

OBSERVING SPORTS

By George Maskin

North, CC West Top Sports Stories of 1970

Just one bit of unfinished business before we say goodbye to 1970.

Well, really, there's two. First, there's the annual rating of the top sports stories as they affected Oberverland and the state of Michigan.

Secondly, well, there's settling up with Uncle Whiskers on income tax.

RIGHT NOW, let's redress and take a backward glance at the major sports stories that happened here in Oberverland.

1 - North Farmington High's falling unbeaten and untied through its nine-game football schedule to wind up as the state champions in everybody's rankings.

2 - Garden City West gaining the semifinals in the state Class A high school basketball tournament after sweeping unbeaten through the regular season, then through the districts, the regionals and quarterfinals.

3 - The throwing of the ball into the air by the Pontiac Northern quarterback as time ran out, its being grabbed by a Southfield Lathrup player who ran for a touchdown which won the game and helped Lathrup march on to capture its first Inter-Lakes Conference title. Truly, this was the freak play of the year.

4 - Redford Township's baseball team repeating as the state Adray League champs and going on to play in the national tournament in Pennsylvania for the fifth consecutive year.

5 - The adopting of ice hockey as a full-scaled varsity sport at Livonia's four public high schools -- Bentley, Stevenson, Franklin and Churchill.

6 - The booming of interscholastic sports for area girls. More and more schools now have full schedules of activities for the females. Rah, Rah.

7 - Our Lady of Sorrows reigning as the state's Class C-D wrestling champions.

8 - Farmington and Garden City booming through all the area, district and regional play in Little League and Pony League baseball play, respectively, only to lose out when just a victory away from qualifying for the World Series in each competition.

9 - Farmington High's reign as the area's No. 1 school in cross country.

10 - Brother Rice and Our Lady of Sorrows winning their ways into the playoffs in the Catholic League's football competition.

Happy New Year!

Co-Captains

Seniors Mike Fischer and Mike Haley will co-captain the 1970-71 Wayne State University swimming team. Fischer served as co-captain at WSU during the 1969 campaign also.

Plymouth Victor In Tourney

By FRED DeLANO

Plymouth choked off a late Belleville rally Tuesday for a 75-66 triumph that gave the Rocks their second championship in three years in the Wayne Invitational Christmas Basketball Tourney and reestablished Plymouth as

one of the foremost Suburban Six title contenders.

The Rocks built a big first half margin to lead by 17 on the Wayne Memorial court at intermission, and then stretched it to 21 points over the Tigers at the end of three periods before Belleville found its scoring touch. The victory completed

Plymouth's three-game sweep in the tournament, the Rocks having advanced to the finals at the expense of Wayne and John Glenn. It also helped take the sting out of a pre-tourney record of only one win in four starts.

BELLEVILLE CAME into the finals boasting a string of

four straight victories, compiled after losing an earlier Plymouth encounter Dec. 11, but despite brilliant scoring by Garrade Pettus could not match the Rocks' balance and rebounding strength.

Pettus closed with 26 points for the night, while Charley Wolfe and Casey

Jones shared Plymouth's honors with 16. For the Rocks, it was a repeat of their triumph in the same tourney two years ago after finishing as runners-up last winter. Plymouth now will return to Suburban Six competition, meeting Trenton on the latter's court Friday. A previously scheduled game at Thurston, booked for Tuesday, has been postponed until February.

BELLEVILLE (66)				
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26	16	21	66	

PLYMOUTH (75)				
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WASHTEWAS (64)				
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S'craft Breezes Home

Pulling away from Wash-te-was in the second half with a brilliant display of marksmanship from the field, Schoolcraft College went on to win the championship of the first annual Schoolcraft College Christmas tournament, 99-64.

Wash-te-was figured to give the Ocelots a busy evening after winning its opening round from Lansing, 87-82. Schoolcraft started past Traverse City, 105-64, to gain a berth in the finals.

But Wash-te-was didn't show the same power in the championship that it did in the opener, battling Schoolcraft even in the first half and then fading out of the picture.

The Ocelots, coached by

Tom Roncoli, fought even with Wash-te-was in the first 20 minutes and walked off the court with a halftime lead of 49-43.

THIS HAPPENED despite the efforts of Bob Cummings and Joe Frye who sparked Wash-te-was with 15 of their team's 18 field goals. Cummings, a 6'2" forward from Montgomery, Miss., collected 18 points on nine goals and J. Frye, a 6'2" forward from Vpsilanti, added 12 points for 30.

Meanwhile, the Ocelots were led by Johnny Jetticks from Livonia Stevenson, with 12 points followed by Rod Shafer, from Garden City East, with eight, Jeff Taylor,

from Northville, six and Dennis Rong from Henry Ford High, with six. Schoolcraft tightened its defense on Cummings in the second half and limited him to five points before he left the game on five personal.

SCHOOLCRAFT DIDN'T waste any time in showing it was after a victory once play began in the second half. Jetticks continued his hot hand with nine points and a game total of 21. Shafer came through with 11 and Denny Denham, of Murray Wright High, broke loose for five field goals and game total of 16.

The Ocelots held a 64-52 lead with eight minutes to

play and then broke the game wide open with a spurge that netted 32 points in the remaining time. Meanwhile, Wash-te-was hit a cold spell and tallied only 12 points in the eight-minute span.

Lansing won the consolation championship with a 100-88 triumph over Traverse City.

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IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR

The members of the Thunderbird team in the Ladies Major League had good reason to celebrate the new year.

They closed the old in a blaze of glory by taking the lead in the national scoring race with a 3070 series at Pine Tree Bowl.

With this big count, on games of 1017, 977, and 1076, they bettered the former high of 3053 bowled by Little Caesar Team of the same league, several weeks ago.

Leslie Richardson showed the way in the big series with a 700. Following her, in order, were Edna Pihlitski with 617, Ann Setlock 610, Helen Baker 576 and Marlene McKown 567.

In taking over the national lead the Thunderbird team gave Detroit three places in the Top Ten.

Aside from the Little Caesar count of 3053 the Thunderbirds also fired a 2989 more than a month ago that still is good for fifth on the national honor roll.

According to the latest standings released by the Women's International Bowling Congress the Thunderbird's 1076 single game is eighth in the nation.

GEORGE BASHARA had reason to be all smiles over the holidays. His Wonderland Classic closed out the old year as one of the highest scoring loops in the metropolitan area.

were 33 series above the 600 mark.

For the first time this season two bowlers were to share the Bowler of the Month honors at Merit-Bowl. Ralph Barry and Lea Perry each posted a 268, while Marlon Sanders topped the women with a 254.

THE TEEN CLASSICS at Merit-Bowl is setting a fast pace, too.

Don Mueller topped the list during the week with 605 that included a 224 game. Marly Bacon had a 241 in 578, Rick Ponaville landed third with 568 and Tony Leonard had a 219 in 562.

JOHN FRAZE was the man of the hour in the Whirlwind league at Livonia Lanes.

Carrying a 134 average he did the "almost impossible" by converting the 7-10. He bounced a pin off the kick-back to land among the elite.

Meanwhile Joe Zarzycki rolled the top series with a 232 in 590. Eric Hojberg had high game with 245 in 580. In the Ladies Classic Ellie Wilkins had high series with 558-78 - 636 and shared high single of 213-26 - 239.

LOIS MERRIMAN also had a 239 with 214 actual count and a 25 pin spot. Becky Parks had third high single with 193-40-223.

The real star of the day was Shirley Schwartz, a 120 average bowler, who went 93 pins over average with a 213 count.

Ken Hill was top man in the Senior House League with 655, followed by Mike Walter 636 and Nick Coppotri 651.

In the Ladies Classic, Brandy Bassett had a 221 in 596. One pin behind her came Pat Kotewski with a 212 in 595 and Clara Watson with a 215 in 580.

The most satisfied of the lot in the Mixers League, however, was Linda McCombs, a 126 average bowler, who posted a 213 in 474.

Steve Miller turned in the high game of the week at Country Lane when he contributed a 254 in 611 and Bob Goodie showed the way to the women with a 241.

TO TAKE TOP honors in the Senior House loop at Oak Park Lanes Jerry Lash closed with games of 228 and 212 for a 637.

High single game honors went to Harry Stybl who found the range for a 234.

The 40th annual Old Timers Tournament, scheduled at State Fair Recreation on Sat. Jan. 9, will be dedicated to John Rukamp, the veteran auditor who has served as a bowling official for the past 50 years.

\$50,300 SNOWMOBILE RACES

NORTHVILLE DOWNS Northville, Michigan HEATED Grandstand JAN. 9-10 General Admission-\$3

Tickets Available At: Ginnelli's &