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Groves Clinches League Flag

By GEORGE MASKIN
Observer Sports Editor

Take a bow, Birmingham Groves!

For the second year in a row and the fourth time in recent years, Groves reigns as the Northwest Suburban League champs.

Groves merely is assured a little share at the moment, but just one more victory in any of its final three league encounters will mean an outright title again.

THE GROVES CAGERS have no intentions of bowing out when they can smell a perfect 100 conference mark which would bet-

ter their flag-winning effort of 8-2 a year ago. Groves made it 7-0 by rolling past Thurston 75-48, and now the three-game bulge over its nearest rival in the league race.

The clincher could come Friday when Groves tackles North Farmington. Twice before Groves has won the crown with an unblemished mark and this naturally is the team's goal again this season.

"We didn't play the way I would have liked," said coach Al Vodermark after Groves' 75-48 victory. "We played simply well enough to stay in front by a

comfortable margin... and that is what is most important." Senior Tom Rex, who stands 6-2 and often takes a back seat in the spotlight department to Scott Love, Groves' all-state candidate, attracted most of the individual honors against Thurston.

Rex whipped in 23 points as he tossed in nine out of 16 from the field and clicked on five of six from the foul lines.

"That's really some shooting," said Vodermark. Coach Mike Pasternak of Thurston felt that his charges had "their chances." Said Pasternak: "We just didn't shoot well."

THE GAME WAS actually decided in the second period after Groves took an 18-15 lead in the first quarter when Love led with six points.

But then Rex personally outscored the entire Thurston team in a 20-7 Groves second period. While Rex made eight points, Thurston was held to three baskets and a free throw.

Love wound up with 14 points and Dallas Haun did an excellent job rebounding with 13 for Groves, which now is 9-3 overall.

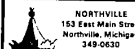
Bruce Holben had 10 to finish in double figures for Thurston.

Dice	1	0	2
Totals	21	7	48
By Quarters:			
Groves	18	20	20
Thurston	15	7	14

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THIS WAS SCENE at the Bentley High bench after nipping Plymouth in the all-important Suburban Six League game. The Bulldogs won to all but clinch the championship. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

NF Dunks Glenn In Duel Meet

With victories in eight of the 11 events, North Farmington swimmers swamped John Glenn, 64-37, in a Northwest Suburban League dual meet. The Raiders have defeated every team in the conference with the exception of Birmingham Groves, which clinched the dual meet crown with an unbeaten record.

Matt Conklin, North senior, was the lone double winner, taking the 200 individual medley in 2:28.5 and the 100 backstroke in 1:05.4.

Brad Carr maintained his string of triumphs in diving and is considered a strong

contender for the league championship in the conference meet on March 5 and 6 at Groves.

The summaries:
200 MEDLEY RELAY: Won by Glenn (North, Hull, Schad, Smith) Time 2:24. North Farmington disqualified.
100 FREESTYLE: Won by Glenshaw (NF: 2, McLean (NF: 3, Schad (G) Time 1:51.4.
200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Won by Conklin (NF: 2, Miller (NF: 2, Marsh (G) Time 2:28.5.
60 FREESTYLE: Won by Bertsch (NF: Smith (NF: 3, Burgeon (G) Time 2:5.0.

DIVING: Won by Carr (NF: 2, Hollis (G) 3, King (NF: 1).
100 BUTTERFLY: Won by Monroe (NF: 2, Barbu (G) 3, Higgins (G) Time: 2:08.8.
100 FREESTYLE: Won by Bertsch (NF: 2, McLean (NF: 3, Anala (NF) Time: 1:58.7.
400 FREESTYLE: Won by Schad (G) 2, Gibrey (NF: 3, Rammer (NF) Time: 4:41.3.
100 BACKSTROKE: Won by Conklin (NF: 2, Markula (NF: 3, Nichol (G) Time: 1:05.4.
100 BREASTSTROKE: Won by Barbu (G) 2, Miller (NF: 3, Hull (G) Time: 1:10.8.
400 FREESTYLE RELAY: Won by North (Glenshaw, Peterson, McLean, Schad) Time: 3:25.

Pair Scores 60 Against Franklin

North Swoop Beats Taylor Gym Team

North Farmington's gymnastic team scored a sweep of seven events in downing Taylor Center, 112.35-72.85. It was the Raiders' seventh victory in eight meets as they face No. 1 state-ranked Taylor Kennedy Wednesday night. Kennedy handed North Farmington its only loss.

Larry Beno was a double winner for North Farmington, winning the floor exercise and tumbling. Rupert Hansen won the sidehorse and Joe Neusenwender the still rings.

The North Farmington winners:

FLOOR EXERCISE - Beno.
HIGH BAR - Beno.
TRAMPOLINE - Beno.
PARALLEL BARS - Page.
SIDEHORSE - Hansen.
STILL RINGS - Neusenwender.
TUMBLING - Beno.

There are times when impressive efforts don't pay off in the victory department. It was that way when Franklin High's basketball team bowed to Oak Park, 87-76.

The offensive showing by Franklin was one of its best of the season, but there was little that Franklin could do with trying to halt Rick Seid and Larry Foot of Oak Park.

Seid tossed in 37 points and Foot 23 to account for 60 of the Parkers' points.

"It seemed that anything they shot went in," groaned coach Bob Visser of the Franklin team. "We played well, very well, and under most circumstances would have won the game."

Oak Park led, 22-21, after one period and was in front only 42-38, at the half when it finally cut loose to pull away in the third period.

Rick Davis had 19 points to lead Franklin while Tim

Dietz had 17. Tony Kaseta 17 and Rick Graham 14 for the balanced Franklin team. Oak Park had a 37-35 edge in field goals and dominated at the free throw line, 13-6.

Falcons Can't Win For Trying

Records can be deceiving. Farmington High's basketball team hasn't won in seven Inter-Lakes League games. The Falcons are last in the race.

But the Falcons are a better team than the record would indicate. They recently went over-time before losing and Friday barely bowed to Walled Lake Central, 58-57.

The Falcons trailed by seven points with less than two minutes to go against Walled Lake. Bob Chapman, Paul Kupferschmidt and Dale Lekovish scored to slice the gap to just a point at the buzzer.

In the second period, the Falcons had overcome a seven point deficit with a late flurry to trail 34-32 at the intermission. Chapman wound up with 29 points while Kupferschmidt had 16 for the losers.

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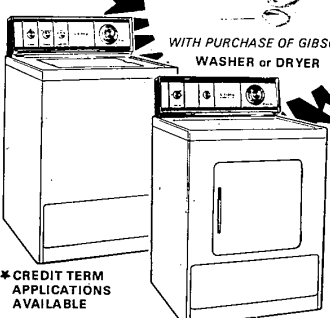
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