

Curling crown is up for grabs

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

Looking for some action on ice? Don't head downtown to Joe Louis, because what the Red Wings offer is anything but action. Head instead to West Bloomfield, where the Detroit Curling Club hosts its 100th international men's invitational bonspiel.

Beginning at 9 a.m. today and wrapping up with the finals at 7 p.m. Saturday, 32 teams from throughout the Midwest and Ontario will battle it out at the Detroit Curling Club, 5600 Drake Road. Admission is free and the action hot.

When the club was started back in 1885, the curlers hurled their 42-pound granite stones on the Detroit River. Then, as now, the rocks were imported from Scotland. Then, as now, team-mates with brooms brushed off the ice, heating it enough in the process to help the stone to its target 115 feet away.

The club is in West Bloomfield, now, and the curling is done indoors, but the game remains the same — strategic, precise and with a gentle ice far from moved from the frenetic activity of less cerebral sports. It is similar to shuffleboard, with one team of four players trying to get its rocks closer to a target than the other team gets its rocks.

THIS YEAR, the teams, which stay

at the Holiday Inn in Farmington, will come from Cleveland and Bowling Green, Ohio; Waupaca, Wis.; Chicago; and London, Kitchener, Kingsville, Windsor and Walkerton, Ontario.

"The Canadians are the ones to beat. It's their game," said bonspiel (or tournament) co-chairman Dick O'Connor. O'Connor's father, Lon, was club manager for 10 years and O'Connor is a former club president. His wife and daughter-in-law curl, and son Dennis has represented the club and state in the national tournament three times.

There are more than 300 curling clubs in the U.S., with membership of about 100,000. In Canada, there are as many as 400,000 members of curling clubs.

The action begins today at 9 a.m. and ends 10 p.m. Friday, play will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, play will begin at 10 a.m. with the finals running from about 7 to 9 p.m.

Nine of the teams are from the host club.

According to O'Connor, the club will celebrate its 100th bonspiel with a special dinner at the club for all participants as well as with special trophies. Teams are named for the captains, or sweeps as they are called. O'Connor said that one of the teams to beat is that headed by Canadian Rodney Kramer, who has never lost one of 400 other teams in Ontario and went on to compete for the Canadian national championship.

State's elite flock to Salem tourney

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

One thing about Plymouth Salem wrestling coach Ron Krueger, he isn't one to shy away from tough competition.

He has brought together 17 teams for the 13th annual Plymouth Salem Invitational Wrestling Tournament this Saturday and among them are some of the state's most potent teams. "We put us a field together this time," Krueger said.

Yes, he did. For starters, there's Eaton Rapids, last year's Salem Invitational champion, and the defending Class B state champs. Redford Catholic Central will come into the tournament ranked No. 5 in the state Class A coaches' poll. Class B powers Montrose and Penton will be there, along with area powers Grand City, Westland John Glenn and, of course, Plymouth Salem.

OTHER TEAMS are Plymouth Canton, North Farmington, Wayne Memorial, Redford Union, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Belleville, Flushing, Mount Clemens, Portage Northern and Ypsilanti.

"I would have to say Eaton Rapids is the favorite," Krueger said. "I've seen them couple of times this year and they are awfully good. Montrose is coming on strong, too."

"I'll tell you something else, too. Catholic Central, as much as people like to keep them down, is one tough team. Teams in our league (the Western Lakes) would have a difficult time beating them. We might beat them in this tourney, but head up, they'd be a bear."

wrestling

An interesting sidelight to CC's entry into the tourney: Krueger's son, Lee Krueger, wrestles at 167 pounds for the Shamrocks. It'll be a homecoming of sorts for the young freshman.

"That's one way of seeing my boy wrestle," Ron Krueger said.

DON'T COUNT the host team out of celebration, either. The Rocks, led by 125-pounder Dave Dameron, have been very impressive this season placing third at the Temperance-Bedford Tourney, winning the John Glenn tourney and placing third last weekend at the Davidson tourney.

Dameron has won his weight class in all three tournaments, earning MVP honors at both Bedford and Glenn. He is 14-0 on the season, giving him 113 wins shy of the school record.

"I don't know if we'll be champions or not," Krueger said of his team. "But, we'll give out three trophies and we're fighting for one of them."

Wrestling will begin at 10:30 Saturday morning. The consolation matches are expected to begin at 6 p.m. with the finals at 7 p.m.

All-day tickets will be on sale, \$2 for students, \$3.50 for adults. Tickets for the morning session cost \$1 for students, \$2 for adults. Tickets for the late session (consolation and final rounds) are \$1 for students and \$2.50 for adults. Salem is located on Joy Road, just west of Canton Center Road.

Panthers rip S'craft

Vernon Carr and friends may be gone, but Highland Park Community College is still a potent basketball team.

The Panthers won their own Ray Stiles Tournament Saturday night at Hackett Fieldhouse with an impressive 107-88 victory over Schoolcraft College.

Led by Carr, now a starting guard with Michigan State, Highland Park enjoyed a storied campaign last season, winning 39 straight games before losing in the national tournament.

Despite losing four starters, the Panthers are off to a 13-4 start this season.

In the victory over Schoolcraft, guard Larry Goss poured in 25 points en route to tournament MVP honors. Also named to the All-Tournament team were guard Antoine Williamson

(18 points) and center Greg Hall (19). Ron Dingman and Clauzel Williams also scored in double figures with 13 and 10, respectively.

Schoolcraft, which fell to 12-3 on the year, got a game-high 28 points from Harold Martin. The Detroit Cody product also grabbed nine rebounds. He was named to the all-tourney team along with guard Clarence Jones, who scored 24.

"WE PLAYED terrible after a good game the night before," said Schoolcraft coach Rocky Watkins. "We couldn't do anything. They played a zone all the way and we only got one shot. They beat us bad on the boards."

Schoolcraft reached the final with a 95-89 win Friday night over Muskegon CC as the 6-2 Martin had 23 points and 10 rebounds. Derrick Kearney added 22 and Jones scored 15.



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