

First Time Since The '30s

Girls Sports Make A Comeback In Suburbia

Competitive sports for senior high girls are making a comeback after being dormant for more than 30 years.

Although girls' athletics were never completely abolished by the Michigan High School Ath-

letic Association, the programs did take a sudden drop in the early '30s when most high schools had varsity basketball teams which played on the same programs as the boys.

There also were the popular tournaments, in

which teams played as many as four games over a period of as few as 10 days, and which eventually led to the movement to bar varsity athletics for girls in the high schools.



STORY:

R. T. Thompson

PICTURES:

James Hubbard



RAINA SMITH (Plymouth) looks for a teammate to pass the ball but finds the way barred by Mary Jo Jorgenson while Janie Holbert stands back watching the action.

HAIR FLIES HIGH as Bentley's Gloria Hudesshell prepares to pass ball to one of her teammates during the 35-19 victory over Plymouth.



EVEN THOUGH her hair is over her eyes, Plymouth's Bev Dundow (42) manages to close in on Nancy Kline as she attempts to dribble away. That's Plymouth's Raina Smith helping her teammate check the Bentley star.



RACING UP to fight Plymouth's Barb Rickard for possession of a loose ball is Nancy Kline (23) of Bentley.

THE RISE STARTED three or four years ago when Girls Athletic Associations in many of the area schools began scheduling basketball and swim meets on an informal basis.

The MHSAA stepped into the picture three years ago with an addition to the state rules covering activities of girls athletics and setting a guideline.

Thus when Plymouth and Livonia Bentley varsity and junior varsity teams met last week on the Livonia court for the mythical championship of the GAA teams in the Suburban Six League, it marked the first time since the '30s that a title had been at stake.

The MHSAA rules state that all games must be governed in the same manner as the varsity and junior varsity athletics — the schools must exchange eligibility lists, the games must be handled by registered, paid officials, and the teams must be coached by feminine members of the staff.

Under this code, teams from Plymouth, Livonia Bentley, Redford Union, Garden City East, John Glenn, Thurston and Ypsilanti have arranged regular schedules, starting this season.

THE BENTLEY-PLYMOUTH contests climaxed the league activities and found Bentley winning twice. The varsity whipped PHS, 35-19, and the jayvees romped to a 15-5 triumph.

The Livonia varsity went through the season with an unbeaten record and the jayvees won five of eight contests.

Both Bentley and Plymouth have scheduled games remaining, and won't end season play for another two weeks.

The Bentley varsity includes Gloria Hudesshell, Karen Jameson, Carolyn Paterson, Debby Stoianoff, Nancy Klein, Mickey Kocenda, Sally Goettelman, Mary Liddell and Nina Truchon.

The junior varsity lists Terri Pavlinski, Laura Toy, Marie Flanigan, Debbie McCune, Becky Adams, Carolyn Wood, Denise Rolfe, Mary Jo Jorgenson, Janie Holbert, Sue Genslak, Judy Frederige, Karen Bulke, Kathy Boone and Colleen Avery.

THE GIRLS' PROGRAM may be accelerated in the months to come and athletic directors are discussing plans of widening the scope to include golf and tennis in the spring, field hockey and swimming events in the fall.

Plymouth Athletic Director John Sandmann indicated his school is prepared to join in any of the activities and did have a field hockey team on an informal basis last fall.

"We are arranging schedules for the girls teams in the same manner as boys," he said. "Naturally, we have to follow the MHSAA code, but it does allow for a sports program which could be much more inclusive than that of years ago. Few schools had swim pools then, and golf and tennis were just coming to the front with the construction of tennis courts and numerous golf courses in the area."

"We believe this program, when finally developed, will bring girls athletics back to the prominence it held back in the early '30s."

LIVONIA MALL

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MALL

FEB. & MARCH	
MONDAY 26	ART COLLECTION See Vincent Price originals of famous painters at Sears.
TUESDAY 27	LADIES DAY, free movie, free coffee, prizes 10 a.m. WEIGHT WATCHERS at community room at 12:15
WEDNESDAY 28	SENIOR CITIZENS in Community Room 12:00
THURSDAY 29	BARBERSHOP QUARTET in Mall
FRIDAY 1	BALLROOM DANCING in Community Room
SATURDAY 2	COIN CLUB in Community Room 10 to 9 p.m. Auction at 4 p.m.

Meet You At
The Mall

Open MON., THURS.,
FRI., SAT. to 9 p.m.
Open TUES., WED.
until 5:30

There's always
something going on at ...

LIVONIA MALL

7 MILE AT MIDDLEBURY

PLYMOUTH'S JUNIOR VARSITY nibble on bits of oranges during a rest period and receive instructions from the women coach. The Jayvees

did alright on defense but only scored five points in the 16-5 defeat.

BUY AMERICAN

YOU SAVE IN THE LONG RUN

ONE LOOK IS WORTH 1000 WORDS!

See the Largest Display of
FIREPLACES, ACCESSORIES and
WALL DECOR IN MICHIGAN

AMERICAN

Hardware & Supply Co.

31245 EIGHT MILE ROAD at MERRIMAN

Phone 476-6240 or 537-3643 • Free Parking
Open Mon. - Wed. 8 - 6 Thurs. - Fri. 8 - 9
Sat. 8 - 6:30 Sun. 10 - 4