

Regionals are next

By C.J. RISAK

The state district basketball tournaments concluded last Saturday and only two of the top seven teams in the Observer & Eccentric area poll survived to advance to the regionals.

Top-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice won the Birmingham Seaholm district by defeating Bloomfield Hills Andover, 49-43, last Friday.

Southfield, rated third in this week's poll, was an easy winner in its district final against Redford Union, 79-55, last Friday at Southfield.

Three of the other five teams in the poll lost in district final matches. Andover, ranked in a tie for sixth with Rochester, was beaten by Rice. A key factor in the game was Rice's ability to limit Andover's high-scoring guard, Tim Meter, to only 10 points. Andover finished 10-12 on the season.

Rochester concluded the year at 12-9 with a 44-43 loss in the Troy Athens dis-

trict finals to Utica. Forward Chris Ribant missed a shot in the final seconds that could have been a game-winner. Earlier in the district tourney, Rochester beat Lake Orion, 43-36.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's was the third team to bite the dust in a district final, losing to Center Line St. Clement, 57-51, in overtime at the Harper Woods Lutheran East Class C district Friday.

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP, No. 4 in the poll, was beaten in the first round of the districts by Cinderella-team Royal Oak Dondoro, 60-52. Dondoro went on to the championship of the Royal Oak Kimball tourney, beating Detroit Henry Ford in the finals Saturday.

No more than one rated team will make it past the regionals, since Southfield and Rice are competing in the Lathrup tourney.

Southfield's first opponent was a familiar one — Ferndale. The two teams

met for the Southeastern Michigan Association championship this past season and split their two games this year. Rice faced Dondoro Wednesday night. The Warriors are clear favorites to win the regional title, having beaten Ferndale earlier in the season.

The regional championship contest is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday at Lathrup. The winner advances to the quarterfinals at University of Detroit's Callahan Hall on Wednesday, March 19, against the winner of the Warren Tower regional. That game will begin at 8 p.m.

FINAL O&E CAGE POLL

(Records as of March 10)

1. Brother Rice (27 points) . . . 18-5
2. B.H. Lakser (19) . . . 17-4
3. Southfield (17) . . . 16-5
4. Southfield-Lathrup (12) . . . 15-6
5. O.L. St. Mary's (7) . . . 18-4
6. (tie) Rochester (4) . . . 12-9
6. B.H. Andover (4) . . . 107-12



from courtside

David Stewart

Netters upset favorites

When an unseeded player wins a club "A" singles tournament and the No. 1-seeded player is defeated in the semifinals, everyone knows there must be a high number of strong players in the tournament.

Of course, there is always the cynic who says the person making up the draw did not know what he or she was doing.

But in the recent Winter Women's Singles Championships at the Centaur Racquet Club in West Bloomfield, this was not the case. The No. 1-seeded player, Anita Goldman of West Bloomfield, should have been the top seed. But the tournament's top player was defeated by No. 4-seed Hilary Randolph of Farmington Hills in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4, in the semifinals.

In the bottom half of the draw, No. 2-seed Bobbie Daniel of West Bloomfield was defeated in the second round by the eventual winner — unseeded Nancy Green of West Bloomfield, 6-1, 6-3.

Championship

Green defeated Randolph 6-0, 5-7, 6-4.

IN THE WOMEN'S "B" Singles Division, No. 2-seed Judy Power of West Bloomfield, defeated No. 4-seed Alice Pranis of West Bloomfield, 6-1, 6-1.

First Round

Shirley Russell (Southfield) received a bye; Judy Gabriel (West Bloomfield) defeated Shirley Carp (West Bloomfield), 6-3, 6-4; Donna Stakin (Farmington Hills) defeated Ann Marie Eastman (West Bloomfield), 3-6, 6-2; Alice Pranis received a bye; Mary Ann Brady (Farmington Hills) received a bye; Marlene Tronkey (Walled Lake) won by default over Diane Rys (Farmington Hills); Cheryl Mascolo (West Bloomfield) defeated Barbara Walsky (West Bloomfield), 6-4, 6-4; Judy Power received a bye.

Quarterfinals

Russell defeated Gabriel 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Pranis defeated Stakin 6-2, 6-2; Power defeated Tronkey 6-2, 6-2; Power defeated Mascolo 6-1, 7-5.

Semifinals

Pranis defeated Russell 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; Power defeated Brady 6-1, 7-5.

Championship

Power defeated Pranis 6-1, 6-1.

The accusation has been made that the club's "A" players compete in the "B" Division of the Suburban League. With such a high number of strong players, that kind of an accusation is easy to understand.

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