

Murray-Wright Tips Franklin, 70-59

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By ARTEE

After trailing by 20 points midway through the second period, Franklin High's Patriots struck back to tie Detroit Murray-Wright in the early moments of the final quarter and then wilted in the closing three minutes to fade out of the regional Class A tournament, 70-59.

Franklin appeared hopelessly out of the running

when the Pilots hit a hot streak that ended their lead to a 23-10 lead at the end of the opening stanza and 34-14 halfway through the second. But then the Patriots staged one of the greatest comebacks in Franklin tournament history to make up the huge deficit.

Then, with victory in reach, Franklin wilted in the fading moments which saw the Detroiters tally four quick

The Pilots put on a stall in the final two and a half minutes and Coach George Duncan used the closing minute to use his second stringers.

It was the 14th victory against seven losses for the Pilots, who gained the regional finals for the first time. Franklin dropped its ninth game against 13 triumphs.

Koger, Walt Howard, Johnny Davis and Bob Slaughter hit for four double deckers in less than two minutes to pace the assault.

Jeff Waterstone hit from the corner in the opening moment of the second period for a 23-12 count only to have Koger and Davis connect for four points each and boost the lead to 31-12.

Kevin Kaseta finally tallied for Franklin at the four minute mark but the Pilots had a 20 point margin at 24-14 moment later.

That's when the Patriots finally settled down and started to play the kind of basketball that gave them a winning record for the season.

Tim Fischer, Gly Burke and Kaseta began to hit from all angles and gradually whittled the deficit to 12 points at halftime, 41-29.

Coming back after the rest period, Franklin proceeded to outplay the Pilots, 19-10, and was within a point of a tie, 49-48, with 30 seconds to play.

Davis, who led the winners with 23 points, flipped in a slot

quick baskets to widen the gap to 10 points. It spelled finish for Franklin which never recovered.

Kaseta sent the Franklin rosters into ecstacy with a rebound to hold the lead to 51-50.

With 7:17 showing on the clock, Matt DeMars made the second of two free throws and it was 51-49.

That's as close as the Patriots came to winning. Davis connected from the corner and then grabbed the pass in bounds for another and the Pilots were ahead, 55-53.

Burke kept Franklin going with a long shot from outside the foul line. Koger and R. King widened the Murray-Wright edge to 59-53.

Burke was fouled and made both, 59-55. Waterstone intercepted a pass in midcourt and dribbled in for a short shot, 59-57. Davis banged in another from the corner and the Pilots led by four, 61-57.

Brad Emmons hit the hoop from the side and Franklin was two back, 61-59.

Then with 3:17 to play, Davis and R. King tallied four

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★★★ MURRAY-WRIGHT (70)

FG	FT	SP	
14	0-0	28	
Koger	4	1-2	9
Howard	3	0-0	8
King	2	1-4	6
Slaughter	5	1-3	11
R. King	0	0-0	0
Totals	15	3-12	70

★★★ FRANKLIN (59)

FG	FT	SP	
11	0-0	6	
Burke	7	3-4	17
Kaseta	4	2-3	10
Fischer	4	1-1	9
Emmons	1	0-2	2
Dawkins	0	0-0	0
Knapp	1	0-0	2
Totals	26	7-12	59

By period: Murray-Wright 23 18 19 20 Franklin 10 19 11 19

Romulus Cagers Crush Glenn Regional Hopes

When you sit on a buzz saw, it's hard to know which tooth bites you -- and that's about the way it was for John Glenn High School Tuesday night.

The Rockets from Westland hadn't seen such cannonading all season and never once did the lead as they fell to Romulus, 81-58, in the first round of the Class A regional basketball elimination at Belleville.

Glenn had won its district title by beating the host

Belleville team on the same court Saturday afternoon, but the Northwest Suburban champions were no match for the Romulus wizards Tuesday.

Friday night, Romulus will play the winner of Western's Bedford-Detroit Southwestern game for the right to advance to the state quarter-finals.

With eight points from 6-5 John Long, Romulus powered in front, 14-4, in the first four minutes and was never headed. In fact, Glenn was down 6-0 before Dave

Carlington put the Rockets on the board and it was Romulus in front, 21-11, at the end of the first quarter.

Romulus improved its season's record to 22-2, and left Glenn with an 18-1 mark for the campaign. However, the Rockets had the satisfaction of winning their league crown and the district tournament, both for the first time, under Coach Gordon Davis and it has to go down as the school's best basketball season ever.

The hot-shooting Romulus

gunners ran their lead to 50-29 by halftime and then coasted home free after quelling a mild third period Glenn uprising that brought five straight baskets.

Carlington and Jeff Brittain each popped in two baskets and J.B. McBride added another off Glenn's last break during that spurt. This pulled Glenn within 13 points at 59-46 after three periods, but Romulus then took left again for a 22-12 margin in the final stanza.

Jim Hall poured 28 points through the hoop for the winners and three others were in double figures. Carlington, who has paced Glenn all season, led his troops again with 26 but for the first time Glenn was outscored and this helped spell the difference.

"They just came out and took the game away from us in the opening minutes," admitted Davis.

However, he has consolation in knowing that in doing this Romulus shot a red-hot 65 per cent from the floor in canning 37 of 56 field goal attempts. In the first half alone, the victors dropped 23 of 30 shots through the hoop for 76 per cent, and no Glenn team ever produced has been able to counteract that sort of a blitz.



REBOUND SCRAMBLE--Franklin High's Jamie Knapp (42) and Kevin Kaseta (34) vie for a loose ball under their basket. Murray-Wright upended Franklin in the regional clash, 70-59. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Churchill Locks Horns Tonight With Walled Lake In Regional

By FRED DeLANO

There's no telling where or when the dream season is going to end for Livonia Churchill, basketball king of the Western Six and pretender to the Suburban Eight crown after whipping the section stars from Churchill having soundly beaten three of the Sub-8's elite within a span of five nights last week for the school's first district crown.

Livonia Bentley fell, 50-44. Then Redford Union was a 61-52 victim. When the district title was on the line Saturday, the Chargers made it nine wins in their last 10 games by crushing Plymouth, 68-57.

Early in the second quarter against Bentley, the only time Churchill will face the victor between host Franklin and Detroit Murray-Wright for the regional championship. That's a title which means advancing to the state Class A quarter-finals, heady stuff for a school such as Churchill which has been in operation only five years.

Central beat Churchill, 64-54, in a non-league contest at Walled Lake in January after the count was tied 48-all midway in the final period. Central is led by 6.81 all-state prospect Randy

McLean, who has been averaging 30 points and 24 rebounds per game. Churchill won the second meeting, 68-59.

So much for the immediate future. It's the immediate past which has quickened the pulse of Charger rooters. The excitement stems from Churchill having soundly beaten three of the Sub-8's elite within a span of five nights last week for the school's first district crown.

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Damaska took a 16-point-per-game average into the tournament and then scored 22 against both Bentley and RU and 25 against Plymouth. The latter output matched his career high.

Churchill romped to a 22-14 first quarter lead over the Rocks and made 14 of 21 shots in the middle of the third period the margin had grown to 17 (59-33) before the Rocks found themselves.

A flurry from Ron Egloff, Steve Robb, Jeff Jacobs, Jim Salajay, Tim Van Wageningen and Bruce Johnson finally brought the Rocks within six at 61-55, but it was a case of too little, too late as ball control tactics by the Chargers quelled Plymouth while the clock ticked away.

Robb topped Plymouth scorers with 17, and the defeat left Plymouth with a record of 1-15 under first-year coach Fred Thomann.

No other Plymouth team ever won as many, 14 having been the previous record.

Winning the district under these circumstances was particularly satisfying to Charger Coach Pat Montag, 600. When Churchill opened, he took the head coaching role after several years as

Plymouth assistant, and his wife still teaches in the Plymouth system at Fiegel Elementary School.

"It was electrifying," he enthused at game's end. "They're a fine team, but we outscored them and outworked them. We needed the ball with authority."

No one quarreled with that analysis, but Wednesday night it was a new ball game. Those that remain in Michigan's "March madness" are all district champions, a threatening McLean-led Walled Lake team among them.

★★★ CHURCHILL (68)

FG	FT	SP	
16	3-5	13	
Robb	7	3-5	17
Egloff	11	2-5	24
Braun	3	7-8	13
Read	3	3-3	9
Salajay	1	1-2	3
Fischer	1	2-3	3
Totals	23	11-26	68

★★★ PLYMOUTH (27)

FG	FT	SP	
7	3-5	17	
Robb	7	3-5	17
Egloff	11	2-5	24
Braun	3	7-8	13
Read	3	3-3	9
Salajay	1	1-2	3
Fischer	1	2-3	3
Totals	23	11-26	68

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