GC West, Stevenson Battle For Crown

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Southfield Beats RU, Eagles

With two conference champions meeting in Saturday's finale, the duel between unbeaten Garden City West and Livonia Stevenson in the Franklin district tourney was heralded as one of the cage gems of the year.

Each fought its way into the championship round with a thrilling overtime victory in the semifinals.

Garden City ousted Livonia Bentley, 71-67, and Stevenson eliminated a scrappy Garden City East quintet, 70-65.

The big game was scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

An inspired Bentley quintet came within two seconds of recording the biggest upset of the year in Observerland but Rick Drewitz, West's spectacular candidate for all-state honors, split the cords from 20 feet out to knot the count, 64-64—and that was it for the scrappy Bulldogs.

They didn't have enough in the three minute overtime period.

Drewitz, who showed why he's the greatest basket baller in the area, wound up the evening with a record setting total of 48 points on 17 field goals and 14 free throws.

It was his pair of foul shots with 56 seconds on the clock that pulled West within a point of a tie, 63-62.

Lou Lovett had a chance to put the clincher for Bentley when he had two charity tosses with nine seconds to play. He hit on the first, missed the second and it was 64-62 with five seconds remaining when Garden City took a time out.

Whatever Coach Chris Babler told his players during the two minute strategy session—it worked. But the fact is that West took the ball out of bounds, made one pass into Gary Nustad who whipped the ball to Drewitz, standing near the edge of the foul circle.

The lanky-southpaw whirled and shot in the same motion and the ball went through the hoop for the 64-all tie as the gun sounded.

The timer and referees signaled a basket and the game went into overtime play.

West took the ball on the center jump, cautiously worked it down court and finally into the hands of Drewitz who slipped in a short shot and the Tigers were in front 66-64 with 2:15 to play.

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TOM GUILFOYLE WAS fouled a few seconds later and converted on the first of the two shots for a 66-65 count.

Nustad made one of two free throws. Dennis Leszczynski was wide open under the hoop for a two pointer and then hit on two foul shots to give West a 71-65 edge with seven seconds remaining.

Brian Dinsmore drove in for a shot for Bentley and Drewitz was called for goal tending as time ran out with West recording its 18th straight win, 71-67.

The crowd of more than 2,000 knew it was in for one of the best games of the season when West took a 13-9 lead at the quarter and Bentley walked off courts at halftime with a 26-25 margin.

The third quarter was a duel between Drewitz and the Bulldogs with the sharpshooting center collecting 18 of his team's 21 points. Bentley also tallied 21 as Lou Lovett contributed 10 and Guilfoyle four.

The seesaw fight continued all through the final stanza with West playing catch-up as the Livonians led by three most of the way.

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IT WAS 61-58 with two minutes on the clock. Drewitz hit twice from the foul line and the score was 61-60. Guilfoyle converted twice on free throws and Bentley went ahead 63-60. Drewitz added two more foul shots and it was 63-62.

Then with nine seconds to go, Lovett was fouled, made the first, missed the second and that set the stage for Drewitz' game tying field goal.

The statistics show Bentley outscored West from the court, 28-24, but the victors made 23 of 34 foul shots. Bentley only had 18 chances and converted on a 11—that was the difference between the teams. That and the fact that Drewitz scored 48 points—few teams lose when one player hits that often.

GC WEST (71)	G	F	P
Nustad	2	1	5
Rutter	6	8	8
Drewitz	17	14	48
Leszczynski	5	8	18
Lewis	4	0	8
Totals	34	22	71
BENTLEY (67)	G	F	P
Lovett	8	5	21
Guilfoyle	9	3	21
Rosenthal	3	1	7
Rice	3	0	6
Hay	2	0	4
Dinsmore	3	1	7
Veach	0	1	1
Totals	28	11	67

By periods:					
GC West	13	12	21	18	7—71
Bentley	9	17	21	17	3—67

It was too much Brad Allen for Southfield High and as a result neither Thurston nor Redford Union survived the first round of the district Class A basketball tournament at Southfield.

Allen, a junior, almost personally applied the one-two punch that knocked out Thurston, 75-68, on Tuesday and then Redford Union, 80-60, two nights later.

The victories swept Southfield into Saturday night's district final against West Bloomfield with the winner staying right at Southfield for the regionals scheduled to begin Monday.

Allen blasted in 35 points against Thurston and flipped in 33 more at the expense of Redford Union.

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REDFORD UNION stayed close to Allen and Co. for a period and a half.

After the teams were deadlocked at 12-12 in the early stages, Allen paced a 10-0 romp for Southfield and put his team on top, 22-16, after the first period.

Keith Everett sank four free throws, Gary Bevington two, Doug Graff one and Dennis Genge a basket to put Redford Union right back into the thick of things at 27-25 midway in the period.

But then Allen and Dave Kuhna took over for Southfield and when Graff fouled out before the halftime break, Southfield seized a 38-29 edge at the intermission.

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REDFORD UNION rallied again in the third period when Everett, Genge, Gary Zajac and Kirk Taylor connected to crawl within 48-42 of a tie.

But Scott Miller, Hoffman and Kuhna flipped in scores for Southfield and in short order, the Blue Jays had a 21-point lead and were never in trouble in the final period.

Everett had 14 points, Genge 12 and Bevington 11 for Redford Union.

Redford Union	G	F	P
Bevington	3	5	11
Genge	4	4	12
K. Taylor	3	2	8
R. Taylor	1	0	2
Zajac	2	1	5
Everett	5	4	14
Graff	2	2	6
Naudi	1	0	2
Totals	21	18	60
Southfield	G	F	P
Kuhna	3	2	8
Korpi	1	0	2
Blazak	1	0	2
Miller	4	2	10
Hoffman	3	2	8
Klaimon	1	0	2
Petrman	1	0	2
Allen	10	13	33
Moscoe	4	5	13
Totals	28	24	80

Southfield	22	16	22	20	—80
R. Union	16	12	19	12	—60

SOUTHFIELD STARTED and finished strong in knocking out Thurston.

After taking a 23-17 lead following the first quarter Southfield was on top, 41-37, at the half and 56-50 going into the closing period.

But then Paul Hayes and Pat Woelke paced a Thurston surge which tied the game at 60-60 early in the final period.

The teams played even for a few moments until Dave Hoffman's basket with 4:13 put Southfield ahead for keeps and then Brad Allen and Dave Kuhna took over to make matters easy for the host schools and end Thurston's tournament action after just one game.

Allen was the big gun for the winners with 35 points. He flipped in 10 baskets and hit on 15 out of 18 from the foul line. Kuhna added 17 to the Southfield cause.

Woelke with 18 points, Hayes with 16 and Larry Marshall and Jeff Gillen with 10 each sparkled for Thurston.

SOUTHFIELD	G	F	P
Kuhna	8	1	17
Allen	10	15	35
Miller	4	2	10
Hoffman	2	0	6
Petermann	1	3	5
Moscoe	0	2	2
Totals	26	23	75
THURSTON	G	F	P
Marshall	3	4	10
Dapkus	0	4	4
Gillen	5	0	10
Mallon	1	4	6
Hayes	3	10	16
Woelke	5	8	18
Helenbaerl	1	0	2
Guld	1	0	2
Totals	19	30	68

By periods:				
Southfield	23	18	15	19—75
Thurston	17	20	13	18—68

Stevenson, champion of the Inter Lakes Conference for the second straight year, had to battle for survival when a spirited Garden City East quintet fought all the way and forced the semifinal game into overtime before fading in the extra period.

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IT WAS A spectacular duel from the opening tipoff to the final whistle with the score tied 13-13 at the end of the first quarter.

East scored six points in the final 40 seconds of the second period to go off the court at the intermission with a 34-28 edge.

The Panthers, coached by Billy Joe Young, maintained their lead in the third stanza, holding 45-40 margin with three minutes to play only to have the Spartans come storming to narrow the difference to one point at 46-45 going into the final eight minutes.

The crowd was standing for all of the fourth quarter which saw East open up a 51-47 gap before Stevenson came back again and knotted the score at 51-all with five minutes on the clock.

Rod Shafer chucked in two free throws and East was in front 53-51. Mike Swift hit from the side and it was all even. Greg Puishes drubbled the full length of the court to put Garden City in the lead.

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SWIFT CONVERTED on one of two free throws and Randy Hickerson grabbed a rebound and flipped it in to give the Livonians a 56-55 edge only to have Puishes make one of two charity tosses for a 56-all count.

Paul Van Wagoner sent the Stevenson supporters into hysterics when he hit from the foul circle and gave his team a 58-56 lead with 2:07 remaining. Dave Jackson, East's brilliant sophomore center, came out of a melee under the basket with the ball and tied it at 58-all with a minute remaining.

Neither team was able to score in the final minute although each tried to work the ball down court for the final shot—it never came.

Going into the overtime, Stevenson's greater experience proved the difference. Rusty Gregg was loose momentarily and dribbled in for a short shot to put his team in front.

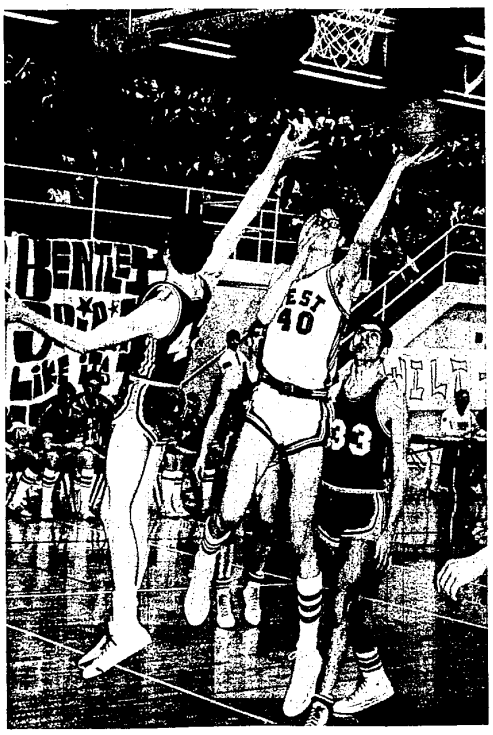
Jackson made one of two free throws and it was 60-59. Van Wagoner widened the gap to three points with a long shot from the side and Swift practically clinched the victory when he hit twice from the foul line for a 64-59 score. Jackson connected with a left-handed shot. Van Wagoner converted twice from the foul line, 66-61.

Jack Hayes got loose on a fast break and tallied on a short shot. Van Wagoner and Hickerson tossed in four consecutive fouls and Stevenson had a 70-63 lead with 25 seconds to play.

Hayes came out of a wild scramble and split the cords as the gun sounded to make the final score 70-65.

GC. EAST (65)	G	F	P
Roller	0	1	1
Puishes	3	6	12
Jackson	9	4	22
Shafer	3	2	8
Hayes	8	4	20
Totals	24	17	65
STEVENSON (70)	G	F	P
Gregg	4	6	14
Esarhos	8	3	19
Swift	5	3	13
Van Wagoner	4	6	14
Jetchick	2	0	4
Hickerson	2	2	6
Totals	25	20	70

By periods:					
East	13	21	12	14	7—65
Stevenson	13	15	17	12	13—70



THAT MAKES 44. Rick Drewitz, scoring sensation of the undefeated Garden City West, shakes off Bentley defenders to whip in a two pointer. He led his team into the district finals at Franklin High with 48 points, a record for the school. He knotted the score in the final two seconds and then sent his team ahead in the overtime period with another basket.

(Observer photo by Harry Mauthe).

Bowler Shatters Records With A Big 867 Series

By W.W. EDGAR.

Gaston Marois, 44-year-old unemployed Livonia carpenter, overshot his goal Tuesday night and, in so doing, wrote his name into the all-time bowling records.

Taking his regular turn on the lanes in the Bel-Aire Lanes Senior House League Tuesday night he had hoped this would be the night he would post the perfect game he had dreamed about for the past 10 years.

He had no idea that by the time he had finished his name would have established an all-time record for metropolitan Detroit and would have posted the third highest total ever rolled in sanctioned competition and high in the nation for the current season.

But that's what he did.

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HE OPENED HIS series with the much sought perfect game and followed with counts of 278 and 289 for an 867 that fell only 19 pins short of the all-time national record.

Ironically he rolled his record breaking series in the same establishment—Bel-Air Lanes at 10-Mile Road, Orchard Lake Road in Farmington— in which "Jet" Perelli posted his city record of 845 only two years ago.

On the national scene the 867 gave him a tie for third place in the ABC sanctioned records.

Top place is held by little Allie Brandt of Lockport, N.Y., with an 886 he bowled in 1939. Carl Wilsing, of Cheboygan, Wisc., holds second with an 876 rolled in 1966, the same year in which Teta Semiz, of River Edge, N.J. rolled the first 867.

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IN ESTABLISHING the record, Marois brought about the third change in the ranks in eight years after "Dude" Winston's 834 series that was bowled at the now defunct Millet's Recreation had stood for 25 years.

The first man to surpass Winston's mark was the late Ernie Babcock who rolled perfect games back to back and closed with a 238 for an 838 series at Fort Park Recreation.

This stood until Perelli fashioned his 845 series at Bel-Aire two years ago.

The only other bowler ever to post 300 games back to back in sanctioned competition was Eddie Lubanski who accomplished the feat on a Florida television show a decade ago.

"I had a feeling that I was going to have a good night," Marois said after rolling his record count.

"In practice the other afternoon I had a 300 and followed with a 250. At that time Erv Watson, the manager, said "One of these days you'll get a 300 that's sanctioned— and by golly I did. And I was doubly thrilled that my wife was here to see it."

Marois' best effort, prior to Tuesday night, was a 747 series and a 290 game at Fort Park.

"I've always dreamed about rolling a 300," he said in the midst of the excitement, "but I never thought it would be anything like this.

His 867 is the fourth 800 series bowled in metropolitan Detroit this year and surpasses the previous national high for the season—an 856 rolled several weeks ago by Bob Cunningham at Kansas City.

The other series in the metropolitan area were: an 812 bowled by Wesley Mulholland at Pontiac, an 803 by Tony Lindemann in the All-Star Classic and two even 800 series posted by Fred Vitali and Bob Gronzo.

Gaston Morois Has Year's Hottest Hand

Sorrows Triumphs

It was history in the making as far as Our Lady of Sorrows' basketball team was concerned Friday night.

The Farmington Township cagers were shooting for their first district Class C title when they met Dearborn Sacred Heart in the finals at Dearborn St. Alphonsus.

Until Sorrows rallied to down host St. Alphonsus, 69-63, Wednesday night, the Townshippers never before in their seven years had reached a district finale.

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MIKE HART was the big gun with 23 points while Chris Centers and Don Blouin chipped in with 14 points each as Sorrows came back from a 35-31 deficit at half time.

Hart had seven points in the third quarter when Sorrows pulled into a 47-46 edge.

Then in the fourth period, Sorrows outscored St. Alphonsus, 22-17, as Hart, Centers and Chris Strand each notched five points.

Dave Black had 16 points for the losers.

Sacred Heart, winner of only 5 out of 17 going into the finale with Sorrows, had turned back Wayne St. Mary's, 80-59, in a game Tuesday night.

SORROWS	G	F	P
Hart	9	5	23
Centers	5	4	14
Blouin	5	4	14
Robertson	2	4	8
Patton	2	1	5
Totals	23	19	69
ST. ALPHONSUS	G	F	P
Black	5	6	16
Rashid	5	1	11
Karminski	3	2	8
Chionski	5	0	10
Rhone	4	3	11
Leginski	0	1	1
Stachura	0	3	3
Peich	0	1	1
Sharpe	0	2	2
Totals	22	19	63

Agatha Keeps Moving Along

All season St. Agatha has been a strong basketball team when the chips were down.

It was no different Thursday in the district Class C semifinals at Redford St. Mary's against St. Francis de Sales.

St. Agatha had blown a 20-13 lead after one quarter. It was tied 35-35 at the half and then in the third period, St. Agatha fell behind by two points.

But the Redford Townshippers came through with flying colors to win, 71-68, and moved into Saturday night's district finals with a trip to the regionals going to the winner.

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DAVE URBAN, celebrating being named to the All Catholic League, led St. Agatha's one-two-three punch which also includes Doug Inch, another all-league pick, and Tim Flamboe.

Urban nailed 10 baskets and nine free throws for 29 points. Inch had 19 points and Flamboe 14.

Ralph Miron accounted for 22 of the St. Frances de Sales points.

Free throws decided the games. St. Francis had a 30-28 edge in field goals, but St. Agatha notched 15 charities to eight for the losers.

St. Agatha	G	F	P
Urban	10	9	29
Flamboe	6	2	14
Inch	8	3	19
Barber	3	0	6
Miron	1	1	3
Totals	28	15	71
St. Francis de Sales	G	F	P
M. Miron	9	4	22
Fenbert	7	2	16
Carollo	7	1	15
Hicks	2	1	5
Street	2	0	4
M. Fenbert	3	0	6
Totals	30	8	68

St. Agatha	20	15	14	22	—71
St. Fr. de Sales	13	22	16	17	—68

Schoolcraft Places 4th

Schoolcraft College's swimming team placed fourth with 43 points in the Michigan Community College Association swimming meet.

Henry Ford took the title with 137 points, followed by Grand Rapids with 85 and Flint with 84.

Craig Notebaert with a second in the 400-yard individual medley enjoyed the best finish of any Schoolcraft swimmer.

In the free style relay, Schoolcraft's quartet of Doherty, Stan Swiatkowski, Ted Wasilewski and Ray Woods also took a fourth. Woods was fourth in the 50-yard free and 200-yard free.

Churchill Victor; Then Comes Inkster

For Churchill High's basketball team meeting Inkster in the Class B district final at Northville Friday night was anti-climatic.

It was like a babe going against a giant.

This is the first year Churchill has fielded a varsity team in basketball. In Inkster, Churchill had to contend with one of the state's mighty teams . . . one which lost only once during the regular season.

But could Churchill care?

Not in the least after beating crosstown Clarenceville, 38-36, in an overtime struggle Wednesday night.

This was a "treat" the way modern basketball is played. Both sides played deliberate basketball and sound defense.

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NEITHER SIDE enjoyed too much of a lead at any stage. It was Churchill 10-6 at the first quarter and 24-19 at the half.

Clarenceville grabbed a 29-27 edge in the third quarter but Churchill was back on top until Jim Hover clicked with a Clarenceville basket with three seconds left in regulation time.

That tied matters at 36-36 and forced the extra period.

After each side missed a couple shots in the overtime, Clarenceville took over and went into a stall, playing for one good shot.

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FOR ALMOST two minutes the Trojans controlled the basketball.

But the shot never was forthcoming. A walking violation cost Clarenceville the ball with 17 seconds to go and Churchill wasted no time cashing in on the golden opportunity.

Keith Armstrong connected on a short jumper with the overtime's only points with three seconds left to go.

Churchill made only two free throws in the games. Clarenceville clicked on just six from the charity line.

The box score:

CHURCHILL	G	F	P
Armstrong	4	1	9
Leibstein	4	0	8
Oliace	2	0	6
Young	3	0	6
Van Wagoner	1	1	3
Welch	2	0	4
Sherman	1	0	2
Totals	18	2	38
CLARENCEVILLE	G	F	P
Hover	5	3	13
Ridling	5	0	10
Meyerelles	3	2	8
LaMontagne	1	1	3
Duman	3	0	2
Totals	13	6	36

By periods					
Churchill	10	14	2	0	2—38
Clarenceville	6	13	10	7	0—36

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