 p.m.

SATURDAY

Three games with championship final at 9:20 p.m.

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'Bo' Satisfied With Offensive, Defensive Tactics Michigan Stands Pat On Strategy

"What a difference a few weeks make!"

"Bo" Schembechler, the young football coach at the University of Michigan, kept repeating these words as the Wolverines departed Thursday to keep their date in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

Like a young lad with a new toy on Christmas morning, "Bo" was bubbling with enthusiasm as he recounted the events of the past few weeks. "This is like a dream come true," he said, but I can't help remembering that only three weeks ago the people out on the coast were complaining because they might be meeting a second place team with two defeats—in the big classic.

"NOW, LOOK WHAT'S happened," he continued. "We beat Ohio State and the entire situation changed."

"We're no longer being frowned on as an opponent—but they have made their champion—Southern California—a mere four and one half point favorite."

"That's sure a big change from the manner in which the coast people were speaking before Nov. 22."

THE MICHIGAN COACH confided that he isn't planning any changes for the New Year's Day game.

"Unless something unforeseen happens during our practice sessions out there," he

said, "we'll go with the same team that beat Ohio State."

While there'll be no change in personnel, "Bo" admitted there may be a change in the emotional approach to the meeting with Southern California.

"I don't think we'll be as 'high' for Southern Cal as we were for Ohio State," he said.

"Bo" said he never had seen anything like it, and added—"It was the same at the start of the second half, even though we had a lead at that time. I never have seen anything like it and don't expect to again."

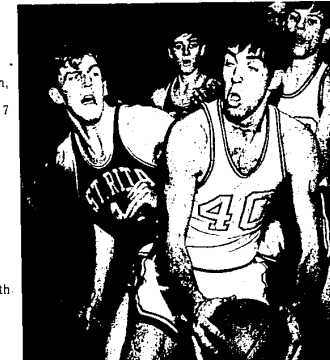
Even though the Wolverines may not be as high, emotionally, for the Bowl Battle, they'll have plenty of tradition to uphold and this could prove the incentive needed.

IT WILL BE the fifth appearance of a Michigan team in the granddaddy of all bowl games and the Wolverines have yet to be defeated.

It started back in 1902 when "Hurry Up" Yost took his point-a-minute team to the coast and downed Stanford, 49 to 0, in the first Rose Bowl game.

Fritz Crisler and his 1947 team repeated this performance, with what many claim was one of the greatest of all Michigan teams.

Bennie Oosterbaan took his famous "snow bowl" team to the Tournament of Roses and won in 1950, and "Bump" Elliott followed suit with the



NOW WHAT seems to be the question in the mind of Sonny's Mike Hart after grabbing a rebound. He doesn't seem to have any place to go with a St. Rita defender parked on his shoulder.

(Observer photo by Vince Witek)

YES, we are Racing!

Monday and Tuesday Nights, December 22, 23

at

NORTHVILLE DOWNS

THERE WILL BE NO RACING CHRISTMAS EVE AND NIGHT

(December 24 and 25)

Season's Greetings To All!

Racing Resumes

Friday, December 26 to Tuesday, December 30

at

Michigan's Only **HEATED, ENCLOSED** Grandstand

NORTHVILLE DOWNS

Post Time 8 p.m.

1964 team. "We know we've got a big job," "Bo" confided, "but I think our boys are capable."

"Or one thing you can be certain—this is no lark. We're going out there to play football."

Then he couldn't help repeating with a smile... "What a difference just a few weeks make."

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