

## Open 1970 With Busy Schedules After Long Layoff

# Prep Teams Resume Championship Play

Hello, 1970!

After a three-week pause from league action, Observer land high school basketball teams this week plunge back into the thick of action for conference championships.

league play on Friday.

Since it's been such a long time in between league encounters, The Observer today reviews how the various area prep cage races stand.

**SUBURBAN SIX LEAGUE**  
The Catholic League schools were at work Tuesday night; their public-school brothers bounce back into

Dave Rice, Tom Guilfoyle and Lou Lovett are the spark-plugs of the team which has a 2-0 record with still eight games left to go.

Bentley didn't fare as well as hoped for in the holiday Northwest Invitational, winning only one out of three.

Plymouth and Redford Union are still very much in the

race with 1-1 records.

Plymouth impressed before the holiday, beating Trenton and then reached the finals at John Glenn in the holiday invitational. Pat Cunningham has been a big factor in Plymouth's success story.

Gary Bevington and Kirk Taylor are two standouts at

Redford Union, which has had major problems this season outside the league. RU failed to win in three games in the Northwest Holiday meet.

**TRI RIVERS LEAGUE**  
The big news before the holiday break was Garden City West and its super star Rick Dretwitz.

West has pulled ahead with a

2-0 record in the league and looms as the team to beat in the defense of its crown.

Dretwitz ranks with the leading scorers and rebounders in the area.

He's a good bet for all-state this season.

**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN**  
The spotlight shines on

North Farmington, as far as the area is concerned, but then, too, there's Oak Park.

Both are 2-0 as the league race resumes; overall North Farmington is 6-0 and fresh from sweeping to the Northwest Holiday title.

Players like Ken Kikka and Drew Mahalic are two

major reasons for the success story thus far at North Farmington, which shared the title a year ago.

John Glenn and Franklin aren't too far back nor is Thurston. But it would appear that the race will boil down to what happens when North Farmington and Oak Park collide in their two home and home battles, the first of which comes up shortly.

## Chiefs Have Big Chance In Finale

A sports era ends Sunday in New Orleans.

The American Football League will make its final stand before doing a golden death.

The AFL will put its hopes on the Kansas City Chiefs to beat the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League in the final S. A. Bowl game as the world's on it today.

That's because there'll be no AFL after Sunday.

The league gives away to become apart of the merger with the NFL. Next year it'll be the NFL with two conferences of 13 teams each.

Minnesota much of a threat, especially the way Minnesota has handled its NFL rivals all season, capping its march to the title last Sunday by downing Cleveland 27-7.

At the same time, the underdog Chiefs arose to beat Oakland 17-7, and annex the final AFL title.

There was a major difference in the two title games. Minnesota had matters wrapped up pretty quickly. Before the first period was over the Vikings had a 14-0 lead and it was evident that the Browns weren't to reign in this one.

On the other hand, the Oakland-Kansas City game was tied up at 7-7 going into the last period.

**THEN THE CHIEFS CAP-**

talized on one touchdown, a field goal and a great pass-catching defense to take command and stay there.

Thus, the Chiefs are going back to the Super Bowl, being here for the first time in New Orleans, for the second time. They were there three years ago when Green Bay beat them.

The next year Green Bay beat Oakland.

And, last year, who'll forget how Joe Namath and the New York Jets downed Baltimore in a major upset.

Is another upset possible?

**IT'LL BE HARD** for the Chiefs to win, especially if Minnesota can enjoy the breaks it did against Cleveland.

Like the first Viking TD. It was scored by Kapp himself on a broken play. He meant to hand the ball off. Instead he bumped into two teammates and still scored.

Later Kapp fired a 75-yard to ex-Minigan Slater, Gene Washington. When the ball hit Washington's hands he was all alone, the Cleveland defender had slipped and fallen on the frozen turf.

But, the Vikings aren't a lucky team. They're a great one which given a break, will capitalize very time.



GARDEN CITY WEST players get some advice from Coach Chris Bobler during a time out in a recent game. That's Rick Dretwitz, 6'7" center, towering over Bobler while listening to the new strategy. Dretwitz, the lone

holderover from last year's powerful quintet, currently is rated as one of the top prep cagers in Michigan. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

### MID-WAYNE LEAGUE

It's been a tough season so far for Garden City East in the league and elsewhere.

East is 0-2 in the conference, but in each case the team was beaten in the closing moments of action.

In the holiday tourney at River Rouge, East experienced the same troubles.

Since this is a young team, it can be expected that East will improve as the season progresses.

Couch Billy Joe Young has one major hope at East: his cagers don't fade too far off the pace before they start to jell into a winner they could be before the winter is over.

**WAYNE-OAKLAND LEAGUE**  
Looks like a long winter and a cold one for Clarenceville.

The Trojans had a rough time before taking time off for Christmas and New Year's.

Perhaps 1970 will change their fortunes.

**INTER-LAKES CONFERENCE**  
Stevenson, like cross-town rival Bentley, already has shot into undisputed possession of first place.

It took Stevenson only two games in the league to accomplish the trick. The second loop win came against Pontiac Northern, which shared league flag with Stevenson last year.

Stevenson overall is 6-1 for the season, suffering its only loss in Northwest holiday meet.

The team has won 15 of its last 15 regular-season games and with Ted Exarhos and Rusty Gregg leading the way figures to be tough all winter.

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VETERAN ALEX DELVECCHIO is one of the hoppiest players in the National Hockey League. The Red Wings center snapped a scoring slump that had extended through 30 games by scoring five goals in the next two contests.

## Alex Finally Ends A 30-Game Slump

Patience, patience and more patience.

Worrying and good luck charms.

Add 'em all up together and the fortunes are bound to smile.

Just ask ex-Livonian Alex Delvecchio, the captain of the Detroit Red Wings.

For many years, Delvecchio resided in Livonia. His youngsters grew up in the city and went to school there.

But with an expanding family, the Delvecchios found it necessary to move out during the past summer, into a neighboring suburb.

But his of Livonia neighbors had to be suffering with Delvecchio when for the first 30 games the Wings played this season not once did he score a goal.

AND, IT 50 happens that Delvecchio is the third leading goal-getter in the National Hockey League's proud history.

Delvecchio tried everything. So did his teammates, including the great Gordie Howe and Frank Mahovlich.

his linemates. But in 30 games, nothing happened. Delvecchio was getting assists, helping the Wings to score. But he couldn't get one in himself.

Then before a New Year's Eve game with Boston, Delvecchio met Pam Eldred, the West Bloomfield young lady who is the current Miss America.

Miss Eldred is an avid hockey fan. Before being crowned Miss America she seldom missed a game at Olympia.

She told Delvecchio that she had a good luck charm, the one she wore when she won at Atlantic City.

Miss Eldred offered it to Delvecchio. He pinned it on to his shoulder harness.

The sports world knows the rest.

He scored twice against Boston.

Three nights later the Wings were in Philadelphia. Delvecchio scored three times.

All is sweet now. Those 30 games without a score just are a dream now.

## What's Coming Up In Prep Sports

### BASKETBALL

Friday

Oak Park at John Glenn  
Garden City East at Romulus  
Crestwood at Garden City West  
Thurston at North Farmington  
Plymouth at Redford Union  
Andover at Clarenceville  
Groves at Franklin  
Stevenson at Wall Lake Central  
Walled Lake Western vs. Churchill at Stevenson  
Bentley at Trenton  
Farmington at Pontiac Northern  
St. Thomas at St. Agatha  
Sorrow at Our Lady of Lakes  
Bishop Borgess at Holy Redeemer

Saturday

Bentley at Flint Central

Tuesday

North Farmington at Farmington  
West Bloomfield at Clarenceville  
Thurston at Ann Arbor

SWIMMING

Thursday

North Farmington at Thurston  
Redford Union at Plymouth  
Trenton at Bentley  
Rochester at Farmington  
Glenn at Oak Park  
Garden City West at Southgate  
Crestwood at Garden City East

Friday

Clarenceville at Northville  
Franklin at Groves

Tuesday

Riverside at Garden City West  
Ypsilanti at Garden City East  
Stevenson at Franklin  
Churchill and Ferndale at Redford Union

WRESTLING

Thursday

Glenn at Oak Park  
Farmington at Pontiac Northern  
North Farmington at Walled Lake Western  
Walled Lake Central at Stevenson  
Clarenceville at Andover  
Churchill at Redford Union  
Bentley at Trenton  
Garden City West at Edsel Ford  
Romulus at Garden City East

Friday

Franklin at Groves

Saturday

Redford Union Invitational

Tuesday

Bentley at Stevenson  
Lutheran West at Garden City East

GYMNASTICS

Wednesday

North Farmington at Clarenceville  
Farmington at Allen Park

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