

Glenn Rockets Dump West Cagers, 57-50

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

Westland John Glenn hit the boards and ran to a 57-50 cage victory over Garden City West.

Thus captured by Gordie Davis' Glenn Rockets is key No. 1 to a state-ranked season and hence lost by Chris Babler's West Tigers is its No. 1 key.

Glenn is out to defend its first Northwest Suburban basketball title and will get a real test in that feat in meeting head-to-head with arch-rival Livonia Franklin on Friday.

For Glenn it was victory No. 2 and for a now 1-1 West club, a setback: Babler did not want and does not believe he deserved.

"This one could hurt our entire season," commented the West master whose cagers have not finished below second place in the Tri-River conference. "We have to start over again and this is not going to be an easy task."

"Momentum we hoped to pick up from the opening win over Wayne is gone and we now have some really tough opponents before the holidays in Ann Arbor, Pioneer, Cherry Hill, Brother Rice and Franklin.

"The makings of an outstanding club could just vanish these next couple of weeks," Babler added.

"I knew we were in for trouble at the outset of the



game with Glenn," he continued. "The officials were the same set that worked our junior varsity contest against Wayne."

"We will not let them work our varsity games at West."

"With a different set of officials we would have won. This one really took a lot out of my kids."

Glenn coach Davis realized that the officials were calling a wide open contest and saw that it couldn't do anything but help his cause.

"I knew we would have to be aggressive on the boards," said Davis. "West had us in height and I told the kids to be as aggressive as the refs would allow them to be."

"But I will say that this is the last year we will be using the Hawthorne Valley Association officials."

Glenn finished with a 44 per cent shooting mark from the floor on 24 of 55 while



GORDIE DAVIS
"We Played Aggressive"

West hit a low 30 per cent, 20 for 66.

Rebounding saw a much smaller Glenn squad outmaneuver its way to a 33-32 advantage. Brian Kaluzny at 6-4 hauled in 12 for Glenn, Jeff Brittain next with seven.

West's 6-7 Bob Peace totaled nine.

A free-throw by Kaluzny and bucket by Jeff Brittain gave the Rockets an 11-8 advantage after one quarter.

West took the second quarter jump. Scott Chidester popped one home and Peace hit two from the line to push West into the lead for the only time in the game at 12-11.

Jim Kholmman, Harry Polovino, and Kaluzny all tipped in rebounds and Glenn was back in command to stay at 17-12. Free-throws by Brittain at the close of the first half made it 23-22 with two quarters remaining.

The West Tigers got to within one with 5:18 remaining in the third on two from the line by Paul Collins to make it 31-30. But a balanced attack by Glenn pushed it back to 39-36 after three quarters.

Kaluzny then picked up the hot hand for Glenn, hit four buckets in the final six minutes and Glenn's aggressive hustle paid off in a 57-50 dividend.

Box score:

GC WEST JOHN GLENN									
	FG	FT	TP		FG	FT	TP		
Tenn	5	0-4	10	Sean	7	2-3	10		
Chidester	1	0-2	1	Jovan	1	0-1	1		
Peace	1	1-3	3	Kaluzny	2	4-7	1		
Good	1	0-2	0	Pablene	2	2-4	1		
Reese	4	4-4	2	Robinson	2	2-2	1		
Collins	2	2-2	0	Wynn	1	0-0	0		
Babler	1	1-4	1	Thorn	2	2-2	1		
Niles	1	1-4	1	TOTALS	24	30-57			

GC WEST JOHN GLENN									
	FG	FT	TP		FG	FT	TP		
Glenn	11	14	14	14-50					
West	11	18	10	14-50					

Jittery Salem Rocks Get By WL Central, 55-49

A 10-point spurt in the final minutes of play carried Plymouth Salem to a 55-49 opening basketball victory over "stubborn Walled Lake Central," the latter's first home court loss in 2 1/2 years.

The jittery Rocks, who committed 29 turnovers and earned only nine of 29 free throw attempts, did shoot a commendable 46 per cent from the floor and had a 36-25 edge in rebounds in getting an important non-league win.

Salem now opens its Sub-

ban Eight title chase on its own floor Friday night, against its most ancient rival, Livonia Bentley.

The Rocks trailed 10-7 after the first period and 23-22 at the half at Walled Lake in a battle that saw the lead change hands six times and the score tied on 10 other occasions.

After the last deadlock at 45-45 deep into the fourth quarter, Rick Neu, Bruce Johnson, Jeff Lamirand and Eric Agarty combined for the points that gave

Plymouth a 10-4 margin in the stretch.

The 6-9 Agarty, a junior transfer from Allen Park, led Rock scoring and rebounding with 18 points and 11 grabs off the boards, but was the only Plymouth player in double figures.

Craig Long and Mike In-hoff paced the Vikings with 14 and 10 points respectively. Plymouth coach Fred Thommann, beginning his second campaign at Salem, shrugged at the 31 per cent performance at the foul line and

conceded, "It wasn't much of an artistic success but for an opener we'll take it. It's a good one to have under our belts."

PLYMOUTH W.L. CENTRAL									
	FG	FT	TP		FG	FT	TP		
Neu	4	0-3	8	Page	4	2-2	10		
Long	3	3-5	9	Inhoff	4	2-2	10		
Johnson	2	0-4	8	Long	1	0-0	0		
Lamirand	4	0-0	8	Long	1	0-0	0		
Agarty	1	0-0	2	Neu	2	1-4	5		
Thommann	1	0-2	2	TOTALS	19	11-37	49		

PLYMOUTH W.L. CENTRAL									
	FG	FT	TP		FG	FT	TP		
Plymouth	7	15	19	11-45					
W.L. Central	10	13	15	14-48					

Lathrup Upends Lake Orion

Southfield Lathrup is hoping for an instant replay.

The Lathrup cagers opened a 20-2 season last year with an overpowering 84-44 victory over Lake Orion.

Jim Kourtakis' Chargers did it again.

Lathrup kicked off the 1973-74 campaign in over-

powering fashion with a 67-42 triumph against Lake Orion.

"I really felt Lake Orion would be a stronger club this year," commented Kourtakis who has only one returning starter in 6-4 John Gardner.

"I can't be anything but pleased with our performance with four new people in the lineup."

Field goal percentage from the floor tells most of the story in the Orion clash with Lathrup hitting 24 of 39 for 61 per cent while the Charger defense hampered Orion with a 12 for 34 showing for 35 per cent.

A sluggish first quarter saw Lathrup slip ahead to a 12-8 lead.

The Chargers picked up steam in the second eight minutes, hit six of 12 from the field and pushed their margin to 32-21 at the half. Senior 5-8 guard Jim Ballantyne sparked that surge with eight points.

Lathrup continued to build its offensive attack and out-scored Lake Orion, 18-11, in the third quarter and 17-10 in the final eight minutes.

"We played outstanding defense," added Kourtakis. "We forced Lake Orion to take almost all outside shots."

Gardner's 13 rebounds paced Lathrup with the Chargers holding an overall 97-53 margin.

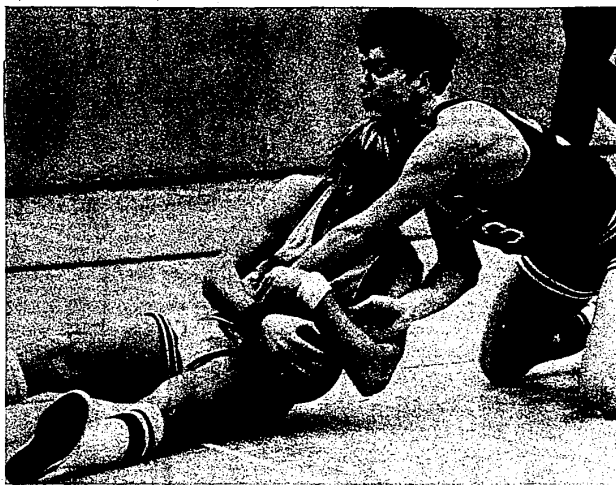
"I was extremely pleased with our offense but the defense picked up for whatever was lacking there," commented Kourtakis whose lineup of 5-9, 5-9, 6-3, 6-1 and 6-8 all but overmatched Lake Orion's 6-5, 6-4, 6-3 and 5-11.

Lathrup travels to Bloomfield Hills Lusher Friday night. The Chargers toppled their twice last Met Suburban championship season, 88-65, and 66-59.

LATHRUP LAKE ORION									
	FG	FT	TP		FG	FT	TP		
Ballantyne	6	8-13	21	Day	1	0-11	11		
Gardner	5	7-15	20	Conlin	4	3-6	11		
Neu	4	1-2	0	Ballantyne	2	1-2	1		
Smith	4	0-1	0	Shaner	2	2-4	7		
Johnson	1	0-0	0	Wynn	1	0-0	0		
Gardner	3	2-2	8	Thorn	0	0-1	0		
TOTALS	24	28-57	70	TOTALS	12	13-34	42		

LATHRUP LAKE ORION									
	FG	FT	TP		FG	FT	TP		
Lathrup	12	20	18	17-47					
Lake Orion	10	13	11	14-42					

TEMPERS FLARED in the Garden City West-John Glenn cage contest with West Coach Chris Babler expressing his viewpoint to the official on a call that he saw go the wrong way. Glenn whipped West, 57-50. Observer photo by Tom Donoghue



CONTESTING FOR A LOOSE BALL are John Glenn's Jeff Brittain (sitting on floor) and Garden City West's Bob Peace (53). A jump

ball was called, Glenn got the tip and the game, 57-50. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

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