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Spartans Win Hockey Title

Stevenson High's hockey team has enjoyed some revenge.

After placing second to Livonia Bentley for the All-Livonia prep league title, Stevenson came back Saturday to down Bentley, 4-1, for the Livonia city title.

The game highlighted the closing festivities for the first season of hockey in Livonia and it was generally agreed that the season was a big success in every category.

NOT ONLY was the play outstanding, but crowds jammed Ford Arena for most of the games.

The success already has prompted officials to announce they'll expand the season's schedule next year.

Bentley took a 1-0 lead against Stevenson when all-star Ake Flinall, an exchange student from Sweden, poked a pass from Tom Garcia.

Then Stevenson came back with three goals in the second period when Frank Gelluso, Don Finn and then Finn again found the mark. Gelluso wound up the scoring in the final period.

John Kivihalmie, Stevenson's top scoring forward, picked up two assists while Dale Marczak assisted on another goal.

Before beating Bentley, Stevenson won a 6-4 tuneup exhibition from Bishop Borgess.



NOT THIS TIME. Stevenson Goalie Bruce McDonald sprawls in front of the net to make this save. Teammate Don Finn (11) is taking Bentley's Tom Smith (11) out of the play. Stevenson whipped Bentley, 4-1, to win the city championship. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

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North, C'Ville Gymnast Champs

Although Taylor Kennedy retained his state gymnastics high school title, it wasn't until Kennedy was extended all the way by North Farmington and Clarencville.

Kennedy posted a winning score of 121.05 to top North Farmington with 113.10 and Clarencville with 104.45 in the hotly contested battle for the championship.

North Farmington emerged with three individual champions and Clarencville had two.

Barry Rudyne, of North Farmington, won the horizontal bar with 6.35 points. Joe Neuenswander, of the Raiders, the still rings with 7.25 and teammate Rupert Hansen the sidehorse with eight points.

Clarencville's Bob Struk was the only double winner. He took the free exercise and then came back to capture the tumbling.

The complete results of the state meet:

Waterloo, Clarencville, 18.95. 3. Don Chapman, North Farmington, 18.30. 4. Steve Ormsby, Ann Arbor Pioneer, 17.85. 5. Pete Constantinak, Allen Park, 17.85.

TEAM SCORING — Taylor John F. Kennedy 121.05, North Farmington 121.10, Clarencville 104.45, Allen Park 88.25, Ann Arbor Pioneer 82.55, Taylor Center 77.80, Alpena 89.30, Grand Haven 83.10, Hillsdale 62.16, Truxton 60.00.

Franklin Grappler Hard Luck 'Champ'

Bruce Guier, star 106-pounder of the Livonia Franklin wrestling team, figured this would be his year in the state championship finals.

District champion at his weight for three years, Bruce had met and beat all of the best in the area. He won 29 matches, this year, 26 with pins.

He had a record of 82 victories, 10 losses and a tie for three years.

Bruce fought his way into

One Change In Pin Lists

The Naveco Oil team, of Marshall, captained by Betty Hiscock, caused the only major change in the standings of the women's state bowling tournament at Ark Lanes West.

With Lois Landridge posting a 545 series the team had a 365 count to take first place in the team handicap division and replaced the Motown Record team.

Harrison Freshman Wins Swim Crowns

Hats off to Farmington Harrison High's swimming team.

Performing for the first time in the state Class B championships last weekend, Harrison came up with a third place finish with 90 points as West Ottawa of Grand Rapids swept to its third straight title in easy fashion with 221 points.

Northville took fourth place in the team race with 74 points while Clarencville was eighth with 54.

The big noise from Harrison was 15-year-old Mike Rado, a freshman. He emerged as a double winner by capturing the 100 individual medley in 2:19.04 and then coming back to hit the line first in the 100 backstroke in :58.3.

While no records were available, it was believed to be the first time a freshman had ever won two state titles in either Class A or Class B.

Others to place from Clarencville and Harrison in the state meet were:

400 FREESTYLE RELAY: 2 — Clarencville, 3:27.4.3 — Northville, 3:38.4. 5 — Harrison, 3:43.8.
INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 4 — James Patton, Harrison; 8 — Greg Arnoldy, Harrison.
50 FREESTYLE: 4 — Don Ahonen, Clarencville.
100 BUTTERFLY: 3 — Carl Slogren, Clarencville.
DIVING: 1 — Richard Kiel, Harrison.
400 FREESTYLE: 7 — Greg Arnoldy, Harrison.



MIKE RADO

FIRST freshman to win two state swim titles is Mike Rado, of Farmington Harrison High. The 15-year-old won the 100 individual medley and the 100 backstroke.

Benjamin Best

Michigan State senior basketball guard Rudy Benjamin of Dayton, Ohio, was voted most valuable player at the 1970 Love Invitational at Albuquerque won by the Spartans.

Quarterfinal Pairings

QUARTERFINAL PAIRINGS CLASS A
Livonia Stevenson vs. Pontiac Central at Birmingham Seaholm (7:30 p.m.)
Detroit Kettering vs. Detroit Mackenzie at Warren Fitzgerald
Grand Rapids Union vs. Flint Northern at Charlotte
Kalamazoo Central vs. Ann Arbor Pioneer at Jackson Parkside

CLASS B
River Rouge vs. Royal Oak Shrine at Livonia Franklin (7:30 p.m.)
Allegan vs. Muskegon Heights at Holland
Brooklyn vs. Flint Ainsworth at Lansing Civic Center
Ludington vs. Escanaba Holy Name at Cheboygan

observing sports

Happy thought!
Decent weather can't be far away. After all, two weeks from Tuesday it'll be opening day for the Tigers at Tiger Stadium and the weatherman must provide us with a decent day...sunshine and 60-70 degrees.

Ha, Ha!
But seriously, in case you haven't looked, baseball is just about with us and all along the line the time has come to start whipping teams into shape.

Down in Florida and out in Arizona, the major leaguers are preparing.

CLOSER TO HOME, you'll find the baseball teams drilling almost every day in the gym, or maybe in some other vast spot where there's at least enough room for the boys to throw the ball around.

While the Little Leaguers haven't held any workouts, in many communities, registrations have started to take place and we can look any day now...if the weather breaks...for the kids to be going through their paces.

Regardless of what many say, baseball hasn't lost its grip on the folks of this country. It's still our national pastime.

More kids play baseball than any other sport. It's not difficult to hold a game. Just a vacant lot somewhere and you can make a diamond and start swinging away at the old baseball.

There's bound to be more interest than ever this spring in high school baseball. That's because for the first time there'll be a state tournament.

Schoolmen long have objected to such a tourney, arguing that the weather and time in the spring were against it.

But the coaches and the players have contended otherwise. The success of such spring-time baseball meets as the Les Anders Invitational in Livonia has proved that there is a way and there is time to hold tournament baseball in the spring.

SO, NOW, WE'LL HAVE a state tournament...with its districts, regionals and finals.

Such a meet should spur on high school baseball, give it a much needed lift in some sections of the state where it's been sliding downhill.

One such area hasn't been Observerland.

Baseball on the schoolboy level has been booming in interest in recent years. The Anders tourney has had a lot to do with it by bringing all the schools in the area together for the series of games.

Secondly, the expansion of Connie Mack and Adray League baseball hereabouts has paid off with better high school baseball.

The boys, who perform on school teams, now have a chance to go directly into summer play and perform four and five and sometimes six nights a week.

Thus, they are encouraged when in school to do their best to make their prep teams. They know it'll help them during the summer.

Then, too, the summer leagues help the school programs. Undergraduates, who might have played reserve baseball in school, get a chance to play regularly in the summer and thus better prepare themselves to bid for a varsity job the next spring.

MAJOR LEAGUE SCOUTS will tell you how area baseball has improved. More and more scouts now show up for games involving area teams.

They come because they know they may find something. If they knew that the baseball was bad, they wouldn't be around. It's tough enough to scout a big area like Greater Detroit without wasting your time going places where you won't see any boys who are prospects for professional teams.

There is a major problem facing those who run the various leagues. They know there'll be no shortage of teams or players this year for summer play.

What concerns them is whether they'll find enough sponsors.

There has been a growing reluctance by sponsors to dish out dough to pay the bills necessary to keep a kids baseball team ticking.

The amount varies, depending on whether you're talking Little League or Connie Mack.

But you can't buy baseballs or bats for nothing...nor can you get uniforms or the other vital equipment. And, like in everything else, the costs are going up. A way up.

The importance of summer baseball can't be overly stressed. Or, for that matter, the importance of any programs which involve youngsters...and that includes teenagers.