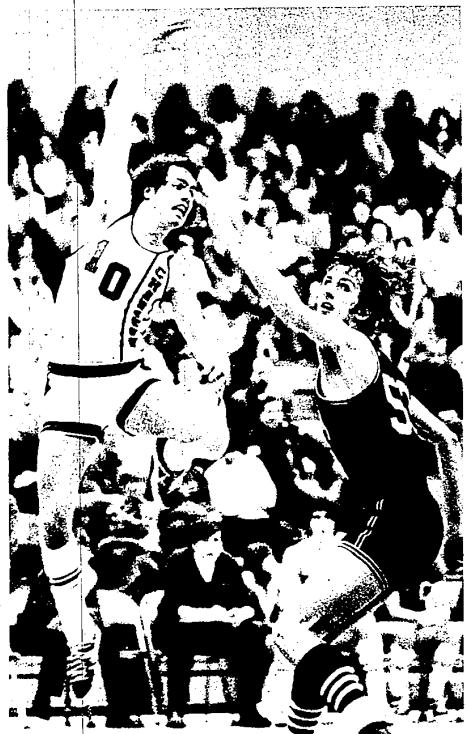


RU Cagers Clip Belleville For 9th Straight, 77-60

The ball of yarn is starting to unravel in the Suburban Eight basketball race. Allen Park is still the front-runner with an undefeated 7-0 mark, but the list of contenders is now narrowed to one.

The one is defending Sub-8 champion Redford Union with a 7-1 showing.

RU blitzed Belleville, 77-60, for its ninth straight win since it lost to Allen Park down in Parker territory, 79-63.



CHARGER BALLET? Churchill's Phil Skender (10) goes through the motions in a drive against Harrison's Jeff Siefold (53). Churchill went the motions of another Six victory, 57-50 over Harrison. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

plays host to none other than Allen Park.

"This race is going to be a lot tighter than last year," said Andrews, whose Panthers won it with a 10-2 mark in '72 and Bentley second at 9-3. For one thing, this season all teams play 14 league games — a complete double round robin — instead of 12. "Bentley and Plymouth are both having their problems, but I am still hoping Bentley can take Allen Park on its home court," said Andrews.

BENTLEY has yet to play the Parkers and outlasts the front runners on Feb. 9 and Feb. 27.

"I can see this whole race coming down to our final game with Allen Park. It's on our home court and if they beat us, that's it."

"I really thought Plymouth could beat them," added Andrews.

ALLEN PARK upended the Rocks, 77-63.

RU led all the way in knocking down Belleville for the second time this season, 62-54 the first round and 77-68 this time.

Belleville jumped to an 8-2 advantage but the Panthers bounced back to take a 14-13 first quarter edge. RU outscored Belleville 17-13 in the second eight minutes to lead at the half, 31-26.

The Belleville crew stayed with RU the third quarter, both teams popping in 10 points to make it 30-48 going into the final eight minutes.

Freshman Yee MSU Gymnast

Freshman Dennis Yee has made the Michigan State gymnastics team.

Yee, a native of Farmington, is a former prep standout at Farmington High School and is now a member of the still rings contingent at MSU. While in high school he also lettered in football.

Head coach George Szypula looks for Yee to add much depth to the Spartans title hopes for the 1972-73 season. With steady work, Szypula looks for Yee to be a star in Michigan State's gymnastics future.

Scott Bjerke took over the controls for RU in the fourth quarter and hit six field goals and one free-throw for 13 points as RU made nine of 17 from the floor to outscore Belleville, 27-15.

"Belleville went into a press and Bjerke started driving from all over the place," said Andrews. "It had been just a matter of time before we broke it open."

RU hit 30 of 58 from the floor for a 52 per cent shooting average and outscored Belleville, 35-34, with Jerry Peisch hauling in 11 and Bob Elam 10.

After RU won the Northwest Holiday game tourney, Andrews stated that his squad wouldn't lose a game the rest of the regular season, and if they did it would have to be an upset.

Maybe the coach knew what he was talking about. The next two weeks will tell.

BELLEVILLE (50)

	FG	FT	TP
Pace	7	12	15
Brown	1	2	4
Cicotte	3	3	7
Mayer	3	3	7
Williams	6	8	15
Venot	0	1	1
Hopk	1	0	0
Currie	2	0	4
Abraham	1	0	0
Total	24	32	60

REDFORD UNION (77)

	FG	FT	TP
Peisch	5	5	13
Elam	3	1	2
Elkja	10	12	27
Fulka	9	9	23
Johnson	1	0	0
Dolan	0	2	2
Sander	1	0	1
Total	30	37	77

Belleville 13 13 19 15 60

Redford Union 14 17 19 27 77

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Although Northville Downs opened its 39-night winter meeting Monday, Executive Manager John Carlo is anything but satisfied with the allotment of harness racing dates by Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley.

Carlo's major complaint concerns the manner in which Shirley has gradually slashed Northville's winter dates from 54 nights in 1970 to 35 in 1971, 36 in 1972 and 36 in 1973.

"In an operation such as ours where the location isn't the best in the area, we have to depend on summer racing to make up for deficits from the winter meeting," points out Carlo.

"Thus, when we drop from 54 nights to 35 in a single year, it's just like taking the cream off the milk and still calling it top grade. We know we have the best setup for winter dates with the glass enclosures and heated and air conditioned clubhouse and grandstand. Why should we be penalized for making such improvements?"

"We know that Northville is an out-of-the-way spot when the roads are icy and slippery. We also know that we'll have an ideal location when the new highway is completed and opened, but that's still a few years away."

"RIGHT NOW we tackle competition from Windsor during the winter and summer. It's difficult to be competitive when Windsor has the better location for patrons from Detroit's east side. The distance is shorter, the roads are better in winter and the facilities are similar. We get little play from the east side, which has long been known as the life blood for race tracks..."

for years bettors from that section have poured into the thoroughbred and harness racing plants.

"Windsor has no compunctions about running against Northville because of the location, but won't tangle with Wolverine or Hazel Park because location favors each."

"Thus, when the commissioner keeps cutting down our summer dates, he is placing us in a position where we can't possibly make up for the lower mutuel play and attendance during the winter."

Carlo refuses to accept the commissioner's story that he can't make adjustments in the dates. Shirley feels Northville is receiving equal treatment with 39 nights in winter and 36 in summer for a total of 75.

Wolverine and Hazel Park each have 82 nights, actually more than 36 during the summer months. Jackson-Northville has 24 nights in January and 47 in early winter for a total of 71. This is in addition to a 37 night session in late summer and late fall at Jackson.

"Carlo has a schedule he feels would meet with the approval of all tracks... provided that Hazel Park or the Detroit Race Course makes improvements necessary for year round racing."

THIS SCHEDULE would have Hazel Park operating in January, February and March; Northville in April, May and June; Wolverine in July, August and September; and Jackson at Northville in October, November and December.

"A schedule of this type would enable the commissioner to allot as many days as he desired to the Detroit Race Course and Hazel Park," he said. "The DRC could operate in March, April, May and June, and Hazel Park for an indefinite period beginning in July."

"Perhaps he would have to make adjustments to allow each of the thoroughbred tracks an even number of holiday days. Other than that, I see no reason why the commissioner couldn't allot dates and make them permanent."

To back his proposal, Carlo has figures to prove that winter racing is the most lucrative for harness racing in New York City and Chicago.

that Hazel Park, if winterized, would have a highly average handle of around \$800,000 within a year," Carlo predicted. "It has the location and, without competition from the runners, could shatter all Michigan records. More than that, it would force Windsor to close its doors during the winter. That's what the commissioner has been trying to accomplish for some time."

"It would keep Michigan money in Michigan and give the state additional revenue from the increased handle."

The personable Northville boss also has figures to support his stand against betting gimmicks. Carlo doesn't like gimmicks and feels they have had a big role in the attendance and wagering dips across the land.

THE STATISTICS show that of 62 meetings in 1968, when the gimmicks were at the popularity peak, 41 showed hikes in attendance and 54 had big increases in handle.

In 1969, with 68 meetings slated, 45 had better crowds and 52 showed higher wagering figures.

In 1970, with a total of 69 meetings, 41 had increases in attendance, 26 were even and 23 had drops. In wagering, 46 showed hikes and 20 had big dips.

In 1971, with 70 meets, 33 had better crowds and 37 reported major declines. Wagering was up at 21 and down at 49.

"The 1972 story was the saddest in recent harness racing history. There were 70 meets in which a mere 18 showed attendance increases and 52 reported dips. Wagering was down at 36 and only 34 had any gains over the previous years."

"We have received a breakdown in the wagering," said Carlo. "It conclusively shows that betting on the gimmicks dropped in each of the past three years. Track operators blame it on the gimmicks. Our figures show the same story... that's why we are limiting gimmicks to a daily double and three perfects this year."

"Come another season and we may drop all but the daily double."

"It has long been my belief that there is only a certain amount of money in any crowd and it will go through the machines whether on straight betting or gimmicks."

Prep Schedule

BASKETBALL		WRESTLING	
FRIDAY		THURSDAY	
St. Agatha at St. Florian		Taylor Center at GC West, 7 p.m.	
Trenton at Bentley		East at Franklin, 7:30 p.m.	
Borgess at Gallagher		Harrison at WL Western, 6:30 p.m.	
Churchill at WL Western		Thornton at N. Farmington, 6:30 p.m.	
W. Bloomfield at Clarencville		WL Central at Farmington, 6 p.m.	
Farmington at Pontiac Northern		Belleville at Bentley, 6:30 p.m.	
Waterford at Harrison		Edel Ford at Plymouth, 7 p.m.	
GC East at Franklin		Oak Park at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.	
GC West at Kearsley		Lathrup at Union, 6:30 p.m.	
Oak Park at John Glenn		Lathrup at Union, 6:30 p.m.	
Thornton at N. Farmington		Waterford at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.	
Redford Union at Plymouth		Clarencville at W. Bloomfield, 7 p.m.	
Hazel Park at Southfield		Churchill at Waterford Mott, 6 p.m.	
Lathrup at RO Dandero		SATURDAY	
Stevenson at WL Central		RU at Dearborn, 2 p.m.	
TUESDAY		Edel Ford Invitational	
AA St. Thomas at St. Agatha		MONDAY	
GC East at Churchill		RU at Franklin, 7:30 p.m.	
Seashore at Harrison		TUESDAY	
Overbrook at Franklin		GC West at Romulus, 6:30 p.m.	
Crestwood at GC West		Lathrup at Farmington, 6:30 p.m.	
Bentley at N. Farmington		Allen Park at Southfield, 3:30 p.m.	
Overbrook at Franklin		John Glenn at Bentley, 6:30 p.m.	
Lathrup at RO Dandero		Clarencville at Northville, 6:30 p.m.	
Stevenson at WL Central		HOCKEY	
WEDNESDAY		Franklin at Wyandotte, 8 p.m.	
Bentley at Lathrup (Ford), 8 p.m.		THURSDAY	
Churchill at Lathrup, 3 p.m.		Franklin at Southfield (Ford), 7 p.m.	
FRIDAY		Stevenson at Bentley (Ford), 3 p.m.	
SWIMMING		THURSDAY	
Redford Union at Trenton, 7 p.m.		Churchill at WL Western, 7:30 p.m.	
Churchill at WL Western, 7:30 p.m.		Franklin at N. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.	
Franklin at N. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.		Edel Ford at Plymouth, 7 p.m.	
John Glenn at Trenton, 7:30 p.m.		RD Dandero at Lathrup, 6:30 p.m.	
RD Dandero at Lathrup, 6:30 p.m.		Belleville at Bentley, 7 p.m.	
GC East at Oak Park, 7:30 p.m.		Northville at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.	
Harrison at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.		BOYS' GYMNASICS	
FRIDAY		WEDNESDAY	
Southfield at Hazel Park, 7 p.m.		Clarencville at AA Pioneer, 7:30 p.m.	
TUESDAY		Farmington at Harrison, 7:30 p.m.	
Bentley at Stevenson, 7 p.m.		AA Huron at N. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.	
Mason at Churchill, 7 p.m.		SATURDAY	
Clarencville at Northville, 7 p.m.		North Farmington Invitational, 8 p.m.	
Crestwood at GC West, 4 p.m.		GIRLS' GYMNASICS	
GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL		THURSDAY	
WEDNESDAY		Taylor Kennedy at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.	
Northwest League Meet at John Glenn Taylor Center at Harrison, 7:30 p.m.		FRIDAY	
Bentley at Stevenson, 7 p.m.		Mason at Churchill, 7 p.m.	
Clarencville at Northville, 7 p.m.		Crestwood at GC West, 4 p.m.	
Crestwood at GC West, 4 p.m.		GIRLS' GYMNASICS	
THURSDAY		Taylor Kennedy at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.	
FRIDAY		Bentley at Stevenson, 7 p.m.	
Mason at Churchill, 7 p.m.		Clarencville at Northville, 7 p.m.	
Crestwood at GC West, 4 p.m.		Crestwood at GC West, 4 p.m.	

Falcon Grapplers Subdue Spartans

Farmington High all but stole the wrestling one from under Stevenson in an Inter-Lakes Conference match, 47-5.

It was the sixth consecutive victory for the Farmington Falcons who stand 6-0 in dual competition. All Stevenson

could get was a lone decision out and a draw, with the Falcons scoring six decisions, three pins, one forfeit and one draw.

Meet results:

58 - Dan Longino (F) defeated Bruce Fench (S), 12-0

105 - John Olanoff (F) defeated Tom Norman (S), 13-0

112 - Dave Linn (F) forfeit win

119 - Greg Antonish (S) defeated Bill Mason (F), 3-2

144 - Pat Parke (F) pinned Dave Norman (S), 1:23

132 - Bill Stairs (F) pinned Wally Hogue (S), 1:19

138 - Mark Churnia (F) pinned Jim Shepard (S), 0:26

145 - Jack Gardner (F) defeated Steve Fenick (S), 14-0

155 - Jeff Kruse (F) defeated Dave Stein (S), 9-3

167 - Jim Maccoff (F) tied Brian Perre (S), 2-2

185 - Steve Babb (F) defeated Chris Denko (S), 8-0

HWT - Kevin Shafer (F) defeated Mike Harmon (S), 12-5

Allen Park Swimmers Capsize RU

Allen Park captured both relays and five of the nine individual events to topple Redford Union in a Suburban Eight swim match, 52-35.

RU had one double winner in Tom Stokley, who was first in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly.

Mark Paglia of Allen Park set a Redford pool record with a time of 4:03.8 in the 400 yard freestyle.

Meet results:

200 medley relay: 1 - Allen Park (Henson, Dyes, Messan, Katchanlian); 2 - Redford Union, Time 1:48.7

200 freestyle: 1 - Stokley (RU); 2 - Noll (AP); 3 - Paglia (AP); Time 1:53.2

100 individual medley: 1 - O'Mara (RU); 2 - Laban (AP); 3 - Devito (AP); Time 2:33.4

50 freestyle: 1 - Henson (AP); 2 - Garhart (AP); 3 - Bentley (RU); Time 24.2

500 yd: 1 - Pampallo (AP); 2 - Smith (RU); 3 - Freedman (RU); Time 10:28

100 butterfly: 1 - Stokley (RU); 2 - Messan (AP); 3 - Sheale (RU); Time 1:51.2

100 freestyle: 1 - Katchanlian (AP); 2 - O'Mara (RU); 3 - Doran (RU); Time 1:52.2

400 freestyle: 1 - Paglia (AP); 2 - Carver (AP); 3 - Michals (RU); Time 4:03.8

100 backstroke: 1 - Henson (AP); 2 - O'Mara (RU); 3 - Carli (AP); Time 1:51.3

100 breaststroke: 1 - Johnson (RU); 2 - Dye (AP); 3 - Martin (RU); Time 1:29

400 freestyle relay: 1 - Allen Park (Mason, Paglia, Katchanlian, Noll); 2 - Redford Union, Time 3:32.7

Churchill Thumps Crestwood, 34-25; Falls To Western

Livonia Churchill came from behind in the final four weight classes to topple Dearborn Crestwood in a non-league wrestling match, 34-25.

It was a different story in the following Western Six-clash with powerful Walled Lake Western.

After the first nine matches it was 21-20 Walled Lake, and two Western pins and a Churchill forfeit in the heavyweight class only added to the margin.

The Chargers stand at 4-4 overall.

CHURCHILL-CRESTWOOD

58 - Tony Zappa (DC) pinned Tony Blyskal (CL), 8:28

105 - Pat Mullin (CL) pinned Frank Guco (CL), 3:58

112 - John Hesse (CL) tied Pat Regen (DC), 2-2

119 - Bill Mink (CL) defeated Linda Herz (DC), 1:0

126 - Chuck Economidis (DC) pinned Nick Stroyan (CL), 5:27

132 - Rick Stashins defeated Tim Economidis (DC), 9-0

138 - Rick Stashins (DC) defeated, Kris Schultz (CL), 15-0

CHURCHILL-WESTERN

99 - Tony Bannell (CL) pinned Ron Overall (WL), 5:53

105 - Pat Mullin (CL) defeated Tom Barton (WL), 4-0

112 - Clark Overall (WL) pinned John Hesse (CL), 2-0

119 - Bill Mink (CL) tied Garh Gahlin (WL), 8-8

126 - Dave Guzikowski (WL) defeated Nick Stroyan (CL), 18-8

132 - Dave Stobbe (CL) pinned Jim Dooley (WL), 5:10

138 - Keith Howie (WL) defeated Kris Schultz (CL), 2-0

145 - Bob Stewers (CL) defeated Bruce Garland (WL), 7-5

155 - Andy Denny (WL) pinned Marc (CL), 1:55

167 - Gary Abel (WL) pinned Montani (CL), 1:1

185 - Larry Burckham (WL) pinned Bill Anderson (CL), 4-40

HWT - Forfeit to Walled Lake Western

Bentley Girls Fall To East; Down Churchill

Bentley's girls basketball team fell to Garden City East but upended city rival Churchill to stand 4-0 overall.

East crushed the Bulldogs, 32-13.

The Panthers led after one quarter, 8-3, 16-9 at the half, and 18-11, going into the final stanza. East then exploded with 14 points to only two by Bentley.

Junior Pam Maynes was high for Bentley with five points.

THE BULLDOGS rebounded to topple Churchill, 32-13.

Churchill grabbed a 4-2 first quarter lead but Bentley scored 12 in the second period to take a 14-3 lead into the locker room at the half.

Bentley outscored Churchill, 9-4, in the third and coasted home with sophomore Cindy Clertier popping in eight points.

PLYMOUTH, MICH.

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