

Churchill Cagers Surprise Franklin, 65- 50

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

In what is becoming habit forming, the Churchill Chargers have again stuck it to Franklin High.

"Franklin has yet to beat us in any sport this school year," said Churchill basketball Coach Pat Montano after his Chargers roared by a stunned Franklin squad, 65-50.

And to make the job even deeper, it was the first cage victory over Churchill over its city rivals, who had suffered one defeat prior to this clash.

THE TWO Livonia rivals now sport identical overall 5-2 marks, Franklin still undefeated in the Northwest Suburban at 2-0 and Churchill 1-1 in Western Six competition.

For Franklin head mentor Bob Visser it had to be an upset.

Before the battle, Visser said, "We have beaten

Churchill twice and are going for No. 3 tonight."

After the battle, he said, "The long layoff over the holidays hurt us and we didn't execute properly. On almost any night we should beat them. We didn't this time, Churchill's defense put it to us."

From the other side of the score's table came these remarks from Montano.

"We have better material than Franklin and a better bench. We have come a long way since the holiday tournament."

"Five scrimmages since that loss to Plymouth showed the kids that they play better as a team, instead of individuals."

"OUR KIDS don't have to get fired up for Franklin, the rivalry is there all year round. I have to give Franklin credit. They showed up and gave it a shot. If they gave a bad performance, it was due to our great defensive effort."

"If we played Franklin 10 times, we could beat them nine," concluded Montano. Churchill jumped to a 15-6 first quarter lead and was never really threatened.

Franklin's pitfall had to lie in the showing of 6-6 junior Kevin Kaseta. The 180 pound Patriot had been averaging over 18 points a game but was hindered with a bad back which had not permitted him to practice the week before the Churchill game.

It was obvious that Kaseta's timing was off and he started pressing after the first quarter. He ran into foul trouble, picking up No. 3 early in the fourth period after collecting his first three fouls midway through the second.

It all opened with Churchill called for a man in the jump circle and Franklin awarded the ball. Jamie Knapp put the Patriots up 2-0, and that was the last Franklin was to see of the lead.

BOBBY BLAIES tied it at two-all. Phil Skender made good one of two at the line and Mark Reed popped in a two-point shot. The Chargers then reeled off eight straight points on buckets by Reed, Don Braun, Skender and Phil Damaska and before Visser could get his team set, the Patriots trailed after the first eight minutes, 15-6.

With two minutes remaining in the half, Churchill had exploded to lead, 30-12, and Franklin was in foul trouble—Kaseta with three and Tim Fisher with four; Churchill led at the half, 34-19.

Franklin didn't spend much time in the locker room at the half, and with six minutes remaining in the half-time show, the Patriots charged out of their locker room to practice shooting but had to wait until the "Churchill and dancing girls" finished their routine of the Charger fight song.

Kaseta finally started finding the mark in the third quarter but Churchill kept its margin and carried a 42-29 lead into the last eight minutes.

With 2:23 remaining, Franklin sliced it to a 57-46, but that was the closest it could push with Churchill smelling victory from the opening tip on.

CHURCHILL HIT on 24 of 52 from the floor for 46 per cent, Franklin shooting 35 per cent on 19 of 54.

Franklin going three for eight from the floor the first quarter and four for 13 the second.

As in football, defense was the key to this victory for the Charger cagers.

Franklin was held to only five buckets from inside the lane with senior forward Reed bottling up the middle and keeping Kaseta in trouble the entire night.

Rebounding belonged to Churchill, 35-38, Braun and Reed hauling in nine apiece. Montano and his Chargers are now looking toward the Western Six with a 1-1 record and Montano sees his squad as the strongest contender.

"I can go to my eighth and ninth man and not have to worry at all," said Montano. "I have added 6-6 210 pound Don Forest to my front line to help 6-5 Reed and 6-6 1/2 Braun. We are going to be tough."

Churchill has a none-leaguer with Walled Lake Central Friday and then it's home against league rival Waterford Mott on Jan. 19.

FOR FRANKLIN, "We have to get charged up," said Visser. "I am glad we got this one out of our system."

Now comes the test for the Northwest champions with Friday's game at North Farmington. The Raiders also sport a 2-0 league mark and are hot off an upset win over Pontiac Northern.



FLYING CHARGER - Churchill's Phil Damaska (20) slices up the middle for two points against Franklin High in a city rival battle, with Churchill upending Franklin, 65-50. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

FRANKLIN (50)

| | FG | FT | TP |
|------------|----|-------|----|
| Waterstone | 3 | 0-1 | 6 |
| Evans | 2 | 0-0 | 4 |
| Kaseta | 9 | 2-3 | 12 |
| Callowell | 2 | 0-0 | 4 |
| Knap | 4 | 4-3 | 12 |
| Fisher | 0 | 5-7 | 5 |
| Burke | 3 | 0-0 | 6 |
| Baigie | 0 | 1-4 | 1 |
| Chisner | 0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Totals | 19 | 12-21 | 50 |

CHURCHILL (65)

| | FG | FT | TP |
|------------|----|-------|-------|
| Dlaire | 2 | 2-2 | 6 |
| Skender | 3 | 2-6 | 8 |
| Frispo | 2 | 0-1 | 4 |
| Reed | 7 | 2-2 | 16 |
| Braun | 1 | 0-1 | 2 |
| VanWagoner | 0 | 2-6 | 2 |
| Damaska | 6 | 6-13 | 13 |
| Kelly | 1 | 0-0 | 2 |
| Landis | 0 | 2-2 | 2 |
| Foster | 1 | 2-3 | 4 |
| Forest | 6 | 6-5 | 6 |
| Totals | 24 | 17-33 | 65 |
| Franklin | 6 | 13 | 21-50 |
| Churchill | 15 | 19 | 8 |

HARRISON (53)

| | FG | FT | TP |
|----------|----|------|-------|
| Hickey | 2 | 0-1 | 4 |
| Nicolay | 3 | 0-0 | 6 |
| Hegrich | 4 | 0-4 | 8 |
| Clardy | 2 | 0-0 | 4 |
| Sisloff | 11 | 9-9 | 31 |
| Totals | 22 | 9-14 | 53 |
| Plymouth | 19 | 10 | 23-64 |
| Harrison | 16 | 10 | 11 |

Rocks Smother Hawks, Host Bentley Friday

Plymouth High tuned up for its "must week" in the Suburban Eight basketball race with a non-league victory over Western Six foe Farmington Harrison, 64-53.

The 6-2 Rocks dropped for Allen Park and Edsel Ford and have since toppled Belleville to stand 1-2 in league action.

Not a very good start en route to the Sub-8 title.

But first year Coach Fred Thomann still sees his squad in the running, with this week the key to it all.

Plymouth played at defending champion Redford Union last night, and hosts Bentley Friday.

"These two games are a must," said Thomann, whose cagers captured the Churchill holiday tournament.

The limping Rocks were near par in the Harrison game, with Ron Egloff the lone starter still out of action. Plymouth at one time during the holiday tourney was without six of its players.

EGLOFF WAS to be back in the Rock lineup against Redford Union but only as a sub. He hasn't played since the Dec. 12 contest with Edsel Ford.

Pressure defense was the name of the game for Plymouth against Harrison as the Rocks built up a 14-4 first quarter margin, only to have it slip away to 19-16 at the end of the quarter.

Plymouth's tempo was off in the second and third periods but the Rocks managed to hang onto the lead, with

Harrison trailing 41-37 going into the last eight minutes.

THE ROCKS pulled it together in the final moments and shook off the on-coming Hawks 23 to 16, in the final period despite an outstanding performance by Harrison's Jeff Sisloff. He hit 11 of 14 from the floor and nine of nine at the line for a game high of 31 points.

Plymouth was paced by Tim Van Wagener's 27 points. Harrison outshot Plymouth from the floor, scoring 51 per cent on 22 of 43 attempts while Plymouth hit 29 of 41 per cent.

Plymouth outrebounded Harrison, 26-21.

"Their overall helps killed us," said Harrison Coach Bob Sutter whose Hawks slipped to a 2-4 overall mark.

Tips Melvindale

GC West Tied For 1st

Garden City West just keeps on rebounding from its non-league cage losses.

For the third consecutive game, Chris Babler's West Tigers bounced back from a non-league defeat to crush another Tri-River foe.

West was attempting to find itself again after losing to city rival Garden City East, and found the mark and win No. 3 in the Tri-River over Melvindale, 46-39.

The Tigers stand 3-0 in the Tri-River, tied with Schafer, but sport an 0-6 mark in non-league competition.

It seems a little early for a league showdown but that's

just what it will be Friday night when the two undefeated squads go at it, Schafer at West.

"We are starting to move the ball but still aren't putting it in the hoop," said Babler. "We are missing too many good shots but the kids are sticking right in there and giving it their all."

WEST LED the entire way against Melvindale but Babler and the Tigers were not without their anxious moments.

The Tigers were up, 12-10, at the end of one quarter and 22-20 at the half. West built it up to 3-29 going into the final

eight minutes and with 1:15 remaining, Melvindale had closed to within one, 38-37.

Ken Kinsvator put in a rebound for West, Bobby Carr sank two free throws and Ted Richmond popped in two from the floor to put the Tigers up, 46-37.

MELVINDALE put in two free throws at the buzzer and West had survived the final threat.

West hit 19 of 55 from the floor for 34 per cent. Melvindale, which slipped to a 1-7 mark, shot 11 of 46 for 23 per cent.

Kinsvator and Richmond hauled in nine rebounds each,

with West winning the board game, 36-29.

GC WEST (46)

| | FG | FT | TP |
|-----------|----|------|----|
| B. Carr | 1 | 6-8 | 8 |
| Tatro | 3 | 0-0 | 6 |
| Kibbourn | 5 | 0-0 | 10 |
| Kinsvator | 4 | 2-5 | 10 |
| Goesch | 2 | 0-0 | 4 |
| Richmond | 4 | 0-2 | 8 |
| Totals | 19 | 6-13 | 46 |

MELVINDALE (39)

| | FG | FT | TP |
|------------|----|-------|-------|
| D. Meier | 7 | 5-6 | 19 |
| Tate | 0 | 4-5 | 4 |
| Lalhouse | 2 | 5-6 | 9 |
| Siska | 0 | 1-3 | 1 |
| Lambert | 2 | 2-2 | 6 |
| Totals | 11 | 17-22 | 39 |
| GC West | 12 | 10 | 22-46 |
| Melvindale | 10 | 10 | 9 |

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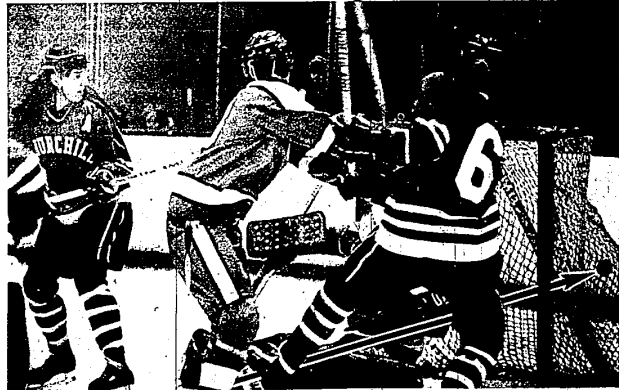
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CHURCHILL SCORE -- Charger forward Greg Hojami (A), lifts a shot past Stevenson goalie Van Vermeesch with Steve Ursti being

taken out of the action. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)