

Ski Heil

By

BILL CAMERON

Where has the snow gone? If you really miss it, all you have to do is head for Cadillac, Traverse City, or Boyne Country. When we had rain there they had snow, and from all reports I've had, fantastic conditions.

I was at Metropolitan Air-Port Friday seeing off a U.S. Ski Association charter flight to Geneva, Switzerland. Many of the 136 passengers had the same question. How are the snow conditions in Europe?

From all reports many ski areas are suffering from a lack of snow. Last year they had so much they didn't know what to do. By the time I leave for St. Moritz on Feb.

26, they will probably have added another six inches.

IF YOU HAVE to go to Europe, now is the time to do something about it. First, join the United States Ski Association Central Division, 116 South Union St., Traverse City.

The membership fee is only \$5 a year.

It will entitle you to several benefits. One I've already mentioned, the European charter flights. You are also able to ski free for one day, Monday through Friday, at any one of several major midwest ski areas.

That alone pays for your membership.

You are also entitled to a 50 cent discount on your tow fee at many areas. Part of your membership fee is used to support the Junior racing program in the state. We have some future champions racing each weekend at Thunder Mountain.

I get slightly perturbed when people ask me what the U.S.S.A. can do for them. I'm really not sure what they expect. I am amazed at the number of skiers who won't part with a \$5 bill to join their organization, but will blow \$100 a weekend.

I guess basically we're all cheapskates at heart. Our values certainly are questionable.

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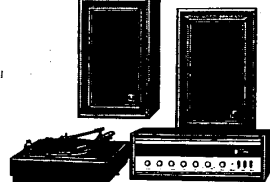
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East In Title Showdown

The "big one" is coming Friday for Garden City East basketball team.

Well, the "last big one."

A week ago, East rose to beat Inkster and avenge an earlier season loss.

FRIDAY IT'S EAST vs. Inkster Robichaud at East and if East wins this one, it will be virtually assured a share of the Mid-Wayne League title.

Robichaud is the team coach Billy Joe Young fears as he recalls that when East

went to Robichaud earlier in the season, the game was decided by only three points with East on top.

AFTER ROBICHAUD, only Lutheran West remains on East's league schedule and Young admits he's not too concerned about that one.

As matters now stand, East has a 7-1 league record to Inkster's 6-1. But since they don't meet again, a tie for the flag now appears fairly certain, unless either stumbles.

Robichaud could be a stumbling block for either East or Inkster since Robichaud has a 5-1 league record and has won only to Inkster and East in league play.

East survived a cold first period when it hit on only two of its first 13 shots. Then it exploded and whipped Annapolis 70-45.

East led only 10-8 after the first period before feeling off a 27-12 spree in the second period as Greg Puiques led the way with 12 points in an eight-minute span.

DAVE JACKSON drilled in seven points as East added to its lead in the third period and coasted from there.

All five starters scored in double figures as East boosted its overall record for the season to 11 victories against three losses.

Jackson finished with 17 points, Puiques with 14 and Mike Roller, Jack Hayes and Jeff DeHarte with 10 apiece.

Rich Palmer tossed in seven points and Ron Chomik two for the winners.

observing sports

Three weeks hence and it'll be March Madness time in Michigan again.

In other words the state basketball tournament will be on.

Everybody begins in the districts, the fortunate advance to the regionals, the more fortunate to the quarterfinals, the very fortunate to the semifinals, the very, very fortunate to the finals.

And when it's all over, there'll be four champs -- one each in Classes A, B, C and D.

NOT ALL STATES break their tournaments down by classes. Many simply crown only a single king.

There are other states which have no true state tourney. Teams merely compete on an area level, and then stop right there.

Whatever other states do, the Michigan system certainly has been a smash success over the 40 some years it has been in effect.

Just about everybody -- in Michigan, that is -- agrees it makes great sense to have teams contest according to their enrollments.

Sure, there's a chance a team from a community of a few hundred could go all the way and wreck a giant from the Detroit or Grand Rapids area. But statistics prove this won't happen very often.

Besides, what's wrong with crowning four champs?

IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN on deck for the finals, you thrill to every title game, starting with the Class B's in the morning, the D and C in the afternoon and finally the supposedly big game involving the "A" finalists in the evening.

The hour of the day, the classes competing, the rival schools make no difference. Every session is a sellout.

To anybody who has been involved in sports promotions, he has to be a little envious of what the state prep association has going in its annual basketball finals.

Year after year, there's never a ticket to be had a month ahead of the final games. As soon as the State Association prints and releases its order blank, the tickets are grabbed off like hot cakes.

The demand far exceeds the supply.

Despite it all, the State Association hasn't gouged its public by hiking the price of admission for the title games.

The price remains at \$1.50 for each of this year's three final sessions to be held in the Crister Arena at the University of Michigan.

That means for \$4.50 you see all the title games if your request gets in on time and is honored.

THERE'S LITTLE QUESTION the State Association could charge \$2 or \$3 for the finals and get away with it. Everything else has gone sky high -- why not the state basketball finals?

But the feeling obviously is that you're dealing with schoolmen and school students for the most part. Why soak them, especially when the revenue derived from all the tournaments more than pays the bills and leaves a good hunk of cash to be spread back to the competing schools?

When play begins there'll be districts held at Southfield, Farmington, Livonia Franklin and Northville High in these parts.

Southfield Lathrup, Birmingham Seaholm, Livonia Franklin and Farmington's new Harshorn High all have landed regionals.

The quarterfinals will be spread around the state and this year for the first time the semifinals will be held one Saturday and the finals the following Saturday.

Michigan State has been awarded the Class A and B semis with one class semifinal in Lansing and another in Traverse City and the "D" semis are staged in Jackson and Cheboygan.

Then it'll be over to Ann Arbor on March 27 for the parade of finals.

Sorry, folks, we won't have any extra tickets. If we get one to work the games that'll be the quota.

Borgess Is Upset But Gains Playoffs

Bishop Borgess didn't finish its regular season chase the way the team hoped in the Catholic League.

Jolted at Pontiac CC, 67-61, Borgess blew its chance for an outright title in the First Division-West.

Instead Borgess wound up sharing the crown with Aquinas.

BOTH WILL play in the First Division playoffs which start Sunday in the U-D Memorial Building.

Pontiac CC pulled ahead, 17-6, in the first period and had a 40-22 halftime lead.

Then Pontiac mounted as much as a 22-point lead in the third period before Borgess rallied to come within six at the final whistle.

Mark Sopko scored 24 points and Jeff Crowley 14 to lead the losers.

Rich, Sahero had 18 for Pontiac.

Record Tied

Wayne State University's 6-2 football record in 1970 was its best since 1932 in 1967 and tied the second highest football wins in WSU annals.

Orr Topped

Michigan basketball coach Johnny Orr has been selected as one of the 25 finalists for the all-time National Assn. of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament team from 1937 through 1962. A 99-member oldtimers committee picked the 25 finalists.



TWO POINTS for Birmingham Groves' Scott Love (55) as he tosses in a basket despite the efforts of Thurston's Steve Hunter (14). Groves clinched the Northwest Suburban League crown with an easy win over the Eagles. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

North's Press Whips Glenn

A change in tactics can turn a game around... and it never worked to better advantage, or worse advantage--depending on the team one cheered for--in North Farmington's basketball victory over Glenn, 73-64.

The teams battled even in the first period, winding up 20-20.

Then things took a complete change.

North Farmington began to press and the strategy led to the Raiders rolling up 22 points while Glenn was held to seven in the second period.

AS A RESULT North Farmington had a 42-27 half time lead. Despite the fact Glenn threatened in the third period by cutting seven points off the North Farmington bulge, the Raiders won without too much trouble.

North Farmington's pressing forced Glenn into turnovers and produced some easy baskets for the winners

who were led in the second period by Rick Fuelling with six points and Rich Herpich with five.

Glenn struck back in the third period with Terry Marchand getting six points and Dave Wyrabkiewicz four, but North Farmington finally got going again in the fourth period and chalked up its third Northwest Suburban League win against four losses. Overall, the Raiders now are 6-7.

North Farmington finished with four men in double figures--Tim Driggs with 17, Drew Mahalic 16, Herpich 13 and Craig Dhue with 12. Fuelling wound up with eight.

Glenn had two men in double figures--Marchand with 12 and Wyrabkiewicz with 11.

The box score:

N. FARMINGTON (73)	G	F	P
Driggs	6	17	
Dhue	6	12	
Time	8	13	
Herpich	5	13	
Mahalic	4	16	
Craigton	1	2	4
Fuelling	4	8	
Benji	2	0	0
Totals	31	73	

GLENN (64)	G	F	P
Agnew	4	2	11
Wyrabkiewicz	4	0	12
Horton	4	0	12
Marchand	4	1	8
Kamansky	4	1	8
Pack	2	0	0
Demaray	2	0	0
Rial	2	0	0
Totals	27	10	64

By Quarters:
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Glenn 20 7 18 18-64



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