

observing sports

On different occasions during the seven years we have churned out this offering in the Observer, the subject of the State High School Athletic Association's "Amateur practice" rule has arisen. Similarly, the prep "award rule" has been discussed.

The regulations, while simply stated in the state handbook on regulations, can get complex... but, complex or not, they exist for the best interests of the schoolboy athletes.

Under the regulation, no prep may accept any monetary sum for competing. Nor may he take a merchandise gift.

The awards regulation limits a prep to a gift such as a ribbon, medal, trophy which doesn't carry a retail cost of over \$5. It used to be \$3, but prices have gone up for awards, too.

The penalty for an infraction is severe. A young man, or girl, can be suspended from playing for his school and his team may even have to forfeit victories and championships.

It has happened... but it need not, if one just will take a few moments to make sure before he gives what he shouldn't.

PERHAPS, BECAUSE OF our familiarity with the rule, the matter hit us smack in the face the other evening when a young man from an area high school became one of the 12 lucky winners at a Pistol game.

This enabled him to shoot in a halftime game called "Dunk-o-o." Each winner shoots one from beyond the foul circle. If he scores, he collects the jackpot which usually is \$25. It could be more.

Well, this night the young prep took aim with his one shot... and in it went. The big crowd cheered. Perhaps the youngster figured he had won himself \$25. We did, too.

But, fortunately, we didn't pay him on the spot. Between the time he shot and the time the check was to be written, it dawned on us.

"Hey, if we pay that kid he might become ineligible and be suspended. His school might have to forfeit some games."

A call went to Al Bush, the new state director of schoolboy athletics. He wanted more details, in writing.

The other afternoon a letter came back from Bush. No decision yet, he confessed, had been reached.

This was a complex matter, which must go before the State Association's executive council.

Bush explained that under the Prep Rules, there was a "fine point" about participating... and being awarded anything, cash or a gift.

Despite the fact, the Dunk-o-o event was no official game, it is conducted without referees and it's a chance situation to qualify, there were some matters the Council must discuss, Bush felt.

BUSH'S LETTER didn't upset us. The fact is, it eased a certain pressure or concern.

When you've been around schoolboy sports as long as we have, the last thing you want to do is jeopardize a kid or his team.

What might be good for you very well could be bad for the youngster, which is why we say that "haste sometimes can make waste."

How do you suppose we'd feel if the headlines were to appear that the young man who made the shot, was suspended because Mas-kin and the Pistons paid him \$25?

Apparently, it's a feeling that others don't share--sponsors of teenage teams which function during the summer, or sponsors of various tournaments which attract schoolboys and schoolgirls.

These people obviously must think it's "the smart thing" to try and slip something over on the school authorities. They must figure that the boy or the girl won't say something. So all will be okay.

But, somehow, somebody usually finds out. A call goes out to Bush's office, of necessity, starts an investigation.

Nine times out of ten, a kid gets hurt... and hurt badly.

NONSENSE TO THE TALK that rules are made to be broken... like you're being permitted to get away with parking in a no-standing zone just because somebody else does.

Don't try and "beat them."

Few do.

Family Night At Mat Match

You've heard of "family nights" at sports events.

Well, there really was one when Clarencville High decisoned Our Lady of Sorrows in a wrestling match, \$4-18.

The Trojans presented three brother combinations; Sorrows two, 'Sorrows' almost sent forth a third brother duo, too.

For Clarencville there were Charles and Bob Wehner, John and Bert Van Aucher and Kipp and Keith Brandemihl.

Sorrows countered with Nick and Rick Hoff-ess and Pat and Dennis Van Dusen. Paul Osen-towski also wrestled for Sorrows, while younger brother Pete sat out the match.

There's also a third Van Dusen on the Sorrows team. He's Brian, who missed the match with Clarencville.

Here's the way the meet went:

85 pounds -- Segerman (C) decisoned N. Hoff-ess.

103 -- Paul Osen-towski (S) decisoned Keith Brandemihl.

112 -- C. Wehner (C) decisoned Theilman.

120 -- B. Wehner (C) decisoned Wightman.

127 -- LaDouceur (C) decisoned P. Van Dusen.

133 -- J. Van Aucher (C) pinned Bargett.

138 -- B. Van Aucher (C) decisoned Kern.

145 -- Sweeney (C) decisoned D. Van Dusen.

154 -- Kipp Brandemihl (C) decisoned Rick Hoff-ess.

165 -- Lem Dicks (C) won by default.

175 -- Steve Taylor (C) won by default.

Heavyweight -- Barry Walsh (S) pinned Hoskins.

Strong Finish For Farmington

A healthy sign for any team is strong finishes. Farmington High's basketball team enjoyed a pair of such efforts Tuesday in rallying for a 59-55 victory over Southfield.

The Falcons had a good second period and a fine fourth period, after starting slowly and then later sagging in the third period.

It was a change of pace for the Falcons the way the team finished against Southfield. In the season's opener against Bentley, Farmington had its last-quarter blues and wound up a loser after leading at the three-quarter mark.

This time Farmington managed only nine

points, five by Paul White, in the first period, but the Falcons at the same time held Southfield to just seven points on three baskets and one charity.

THE SCORING picked up for both teams in the second period when Farmington out hit its rival, 20-14, as Steve McGregor and Randy Cleveland each notched six points.

Southfield cut the Farmington lead to a point after three periods by outscoring the Falcons, 19-12, in the eight minutes of action following the intermission.

But in the fourth period after the score had

been tied, each team went to a press.

Farmington's pressure tactics worked and at the same time the Falcons managed to break the Southfield press as Cleveland led the way in the closing-period drive.

Cleveland ripped in 18 points for the winners while Mike Lynott had 11, McGregor nine and White and Ken Hildebrandt seven each to even the Farmington record at 1-1.

Roger Ovink collected 13 points in a losing cause.



JIM BLOOMHUFF, 47577 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, displays the rack of an 18-point buck he shot during the recently-ended deer season. He got the trophy in northern Oakland County, and it ranks as one of the best specimens in the state. (Observer photo)

Tigers List 30 Games During Spring Training

Manager Mayo Smith has summoned the Tigers to report Saturday, Feb. 22, for spring training at Lakeland, Fla., and Jim Campbell, executive vice-president and general manager, has announced a 30-game exhibition schedule which includes a barnstorming swing for the first time in three years.

All players -- outfielders and infielders as well as battery-men -- have been invited to show up ready to work out Feb. 22 at Marchant Stadium in Lakeland, where the World Champion Tigers have trained since 1934.

In order to have early bat-ting practices, selected minor league pitchers and catchers will start workouts at nearby Tigertown three days before the Tigers assemble.

Thirteen days will be available for drills before the Tigers swing into the exhibition season March 7, against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Bradenton, their new base formerly occupied by the Kansas City/Oakland Athletics. The final game in Florida will be played April 3 against the Cincinnati Reds at Lakeland.

FOLLOWING AN open date to break camp, the Tigers then will take on the Reds at Mont-gomery, Ala., April 5 and at Columbus, O., April 6.

That leaves one more day before the Tigers and Clevel-land Indians launch the regu-

Pressure Tactics Lead To Bentley Triumph

Pressure is the name of the game when Bentley High's basketball team takes the floor. Coach George Fettes believes in full-court presses and never letting up on rivals.

It's paid off handsomely for Bentley over the years with Suburban Six League and district titles.

Now Bentley is booming again. At least after two games, the Livonians boasted a 2-0 record after impressive victories over Farmington in the opener and then Fordson, 69-53, Tuesday night.

Both Farmington and Fordson have ranked as major basketball powers in suburban-land over the years.

AGAINST FORDSON, it took Bentley a period to get started. The Livonians led only 10-7, after eight minutes of action.

But halftime found Bentley leading 26-14 as Fordson again

was held to a seven-point per-fod.

"Even though our offense was some ragged in that first half, there was no way to fault our defense," Fettes declared.

Most teams usually score more than 14 points in a period. For a power to be held to 14 points for a half -- that takes some doing.

MARK CHAISSON drilled in eight of his 11 points in the second period to help Bentley pull into a sizable lead. Then in the third period Marv Hurlbut produced six points to swell

the Bentley lead to 45-27.

When the lead reached 20 in the final quarter, Fettes re-sorted to his subs so that he could get his regulars rested for the start of Bentley's bid for another Suburban Six League title.

Bentley had four players scoring in double figures. Lou Lovett had 15, Dave Sterling 14 and Chaiisson and Hurlbut 11 each.

Ed Umstead produced 13 in a losing cause.

Prep Schedule

BASKETBALL
Tuesday Edsel Ford at Franklin Plymouth at Wayne Friday Greene at Bentley North Farmington at Thurston Bedford Union at Plymouth Saturday Oakland at St. Andrews Pentac Northern at Farmington Walsh Lake at Riverston Auburn at Clarencville Clarencville at Riverston Tuesday Willow Run at Clarencville Pentac Northern at Bentley Franklin at Garden City West Thursday Bentley at Greentown Willow Run at Franklin Farmington at Riverston Clarencville at Crestwood Friday N. Farmington at Bedford Union Northville at Farmington Stevenson at Garden City East Thursday Dearborn at Stevenson Thurston at Bedford Union Ecorse at Stevenson Clarencville at Clackson Saturday Bentley at Henry Ford College Invitational Wednesday Lake Shore vs. North Farmington Trenton at Clarencville Monday Clarencville at Huron Invitational
WRESTLING
Friday Farmington at Bedford Union Northville at Farmington Stevenson at Garden City East Thursday Dearborn at Stevenson Thurston at Bedford Union Ecorse at Stevenson Clarencville at Clackson Saturday Bentley at Henry Ford College Invitational Wednesday Lake Shore vs. North Farmington Trenton at Clarencville Monday Clarencville at Huron Invitational

Sports Briefs

Oh, that Spencer Haywood! The new wilds of the University of Detroit is playing up to expectations with the Titans after leading the United States to victory in the recent Olympic Games.

He had led the Titans to three straight victories -- over Aquinas, over Western Michigan in overtime and over Windsor.

In the three games Haywood has scored 35, 37 and 38 points and averaged 22 rebounds per game.

What's more he has made 25 out of 28 free throws in the three games--a fantastic mark for a big man in basket-ball.

SCREEN PROCESS PRINTING

benmark

DISPLAY COMPANY

- POSTERS
- SUMMER STICKERS
- DECALS
- BOOKS
- HALFTONES
- SCHOOL DISPLAYS

2543 FIVE MILE

255-3750

Thurston Swims Past Pontiac Northern

Thurston High's swimming team, sparked by a double-victory by Tom Zeeb, overwhelmed Pontiac Northern, 71-30, in a dual meet.

Zeeb captured both the 200 and the 400-yard free style for Thurston.

Here's how Thurston swimmers placed:

Medley relay: 1--Thurston (Noren, Holcombe, Barringer, Lee), Time: 54.8.

200-yard free style: 1--Zeeb, 2--Hippaka.

Individual Medley: 1--Bruckman, Time 2:13.5.

Diving: 3--Buechan.

Butterfly: 1--Barringer, 2--Glasman, Time: 1:04.6.

100-yard free style: 1--Zeeb, 2--Kenya, Time: 55 seconds.

100-yard back: 2--Noren, 3--Currie, Winning time: 1:03.5.

400-yard free style: 1--Zeeb, 2--Hippaka, Time: 4:36.7.

Breaststroke: 1--Holcombe, 2--Paul, Time: 1:10.5.

Free style relay: 2--Thurston.

WE'RE HAVING AN OLD-FASHIONED *CHRISTMAS*

and it starts with a fresh-cut Michigan Spruce Tree

They smell good, look great!

Big selection! All fresh cut, sweet smelling old fashioned Michigan spruce are in the lot just behind the store. Shop same as store hours and choose your favorite soon!

Complete stock of decorations, ornaments and lights

We have a gift for every home on your list... ON DISPLAY! Shop our fantastic collection of wall decor and home decor items... outstanding!

Fireplaces and accessories, too

Color-Glo LOGS Pkg. of 4 Reg. \$1.54 1.79

Presto LOGS Pkg. of 4 Reg. \$1.99 1.39

it's all right here... on display!

American HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO. 31245 EIGHT MILE ROAD at MERRIMAN STORE HOURS Sat. 8 to 5:30 Sun. 10 to 4 Open Mon., Tues., Wed. 8 to 6 Thurs., Fri. 8 to 9 Phone 476-6240 or 637-2845

Kindling WOOD Taper Dry 98¢ Bu.

Fireplace Wood Mixed Hardwood White Birch

Christmas Specials

FANTASTIC SAVINGS on all

POLAROID CAMERAS

\$34.98 LATEST MODEL 210

POLAROID SWINGER \$12.88

Come in and see Mike at

ADRAY APPLIANCE

20219 Carlyle near Polham and Outer Drive Open 'til 9 - 274-9500