

All Surprises Belleville-Bentley Downs Ply., Ford

Late Rally Nets 1st Loop Win

The old saying of "as long as there's life, there's hope" works in sports, too.

Ask Redford Union high school's basketball team.

Especially ask Coach Milo Karhu of R. U.

Not many would have given a penny for Redford Union's chances against Belleville last Friday night when the teams reached the three-quarter mark with Belleville clinging to a 47-38 lead.

Yet, the "impossible" happened in the final eight minutes of the game.

Redford Union outscored Belleville, 19-7, in those last 480 seconds and the final score read:

Redford Union 57, Belleville 54.

"It was one of the greatest comebacks ever staged by a Redford team," Karhu said after it was all over.

"They just went to work," explained the coach. "We pressed them and forced them into mistakes. We worked our way into good shots and we didn't get rattled."

"As our boys started to smell the victory, their play kept improving."

Sophomore Leland Bjerkie was the star of the closing drive. Although he played the entire game, Bjerkie had only one point for three periods of action. In the closing chapter, he pumped in eight.

All Maebach topped the victors in scoring with eight baskets and one free throw for 20 points.

Bjerkie was next with 24-10. Then came Bjerkie with his nine points.

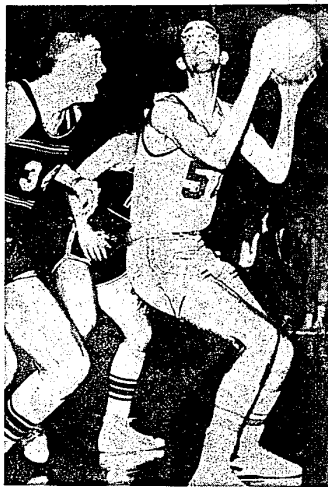
Oren Newton and Mike McCrea each had four baskets for eight points. Bob Baumgartner had three points and Doug Misch a couple points.

Redford Union jumped into an 11-9 lead at the end of the first period. Halftime saw Belleville leading, 30-29, then Belleville added to its margin before Redford Union put on its stirring windup.

"If the kids can continue to hustle and show the desire they did against Belleville, we'll be tough the rest of the way . . . particularly as some of the younger boys gain experience," Coach Karhu added.

This Friday night, Redford Union will host Allen Park.

The R. U. reserves scored easily over Belleville, 42-23, with Charles Livermore getting 21 points.



DON'T SHOOT!—Tom Cabana of Belleville tries unsuccessfully to stop All Mähabach of Redford from scoring. The basket was good and Redford Union went on to win.

OBSERVER SPORTS

By George Haskin

A day in the life of a jet-age reporter:

6:35 a.m. — Alarm rings, but not to awaken you. It's your wife who pops (I) from the sack to make ready for teaching duties at Oak Park High School.

6:55 a.m. — Daughter Julie announces that she's up.

7:15 a.m. — Son Douglas cries for his day's allowance. Mother says she is "broke," and then makes a "raid" on her supposedly sleeping husband's pocketbook.

7:45 a.m. — "The better-half gets ready to rush out of the house. 'Have a nice trip,' she declares . . . and she's on her way.

7:52 a.m. — We gather at the clock and decide it might be a good idea to get up.

8:08 a.m. — No. 1 son Richard wonders just how we'll make it to Metropolitan Airport in time for a 9:25 a.m. plane.

8:10 a.m. — We check at Metro Airport. And like a good son, call mother to tell her we're off on another of those one-day trips with the Detroit Pistons.

9:25 a.m. — American Airlines pilot says we'll be leaving in a few seconds . . . that while the plane is equipped with new Astrovision (a sort of television), the gadget isn't working yet.

9:40 a.m. — Plane lifts itself from the runway, makes a right turn toward Cleveland and we're on our way.

9:43 a.m. — We're in the clouds and all sight of land is lost.

10:30 a.m. — Land is sighted again.

10:45 a.m. — Plane pulls to a stop in front of runway gate at Newark Airport.

11:02 a.m. — Bus departs for Manhattan.

11:28 a.m. — Arrive West Side Terminal on New York's 42nd Street.

11:40 a.m. — Reach hotel where Pistons are staying. But nobody's in lobby.

11:55 a.m. — Purchase ticket to Radio City Music Hall only to discover that we already have been there. So we wait for a stage show to start an hour later.

1:35 p.m. — Hop a Fifth Avenue bus up town to visit doctor brother. You haven't seen traffic jams until you see what they have in New York City.

2:42 p.m. — Meet the residence of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy. Two patrolmen stand guard.

2 p.m. — Meet with brother.

2:45 p.m. — Take off via bus, then subway to headquarters of National Basketball Association in Empire State Building.

3:14 p.m. — Spot a hot dog joint along 34th St. So why not a nibble?

3:25 p.m. — Meet with President Walter Kennedy of the NBA . . . a gent who is doing a great job for the pro cagers. It's far cry from where we sit on the 33rd floor of Empire State Building to where we first met Mr. Kennedy years ago up at Notre Dame.

5:05 p.m. — Board a jammed subway train to head for Madison Square Garden. Jammed really isn't the word. Sardines aren't tightly packed in cans as people are in New York subways at rush-hour time.

5:30 p.m. — Stop at hotel, where Pistons are — directly across the street from Madison Square Garden. Run into ex-Pistons Coach and Player Dick McGuire. Dickie looks fit enough to still be playing.

6:10 p.m. — Walk across the street with Pistons G. M. Don Watrick.

6:15 p.m. — Enter the employees' door at the Garden . . . and the watchman has silly notion that we're players . . . Tells us which dressing room to go to.

6:30 p.m. — First game of a doubleheader begins. It's Philadelphia vs. Baltimore.

6:55 p.m. — Chat with Lennie Koppelt, veteran sports scribe of New York Times, who comes to Detroit during the summer with the Yankees.

8:00 p.m. — First game ends. Philadelphia wins.

8:05 p.m. — Re-meet Arnie Horst, new owner of Baltimore team in NBA. Last time we saw Horst, he was retiring in the NBA.

8:45 p.m. — Pistons begin play against New York Knicks.

9:39 p.m. — Halftime finds Pistons trailing by 12 points.

10:45 p.m. — Game is over. Pistons win by a point.

10:46 p.m. — You're on the phone to Detroit Free Press to tell them the story of the victory.

10:55 p.m. — Now it's Don Kremer at WWJ-TV to whom you pass along the information.

10:57 p.m. — Van Patrick of Channel 2 is on the end of the phone line.

10:59 p.m. — You're talking with Paul Carey of WJR.

11:02 p.m. — You're off for the waiting bus that takes players to Kennedy Airport.

11:15 p.m. — "Will we make 11:45 departure?" Star Ray Scott worries.

11:41 p.m. — Team checks into hotel.

11:57 p.m. — Seven minutes late, Northwest Airlines Flight 245 pulls away from ramp.

12:02 a.m. — Referee hostess serves sandwiches.

1:10 a.m. — Pretty Ron Rakel, riding with team, says: "There's Detroit all right."

1:22 a.m. — Touchdown.

1:26 a.m. — You're deplaning.

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Livonians Jump Off to Early Command

So far, Coach George Fefles has to admit he's happy the way things are going for his Bentley high school basketball team.

Three games — three victories — with the big one yet far coming over Plymouth, 50-39, last Friday night as Bentley started the defense of its Suburban Six League title on the right foot.

"The team has come along very well," said Fefles after last Friday's win in the Bentley gym against Plymouth.

"We're getting balanced scoring, fine rebounding and defense, a real fine job on defense," added Fefles.

The triumph over Plymouth was the second of the week for Bentley. Earlier, the Livonians had rallied to trip Dearborn Edsel Ford, 68-53.

But, as Fefles is well aware, the going gets no easier for Bentley.

This Friday, it's on to Belle River, which will be starting on its opening league loss River Rouge area, and then next Tuesday Bentley tackles the perennial State Class B champs of River Rouge in the Livonia gym.

"It's the rare team that wins at River Rouge," declared Fefles.

He might have added that it's the rare team that beats River Rouge any place, and Bentley jumped off to a 12-6 lead against Plymouth after the first period and never was in serious trouble the rest of the way.

The Rocks had to settle for just one basket, by Gary Grady, in the first eight minutes.

The early troubles obviously plagued Plymouth during the balance of the evening. By half-time, Bentley had a 29-17 lead, it was 42-28 after three periods in favor of Bentley.

Bill Facetti and Bob Elmer, the latter a transfer student from Thurston, paced the first-period surge that shot Bentley in front for keeps. Facetti netted five points and Elmer a basket and one charity in the first eight minutes.

Elmer was the big gun the rest of the game. With his driving and outside shots, he wound up with nine baskets and one free throw for 19 points and individual honors.

Terry Livermore's pressure tactics also helped Bentley. He forced the Rocks into several mistakes and also pulled off three or four steals at vital times.

The winners also came up with some strong rebounding. Tim Dull had 11 and Fred Matavia 10.

Both teams resorted to a pressing defense. Bentley

came through with 19 baskets to 13 for Plymouth. At the charity line, the Rocks enjoyed a slight 13-12 edge.

Gary Grady tossed in 11 points and John Hannula 10 for Plymouth which engages Trenton in the Rocks' gym this Friday night.

The scoring for the Plymouth-Bentley Game:

BENTLEY: Bondar 0-22; Dull 2-7; Matavia 3-17; Livermore 3-9; Facetti 2-6; Elmer 9-19. Totals: 15-12-50.

PLYMOUTH: Tidwell 0-14; Hollingsworth 2-15; Lake 3-17; Hannula 1-8-10; Grady 5-11; Schramm 0-11; Maston 1-0-2. Totals: 13-13-39.

COME FROM BEHIND

It took an uphill battle for Bentley to turn back Dearborn Edsel Ford 68-56.

After Bentley took an 18-16 lead at the close of the first period, Ford shot in front 40-32 at half time.

Bentley bounced back in front, 40-48, in the third period and then pulled away in the final minutes of the game.

Fred Matavia was the hero for the Livonians. He tossed in 31 points on 10 baskets and 11 free throws to come within two points of the all-time Bentley single game scoring record set by Tom Eveland several years ago.

Matavia fired in eight points to spark Bentley's third-period comeback. In the fourth period, he added seven more points, making two clutch baskets in the final three minutes when Nick Bondar added a pair of free throws to help ease the pressure on Bentley.

Here's the way the Bentley players scored against Edsel Ford:

Bondar 1-4-6; Dull 5-1-11; Matavia 10-11-31; Facetti 2-0-4; Elmer 3-5-11; Livermore 1-3-7. Totals: 22-22-66.

Thurston Edges N. Farmington In Closing Minute

"What a difference a week makes . . ."

Coach Mike Pasternak of Thurston high school's basketball team was doing the talking.

Seven days before, Pasternak and his cagers were smarting from two straight defeats as they ushered in the 1964-65 season on a sour note.

Now the Thurston cagers were in gay spirits. They had just bested North Farmington, 70-67, to initiate their North-west Suburban League campaign in a happy way.

Thurston and North Farmington were meeting last Friday night in a repeat of where they left off a year ago in the regular season. On that occasion, North Farmington came up with a big victory to wind up as co-champs with Thurston.

Their clash Friday was a thriller all the way.

For one thing the score saw-sawed. North Farmington led, 23-21, after one quarter. At halftime, Thurston was in command, 45-40.

Came the third period, and it was North Farmington's turn to dominate the contest. When the quarter ended the score was tied at 52-52.

The teams duked away in the closing minute. With minutes to go, North Farmington had the lead by a 67-66.

And North Farmington had the ball.

But Fred Koester of Thurston made the play-of-the-game at least as far as Thurston was concerned.

He intercepted a pass and slipped in for a look shot that put Thurston on top, 68-66.

There was still time for North Farmington to get even or go ahead.

But the big shot wasn't there and with five seconds left on the clock, Rick Stefani went in for a layup for Thurston and put the game out of reach 68-66.

"The big difference this time was our hustle and determination," said Thurston Coach Pasternak. "The boys came to play."

"When it was over I told them that they were forth with 105 per cent in effort."



HAPPY FINISH!—Thurston High basketball players, led by Coach Mike Pasternak, leap from the bench as the final gun goes off to signal a victory over North Farmington. It was Thurston's first win of the season after two losses.

Thurston Matmen Triumph

Thurston High's wrestling team enjoyed an easy time of things Thursday night in beating Southfield, 47-3.

No less than seven of the Thurston matmen won their matches by pinning their rivals.

Doug Belknap started the rout by setting some kind of a record. He required only 17 seconds to finish off his rival in the 65-pound class.

Paul Liddell (103 pounds) and Donald Brother Dave (112 pounds) followed with victories via the pin route.

Mike Eadis (128) won on a decision. Then after Bob Walker (127) lost for Thurston, Paul Christie (135) and Mike McGreevey (138) pinned their opponents.

Randy Ault (145) and Pete Marsalosa (154) scored victories via decisions. So did Jim Blazo (165).

Mike Murphy (165) and Jerry Scott (heavyweight) wound up the Thurston romp by scoring falls in quick fashion.

Garden City was more than a perfect host in its invitation to over the weekend. The school's wrestlers carried off team honors as Thurston had to settle for third place and Bentley and Franklin for lesser honors.

Mike Eadis (128 pounds) accounted for the only Thurston victory. Dave Belknap (120), Ault (145), Marsalosa (154) and Scott (heavyweight) came home with second-place honors for Thurston.

McGrevey (138), Dave Spikes (145) and Mike Murphy (160) finished third for Thurston.

John Frazier of Franklin won the 145-pound title with Teammate Bob Shepherd third in the 103 class. Mat Lavasseur (135) and Rick Larsen (150) garnered second-place verdicts for Bentley.

Pistons Play Two Tilts Here

Two home games are on the docket this week for the Detroit Pistons.

They'll meet the division-leading Los Angeles Lakers at Cobo Arena on Wednesday evening and then the St. Louis Hawks Friday's tilt will mark the first visit of the season to Detroit of the Hawks and their coach, Bob Pettit, who recently became the first pro cager to score more than 30,000 points in his career.

The Pistons continue to improve under Playing Coach Dave Debussche as they move in to third-place Baltimore.

Globetrotters At Olympia On Dec. 26

Basketball, gymnastics and folk dancing and sing-alongs make up the big entertainment package coming to Olympia Dec. 26.

The Harlem Globetrotters, famed court jesters of the basketball world, headline the show in a full-length game against the Washington Generals. Accompanying them on the program will be the Czechoslovak State Folk Dance Troupe, former Olympic champion gymnast Eva Soska and a features band ball star Leroy "Satchel" Paige.

The Czech Folk Dance Troupe, made up of 40 entertainers, will be featured in making its first tour with the Globetrotters. Specializing in Czech, Slovak and Bohemian folk dances, the group features a nine-member string ensemble, vocal and ballet soloists and several different dancing groups.

Miss Soskova, also from Prague, will perform a gymnastic exhibition similar to the 1956 Olympics which she won a first-place gold medal in the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. She is a two-time world champion and also holds a silver medal (second-place) from the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia.

Farmington Fights Off Port Huron for Victory

For the losers, it was Ron Watson and Ed Lorenz with 15 points each, followed by Curt Schumacher with 10, and Bill Oldersham with 10.

Rick Schultz, the fine North Farmington scorer, was held to three baskets—all in the first quarter—as he ran into foul trouble and eventually had to depart in the third period for an early shower.

Here's how the two teams scored:

THURSTON: Page 67-19; Koester 47-16; Schultz 5-15; Blazek 4-9; Klock 1-5-7; Morgan 1-1-3; Rothwell 1-0-2.

NORTH FARMINGTON: Watson 8-15; Lorenz 6-15; Schumacher 5-8-3; Oldersham 5-10; Schultz 3-6; Ettig 3-0-3; August 1-0-2.

Thurston's reserves also came to the top, with Bill Wardrop totaling in 14 points, the Township's second-stringers gained a 64-43 verdict.

Rick Barringer had 11 points, Gary Smith 10 and Don Block nine to star in the Thurston win. Individual game honors went to North Farmington's Rick Norton who hit for seven baskets and five free throws for 19 points. Norton formerly attended Thurston High.

It took strong hearts to endure what happened last Friday night when Farmington high school basketball team won over Port Huron, 69-61, in the Port Huron gym.

The battle went right down to the final wire after Farmington had broken loose late in the first period and started a surge which opened up a 15-point bulge.

But Port Huron came storming back and got even early in the third period.

From then on it was nip and tuck the rest of the way with Farmington managing to hang on until the final buzzer went off.

"This was our finest team showing of the season," declared Coach Jack Quiggle whose Farmington cagers this Friday night must go against Farmington High, one of the state's Class A powers in the Farmington gym.

"Our boys had the hustle and the determination," added Quiggle.

Prep Schedule

BASKETBALL

FRIDAY — Thurston at Birmingham Groves, Plymouth at Trenton, Redford Union at Allen Park, Bentley at Belleville, Oak Park at North Farmington, Clarenceville at Northville, East Detroit at Farmington, Glenn at Franklin, Our Lady of Sorrows at Bay City St. James.

SATURDAY—Troy at River Rouge.

TUESDAY—Bentley at Thurston.

SWIMMING

FRIDAY — Groves at Thurston, Belleville at Bentley, Allen Park at Redford Union, Plymouth at Trenton.

TUESDAY—Plymouth at Dearborn.

WRESTLING

FRIDAY-SATURDAY — North Farmington and Farmington in Oakland County tournament at Fitzgerald.

FRIDAY — Bentley at Franklin, Allen Park at Redford Union.

Plymouth Wins Over Northville

Plymouth high's basketball team scored a 60-52 non-league victory over Northville Saturday night.

The Rocks came up with five men hitting in double figures. Gary Grady led with 14 points, Dave Tidwell and Dave Hollingsworth 11 each, Jim Lake 12 and John Hamula 10.

Chuck Masten and John Daniet each scored one point for the winners who led all the way.

Plymouth went ahead, 20-9, after one quarter, led 30-22 at halftime and held a 44-37 bulge after three quarters.

Jerry Inland with 21 points paced Northville.

The Plymouth reserves won, 60-44.