

RU Fails In Bid To Catch GC East

Redford Union was closing fast on front-running Garden City East in the Observerland cage ratings, but the gap has suddenly widened as RU fell to Bentley and East romped past Taylor Center.

It's No. 1 again for Billy Joe Young's Panthers with an overall mark of 12-2 but outlook Friday as East travels to Inkster.

REDFORD UNION remained in the No. 2 spot after a lopsided win over Thurston but an upset loss to Bentley. Franklin lost a non-league clash to Dearborn but rebounded with a last second win over John Glenn and a Northwest Suburban cage championship.

Franklin stands 11-4 overall and 7-2 in league play and has won seven of its last eight games, to remain in No. 3.

Now comes the shifting in the standings ... Garden City West won its sixth consecutive game over Cherry Hill to stand 11-4 and climbed to No. 4. Look for a GC West-GC East battle in the district final.

BENTLEY upset No. 2 RU to boost its overall mark to 12-5, in a jump from No. 7 to No. 5.

Clarenceville slipped into the No. 6 after a disappointing loss to Clarkson in the battle for first in the Wayne-Oakland conference. Brother Rice fell from No. 4 to No. 7 after a 59-35 lashing from U-D in the Catholic League championship clash.

Churchill assured itself of at least a tie for the Western Six title with a 70-61 win over Farmington Harrison and the Chargers moved from No. 9 to No. 10 in the ratings.

JOHN GLENN lost its third straight and has fallen to No. 9 after once being in the No. 2 spot. Glenn lost to Franklin and all hopes of a "first" Northwest Suburban title.

Country Day remained No. 10 with an 83-75 victory over Cranbrook pushing the Yellowjacket record to 9-5.

One note of interest that is sure to shake up the ratings is that four of the top 10 teams in Observerland are meeting in the Franklin district to kick off the state tournament round-off glory.

GC East, Churchill, GC West and Franklin join Cherry Hill and Plymouth and in the Franklin districts with the first game on Monday, Feb. 28, 8. Churchill vs. No. 3 Franklin. The winner of the Southfield district which No. 2

Redford Union is in, will be involved in the same regional at Franklin.

What better way to decide the No. 1 team, than to have them go against one another ...

The ratings:

	W	L
1. Garden City East	12	2
2. Redford Union	13	3
3. Franklin	11	4
4. Garden City West	11	4
5. Bentley	12	5
6. Clarenceville	11	5
7. Brother Rice	12	5
8. Churchill	11	5
9. John Glenn	9	5
10. Country Day	9	5

Captures First League Title

Franklin Edges Glenn, 55-52

By ARTEE

After frowning on a tight, tense band of Patriots from Franklin High for three quarters, Old Dame Fortune suddenly decided it was time to smile and did it in the final six seconds of the game ... that lone smile gave the Pats three points, a 55-52 victory and their first Northwest Suburban League basketball title.

It also turned the moans and groans of hundreds of Franklin backers into huge grins and left Glenn's followers limp and forlorn after one of the most exciting games of the season.

It will be a long time before those in the stands will forget the dramatic finish. It came on a play that appeared to have gone away with only six seconds on the clock.

JIM WILLIAMS, Glenn's lanky center, had just knotted the count, 52-52, on a one-hander after a deliberate ball-control move to get the final shot. It worked when Williams was open momentarily for a pass and split the cords.

That left Franklin with the ball under the Glenn basket and six seconds remaining. Coach Bob Visser called a time out to discuss strategy and apparently it was de-

termined to make a full court pass to Center Tim Dietz and a relay to Rick Graham cutting under the hoop.

Mark Newman took the ball out of bounds, made the long pass to Dietz, a bit wild and the ball eluded off Dietz's fingers into the hands of R. Graham cutting under the basket. Rick grabbed the ball and whipped in a one hander for the game winning shot.

He was helped by Kim Horton and converted to put Franklin ahead by three points with three seconds to play.

GLENN COACH Gordon Davis called a conference of his team for the strategy on

one last shot and hopefully a foul to knot the score. Visser had his squad together at the same time and gave instructions to get out of the way of all Glenn players and allow the Rockets to get the shot.

The result was that three of the Franklin players sat on the floor while Glenn made two quick passes to get in position for the final shot and did score just after the whistle sounded ... and it didn't count.

It was Franklin's 11th victory against four losses and Glenn's fifth defeat in 15 starts. The triumph clinched the league crown since the Patriots are now 9-2 in Northwest action with one game

remaining and Glenn dropped a foul to knot the score.

Dietz was the dominating individual, scoring 33 points and converting on 15 of 17 from the foul line.

Matter of fact, without Dietz, Franklin would have been out of things rather quickly ... he accounted for 19 of his team's 25 first half points.

Perhaps it was the pressure and the players were tense but the fact is that Franklin's only strong point in the first half was a tight zone defense. None but Dietz came close to hitting the loop.

Meanwhile, Glenn set up a tight man-to-man defense, doubling up on Dietz. All that proved was that one man couldn't stop the Franklin star and the two defenders were constantly fouling him.

WILLIAMS had three personals early in the second period and sat out the remainder of the half. That put the burden on Dave Carlington, who was quickly in foul trouble, and Jeff Brittain, who also contributed to the Dietz cause.

Glenn had an 11-9 edge at the quarter and 27-25 at halftime.

Coming out for the second half, Glenn shifted into a zone and Franklin used a full court press before dropping into its zone.

GLENN boosted its lead to 30-25 after two minutes of the third frame before the Patriots began to hit and finally tied the game, 30-30 at the 5:44 point.

Franklin went ahead at 5:14 and opened up a 43-37 margin with 38 seconds to play in the period. Williams hit from the

free throw line in the final seconds for a 43-38 count going into the final stanza.

Then the Patriots hit another drought which found Glenn pulling up with a point at 43-42 after three minutes.

It was a seesaw scrap from then on with the score knotted at 45-45 and 47-47. Dietz hit twice from the foul line to make it 51-48 with 2:31 remaining. McBride connected from the side and it was 51-50. Newman made one of two and Franklin was in front, 52-50 with 28 seconds to play.

FRANKLIN regained the ball when Newman missed the second attempt and started to stall. A bad pass turned the ball over to Glenn with 26 seconds to go.

Coach Davis ordered a time out and Glenn came back with deliberate ball control to get one final shot. The strategy worked with Williams getting the tying basket.

Then came the play that had more than a little luck with it and gave the victory to Franklin.

BENTLEY	G	F	P
Wetzel	4	8	14
Gates	2	4	10
Bawalski	1	3	5
Bollin	9	14	22
Chalson	2	2	4
Sierlet	1	1	2
Nearse	1	1	2
Totals	10	24	62

REDFORD UNION	G	F	P
Kennes	4	2	10
Falks	1	2	4
Schaner	10	11	24
Durance	0	2	2
Bjork	0	1	1
Bjork	1	1	2
Totals	17	30	54

BENTLEY	G	F	P
BENTLEY	14	15	24
R.U.	10	14	14

FRANKLIN	G	F	P
Dietz	2	15	33
Law	7	13	2
R. Graham	4	2	10
Williams	0	2	2
W. Graham	1	1	1
Waterston	2	0	4
Totals	17	23	35

GLENN	G	F	P
McIntire	2	1	5
Lee	2	2	11
Williams	4	5	12
Carlington	3	0	6
Horton	2	6	12
Reitz	1	0	2
Brittain	2	0	4
Totals	19	14	32

FRANKLIN	G	F	P
FRANKLIN	9	16	12
GLENN	11	16	14



WINNER-LOSER — Franklin's Tim Dietz stands poised at the free-throw line while John Glenn's Dave Williams hangs his head in defeat as Glenn lost in its struggle for the Northwest Suburban cage crown. (Observer photo by Harry Maute)

Bentley Surprises RU Cagers, 62-54

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

The Bulldogs might not catch the Panthers but they sure took a bite out of the Panther pride.

Redford Union's Panthers were stymied in their bid for the Suburban Eight basketball crown as Bentley led for all but two minutes in a 62-54 upset.

With each team having one league match remaining, RU remains in first with a 9-2 record while Bentley sits in second at 8-3. RU hosts Belleville Friday and Bentley travels to Dearborn.

"I think our chances of catching RU are better than most people think," said Bulldog Coach John Farrar. "Belleville is enjoying a three game winning streak and RU has to be down."

Belleville pulled a surprise over Bentley a week prior in a 69-64 upset.

RU stands 13-3 overall and Bentley boasts a 12-5 mark.

The Panthers won the opening tip and jumped to a 3-0 lead on a free throw by Mark Kenney and a bucket by Bob Schaner, but the tide was soon to change with Bentley's Tim Bollin hitting two from the corner and Brian Gates scoring on a layup.

RU rebounded on a tip-in by Schaner and a two-pointer by Kenney and the Panthers were up, 8-4, with 2:23 remaining in the first quarter.

But this was the last time RU could look at the scoreboard and cheer.

BOLLIN hit from the floor to deadlock it at eight all, and Dan Weiss popped in the go-ahead basket with 1:47 left in the quarter and the Bulldogs never lost the lead again, and led after one quarter, 14-10.

The Bulldogs pulled away to a five point margin but RU kept picking away and closed to within one point on four different occasions.

Schaner connected on a bucket and Mark Durance made good one of two from the line to tie the contest at 24-24 with 25 seconds remaining in the half.

RON BAWULSKI put Bentley up with two freethrows but collected his fourth foul moments later against RU's Tom Burke. The one-and-one situation failed and Bentley led at the half, 26-24.

Kenney won the second half tip and Schaner tied it on a short jumper but Al Sierlet and Bollin put Bentley back up, 32-26. RU was nearing the freezing point midway in the quarter and Bentley spurred to a seven point margin.

The Panthers missed on many scoring opportunities but fought to within one point at the end of three quarters on a bucket by Schaner with three seconds remaining, and RU had sliced the margin to 41-40.

Bentley won its first tip to start the final stanza and Gates swished home a two-pointer to put the Bulldogs up by three. RU closed to within one point on seven different occasions in the fourth quarter but just couldn't come up with the clutch basket.

WITH 1:35 REMAINING, Scott Bjork hit on a 20-footer and RU trailed 52-51, but Bentley proceeded to reel off six straight points while RU missed on three one-and-one situations.

Temper flared with 48 seconds showing when Burke fouled Gates on a driving layup and both crashed into the wall. Double technical fouls were assessed, and when the air cleared, Bentley was up, 66-52, and both players watched the remainder of the game of the bench.

Dan Weiss sank two from the line to close out the scoring and the Bulldogs kept their hopes alive.

"Our big key was our freethrow shooting," added

Farrar. "We were really smoking at the line, hitting on 24 of 27."

"And Bollin did one heck of a job on Kenney. This is the second time he has outplayed him. In the first round, Bollin got 25 points and 16 rebounds while Kenney totaled 22 points, and 12 rebounds."

This time Bollin hit for 22 points and hauled in 14 rebounds, while Kenney collected only 10 points and 10 rebounds.

"Kenney just couldn't get untracked," said RU Coach Carl Andrews. "Bentley did an excellent job of double teaming him."

"We had our opportunities but just couldn't capitalize," said Andrews. "We were made to play Bentley's style of basketball ... slow."

BENTLEY was outshot from the floor in the fourth quarter as RU hit for five field goals, but the Bulldogs mustered only two but what a difference at the free throw line ... Bentley made good 17 of 19 while RU hit on only four of 12 with four of the missed being one-and-one situations.

The Bulldogs made good 24 of 27 from the line while RU made 20 and missed 29 in the words of Bentley's Farrar. "RU really took the apple at the line."

Bentley shot 19 for 45 from the floor for 42 per cent and RU hit on 17 for 48 for 35 per cent.

The Bulldogs also held the edge in rebounding, 32-24 with Bollin hauling in 14.

The box score:

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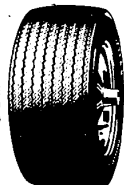


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BLOCKING A SHOT — Bentley's Dan Weiss (15) blocks a shot by Redford Union's Mark Durance (11). (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)