All-Area Honors GC, Livonia Cagers

By GEORGE MASKIN
Observer Sports Editor

Meet the 1970-71 Observer basketball all-stars.

It's another of what can be called truly "a dream team."

The team has everything ... size, scorers, rebounders, paymakers, defensive stalwarts....and leaders.

Picked by the 20 area basketball coaches, from Westland and Garden City northward through Livonia to Farmington, Southfield and Birmingham it's a quintet which truly would distinguish itself were it to operate as a unit in league or state-wide play.

Here they are...the Observer's dream team for 1970-71:

SCOTT LOVE
Birmingham Groves

Generally tabbed as the "player of the area".

This 6-7, senior forward is the second in his family to sparkle for Groves. Brother Craig preceded him and has gone on to fame at Ohio University, where it's expected Scott will enroll in the fall. Scott performed on the Groves varsity for three seasons.

A year ago he scored 459 points. This past season he came up with 450 for a 27-point average. He also hauled down 268 rebounds in 17 games, an average of almost 16 per game.

There were few better prep markse in the state. He clicked on 53.2 per cent of his attempts from the field and 72 per cent from the foul line.

"Any college would like to grab him," says coach Al Vordermark. "Scott has great spring and timing. He blocks his share of shots."

He was the key factor in Groves sweeping to the league title the last two years and going unbeaten in Northwest Suburban action this past winter.

Now that basketball is behind him, it's likely he'll play golf at Groves in the spring. He shoots in the mid-70's and last year starred on the team which came within a stroke of the state Class A title.

TED EXARHOS
LIVONIA Stevenson

Called by his coach, George Van Wagoner "a good college prospect."

Ted played on the Stevenson varsity for three years, winning a job as a starter as a sophomore. He was all-conference in each of his three seasons.

As a senior he averaged 23 points and 13 rebounds in leading Stevenson to the district Class A title at Farmington and then to victory in the Franklin regional and a berth in the quarter finals.

He also became the first Stevenson cager to soar past 1,000 points in his varsity career.

"Ted always is a threat as a scorer," says Van Wagoner. "He works hard and never complains. He's the type you want on your team."

During the past season, he went over 30 points twice, with his high coming against Southfield Lathrup when he drilled in 35 points for a school record.

DAVE JACKSON
Garden City East

The major factor in East's winning a share of the Mid-Wayne League title and then the district crown at Franklin.

His statistics are glittering to say the least.

He averaged 23.1 points for the season and 14.5 rebounds. He shot 'em in from the field at a 54.2 per cent clip. He blocked at least six shots in every game, a notable achievement for a player who stands a trifle over six feet.

"Dave is a great all-around player," says coach Billy Joe Young. "He has the moves and shots on offense to give the opposition fits. Defensively, he's always intimidates the other guy."

Of Jackson, his coach added:

"He's the best passer I've ever seen in high school basketball in this area."

The likes of a Jackson are few and far between. Little wonder coach Young relishes the thought he'll have Dave back next season.

LOU LOVETT
Livonia Bentley

A three year starter at Bentley and the captain and leader of this past season's team which swept through a perfect league schedule to win the Suburban Six title.

Averaged 18.2 points as he hit on 48.3 per cent of his shots from the field and 74.2 per cent from the foul line.

"He's tough to stop from the outside," says coach George Fefles. "When he gets inside, he's almost murder."

Fefles hails the "attitude Lovett has toward the game, adding: "He just eats up basketball. In high school he as had two goals: first to get good grades and secondly to play basketball.

"He felt that by accomplishing these two targets, he'd be able to go on to college. There's little doubt that he'll make it in college – as a player and a student."

Lovett was named on the all-Suburban League team this winter.

BRAD ALLEN
Southfield

Called by his coach Don Kaump, "one of the most unselfish players I've ever coached....a player who is willing to give up the ball to a teammate who might have a better shot at the basket."

Allen averaged 20.6 points in leading Southfield in scoring this past season in the finest campaign the Blue Jays ever have known. They won 15 straight before losing and wrapping up the Southeastern Michigan Association title with three weeks of play remaining.

Besides scoring, Allen topped the Blue Jays in rebounding with 14.5 grabs per game.

"He'd have probably had an even higher scoring averages," says coach Kaump, "Except that we had five players out there who all could score."

Allen captained the 1970-71 team as he finished a three year varsity career.

Kaump sees Allen playing forward in college although he was a center in high school.

Area's Best Basketballers

BRAD ALLEN
Southfield

SCOTT LOVE
Groves

TED EXARHOS
Stevenson

LOU LOVETT
Bentley

DAVE JACKSON
GC East

Stevenson Surprises; Gains Quarterfinals

By BOB McCLELLAN

Livonia Stevenson, Observerland's Cinderella cage team, won the school's first regional championship when it turned back Garden City East, 51-47.

The triumph gives the Spartans the right to meet Pontiac Central Thursday night in the Class A quarterfinals of the state basketball tournament.

Both Stevenson and East shot poorly from the floor. But Stevenson hit on 19 of 54 field goal attempts for 35% while East could connect on only 17 of 52 floor tries for 32%.

Each team canned the same number of charity shots, Livonia hitting on 13 of 21 for 61% and Garden City sinking 13 of 22 for 59%.

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THE SPARTANS outrebounded the Panthers 35 to 23.

Dave Jackson, East's outstanding junior center, paced his team with 30 points and 11 rebounds. But his personal output was offset by Stevenson's Ted Exarhos, who pumped in 23 markers, and Ron Hoekstra, who scored 21 tallies and grabbed 13 rebounds.

East closed its campaign with a 17-4 mark, including a share of the Mid-Wayne title. The Spartans' record is 11-11 overall, but as one downhearted East fan remarked:

"Stevenson's got to be the best 11-11 team in the state."

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BUT NOW the Spartans face Pontiac Central which has won 41 of 42 games in the last two years — the only loss to Pershing for the state Class A championship in 1970 and the Chiefs are ranked No. 1 in every cage poll in the state.

The Pontiac squad is led by 6-7 Campy Russell, a prep All-American.

Against East, Stevenson displayed a hustling, aggressive attack that gave Garden City the lead only once — a 1-0 edge in the opening seconds — and permitted the Panthers to tie the game only three times — twice late in the opening stanza and once early in the second frame.

Stevenson gained its biggest bulge — eight points — in the opening moments of the third period, but East narrowed that to two points by the end of the quarter. In the final period, the Panthers edged to within three points on two occasions.

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JEFF DeHARTE made good on a gift shot in the opening seconds to give Garden City a lead, but Hoekstra hit a jumper from 18 feet and the Livonia school never fell behind.

Midway in the initial quarter the Spartans threw up a three-quarter court press and Hoekstra and Kelly Smith tallied two points apiece to give Stevenson a 11-7 lead. But Greg Puishes and Mike Roller each countered with a basket to knot the count 11-11.

Down by eight points, 24-16, East executed a successful full-court press with 59 seconds left in the second stanza that paid off with three quick buckets by Jackson. But Stevenson walked off the floor at halftime with a 24-22 lead.

The Spartans returned with a shotmaking display that threatened to blow East off the court.

Exarhos hit a 20-foot jumper and Hoekstra cashed in on a brace of outside shots that gave Stevenson a 30-22 bulge, its largest lead in the game.

But Jackson retaliated with a perfect jumper from the top of the key and made good on a charity shot.

In between, however, Exarhos slipped in a two pointer. And after Jackson countered with a basket, the Spartan marksman cashed in on a pair of free throws, DeHarte canned a hoop, and Exarhos made another bucket.

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EAST WAS NOW behind, 36-29, but DeHarte dumped in a gift marker, Jack Hayes canned two charity tries and Jackson drilled in a 10 foot jumper. This made the count 36-34 in Stevenson's favor at the end of the third quarter.

Hoekstra and Exarhos immediately widened the gap by punching in a basket apiece as the fourth period started.

DeHarte swished a two pointer, but Hoekstra fought back with a free throw in a one-and-one situation. Jackson closed the count by making both charity tries, but Exarhos emulated his opponent's feat to keep the Spartans on top, 43-38, with 5:09 to go.

Exarhos and Jackson traded baskets, Jackson hit the hoop both times in a foul bonus effort, and Hoekstra did the same, making the score 47-42 with 2:48 to go.

At this point Puishes was chased to the bench with five fouls and Stevenson immediately went into a stall.

Forty seconds later, with the score 48-44 in the Spartans' favor, Hoekstra left the game on five fouls.

Roller flicked in a foul shot, but his effort was offset when Exarhos lofted in a pair of gift markers.

Jackson countered with an 11 foot jumper to end Panther scoring for the night. Exarhos made good on a free throw just before the buzzer.

The box score:

STEVENSON (51)	G	F	T
Gresock	0	1	1
Smith	2	0	4
Exarhos	8	7	23
Haberman	1	0	2
Hoekstra	8	5	21
Totals	19	13	51

GARDEN CITY EAST (47)	G	F	T
Puishes	1	0	2
Roller	1	1	3
DeHarte	2	4	8
Jackson	12	6	30
Hayes	1	2	4
Totals	17	13	47

EAST	11	11	12	13–47
STEVENSON	11	13	12	15–51

All-Area Teams

PLAYER	SCHOOL	HT.	Wt.	AGE	Class
Brad Allen	Southfield	6-6	210	17	Sr.
Dave Jackson	Garden City East	6-3¼	170	17	Jr.
Scott Love	Birmingham Groves	6-7	185	17	Sr.
Ted Exarhos	Livonia Stevenson	6-1	185	18	Sr.
Lou Lovett	Livonia Bentley	6-4	187	17	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Bob Chapman (Farmington)
Dennis Leszczynski (GC East)
Mark Olesnavage (Brother Rice)
Charles Wolfe (Plymouth)
Mike Page (Country Day)

THIRD TEAM

Bob Malaby (Southfield Lathrup)
Jack Hayes (GC East)
Ron Hoekstra (Livonia Stevenson)
Keith Armstrong (Churchill)
Mark Kenny (Redford Union)

Groves Tankmen Finish Second In State Finals

Second best in the state!

That was the accomplishment recorded by Birmingham Groves' swimming team in the Michigan Class A championships at East Lansing.

To the surprise of few, Dearborn High captured its first state crown with a total of 161 points and Groves came in second with 137 for its bid to repeat as state champs.

Ann Arbor Huron was a close third with 133, followed by Grosse Pointe North with 71, East Grand Rapids 68, Dearborn Edsel Ford 54, Birmingham Seaholm 41 and Grand Blanc 40.

GROVES FAILED to win a single event, but was able to pile up points in most events to give Dearborn a run for the crown.

Brother Rice was the only other area school to place in the final competition as all others, including Livonia Bentley's Suburban Six League champs, failed to gain a finisher among the top six in any event.

Here's how Groves placed:

MEDLEY RELAY: Fourth.
200 FREESTYLE: 5 -- Don Lindsay.
50 FREE: 5--Mark Colville.
DIVING: 5--Dick Quint
100 BUTTERFLY: 6--Roger Wise.
100 FREESTYLE: 4--Mark Colville.
100 BREASTSTROKE: 4--Bill Edwards.
400 FREESTYLE RELAY: 2--Groves.

BIG REASONS for Stevenson's victory over GC East in the regional class A tournament at Franklin High were Ron Hoekstra (54) and Ted Exarhos (32). The latter is shown flipping in a short shot for one of the baskets that led to the 51-47 victory. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe).

No Ticket Sale For Tourney

There will not be any gate sale of tickets for the Livonia Stevenson-Pontiac Central quarterfinal Class "A" state tourney game at Birmingham Seaholm High nor for the class 'B' quarterfinal at Livonia Franklin High between River Rouge and Shrine.

Both games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday with the gates opening at 6 p.m.

Tournament managers at both sites have divided the total number of tickets in two and half have been sent to each of the competing schools.

Game tickets are available at the schools on a first come basis where officials feel all will be sold by Tuesday noon.

Those planning on attending either of the contests are warned to arrive early with ticket in hand. Neither site will sell more tickets than seats.

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