

## Spartans Coming Into Own

# Stevenson Runs By Lathrup, 71-66



STEVENSON REBOUND -- Spartan Kelly Smith (14) grabs a rebound away from Kelly Trent (51) of Southfield Lathrup. Stevenson won its Inter-Lakes opener against Lathrup. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

By TOM DONOGHUE

Stevenson has thrown away its glass slipper this year and is fast becoming one of the area's top high school basketball teams. The Spartans were the 1970-71 "Cinderella team" that finished below the 500 mark for the season but made it to the state quarter-finals.

Stevenson won its opener over Thurston, 71-63, and lost a 56-53 squeaker to Bentley. The high-flying Spartans won their Inter-Lakes opener over Southfield Lathrup, 71-66, with Dale Haberman pacing the attack with 19 points.

Midway through the first

quarter, Lathrup jumped to a 11-4 lead, but Stevenson's Tom Centers scored two quick baskets and the score read 11-10.

LATHRUP jumped back in front, and Spartan Kelly Smith scored at the first quarter buzzer to give Stevenson 13, to Lathrup's 23. Two minutes into the second quarter, Stevenson spurred to a 28-22 lead by scoring 10 straight points. Barry Brodsky and Neil Gorosh scored for Southfield and the game was close again at 28-27. Jim Macy popped in a basket for Stevenson and the Spartans were up by three at

38-27, and Stevenson never fell behind again. The Spartans pressed Lathrup and the Chargers were hampered with turnovers. The score at the half showed Stevenson up 41-30.

KELLY SMITH paced the Spartan attack the first half with 10 points, while Brodsky scored 10 for Lathrup. The only sore spot for Stevenson the first half was in the story at the free-throw line: The Spartans were only one for 13. Stevenson outscored Lathrup the third quarter, 17-13, to hold a 58-45 lead. With five minutes

remaining in the game, Smith scored for Stevenson, and the Spartans enjoyed a 21 point lead, 66-45. The Chargers just couldn't get the ball near the basket to score.

Lathrup's Bob Malaby had a hot shooting hand the last four minutes as he popped in 14 points to close the gap, but the game was out of reach, and the Chargers suffered their third straight defeat in the young season.

HABERMAN led Spartan scorers with 19 points and 14 rebounds, followed by Smith with 14 points and Macy with 11.

Malaby led all scorers with 28 points and was followed in the Charger line-up by Brodsky with 15 and Bruce Ruhl with 11.

STEVENSON shot 33 of 68 from the field but hit on only five of 24 free-throws.

"It was unbelievable how we could miss so many from the line," said Spartan Coach George VanWagoner. "We worked on free-throws all week after the loss to Bentley."

Stevenson travels to Farmington Friday in its second conference battle while Lathrup hosts Walled Lake.

## Thurston Upsets Franklin In League Opener, 75-60

By TOM DONOGHUE

Thurston won its first basketball game of the season -- and what a win it was! The Eagles toppled Franklin, 75-60, in the Northwest Suburban League opener.

Franklin was undefeated going into the game, after wins over Wayne and Plymouth, but the high-flying Eagles wasted no time in

taking charge. Thurston jumped to a 19-8 first quarter lead, and Franklin found itself in foul

trouble with Tim Dietz collecting two right at the start.

"We started off behind and were forced to play catch-up basketball," said Franklin Coach Bob Visser. "One of our senior starters, Mike Graham, was out with a badly sprained ankle, and we were really hurting in the post position when Dietz ran into foul trouble."

FRANKLIN FELL behind, 38-19, at the half and trailed by 11 at the start of the fourth

quarter. The Patriots narrowed the gap to seven near the end of the third quarter with Jeff Waterstone pacing the attack. But Thurston took command, and Dietz picked up his fourth foul and became ineffective on the boards.

"They (Franklin) started hitting early and got the momentum going," said Visser.

"We hustled up and down the court and got off good shots. But we hit on only 26 of 87 for 29 per cent while

Thurston was 32 of 64 for 50 per cent."

"That with the rebounding story tells the game," said Visser.

THURSTON out-rebounded Franklin, 31 to 28.

"It was just a nightmare," concluded Visser. "Thurston was playing way over its head and I just couldn't believe the ball wouldn't go in for us."

Thurston's key to victory was its pinpoint shooting, followed by Dave Harding with 16.

things are starting to jell now after those two early defeats," said Thurston Coach Mike Pasternak.

"Some people considered this game an upset, but I don't. The kids finally played the type of ball they are capable of."

DIETZ led the Franklin scorers with 17 points while Thurston had five players hit the double figure mark.

Mark Valvo paced Thurston scorers with 20 points, followed by Dave Harding with 16.

## Bentley Toppled, 52-50 In 'Suburban 8' Debut

By TOM DONOGHUE

The Bulldogs' bark wasn't enough to scare Edsel Ford in the opening Suburban Eight high school basketball clash as Bentley dropped a 52-50 contest.

Bentley went into the game with two non-league victories under its belt, but Edsel Ford had different ideas than another Bulldogs win.

"It was the same story as the game against Stevenson," said Bentley Coach John Farrar. "But this time we didn't escape with a win."

Tim Bollin scored eight points the first quarter, and Bentley jumped in front, 14-7. Edsel Ford went into a zone press the second quarter, and Bentley saw its halftime lead sliced to 29-25.

BENTLEY managed to hold onto the lead in the third quarter, but the Bulldog's Bollin committed four fouls, and Farrar was forced to pull his star junior center.

"It was the turning point of the game," said Farrar. "Without Bollin, we just weren't getting any second shots."

Edsel Ford tied the game at 35-35 midway through the third, and baskets by Gordie Chaisson and Ron Buwalski gave the lead back to Bentley, but it was just a matter of time of how long the Bulldogs could hold on.

EDSEL FORD edged up on Bentley in the fourth quarter, and with three minutes remaining the score was deadlocked at 46-46. Edsel Ford popped in two quick baskets and held a 50-46 lead with 1 1/4 minutes left on the clock.

Brian Gates scored from the corner for Bentley, making it 50-48, but an Edsel Ford free-throw made it 51-48. Chaisson tipped in a rebound, and the Bulldogs were down by one with 30 seconds to play.

Bentley got the ball on a turnover, but a Gates pass went astray and Edsel Ford scored another free-throw to make it 52-50 with two seconds left. Bentley called a time out and the last shot assignment was given to Gates.

Brent Boegler threw the ball halfway down the court to Gates, but the buzzer sounded before Gates got his hands on

the ball, and the game was over.

"I don't understand it," said Farrar. "The ball was being passed in, and the clock isn't supposed to start till the ball is tapped in-bounds."

"Gates would have had about a 30-footer," concluded Farrar.

"Basically, our kids were looking past this game, and Edsel Ford was really fired up, and their zone killed us."

BUWALSKI paced the

Bulldog scoring attack with 20 points and Bollin picked up 13.

Bentley shot 22 of 35 from the floor while Edsel Ford hit on 21 of 67. Edsel Ford made up the difference at the line, hitting on 10 of 21 while Bentley was six of 14.

Bentley hosts Belleville Friday in its home opener and Coach Farrar commented on the game, "I don't believe in sitting on the same line-up after a loss, so there should be a pretty good shakeup at Bentley."

## Unbeaten Trojans Defeat Milford

It went into overtime, but Clarenceville scored a 75-72 win over Milford to extend its unbeaten streak to three games and a 1-0 record in the Mid-Oakland League.

The Trojans, who three days earlier trounced Crestwood, 106-61, jumped to an early 29-17 lead with Chip Meyrelles scoring 14 points, but also picking up three fouls.

Clarenceville outscored Milford the second quarter, 12-9, and held a 41-26 halftime lead, but the Trojans were in foul trouble. Senior 5-5 center Phil Halstead had three fouls along with Meyrelles.

Milford started pressing in the fourth quarter, and Rick Merriam scored 18 points for Milford, including a 15-foot jump shot with eight seconds remaining to tie the game at 66-66 at the end of regulation play.

"We really fell apart in the fourth quarter," said Clarenceville Coach Ralph Weddle. "We couldn't hit on our free-throws and missed five layups."

MILFORD captured a two-point lead in the overtime period with 60 seconds remaining but Meyrelles tied the game at 70-70 on an easy layup.

Paul Simons hit on a short jumper with 30 seconds on the clock and the Trojans were up 72-70. Simons came back on a three-point play to put Clarenceville up 75-74. Milford scored in the closing seconds but the Trojans had scored victory number three, equaling last year's total wins in a 3-13 season.

"We were in foul trouble the first half," said Weddle. "But we came around to win on our aggressive play."

MEYRELLES led all scorers with 27 points and 14 of those came in the first quarter. Jim Hover totaled 18. Bob Tyler 14 and Simons, 11, to round out the Clarenceville attack.

Merriam paced the Milford attack with 23 points followed by John Collins with 18. Clarenceville was out-shot from the floor, 42 to 41 per cent, but made 21 of 37 free-throws compared to Milford's 14 of 24.

The Trojans host West Bloomington Friday and are still looking for a fourth team in the Christmas tournament. Cody and Pershing are scheduled for the Dec. 28 and 29 bout at Clarenceville and one team is needed to round out the holiday card.

## Schoolcraft Wins, 117-107

Schoolcraft College toppled Auburn Hills, 117-107, for its fourth basketball win of the season against three defeats.

Schoolcraft stands at 2-0 in the eastern division of the Michigan Community College conference.

Schoolcraft led at the half, 44-33, and scored 69 points in the second half to coast to victory.


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