

Preps Await State Cage Tourney Draw

Plymouth vs. North Farmington in the final, or Garden City West vs. Stevenson or Bentley... or Bentley vs. Stevenson in the first round?

Or Redford Union vs. Thurston right off the bat... or maybe Garden City East vs. Garden City West in the first game or for the title?

These are just some of the possibilities which could arise Tuesday and Wednesday when the draw is conducted for the district phase of the annual Michigan High School basketball tournament.

The state rules prohibit any

district draws taking place before the Tuesday preceding the week in which the districts are held.

And the districts begin next week, to be followed by the regionals, quarterfinals, semifinals and the grand state finals.

OF THE 16 TEAMS in Observerland, three of them have been tossed into the district at North Farmington High, six into a district at Franklin... two at Southfield... two at Northville... and single ones at four other districts.

The Franklin and North Farmington Class A districts will attract most of the spotlight... and deservedly so.

The area's one-two teams—Garden City West and Stevenson—both have been assigned to Franklin. The same field also includes Bentley, which is linked with Plymouth on a showdown for the Suburban Six League crown: Franklin, Garden City East and Crestwood.

The presence of North Farmington, Farmington and Plymouth in the district at

North Farmington should make for considerable interest. And what about Redford Union, Thurston, Southfield and Southfield-Lathrup all being grouped together at Southfield?

THERE'S NO WAY, of course, in determining in advance who'll draw who in any of the districts.

There'll be no seeding of teams, based on regular-season records, with the various tournament directors meet with coaches or representatives of the various schools involved in each meet.

Except for a regulation that no home team—like Southfield, North Farmington or Franklin—can enjoy a buy, if there is one—names are picked out of a hat and assigned by the luck of the draw.

Naturally, it would be ideal if at Franklin, Garden City West and Stevenson could fall in opposite halves of the bracket and survive until the finals.

It would be ideal, too, for gate appeal to have Bentley and Stevenson in opposite halves so that a final between the two rivals might develop.

A North Farmington-Farmington final at North Farmington would be bound to pack the gym.

BUT THERE ARE too many "ifs" which first must take place... like the draw itself, like who wins in the first and second games, etc.

It's this wide-open, unpredictable situation which makes the tournament what it is.

In addition to the tournaments at Southfield, Franklin and North Farmington, the area Class A spotlight also will focus on Ypsilanti, where John

Glenn is assigned, and to Henry Ford, where Bishop Borgess will play.

Churchill and Clarenceville, two Class B contenders, will travel to a district at Northville. Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Agatha, both in Class C, will play in districts at Pontiac and Redford St. Mary's, respectively.

WHILE THE SUSPENSE grows leading up to the state tournament, the regular-season title chases come to an end this week.

There's still considerable

interest in the various title chases as the races go down to the final barrier.

Contingent on what happens next Friday night will be whether Bentley or Plymouth, or both, wind up as champs in the Suburban Six League.

The last games also will settle whether North Farmington can tie Groves for the Suburban Six League crown.

Also whether Stevenson can complete its charge to the Inter-Lakes League title on a winning note while Farmington bids to end in second place after a slow start.



HAPPY DAYS for the McLains. Denny, star pitcher of the Tigers who was suspended indefinitely Thursday by the Baseball Commissioner, is shown with his wife Sharyn and oldest daughter during spring training in Lakeland, Fla. It was a hopper occasion for them now. (Observer photo by Vince Witke)

Shades Of 'Black Sox' Era McLain Ban Shocks Sports

Although he didn't use the word "indefinitely" in announcing his suspension of Denny McLain, the Tigers star right-handed pitcher, his failure to place a limit on the ban has left the baseball world, and the fans in a quandry.

How long will Denny be lost to the Tigers?

Will it be a month, a year, two years, or for life? These questions were bandied about immediately following the action that stunned the sports world last Thursday.

It marked the first time that any Baseball Commissioner ever had failed to place a time limit on a suspension.

BACK IN 1919 during the Black Sox scandal when it was charged that the White Sox has thrown the world series to the Cincinnati Reds, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis left no doubt about his actions: He suspended the seven players for life.

Later, the white-haired old judge was very emphatic in banning Cozy Dolan from the New York Giants. He imposed a life sentence on him.

And his successor, "Happy" Chandler who served only a short time as Baseball's High Commissioner, didn't leave any points dangling in the air when he suspended Leo

(Lippy) Durocher, then the manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. That ban was for a year.

Nothing ever shook the entire sports world as did the White Sox scandal.

It didn't become known until midway in the 1920 season that the Sox, known forever after as "The Black Sox," had thrown the series to the Reds.

AT THE TIME NO names were mentioned until Owner Charles Comiskey, the "Old Roman" of the club owners, announced the suspension of seven players in September.

An eighth player, Chuck Gandil, the first baseman, had

been suspended earlier for refusing to report after a dispute over his salary.

The eight, including Gandil were pitchers Eddie Cicotte and Claude (Lefty) Williams; shortstop Charles (Sweetie) Roseberg; third baseman Buck Weaver; leftfielder (Sholess) Joe Jackson; centerfielder Happy Felsch; and utility infielder Fred McMullen, were called before the grand jury and went on trial in 1921.

The jury found the players not guilty of a charge of defrauding the public.

It was then that Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who had been named Commissioner

with full power only a few months prior, stepped in.

He banned the eight players for life.

But McLain's case is different and the word "indefinitely" is hanging like a cloud over baseball in general and the Tigers training camp in particular.

In announcing Denny's suspension the Commission stated that it would be at least until he had finished his investigation. He gave no hint as to when that would be, though he did state that his action was based on Denny's "off the field activities" in 1967.

He mentioned nothing of 1968 or 1969.

Back in the 30s, after the late Walter O. Briggs became sole owner of the team, and Jack Zeller was the general manager, the Tigers were accused of "hiding" players in the minor leagues.

After a quiet investigation Judge Landis shocked the baseball world when he cut 51 players from the Tigers list—and 40 more from the other teams accused of the same charge.

The loss of these players, who were declared free agents, set the Tigers back several years in developing a winning combination.

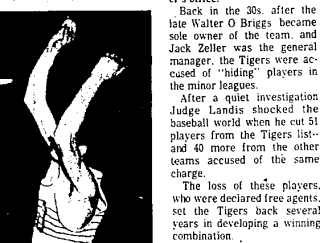
There have been several other cases where the gambling element has entered into the higher circles of baseball.

While the Black Sox scandal still ranks as the worst, "Dolan's ban also was connected with hints of "crooked games," while Judge Landis laid the law down to Rogers Hornsby, one of the game's great stars while with the St. Louis Cardinals and for his activities at the nation's race tracks.

Even such all-time greats as Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker left the game in a cloud for reasons that never were made public. And in his heyday, Babe Ruth was called before the Commissioner to explain his off-the-field conduct.

In the Babe's case it was for his hilarious antics the Commissioner felt were not in the best interests of baseball. There was no hint of gambling.

NO CHANCE for Plymouth's Scott Taylor (50) and Dale Sietker (40) as they attempt to keep Farmington's Paul White from scoring. The Falcon star tallied 33 points to lead his team to an easy victory. (Observer photo by Vince Witke)



Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Most certainly the Denny McLain suspension and the events leading up to the drastic action do not have any bearing on the Michigan horse racing scene—but it does seem strange that the story breaks at a time when Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley is busy checking communities in the area as to whether they approve additional dates for winter racing.

Shirley is a former FBI agent and has been directing

racings as one. His decisions of recent dates make one wonder if he is policing racing or attempting to supervise it as a Racing Commissioner who doesn't know too much about the sport.

There is information that the National Football League knew of the McLain activities as far back as three years ago—perhaps as an FBI agent the same information could have been available to Shirley.

Again one wonders if there

is any relationship to the McLain incident and the fact that the Racing Commissioner seems to be moving in the direction of less racing dates in future years. There isn't any question that he has full authority to dictate as he sees fit—but there also is the question of what the legislature will do if he does make cutbacks.

The situation is interesting, especially since the Commissioner had written letters to communities not actually involved about their thoughts on additional dates for winter racing.

It would appear that only Livonia, Hazel Park and Northville—in the greater Detroit area—would be involved. They are the only cities receiving cash from the state's share of the mutual handle to take care of the additional traffic problems and highway use brought on by the tracks.

BY BILLY HAUGHTON'S Meadow Elva, aiming at becoming the leading money-winning pacing mare in history, and Lana Lobell Farms' Good Chase, a highly-touted, New Zealand import, are early entries for the \$40,000 Provincial Cup in Windsor.

Racing Secretary Joe DeFranco revealed extending invitations to these outstanding pacers to compete in the 1970 renewal of Windsor Raceway's premiere event, scheduled Thursday evening, March 12.

Haughton, the all-time barnest racing record-holder from Oyster Bay Cove, N. Y., will

be making his second Provincial Cup start. He finished second to W. W. Smith last year with Nardin's Byrd.

Purchased for \$1,000 by the Haughtons, Meadow Elva—six-year-old daughter of Thorpe Hanover-Julia Frost—is within \$5,000 of Belle Acton's record \$33,062 earnings for a pacing mare, established 1955 through 1969.

Haughton plans to race Meadow Elva in the \$25,000 Grand Prix at Chicago before coming to Windsor.

It is recalled that the great Cardigan Bay surpassed Bret Hanover's all time money-winning mark in the 1969 Provincial Cup, so the Windsor event could become the scene of another world achievement.

The famed Lana Lobell Farms owned entry will be sending its first entry to Windsor in the promising New Zealand import, Good Chase. Owner Alan J. Leavitt says of this six-year-old stud, "He could be our best race horse, and we've had some good ones like Noble Victory, Adios Vic and Bengazi Hanover."

Good Chase arrived in this country last September and won his only American start in 2:02.4 at Yonkers. He is slated to compete at this same track in a \$15,000 event March 6. But Leavitt stated, "We're pointing him for the Big Windsor Race."

Del Insko, who finished second only to Herve Fillon in victories during 1969, is listed as Good Chase's driver.

Sorrows Matman Perfect; Pins 18th Rival Of Season

It's an amazing record that heavyweight wrestler Barry Walsh of Our Lady of Sorrows has compiled this season.

For one thing, he has posted 23 straight victories without losing, either in dual or invitational meets.

Furthermore, in winning 10 times in dual-meet competition, he is yet to yield a single point to a rival.

Walsh sailed along and so did his Sorrows teammates at the expense of Ferrdale, 27-15.

SORROWS HAD to rally from a 15-3 deficit after the first three matches to sweep

the heavier weights and emerge an easy winner.

Walsh topped off the evening by pinning his foe from Ferrdale, a Bill Colegrove, in one minute, 23 seconds.

Paul Oseotski won his 18th match against three losses at 107 pounds while Pat Kern made it 13-0 by beating Gary Pirucelle at 137 pounds.

The Van Dusen Brothers, Pat and Brian, won at 145 and 155 pounds, respectively. Pat pinned his foe in 4:47, while Brian triumphed on a decision.

Mike Hajduk (165) registered a fall in 2:59 for his 19th win in 22 matches while Jeff first three matches to sweep

easy decision over Bill Jones before Walsh finished the victory off for Sorrows.

But the latest case—the suspension of McLain—is the first time a sentence has been meted out without a time limit.

What's Doing In Prep Sports

- This Week's Schedule**
- BASKETBALL**
- Tuesday**
- Churchill at Carlson
 - Walled Lake Central at North Farmington
 - Dearborn at Bentley
- Friday**
- Glenn at Thurston
 - Romulus vs. Churchill at Franklin
 - Belleville at Plymouth
 - Clarenceville at Milford
 - Farmington at Stevenson
 - Franklin at North Farmington
 - Allen Park at Bentley
 - Redford Union at Trenton
- SWIMMING**
- Tuesday**
- Franklin at Plymouth
 - North Farmington at Farmington
 - Northville at Clarenceville
 - Redford Union at Bentley
- Thursday**
- Plymouth at Belleville
 - Bentley at Allen Park
 - Trenton at Redford Union
- Friday**
- North Farmington at Bloomfield Hills
 - Lahser.
- WRESTLING**
- Tuesday**
- North Farmington at Farmington
 - Northville at Clarenceville
- Saturday**
- State regionals.
- GYMNASTICS**
- Wednesday**
- Clarenceville at North Farmington
 - Farmington at Taubman
- COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
- Tuesday**
- Delta at Schoolcraft.

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