

Plymouth High Names Basketball Mentor

There will be a new head coach behind the whistle this fall when Plymouth High begins practice for the 1972-73 basketball season.

Fred Thomann has made the jump from top mentor at Willow Run High to Plymouth to fill the shoes of Dick Bearup who accepted assistant principal duties.

Thomann is far from new to the coaching ranks with a State Class B championship under his belt in his "rookie year" at Willow Run in 1967-68.

The physical education teacher, who will be teaching at Allen Elementary School, stands six foot, eight and one-half inches, weighs 240 pounds, and has quite a background as a player.

THOMANN WON All-State honors in his senior year at Taylor Center High School in 1960 when he averaged 25 points. He attended Michigan State University on a basketball scholarship where he was selected most valuable player his senior year with a 17.9 point per game average.

The Spartan center returned to the Taylor public school system as a teacher in 1965 and was assistant cage coach at Holy Redeemer in 1966-67.

Next followed five years as coach at Willow Run with the state championship in Class B.

"That 1967-68 season had to be my greatest thrill ever," said Thomann. "We went into the tournament with a 9-7 record and caught fire, finishing with a 17-7 mark."

THOMANN DIRECTED his cagers to the district title the following year, the regional finals in 1969-70 along with coaching assignments in cross country, football and track.

The 28-year-old Thomann played semi-pro basketball in Muskegon during 1964-66 with his highest playing day figure 34 points against Brigham Young in a Spartan uniform.

Thomann sees the move to a Class A school a real challenge.

"The Twin Valley was one heck of a Class B

conference," said Thomann. "But coaching in Class A has to be more of a challenge."

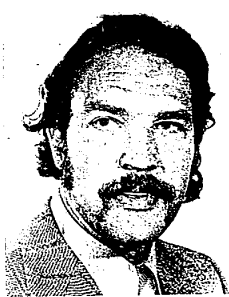
"The Twin Valley exercises tremendous one on one play," added Thomann. "I really haven't seen the Suburban Eight in action but can already see some changes by watching the kids practice."

Plymouth High is sporting 10 returning varsity cagers and has been practicing during the summer months.

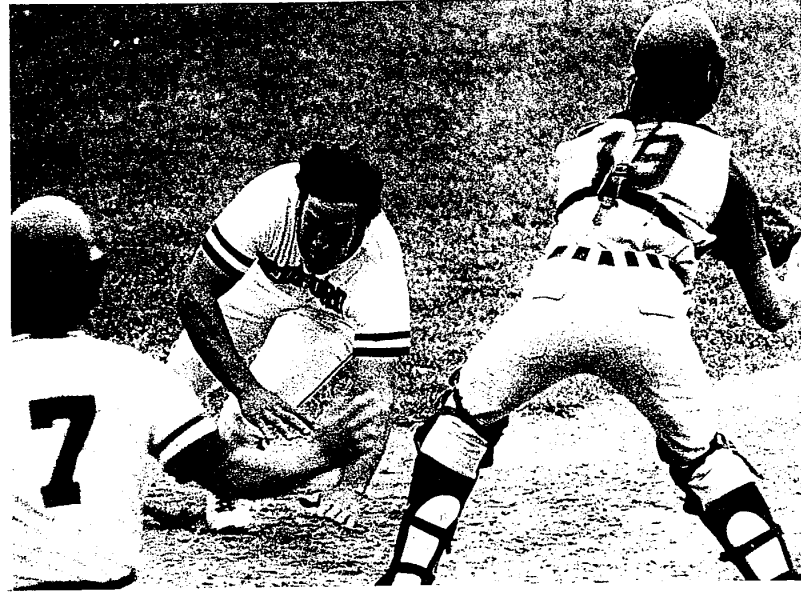
"I am a firm believer in the full court pressure style of basketball," added Thomann. "I can't see giving a team 40 feet of free space not to make a mistake."

"IT LOOKS LIKE Plymouth has some real talent coming back and I am really impressed by the work of last year's junior varsity players Rick Neu, Bruce Johnson and Dave Pruetter," said Thomann.

"This season will be a real challenge. . . new league, new team but the name of the game is basketball," concluded the new coach.



FRED THOMANN



HEAD FIRST INTO HOME -- Redford Adray's Gordie Eszes gave it all he had in scoring the second run against Lansing in the Out-State tourney with Redford winning, 3-1. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Redford In State Rec Tourney

It was a Suburban Eight baseball clash all over again with conference champions Redford Union defeating the Bentley High Crowe club, 5-4, for the Connie Mack second place title and a right to go into the Michigan Recreation State Tourney.

Redford opens with the winner of the Ann Arbor-Wayne game on Thursday at Dearborn's Levogood Field at 10 a.m. The winner plays again at 2 p.m. on the Levogood diamond located on Ford Road between Beech Daly and Telegraph Roads.

If Redford Warholak gets by the two games, it will be into the finals at Pontiac on Aug. 15.

Tom Nippa went the a walk and Glenn Richmond

distance against Crowe and chalked up win No. 9 against one defeat. It was an easy victory for the Redford hurler as he put 19 runners on base. Nippa allowed nine hits, walked five and hit five batsmen.

"His fastball was tailing off," said Redford Coach Bob Atkins.

BRENT BOEGLER worked the distance for Crowe, gave up only five hits, walked eight and struck out seven in taking the loss.

Warholak opened with three in the top of the first.

Mike Johnston singled, Mike Kallit sacrificed Johnston to second, Steve Friedman drew Boegler went down swinging and Tom Wollard popped out

single. The ball scooted past Paul Sevonty with Johnston and Friedman scoring, and Richmond scored when Mark Yourcheck doubled.

Crowe came back in the bottom of the first.

NIPPA HIT SEVONTY with the Crowe base runner taking second on a passed ball. Al Hernandez walked with another passed ball moving the runners to second and third with none out.

Nippa then got Pat Perino on three straight strikes but hit Bob Walleski to fill the sacks with Redford Coach Atkins wondering where his pitching ace had wandered to. Boegler went down swinging and Tom Wollard popped out

to halt that threat with more to come in the closing stages. With one out in the second, Redford made it a 4-0 contest when Johnston walked, stole second, and scampered around on Friedman's single.

Crowe broke into the scoring column in the last of the third. Hernandez singled, Wasilewski walked and Boegler singled in Hernandez. Nippa bore down and struck out the next two hitters to halt another rally.

Redford made it 5-1 in the fifth on a walk to Richmond, Yourcheck was safe on a fielder's choice, Luge Bravo singled, and R.J. LeRoux suicide squeezed in Yourcheck.

SEVONTY SINGLED to start the Crowe sixth and with two outs, Wasilewski and Boegler singled with Sevonty

scoring and Wasilewski being thrown out at third base. Nippa struck out the first batter in the last of the seventh to make the 5-2 margin look even better.

Joe Kearney beat out an infield hit for Crowe and Gregg Neale drew a walk. Tom Worniak popped out for the second out but Sevonty doubled to score Kearney and put the tying run on second.

Hernandez dribbled a grounder to second for what appeared to be the final out but the throw was dropped by the first baseman with Neale scoring to make it a 5-4 game and runners on first and third.

Nippa was facing the best in Perino and retired the Bulldog on a popout to send the threat and the game, with Redford moving on to bigger and better things in state tourney play in Dearborn.

Farmington's St. Francis Wins West Side Title

Farmington's St. Francis Knights of Columbus captured the West Side Slo-Pitch championship in a post-season play-off after a three-way tie for first.

Garden City, Hunt Councils and St. Francis ended regular season action with identical 8-2 records.

Hunt Council drew a first round bye with St. Francis topping Garden City, 14-7, and then trouncing Hunt, 19-2.

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