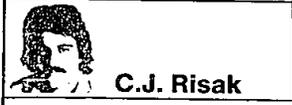




Thursday, February 2, 1984 O&E



C.J. Risak

Flying rumors jumble circuits

BUD ABBOTT AND Lou Costello would have a field day. Imagine the takeoff they could do on their own "Who's on first" routine given the rumors bounding about concerning who will play in what league when.

This story's got more twists and turns than a snake slithering through a serpentine course. Everybody connected (or remotely concerned) with high school sports has heard a rumor, or at least is prepared to start one.

Here's the best of the bunch:

- Will Livonia Bentley close despite parent protests?
- Will Livonia Franklin drop out of the Northwest Suburban League (NSL) to join the W.L.A.A. as Bentley's replacement?
- Will North Farmington beat Franklin to the punch by dropping the NSL in favor of the W.L.A.A.?
- Are Redford Thurston's compadres in the NSL putting the pressure on to get the now-Class B Eagles out in favor of another Class A school?
- Is Northville planning a switch from the W.L.A.A. to another league?

WOW, THAT'S a lot of conjecture. Just goes to show how inventive people can be when they put their minds to it.

As it stands, only the first of the rumors is a certainty. Bentley will close at the end of the 1984-85 school year.

That, of course, is what put in motion many of the other rumors. And while the rumor theory—that it has its basis in fact—holds true with the others, one thing should be noted:

Whatever the inside word is that people say they've heard, very little will change in league alignments.

Now let's send some of these to the rumor cemetery.

First, Franklin will not leave the NSL. Neither will North. Both schools received letters from the W.L.A.A. asking if they would consider joining. The letters were sent as part of the W.L.A.A. hula, which state that if an opening should occur in the league, any schools in the same city as current members would get first chance to join.

THE NSL — which includes Garden City, Redford Union, Westland John Glenn and Thurston as well as North and Franklin — had a meeting last week to discuss the letters. Both North and Franklin announced then that they would remain in the NSL.

Those announcements are good for two years. Schools must give a two-year notice before leaving, according to NSL rules, because of scheduling interests.

"North's been a member of the NSL since it was formed in '62," said Farmington athletic director Ron Holland. "It's been a very good league, a very competitive league."

Thurston, too, is an NSL charter member. But the Eagles have struggled lately in football and, with their dropping to Class B status, rumor was the NSL's other Class A schools might want to replace them. This topic also surfaced at the NSL meeting. "If you have a good football team and have a chance to get into the state playoffs, having a Class B team is going to penalize you," said Holland.

THAT DIDN'T make any difference to the NSL schools. Thurston will remain a member of the NSL "as long as they'll have us," according to AD Bev Castleberry.

That means the NSL will remain intact. So the W.L.A.A. will have to call attention elsewhere in its search to replace Bentley.

And only Bentley, to put another rumor to rest. True, Northville did explore other avenues last fall, looking into different league affiliation possibilities. But school officials agreed to stay a member of the W.L.A.A. A two-year commitment rule will keep the Mustangs in place.

Livonia Stevenson principal Dale Collier heads up the W.L.A.A. committee exploring possible replacements for Bentley. Since most leagues impose a two-year commitment rule similar to those in the NSL and W.L.A.A., the deadline for finding a new member is . . .

"About six months ago," Collier said. "Actually, we have to make a decision as soon as possible. But we're not going to force anything. If an appropriate replacement can't be found, we will continue to operate in four and five team divisions."

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, schools without league affiliations available. Two such prospects are Dearborn and Dearborn Edsel Ford. Since the breakup of the Suburban Eight League both have been independent.

And both are interested in joining the W.L.A.A. "We have a formal application on file with them," said Jack Johnson, Dearborn AD. "We have had one with them since the Sub Eight folded. We would be very much interested right now."

Pat Wyka, Edsel Ford's AD, echoed Johnson's feelings. "We plan on putting in a formal application," he said. "We did apply to the NSL, thinking Franklin or North would go to the W.L.A.A., because the NSL is much closer geographically."

"But if (the W.L.A.A.) extended an application to us right now, we'd definitely pursue it." Here, then, is where the politicians take over. Should it come down to a choice between Edsel Ford and Dearborn, which one would be admitted?

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BILL DRESLER/staff photographer

Donna Koberle, North Farmington gymnast, flies across the balance beam in the Raiders victory at Plymouth Canton Mon-

day night. Koberle scored a 7.05 for her beam routine, good enough for a third place tie.

Raiders win on bad night

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

"If their best two gymnasts suddenly became ill and couldn't perform, they still would have us beat," Plymouth Canton gymnastics coach John Cunningham was saying before his team's meet against Observerland's No. 1-ranked team North Farmington Monday night.

He was joking, certainly, but he knew that it would take something just shy of a miracle for his team to win.

That miracle almost happened. The Chiefs, formerly ranked No. 2 in the area, led after the first two events, but wound up on the short end of a 110.3-117.0 score.

"It was more of North Farmington coming down to us than us coming up to them," Cunningham said afterward. "They made the meet close, not us."

NORTH FARMINGTON has been scoring in the mid-120s. The Raiders' 119.3 had coach Mary Johnese-Giltz shaking her head in wonderment.

"I was shocked," she said. "Some days you just can't do it. We had a lot of falls today. We had a little talk after the first two events and decided to forget everything and just start over."

After the first two events, the vault and the uneven parallel bars, Canton led 59.9-58.55. The Raiders took back the lead with a two-point scoring edge on the balance beam.

"You always worry when you're behind," said Giltz. "But, we knew we could come back. Our depth carried us through."

The balance beam has been the Achilles' heel of the Chiefs so far this season.

"I was pleased with our performance in every event except the beam," said Cunningham. "Last time we scored 28.5. (Against North the Chiefs scored 26.8.) If we score that this time we may have been in a position to tie."

Conversely, the balance beam has been the strength of the Raiders. But, on this night, even their strength was sub-par. They scored just 28.8 where they generally score in the 30s.

LINDA BEALE was the meet's individual leader. The Canton senior won every event and was the leader in all-around points amassing 33.05.

Beale won the vault with an 8.45. Her 8.25 was tops in the bars, and 7.85 won the beam. She saved her best for last. Her floor exercise scored an outstanding 9.5 — the highest mark awarded by the judges through the entire meet.

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Harrison falls hard

The Farmington Harrison gymnastics team felt, literally and figuratively, to Dearborn Monday night, 125.1-116.4.

The Hawks' gymnasts fell 20 times in the meet en route to their lowest team score of the season.

"It was just a real bad night," said Harrison coach Kim Dennis. "It seems like everybody had a bad night."

The Hawks had been scoring in the low-120s.

Freeman Tracey Solomon managed a pair of falls. She won the vault with an 8.45 and the balance beam with an 8.10. Julie Runk chipped in with a third place finish on the floor exercise with a 7.9.

The Hawks (5-4) took on Plymouth Salem yesterday (see Monday's Observer for details). They will host Wall Lake Western on Monday.

Win escapes 'foggy' North

volleyball

The North Farmington volleyball team snatched defeat from the jaws of certain victory Monday night, giving Dearborn a 10-15, 18-16, 15-10 win.

North looked like its invincible self at the outset of the match. It was getting good solid hitting from Amy Austin, back in the line-up after being out with an ankle injury. Linda Renard was also playing well, recovered from a bout with the flu.

The Raiders whipped through the first game and seemed to have the second game, and the match in hand when the roof caved in. North led 13-8 in the second game and had three serves to win the game. But Dearborn would not go down.

"Individually, everyone made nice plays. But, as a team and mentally, we just fell apart. Mentally, we just went into a fog," said a perplexed Raider coach Sandy Lubieniecki.

"We made so many mental mistakes. It was unbelievable. It's really too bad because we had the match in hand and we let it get away," she said.

North raced ahead 7-0 in the third game. Then again, the fog settled in and Dearborn escaped.

"About the only fortunate thing about this match is that it wasn't a league match," Lubieniecki said.

But it was costly to the Raiders in another sense. The loss knocked them out of the top spot in the Observerland rankings.

The Raiders (14-5, 3-1 in the Northwest Suburban League) will host Redford Thurston, the team that upended the Raiders earlier in the season, Wednesday Feb. 8.

North competed in the prestigious Wayne Memorial Invitational volleyball tournament last weekend and was eliminated in the semifinals by Wayne, last year's Class A state champ. Wayne knocked off the Raiders twice, once in pool play and in the semis. North beat Mount Clemens and previously unbeat-

en Troy Athens, and split with Livonia Bentley.

Austin and Mary Kozicki were strong at the net for North and junior Donna Konjarevich had an outstanding tournament offensively and defensively.

FARMINGTON HARRISON let numerous leads slip away, but managed to hang on and defeat Northville Monday, 16-11, 11-15, 15-11.

The Hawks blew an 11-0 lead in the first game, but pulled out the win. They weren't so lucky in game two, letting another lead slip away.

"I'm really happy to get the win," said Hawk coach Ron Shortt. "I think this was the best Monday match we've played. Northville is a good team. They came back real nice."

Karen Sklar's serve and her tenacious net play paced the Hawks. She was good on all but one serve and she was successful on 12 hits with three kills.

Deanne Kool also had a strong match at the net. She connected on 19 good hits with three kills.

In game three, with the match on the line, Jennifer Hughes got hot for the Hawks. She hit 12 serves in the game, 11 of them scored including the final seven points in succession.

The wins up Harrison's record to 3-7. The Hawks are 3-5 in the Western Lakes. They travel to Redford Union Monday for a non-league match.

FARMINGTON lost its match to Livonia Bentley Monday. The Bulldogs won in two games, 15-7, 15-13. Farmington (5-6) will host Wall Lake Western Monday night.

The more you have and the more you earn, the more help you need keeping it.

People with substantial assets or income—or both—stand to lose the most to taxes and inflation. Fortunately, the Government permits tax sheltering for those who invest in the development of certain key resources—usually oil and gas or residential and commercial real estate.

The tax advantages can be diverse and attractive, and can exist in interesting combinations. They become possible when you invest in a limited partnership engaged in the appropriate development work. Some come as first year expenses that can be used as deductions. Others are deductions due to depreciation which, depending on financial structure, can be spread out over a period of years. There's the possibility also that investment appreciation can be converted to capital gains. And, in many cases, cash flow generated by the partnership can be partially sheltered.

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