

# Thurston Reigns as Rouge Meet Kings

Mention the annual River Rouge high school invitational basketball tournament... and the first team that always has come to mind was the host.

For eight years the Panthers of River Rouge had

dominated the invitational. Other teams like Thurston usually went along for the ride — to get in some action during the holiday period when they were idle from regular-season competition. But, now, the Rouge hub-

ble has busted. The team they talked about last week from start to finish was Mike Pasternak's Thurston.

Thurston began by springing a major upset, 72-47, over Highland Park.

The next night it was Thurston by an even more whopping score of 83-40 over Lincoln Park.

Then came the finals. It was Thurston vs. Ecorse, which the night before had ousted River Rouge.

But thanks to a fast start, which had become standard operating procedure for Thurston, the Townshippers came out a 7-21 winners and took home the beautiful championship trophy.

In all three games, Thurston broke from the starting gate as if it had a fire burning under it.

Against Highland Park, Thurston roared to a 15-2 edge by the close of the first period.

In the Lincoln Park affair, it was 22-8 for Thurston after the initial eight minutes.

Against Ecorse, Thurston jumped on top, 20-4.

"We played very well," declared a happy coach Pasternak who admitted that two lineup changes going into the tourney had helped to benefit his team.

Pasternak was smiling

after the Thurston pre-Christmas defeat to Redford Union. Hence the shifts.

"This was a team championship drive," added Pasternak who now hopes that Thurston can keep on in 1967 where his forces left off in '66.

It'll be back to Northwest Suburban League action this Friday for Thurston.

Examining each of the Thurston victories starting with the championship contest and going backwards:

Thurston 75, Ecorse 61. Dale Joyce of River Rouge, fan each drilled in three baskets in the first quarter while Ecorse was held to one hoop in 16 tries to fall behind by 18 points at the close of the period.

In the next two periods, Ecorse picked up considerably. By halftime it was 38-28 for Thurston and at the three-quarter mark Thurston held a 53-40 edge and appeared to have matters tucked away.

But any team that can beat River Rouge must have something... and Ecorse did.

Back stormed the downriver team. With Joe Elder scoring 11 points in the last period, Ecorse sliced the Thurston lead to 58-57 with 1:28 showing on the clock.

The Thurston players were squirming. So was their coach.

But with the pressure on, Thurston arose to the occasion — as a true champion always does.

In went Jon Thurston points in quick fashion... and the hall game and the championship belonged to the gang from South Redford.

Red Barringer flipped in a basket to start the charge. Two free throws by Don Kopec and baskets by Gary Schulte and Barringer applied the icing to the cake for Thurston.

In the scoring column, it was Barringer with 25 points, Roger Stiffan with 15, Bob Wardrop with 12, Joyce with

nine, Schulte with eight and Kopec two.

Ecorse had beaten River Rouge, 63-60, in the semifinals. Then Rouge beat Robichaud for third-place honors, 67-60.

Thurston 83, Lincoln Park 40. This one never was close after Thurston sprung in front, 22-4, by holding Lincoln Park to only three baskets in the first quarter.

Barringer had nine points in the first quarter to pace the fast Thurston start.

Wardrop and Kopec added five each in the second stanza, enabling Thurston to take a 45-18 command at halftime. All the second and third stringers got a chance to play for Thurston the rest of the way.

Barringer with 19 points, Wardrop with 12 and Don Block and Stiffan with 10 each topped the winners. Kopec and Schulte followed with nine apiece.

Thurston 72, Highland Park 47. This victory brought the Thurston team immediate headlines and the cage world

began to realize that in Redford Township they had a strong team at the south end. Highland Park managed only one basket in the first period and that after seven minutes and four seconds of play. Meantime with Wardrop knocking in three hoops, Thurston had taken a 15-2 edge.

It was 35-13 at half time with Barringer making 11 points in the second quarter.

Barringer dumped in 24 points and Stiffan 20 to provide Thurston with a tremendous one-two punch.

In the three games, Barringer flipped through 68 points for a 22.7-point average.

Thurston's high school basketball team produced a pair of new school records in downing Pontiac Northern, 55-50, in a dual meet.

Dennis Rogisart accounted for the first mark with a 1:54.9 clocking in the 200 yard free style.

The other standard was set by Bill Palmer with a 23.8 second timing in the 50-yard free style.

The 400-yard free style relay, final event on the program, decided the meet. David Guthrie, Ron Mihal, Brian Donaldson and Jay Schreiber formed the winning combination for Bentley.

Bentley's high school swimming team produced a pair of new school records in downing Pontiac Northern, 55-50, in a dual meet.

Bentley High wrestlers registered their fifth straight dual meet victory and dominated the Waterford holiday tournament in a pair of

standout team efforts prior to the start of the Christmas vacation.

Bentley whipped Franklin, 35-21, recording seven falls to maintain its unbeaten string.

Bentley Matmen Steal Show in Holiday Tourney

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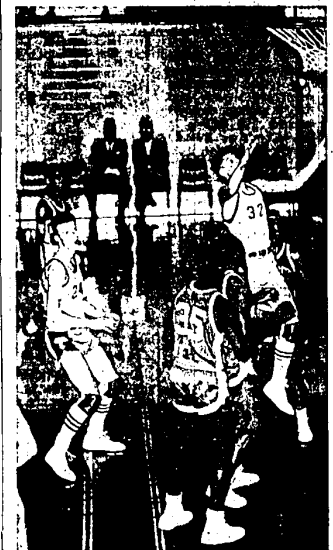
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UP AND IN goes a shot by Dale Joyce (32) of Thurston against Ecorse as Township team captured the River Rouge invitational tournament. Note the ball about to drop through the net.

## Observer Sports News

Page 2B Wednesday, January 4, 1967

### LOSES TO SOUTHFIELD IN FINAL

## Second for Bentley

Runnerup honors to Bentley High.

So went the story in the annual Northwest Suburban League holiday high school basketball tournament.

To the surprise of few the little went to Southfield, one of the state's Class A powerhouses, which in Friday night's championship, broke away in the last period to pin a 74-61 defeat on Bentley.

Bentley had conquered Ypsilanti, 72-49, and then followed with a 61-40 squeaker over Berkley to get into the championship encounter of the meet which also attracted Redford Union and Farmington from the area.

Redford Union walked out in fast style, beating Walled Lake, 89-67. But then RU fell to Southfield, 75-67, and ended play in the meet by a heartbreaker to Berkley, 65-63.

Farmington fashioned only one win in the meet, disposing of Walled Lake, 81-65, in the finale after losing to

Ypsilanti, 67-64, and Berkley, 67-58.

Here's the story of how Bentley gained the title game and what transpired in the wrapup.

Bentley 71, Ypsilanti 49. It was just a good tuneup for the Livonians. They had a 39-25 lead after one quarter and coasted along without much pressure.

Ken Bollin finished as high scorer with 23 points. Mike McCauley had 13, Grey Coleman 11 and Greg Macy eight for the victors.

Bentley 81, Berkley 60. Bentley held sway most of the time, but Berkley made matters very uncomfortable at the finish.

The Livonians got seven points from Macy and six from Ed Ryan to take a 16-10 lead after one quarter. It was 33-29 for Bentley after the second period in which Macy had six points.

The four-point differential remained after three quarters. Then Berkley scored with five seconds left to get within a point

of Berkley, but the Livonians stalled out the remaining time.

Macy had 17 points, Bollin 14 and Ryan ten in a winning cause.

Southfield 74, Bentley 61. After Bentley had pulled in front, 13-14, after one quarter with Larry Grimm scoring six points and Bollin five, Southfield took over and led the rest of the way.

It was 33-29 after the half and still nobody's game, 51-48 for Southfield, going into the closing quarter.

Then Southfield, picked as a top Class A contender in the state, went to work and outscored Bentley, 23-18, in the last period with famed all-around star Ted Simmons making eight points and Glen Lenhoff and Bob Scheuer six each.

The inability to hit from the floor hurt Bentley. The Livonians dropped in 23 of 91 shots from the outside while Southfield clicked on 27 of 83.

Lenhoff was the big star with 26 points, while Davidson and Simmons had 14 each and Dave Kontny 12.

For Bentley it was Bollin with 18 points with Mark Formosa 10, Grimm eight, Ryan, Coleman and Macy six each.

The Redford Union story in the meet follows:

RU 83, Walled Lake 67.

The Townshippers reared away to a 56-27 edge after one half and never were seriously threatened.

The Bjork brothers, Leiland and Dale, paced the RU assault. Leiland had 30, brother Dale 13.

Bill Fahy dropped in eight.

(Continued on Page 3B)

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