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vs  
**BOSTON**  
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SATURDAY, MARCH 5  
DETROIT vs. NEW YORK  
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**LOOSE BALL** — Farmington's Robert Drake (15) and Stevenson's Kelly Smith (14) contest for a loose ball in semi-final action at North Farmington. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

# Bentley Tips North, 54-46; Spartans Run Past Falcons

By TOM DONOGHUE  
Observer Sports Editor

Last year's "cinderella" basketball team has found its way to another district championship clash.

Stevenson knocked off Farmington High in the semifinals at North Farmington, 70-58, to meet Bentley in the battle for the district crown with the winner traveling to the Franklin regionals.

The Spartans took a regular season losing record all the way to the state quarterfinals last year and boast a 9-8 mark this season.

Stevenson won the opening tip with Dale Haberman popping in the first bucket and the Spartans never wavered a sweat, afterwards with Farmington trailing after one quarter, 16-7.

THE FALCONS closed the gap to six points midway through the second quarter, 24-18, with Joe Montgomery finding the range but Stevenson's Mike Patrick and Haberman got hot from the floor and the Spartans went up at the half, 39-24.

Farmington won the second half tip and moved to within 10 points near the end of the third quarter, but Stevenson spurred to a 54-41 lead. Jeff Baker opened the final quarter with two free throws and Bill Marra popped one in to slice it back to 10 points, but the Spartans were not a squad

to sit on their lead as they proceeded to reel off seven straight points to lead 61-45.

Montgomery rebounded with a Falcon three-point play but Kelly Smith took over control as a Spartan victory.

It was a dismal end to a disappointing season for Coach Ray Boyle and his Falcon cagers with a 3-7 Inter-Lakes record and an overall 15-23 mark.

On the other hand Stevenson, Coach George VanWagoner has to be beaming after the semifinal win along with the upset victory over state-ranked Walpole Central. Spartans stand 16-7 overall and finished second in the Inter-Lakes conference with a 7-3 mark.

Bentley trailed for three quarters in district semifinal action against North Farmington but came on strong in the final stanza to topple the Raiders, 54-46.

The Bulldogs won the right to face Stevenson in the district finale. The two squads faced off once during regular season play with Bentley the victor, 56-53.

North Farmington tipped Harrison in the first round, 66-43, and opened the Bentley clash with an 11-8 first quarter score. The Raiders won the opening tip and Jim Fredericks put North on the board. The 2-0 lead held good

up to the four minute mark in the first period with Bentley's Tim Bollin notching it up at 2-2.

THE RAIDERS jumped ahead, 8-2, on buckets by Kim Parker and Dave Ellsworth. However Bentley rebounded with Bollin and Dan Weiss hitting and the Bulldogs trailed after one quarter, 11-8.

North won the second quarter tip and spurred ahead, 19-10. The Bulldogs started dropping for Bentley, and Bollin popped in three consecutive baskets to narrow the gap to 18-16. Gordie Chasson tied it at 18-18 but the Raiders maintained their poise with Parker hitting a 15 footer at the buzzer to give North a 23-20 halftime advantage.

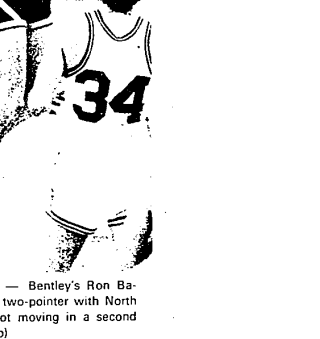
Bentley won its first tip to start the second half and Chasson narrowed the margin to one point but Fredericks and Lewis Doot put North up by five up till mid-point in the quarter when Chasson tied it a 27-27.

THE BULLDOGS couldn't get over the hump and North

FARMINGTON			
	FG	FT	TP
Baker	2	4	8
Montgomery	10	24	22
Cook	4	0	8
Eathorne	3	8	12
Drake	0	2	2
Yank	1	0	2
Hagen	0	0	0
Yates	21	16	21
STEVENSON			
	FG	FT	TP
C. Centers	8	0	16
T. Centers	3	1	7
Sadley	1	0	2
Smith	8	4	20
Haberman	5	2	12
Fisher	1	1	2
Patrick	2	2	6
Kruzel	1	2	2
Totals	23	12	70
Score by quarters:			
FARMINGTON	7	17	17
STEVENSON	16	23	15

BENTLEY			
	FG	FT	TP
Weiss	3	1	7
Gates	1	3	5
Bawulski	4	1	9
Bollin	10	1	21
Chasson	5	0	10
Greer	0	0	0
Totals	26	6	54
NORTH FARMINGTON			
	FG	FT	TP
Doot	1	0	2
McCrum	0	1	1
Ellsworth	7	1	14
Fredericks	6	3	15
Flake	8	12	32
Totals	20	6	44
Score by quarters:			
BENTLEY	8	12	14
NORTH FARMINGTON	11	16	7



**BULLDOG SCORE** — Bentley's Ron Bawulski leaps high for a two-pointer with North Farmington's Lewis Doot moving in a second too late. (Observer photo)

**IN THE POCKET**  
By W.W. EDGAR

Penny and Fred McLean are writing a new page in the history of bowling in the metropolitan Detroit area.

As a husband and wife combination they are setting the pace in their respective leagues and it is the first time that such a thing has happened.

Penny, who soared to stardom last fall by winning place on the U.S. team in the world championships in Milwaukee, now is leading the Ladies Major League with a 195 average.

Meanwhile, her husband, has taken over the pace making roll in the Garden Lanes Classic averages with a 209.

At this figure he holds a one pin margin over Lou Haydu, the veteran of many an all-star classic battle.

Should the McLeans maintain their present pace it will be the first time that a husband and his wife have topped their league averages for the entire campaign.

IF YOU HAVE been in one of those who have been wondering just how many people in the United States take part in bowling, the National Bowling Council came up with the answer this week.

According to a combination survey by the Lou Harris and the Gallup polls, there are 52 million people in the country who have bowled at least once this year.

At the same time it was revealed that of this number 18 million are youths. And 55 per cent of this number are boys.

JACK BROWN regained a place among the high scorers for the week when he paced Our Lady of Sorrows' team at Bel-Aire Lanes with a 709 that included games of 221, 211 and 271.

His closest rival, Emil Grishman, couldn't stand the pace after opening with games of 245 and 212 and slumped to 190 for a 647.

In the Classic Ron Weintraub barely crossed the 700 barrier when he linked games of 697, 233 and 201 for 701. Morry Sloan was right behind with 277, 255 and 186 for 688.

Jack Fidles paced the Gys and Dolls league with a 675 that included a 256 closing game and Dorothy Huston showed the way for the women with a 539.

HENRY PETRIE was the Man of the Week in the Livonia Mall League at Country Lanes. After an

opener of 247 he slumped to 177 and then closed in fine style with a 289 for 630.

Meanwhile Bob Raf took high single honors in the Senior House circuit with a 262.

DICK BEATTIE continued along the comeback trail to high scores when he gained top honors in the Westland Classic.

He put together games of 216, 232 and 227 for 675 to beat out Don Levaska who had games of 277, 215 and 168 for 660.

Bill Spargo made a strong comeback after an opening 182 to post counts of 244 and 233 for 659 and third place.

ONLY 11 PINS separated the top three scorers in the Garden Lanes Classic.

Joe Messico showed the way with 688, while Lou Haydu was right behind with 681 and Ray Thorpe landed third with 672.

Among the other high scorers were Fred McLean with 662, Dick Preston with 660, Pat Isken with 658 and Tom Kress with 650.

JOHN COX outscored his rivals to win a three way battle for scoring honors in the Wonderland Classic Tuesday night.

When the final pin fell he had registered a 728 series to best Jim Riley with 713 and Dave Waters with 707.

ALTHOUGH HE slipped in his middle game Jerry Korchock topped the Oak Park Lanes Senior House League with a 680 count. He opened with a 239, slipped to 194, and came back with 247.

Two pins behind came Sid Feldman with games of 224, 222 and 232. Other high scorers included Joe Ball 645, Pat Smith 633, Howard Marsh 634 and Ray Wark 632.

Proceeds will go for the Southfield Hockey Club for equipment. The price is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 17 years or under. There will be door prizes.

## Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

It's later than you think, especially if you are a harness racing fan. Northville Downs moves into its second last weekend tonight (Saturday) and will follow the Wolverine Raceway, which operates at the Detroit Race Course, will open its gates to horses next Friday.

Hazel Park started the thoroughbred campaign this week up with more than 15,000 in the stands and the mutual handle went all the way to \$1,067,000... quite a few more dollars than track officials expected for a February opening.

Which leads one to conjecture whether the Michigan tracks are ready for winter racing. The answer would have to be "yes" as far as facilities for spectators are concerned.

We're just wondering what the true answer would be if one took a good hard look at the racing strips.

Hazel Park found itself in a position where the jockeys threatened to halt racing last Wednesday because of the rain. There were holes in the racing strip on the clubhouse track and the jocks, after a couple of spills, decided they didn't want any part of races going the way round the five-eighths mile track.

"We want all remaining races to go four furlongs and nothing else," their spokesmen notified track officials.

It took a good bit of doing but arrangements were finally made with owners and trainers and the program went on with four furlong events.

Earlier in the year, Northville Downs, which installed a new surface of slag and limestone during the break between the middle of December and January 1, found conditions almost impossible when an unseasonable thaw and heavy rains on the same day caused the strip to break down in several places.

It was quickly corrected the following day and the programs continued uninterrupted. But the fact remains that all local tracks operating in winter for the first time can expect track problems.

The lessons learned this year will bring corrections in another season and nothing but headaches this year.

WITH THE OPENING program less than two weeks away, there'll be plenty of activity starting Monday at Wolverine Raceway.

Vice President and General Manager Richard Wilson spent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week introducing Earl Flora, the new PH man for Wolverine and the Detroit Racing Association, to the news media.

Come Monday, Earl will be on his own and Wilson will turn his attentions to checking the stall allotments and drawing up a condition book for the first two weeks.

Paddock Supervisor Clayton Smith has been busy checking stall applications for the past three weeks and sending confirmations to those receiving stable space.

Then there are the hundreds of odd jobs that have to be taken care of in the final 10 days before the start of a meeting. Anyone familiar with race tracks well knows the plan can look like a pig sty four days before the opening and then be epic and span and in apple pie order on the first night.

That's one of the things that has always amazed us... visit a plant a few days early and then go to the opener. You can't believe your eyes... but it happens year after year.

THOSE FOLLOWERS of the standbreds who have been attending the nightly programs at Northville Downs are singing the praises of a speedy three-year-old by the name of Creeper Limbo. The colt may not be worth a plugged nickel when the summer campaign arrives but right now he's the talk of the Midwest with his string of four straight victories.

Owned by Joe Sacco of Oak Park and Al Rosenberg of Southfield, the son of Wadsworth Creed has yet to taste defeat this year.

He started his current winning streak on Jan. 12 with a nine-length triumph and none has come close since.

Racing Secretary Harry Peterson has moved Creeper Limbo up in class in each start but the colt has whipped everything sent against him.

Creeper recorded No. 4 Thursday night in impressive style. Even though it seemed for a time that Drive-Trainer Tom Harner had outsmarted himself when he tucked the colt in last in a seven horse field and still had him there at the halfway point.

That's when Harner sent the colt to the outside. The field had barely turned into the backstretch until Creeper was on top and he stayed there for the remainder of the mile.