

N. Farmington, Bentley, Thurston Stars Honored

GC East Wins 2 Berths On All-Area Team

It was Garden City East's year in high school basketball.

Coach Billy Joe Young, East rolled to its greatest season. East won the Mid-Wayne League title...the district and regional crowns and gained the quarterfinal round of the state Class A high school basketball tournament before finally losing to Catholic Central.

In all, East won 22 games while losing only two. Hand-in-hand with the team honors garnered by East, there were individual heroes, too. In particular, praise must go to Mike Maciasz and Harold Slade, who have been acclaimed with spots on the Observer Newspapers 1967-68 All Area Dream team.

Both were named on their league all-star teams, while Maciasz this past week was named to the Associated Press All-State Class A team and won similar recognition on the unpublished Detroit News team.

SELECTED WITH THE Garden City East star pair on the Observer team were Ken Bollin, who led Bentley to a repeat title in the Suburban Six League; Ron Flutur, crack forward at North Farmington, and Dale Joyce, who paced Thurston to the Northwest-Suburban League championship.

Here's the lowdown on the '67-'68 Observer All Area team, picked in conjunction with the coaches and officials of all the 14 high schools in Observerland.

MIKE MACIASZ Truly the "player-of-the-year" in Observerland. A two-year member of the Garden City East varsity, Maciasz in his senior campaign totaled 551 points for a 23 point average and averaged 16.1 rebounds per game.

He was "dead-eye" as a shooter, hitting on 49.5 percent of his attempts from the field and on 71.3 percent from the charity line.

Coach Young in describing Maciasz play said: "He's the best we ever had at East in basketball. Mike was the complete player for us. He did everything and did it well."

"I never have seen a kid who was such a baller. Some of our other players described Mike as a 'garbage man' because he was picking up a lot of easy points around our offensive basket."

"But, in truth, Mike was always hustling. He plays like the Bailey Howell of the Boston Celtics, one of the great second-effort players in basketball." Mike isn't certain where he'll go to college. But the bids have been coming in and before long he expects to make his decision. He'll be welcomed indeed, whichever school he picks.

The smallest member of the Observer team. But that didn't stop him from being a great one. He's also the only junior on the five-man dream team.

Coach Young called Slade the "finest ball handler" in high school circles around the area. Slade could dribble and pass with equal brilliance.

He also drove well, sparked on defense despite his size and was the quarterback on the team that brought East so many honors from December until March.

He averaged 11.4 points per game.

Cougars

Bested, 2-1, In Opener

The Detroit Cougars soccer team got off on the wrong foot Saturday in their North American League opener.

Atlanta bootied its way to a 2-1 win over the Cougars as Graham Vernon and Peter McFarland cashed the goals.

Willie Hunter on a pass from John Kerr accounted for the Cougars' only score.

The Cougars return to action next Wednesday at Kansas City, then open their home season on April 20 against Vancouver.

The game with Vancouver will be played at U. of D., after which the Cougars will switch to Tiger Stadium for their remaining action.

KALAMAZOO Western Michigan University junior Wayne Lambert of Saginaw (Arthur Hill) became the first Mid-American Conference trackman to ever clear 16 feet in the pole vault when he made 16-0 at the Cleveland Knights of Columbus meet on March 2.

game, but it wasn't a job to do the scoring. Coach Young assigned Slade other important duties.

KEN BOLLIN He's the big man of the Observer team, standing 6-6 and scaling 195 pounds.

The Bentley star is no stranger to the Observer first team. He made it as a junior last season.

Bollin averaged 19.3 points per game and 15 rebounds in guiding Bentley to its second league title in a row.

Discussing his star center, Bentley Coach George Fettes declared: "Unselfishness was the key to Ken's playing. He thought of his team and his teammates before he thought about himself."

The indications are that Bollin will head for Harvard University after his graduation day comes at Bentley in June.

Bollin was more than No. 1 in basketball. He also has been No. 1 in scholastic work, too, topping the entire senior class with his efforts in the classroom. He's especially brilliant in math.

The indications are that Bollin will head for Harvard University after his graduation day comes at Bentley in June.

RON FLUTUR Made it up to North Farmington's varsity basketball team for the district tournament when he was a sophomore. Starred for Raiders as a junior and senior.

During past season he averaged 18.6 points and 14.5 rebounds, despite the fact he was sidelined for two games late in the season with a broken foot and then had to play in district tournament with a foot that wasn't up to par.

Coach Dick Wilson halted Flutur for his aggressive play. "You could count on Ron at both ends of the floor. He was our leader in rebounds and one of our big men in scoring."

Flutur played some football for North Farmington, operating as a defensive safetyman. He hurt his knee in the team's first game and it bothered him as the season progressed.

He's not decided yet where he'll attend college.

DALE JOYCE The key man in Thurston's overall drive to the league crown.

"He did more rebounding for us than all the rest of our players combined," said Coach Mike Pasternak.

JOYCE averaged almost 32 grabs off the boards per game and scored 16 points per game. Joyce also was a fine ball handler for Thurston and had a knack for being in the right place at the right time.

He has college plans, but hasn't picked one yet. He'd like to play at Western, Eastern or Central Michigan or, perhaps, at Albion College.

Shining Lights Of Observerland



MIKE MACIASZ
Garden City East



WATTA MAN!! That's the exclamation of Cheerleaders Sheryl James (left) and Karen Seay (right), of Garden City East; as they look up at lanky Ken Bollin, star center of the Bentley High team, who had just been told he was selected as a member of the Observer All-Star team.



HAROLD SLADE
Garden City East



DALE JOYCE
Thurston High

Billy Joe Young Coach Of Year

Hats off to Billy Joe Young of Garden City East, the Observer Newspapers' 1967-68 High School Basketball Coach-of-the-Year.

Young literally walked away with the honor, as he led his East team to 22 victories against only two losses.

Under Young, East won the Mid-Wayne League crown and then picked up the district and regional Class titles to gain the state quarterfinals where Catholic Central applied the killing blow.

Young truly is "a winning coach."

He's been tutoring teams for 10 years, starting at Shawneetown, Ill., where his preteams enjoyed three great seasons—two finishing 25-17.

Then he came to Garden City East, where his cagers have won 83, while losing only 18.

All totaled, Young's teams have won 146 and lost 59.

He's married and with his wife, Mollie, shares the joys of boasting two sons of their own, Ted, 11, and Joe, 7.

Young assists with East's baseball team during the spring.



BILLY JOE YOUNG
Coach of the Year

Facts, Figures On Stars

Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Class
Dale Joyce	Thurston	6-4	188	17	Senior
Ron Flutur	N. Farmington	6-2	165	17	Senior
Mike Maciasz	Garden City East	6-5	185	17	Senior
Harold Slade	Garden City East	5-7	135	16	Junior
Ken Bollin	Bentley	6-6	195	17	Senior

HONORABLE MENTION

Charles Sakmar (Garden City East), Dwayne Drewitz (Garden City West), Tim Doyle (Our Lady of Sorrows), Chuck Myron (St. Anthony), Dennis Field (Redford Union), Mark Lynott (Farmington), Mike Stakias (Plymouth), Mike Kubik (Plymouth), Urban Rice (Thurston), Tom McCoy (N. Farmington).

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