

East's Panthers: A Credit To GC And To Basketball

It will be a long time before Overland basketball fans forget the courageous fight that the small but mighty Garden City East quintet waged before bowing out in the quarterfinals of the Class A high school championship tournament.

Hampered by the loss of Harvey Kightlinger, one of the tall men on the squad and a tremendous rebounder, the Panthers fought through six tourney contests in the district and regional meets to become one of the final eight in the competition.

Kightlinger, who had starred for two seasons, suffered a slipped disc midway through the campaign and wasn't even around to watch his teammates in the tourney.

Despite that, Coach Billy Joe Young rebuilt his team, stressing a "deep freeze" in the closing minutes of many games that worked effectively. The team's record of 22-3 with a string of 15 at the tallend shows how well Young did his work.

AND CARRYING The big load were big Mike Maciasz, who was named to the Detroit News all-state Class A first team; 8' 7" Harold Slade, a sharpshooting, excellent ballhandling guard; Charley Sakmar, a deceptive dribbler; and Rick Clack, a better than average defensive player who had uncanny marksmanship from the corner and side of the court.

To add to its woes, East High was bracketed in the tourney draw where it had to play three games each in the district and the regionals. In many sections, teams advanced to the quarterfinals by winning two games in each tourney.

Tourney fever struck the entire city of Garden City as the Panthers mowed down Franklin in their first test. Then came sub-

born Stevenson, where the "deep freeze" worked to perfection.

It was the same story in the district finals against Livonia Bentley, the perennial cage powerhouse which had lost only twice all season.

AGAIN COACH BILLY JOE ordered the "freeze" and so completely bewildered Bentley that Coach George Fefles jerked some of his big, slow-moving regulars and inserted some quick-stepping reserves. It didn't work because of the tremendous pose of Garden City under pressure.

Then came the regional games against a rough and ready Farmington High, followed by Ecorse, the only team to whip East in the regular season, and the strong Pontiac Central Chiefs.

Just like a machine, the East-siders mowed down each foe as it came up. There never was a thought of the next game but always the thinking was of the problem at hand. That's one of the reasons why Garden City did as well as it did.

THEN THE QUARTER-FINALS, where East was pitted against Catholic Central, Detroit city and Catholic League king with a squad that included nine of the 10 players that had gained a semifinal berth a year ago.

For a half, Garden City was in the thick of things. Then experience and height took its toll and the Shamrocks gradually but steadily pulled away for a rather easy win.

There isn't enough praise for this team. The populace of Garden City should remember all of the good things and forget the stunning loss in the quarterfinals.

It was a good team, one that everyone in the area should be proud of—and I'm sure they are. —R. T. Thompson

This Is The Week That

... By Don Hoenschell

The original Bowman bill co-sponsored by the Senate by Senator George C. Stech, of Mt. Clemens, is the only tax bill which never was considered by either taxation committee.

In the House, it was treated kindly by the state affairs committee and, through a well-meaning member fixed up with then Lt. Gov. T. John Lesinski, was sent in the Senate to the judiciary committee.

It was considered first by committees stacked with suburban folks looking for reelection.

THERE'S NOT MUCH of a chance that Detroit's need for cash will bring imposition of an increased income levy on suburban tollers in the city, but consider these facts:

Suburban taxes would be much higher—perish the thought—if Detroit weren't here to help.

Just a few days ago, the city offered services and expertise unavailable here if trouble starts again this summer. The city offers Belle Isle, the bridge to Canada, the tunnel, freeways.

The Fisher Theater, the Top of the Flame, the arts and the places which otherwise allow suburbanites to practice the sophistication they bought with a \$40,000 house in the suburbs.

The economic flow from business and industry, the overflow of services both public and private, that makes it more pleasant to live in the suburbs.

Bowman has won again in his selfish little way.

He wins and we lose, and the sad thing is we're happy.

The fact remains that if we have a sick central city, we have sick suburbs.

Cities and townships outside Detroit are fighting the water rates—Livonia, Redford township and others in this segment of civilization—on the same theory that Bowman uses.

So let's mortgage the home-steads and run pipelines to Lake Huron to get our own water.

BOWMAN'S LATEST thing is to safeguard suburban pocketbooks from increased taxes from Detroit. The Big City wants to double its local income tax from 1 to 2 per cent.

The vetoed bill in 1960 would have prevented Detroit from taxing commuters the one-half per cent it now collects. So why should we pay anything if we live in a suburban bedroom and work in Detroit? Water is one reason.

The services other than water provided by Detroit are others.

Bowman considers the pitch of short run politics first.

That means he considers Bowman first.

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From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following report is an imaginative creation. The circumstances it describes are obviously absurd, but so too is the arms race in the suburbs.)

GENEVA—The world disarmament conference, in session here, was rocked today by reports of sudden increases in armament in certain suburban communities near Detroit, Mich., U.S.A.

Although the reports are as yet unconfirmed, usually informed observers said that most of the arms increases were taking place in Livonia, Mich., a city of 103,000 population, which is supposedly terrified at the prospect of three residents of the Detroit's inner city "invading" the suburbs this summer.

Military analysts here said they had not previously been aware of the extent of Livonia's military capability, although they added that a clear hint was dropped when the city dropped out of the Nuclear Test Ban and Arms Reduction Treaty (NTB-ART) organization.

WASHINGTON—General Earl Earl, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said today that an emergency session of the National Security Council was scheduled for tomorrow to take up the problem of sudden increases in armament in Livonia, Mich.

"We don't know what they've got over there," General Earl said, "but from the sound of it, they could mount a successful assault on our base at Khe Sanh if they wanted to."

"In particular, we're troubled at the reports we're getting that they're stockpiling tactical nuclear weapons at the corner of Five Mile and Farmington Roads. For one thing, we don't know how they got hold of nuclear weapons. For another, the City of Detroit is worried about fallout. They're downwind from Livonia, you know."

In a related development, Arthur Oak, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, said that he was disturbed at the gold flow implications of Livonia's recent actions.

"They may be buying weapons with their own money and running up their own deficit," Oak said, "but the gold they're spending is winding up in France, and we don't like that."

LIVONIA, Mich.—In an exclusive interview here, Livonia Mayor Harvey von Ventura revealed that the city is now the seventh ranked world power in terms of armaments, only just behind Egypt and ahead of Denmark and Finland.

"We've gotta have overkill," von Ventura said. "After all, Livonia is 36 square miles, and we don't have the slightest idea where those three guys are going to be at any given moment. They could be changing a flat tire over on Eckles Road, or they could be getting out of work over at Ford Transmission."

Von Ventura was asked just what the city was planning to do with the 25 PDQ 120 millimeter Russian-made rockets it has acquired.

"Well, you know. It's just a question of overkill. One of those three guys might walk off the road to get some gravel to get his car unstuck. Those rockets have a destructive radius of a quarter of a mile, so we'll be sure to get him."

"It's like the Stoner rifles we ordered a few years ago. Our point then was not to keep the peace or insure law and order. Rather it was to maim as much as possible anybody who crossed us."

"The same thing applies to the bayonets, grenades and grenade launchers we ordered at the same time. Anybody who thinks we're going to be defensive about that thing had better have another thing."

Von Ventura was asked why Livonia's arms stockpiling program was roughly the same size as that undertaken by all of Wayne County, which has approximately 16 times as many people as the city.

"Those guys down at the County Board just aren't fulfilling their responsibilities to be defensive. We in Livonia are pretty special, and besides it's an election year," von Ventura said.

CITY HALL, LIVONIA, Mich.—In another exclusive interview here today, Mayor Harvey von Ventura released his sources for the report that three men from Detroit's inner city would be in Livonia at some point this summer.

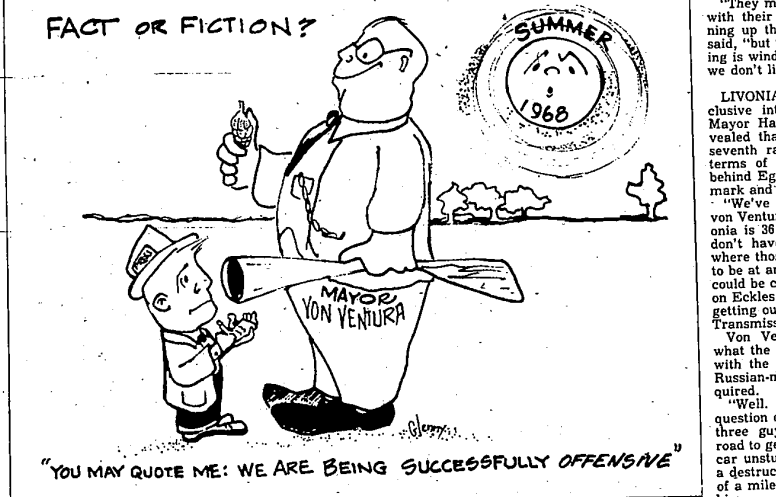
"It was pretty interesting," von Ventura said.

"We got it from a man who had talked to another man in a bar, who had in turn talked to a man whose wife's best friend is acquainted with a girl who works in the personnel section at State Police headquarters in Lansing. She had talked to a friend of hers who works for a bowling alley in Lansing, and she said that she had heard a rumor that three men from the inner city might be in Livonia some time this summer."

"We regard this as an unimpeachable report from the highest authority available. The mayor dwarfed himself up to full height, puffed out his chest, and said,

"We therefore had no choice other than to exercise our responsibility, as public officials, to the voters—or, correct that to the citizens—to make sure we are prepared."

"We sure are."



The Idea Is Free How To Win Livonians' Hearts

There are a couple of guys named Moelke and Ventura running for mayor of Livonia, and this writer, impartially and fairly, offers them simultaneously a sure-fire idea on how to catch the voters' collective imagination.

Actually, it's not original, but rather the product of one of the philosophers in a local saloon. Chances are he didn't even remember his fantastic political scheme next day, so he won't know the difference if we pass it on.

The reasoning process goes like this:

FIRST PREMISE: Livonia voters will back neighborhood-type issues.

Late last year, there were a mess of bond issues on the ballot—nine, it seems.

Only two passed. One was for roads throughout the city; the other was for fire stations throughout the city. The bond issues for things like the city center or for a badly-needed court building all went down the tube. The neighborhood issues won. Right? Right.

SECOND PREMISE: Livonians are self-conscious about their physical environment, primarily because it's so drab and flat.

They look with envy at the neighboring communities of Farmington, Plymouth and Northville. And those communities—let's face it—often look down their noses at the flat of Livonia.

What do Farmington, Plymouth and Northville have that Livonia doesn't? Not what do they THINK they've got, but what have they

REALLY got?

Hills, that's what. Rolling, old hills where ordinary houses can nestle in charm and fancy houses can hide from traffic and Sunday drivers. Hills that throw backdrops of green in summer and snow in winter behind the man-made environment.

Right? Right.

CONCLUSION: The way to get elected mayor of Livonia is to offer the voters an X-million-dollar bond issue to build hills in every neighborhood where there's room.

Then Livonia, in addition to being a city of fine industry and fine schools and homes and stores, can also be a city of rolling, rustic hill charm.

Maybe we could even change the name to:

"Livonia Hills."

Anyhow, that's what this guy in the saloon said, and we pass it on to Harvey and Pete. Free of charge.

—Tim Richard

Homer Martin-A Footnote

A month ago, we called attention to the career and the death of Homer Martin, a one-time Plymouth resident who was first president of the United Auto Workers union.

The other day, we came across a little story in the Vienna, Ill. Times, which reported:

"Homer Martin, 66, Visalia, California, died suddenly Monday, January 22 at an airport in that city. His death was attributed to a heart attack."

"Mr. Martin was born and reared in Goreville (apparently a town in the Vienna Times circulation area) the son of William H. and Frances Smith Martin."

"He began his early career by teaching in Goreville and other schools and served several churches as a minister. He was an athlete and held the United States championship in the hop, skip and jump category. He qualified himself for the Olympics."

And then the Vienna Times adds, almost as an incidental afterthought:

"He was also president of the United Automobile Workers of America."

That's what the story said. Well, maybe the UAW doesn't count for much down in Vienna and Goreville, Illinois.

—Tim Richard

SENSE 'N' NONSENSE

Public officials, particularly school board members, are famous for their understatement of serious events. Recently, the president of the Nankin Mills Board of Education was asked by the Westland Observer editor to confirm a report that the board has petitioned the Michigan Department of Education to dissolve the district and split it between the Livonia and Wayne Community districts. The board president coolly replied:

"There's something in the wind." It seems more like a tornado.

Now that voters in both the Wayne Community and Nankin Mills School Districts rejected the merger proposal in last week's election, Nankin Mills still holds the title of the smallest district in the state in square mileage, possessor of the highest tax rate, and still the most problem-ridden per square foot. There are building plans for 500 homes in the district and little hope of new state aid to help educate the children from those homes.

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