

Bet the mortgage on Salem cagers

SO YOU'RE A girls basketball team and you want to play a little monopoly.

The ultimate real estate to buy is Grand Valley State College where the Michigan High School Athletic Association will conduct its state finals Dec. 11-12.

Where will some of our area teams eventually land on the board? Will any pass go and collect \$200? Will anybody from Oberlinland take a ride on the Boardwalk?

The "new season" begins tonight at numerous district sites across the state.

This is how Parker Brothers might handicap the upcoming tournament. (See tournament pairings.)

PARK PLACE (going rate \$350)

Plymouth Salem (18-1): The Rocks made it all the way to the semifinals last year. They appear to be headed for rematches with Livonia Ladywood and Farmington Hills Mercy in the regional at Southfield. If the Rocks pass those two tests, they should make it all the way to the final, only to have Catholic League champion Birmingham Marian standing in their way. The play of seniors Barb Krug and Kerl McBride are keys to their tournament success, but the Rocks' bench is still a question mark.

PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

Farmington Hills Mercy (13-7): The Marlins should have little trouble reaching the regional final at Southfield. Their record is deceiving because their losses have been to quality, state-ranked teams. Mercy, remember, gave Salem a battle back in September.

NORTH CAROLINA AVE.

Livonia Ladywood (15-4): The Blazers appeared tired and sluggish in the Catholic League finals, losing to Marian. But an 11-day break could be just what the doctor ordered. The bench is better than average, but the inside game of Katie McNulty and Nancy Wagner must return to the early-season Great Lakes Tournament form.

MARVIN GARDENS

Plymouth Canton (15-5): The young Chiefs are a quality team and should be riding toward Pennsylvania Avenue or Park Place next season. Their losses have been to Salem three times, while the other two have come against Marian and Mercy. Would somebody please donate to the Community Chest? Canton drew Salem in tonight's first round.

VENTNOR AVE.

Garden City (13-7): The Cougars will make the district finals at Westland John Glenn, but unfortunately they'll get to play Ladywood in a second-round mismatch. Glenn will be taking a ride on the Short Line.

ATLANTIC AVE.

Westland John Glenn (13-7): The Rocks got Free Parking, hosting their own district, but unfortunately they will meet Ladywood in a second-round mismatch. Glenn will be taking a ride on the Short Line.

ILLINOIS AVE.

Redford Bishop Burgess (8-10): The Spartans have had their most successful season in years under third-year coach Mike Reemer. They have a decent shot at the Detroit City District title, but Cooley should win it.

INDIANA AVE.

Redford Thurston (11-8): The Eagles nearly ruled Dearborn Fordon's unbeaten season last week, lost by six. They have a chance at winning the Class B district at Dearborn St. Alphonsus where they'll meet either the host team or Detroit Benedictine. Thurston also



Brad Emons

boasts one of the area's best players you haven't seen, senior center Janet Smith.

TENNESSEE AVE.

Wayne Memorial (9-10): Coach Gary Schwan has brought his young team along, but they aren't quite ready to challenge for a district title where host Taylor Center, an up-and-coming team from the Tri-River League, is the overwhelming favorite.

ST. JAMES PLACE

North Farmington (9-11): The Raiders have overcome injuries and seem to be back where they belong. But whether they belong in the district final at Walled Lake Western is a different story. Look for the host school to win it in an upset over Walled Lake Central.

VIRGINIA AVE.

Livonia Franklin (7-13): Other than Rose O'Be, the season has been thorny for the Patriots, who drew host Glenn in tonight's district opener.

STATES AVE.

Livonia Stevenson (8-12): The Spartans, on a three-game winning streak, play Garden City in Monday's second round at Glenn. The winner gets to play Ladywood in the final. Some kind of reward.

ST. CHARLES PLACE

Farmington (7-12): The Falcons have improved on their record this season, but not enough to challenge Mercy for the RU district crown.

VERMONT AVE.

Plymouth Christian (9-11): The Eagles, led by Elaine Pribe, have an outside chance at winning the Class D District at Taylor Baptist Park. Lutheran Westland (10-3): This team could also win the Class D tourney at Taylor, but their record as an independent is a little deceiving.

JUST VISITING JAIL

Redford Union (4-16): The Panthers rely too much on top scorer Caryn Shannon, who has limped through the season. RU should beat winless Southfield in its opener, but Mercy is eventually waiting.

BALTIC AVE.

Livonia Churchill (2-18): It's better luck next year for the Chargers, who play Novi (4-15) in the first round at Canton. Coach Tim Newman can't stem the leak at the Water Works.

MEDITERRANEAN AVE.

Farmington Harrison (1-19): The Hawks broke a 95-game losing streak by beating Livonia Churchill two weeks ago. Harrison is in the Class B district at St. Alphonsus, but their stay should be short-lived.

Redford St. Agatha (0-16): Give coach Pat Opari credit, he still calls in all his scores in what has been a very trying season.

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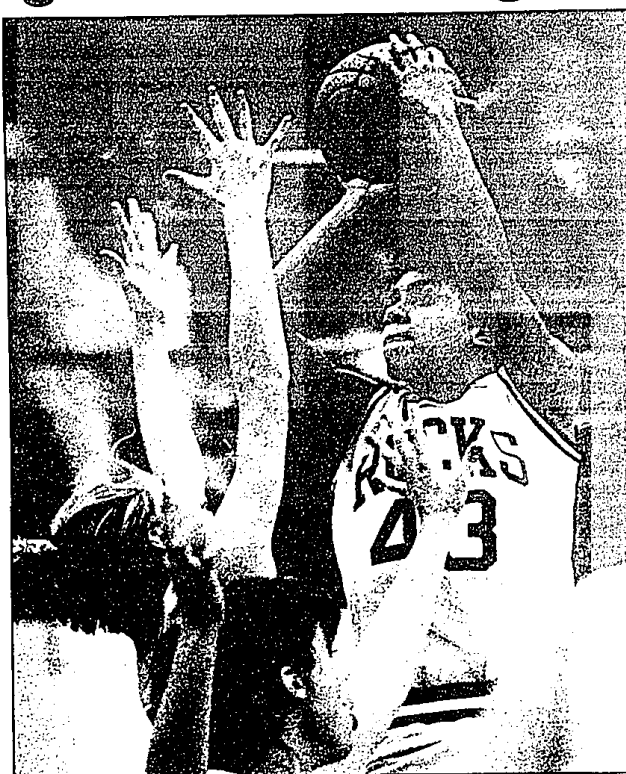
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BILL BRESLER staff photographer

Dona Head and her Salem teammates hope to rise above the crowd and make a bid for the state Class A championship. The Miss Basketball candidate will lead her team into tonight's opening-round district battle against rival Plymouth Canton.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

STATE DISTRICT PAIRINGS

CLASS A

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Thursday, Nov. 18: Westland John Glenn (A) vs. Livonia Franklin (B), 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Garden City vs. Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m.; Livonia Ladywood vs. A-B winner, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 25: Championship final, 7 p.m. (winner advances to the Southfield regional vs. Plymouth Canton district champion).

PLYMOUTH CANTON

Thursday, Nov. 18: Plymouth Canton (A) vs. Plymouth Salem (B), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21: Livonia Churchill vs. Nov. 8 p.m.; Northville vs. A-B winner, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Championship final, 7 p.m. (winner advances to the Southfield regional vs. Westland John Glenn district champion).

REDFORD UNION

Thursday, Nov. 18: Redford Union (A) vs. Southfield (B), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21: Farmington Hills Mercy vs. Detroit Henry Ford, 6:15 p.m.; Farmington vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (winner advances to the Southfield regional vs. Detroit City district champion).

DETROIT COOLY

Thursday, Nov. 18: Detroit Cooley (A) vs. Detroit Cooley (B), 2:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 20: Detroit Leopold Borgess vs. Detroit MacArthur, 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Detroit Redford vs. A-B winner, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 25: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (winner advances to the Southfield regional vs. Redford Union district champion).

TAYLOR CENTER

Friday, Nov. 20: Taylor Center (A) vs. Taylor Truman (B), 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Wayne Memorial vs. Taylor Hamady, 8:30 p.m.; Farmington vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 25: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (winner advances to the Gibraltar Canton regional vs. Dearborn Edsel Ford district champion).

WALLED LAKE WESTERN

Thursday, Nov. 18: Walled Lake Western (A) vs. Bloomfield Hills Andover (B), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21: Walled Lake Central vs. West Bloomfield, 8:15 p.m.; North Farmington vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 24: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (winner advances to the West Bloomfield regional vs. Brighton district champion).

CLASS B

DEARBORN ST. ALPHONSUS

Thursday, Nov. 18: Redford Thurston (A) vs. Royal Oak Shreve (B), 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 20: Dearborn St. Alphonsus (C) vs. Detroit Benedictine (D), 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Farmington Harrison vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.; Livonia Clearwater vs. C-D winner, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 25: Championship final, 8 p.m. (winner advances to the St. Clair Shores regional vs. Warren Fitzgerald district champion).

CLASS C

BIRMINGHAM COUNTRY DAY

Thursday, Nov. 18: Grange Pointe Star of Sea (A) vs. Westland Our Lady of the Lake (B), 8 p.m.; Birmingham Detroit Country Day (C) vs. Redford St. Agatha (D), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21: Pontiac Catholic vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.; Southfield Christian vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 24: Championship final, 7 p.m. (winner advances to the Wyandotte Mount Carmel regional vs. Detroit DePorse district champion).

CLASS D

TAYLOR BAPTIST PARK

Thursday, Nov. 18: Taylor Baptist Park (A) vs. Ann Arbor Greenfield (B), 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 20: Lutheran Westland (C) vs. Plymouth Christian (D), 8 p.m.; Westland Valley Lutheran (E) vs. Westland Union Valley Lutheran (F), 8 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Westland Lake vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.; C-D winner vs. E-F winner, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 24: Championship final, 7 p.m. (winner advances to the Warren DeWade Christian regional Allen Park West City Baptist district champion).

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