



# As I see it

By KEN HOFFMAN

I spent a few afternoons early this week watching some of the local high schools practice for their upcoming basketball seasons. It was the usual menu of layup drills and wind sprints. The coaches were all decked out in their traditional gray sweatshirts with the

whistle dangling loosely about the neck. Typical.

The team hopefuls all looked strangely alike. Each had on his new pair of 25 dollar basketball shoes and a bright shirt boasting the name of a Big-Ten college or professional team. For some reason, the boys all seemed to be blond.

The coach at one school gave a chalk talk on the value of team play and passing, while his players sat and absorbed the philosophy. In the ensuing practice, the ball was chest passed and bounce passed so many times that I began to wonder if a shot would ever be taken.

About this time I also began to think about the basketball team we had when I was in high school,

and how different it was from those in the Oakland A League today.

I GRADUATED from an all boys school in Newark, New Jersey. The reason for the school's being all male was not due to the exclusive private nature of its enrollment. A decade or so ago, the board of education deemed it unsafe for girls to walk the halls, so when the new high school was opened, only the girls entered its doors.

I went to one rough high school. This school was so rough that it had the only school newspaper with an obituary column.

The school's crudeness extended to its basketball team. Ours was

the kind of team where everyone had on a different colored pair of socks.

While I watched the Rochester team go through its paces, with its precision passing and such, I was reminded of our style of play.

Passing? A pass was something that Arlene Francis did on What's My Line when she had absolutely no idea of the contestant's occupation.

WE HAD GUYS on the team named Moose, Bear, The Ox, (these guys were animals). And they played like animals, too.

Contrary to the blarney put out by CBS, television did not invent the sports doubleheader by coupling an NFL game with an NBA

contest. My high school started the idea with a basketball game followed by a gang fight. And with the price of admission often came participation in the latter event.

While the mop headed young man went through his practice session at Rochester, his equally mop headed girlfriend watched breathlessly in the stands. In my high school the only audience at a practice was a handful of probation officers.

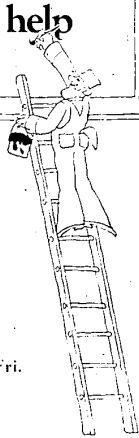
It would be an imaginative matchup. The hard core ghetto school basketball team against the more disciplined suburban five. I wouldn't know for whom to root. Out of fairness, on that night I would only grease half my hair.

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## New leader in Over 30

The Southfield Over 30 Hockey League has a new leader - Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home.

Sawyer-Fuller blanked Concourse Camera, 7-0, last week and moved into the leadership of the eight-team league. Bill Boyd had a hat trick for the winners, now 3-0-4. Ron Brewer added a pair of goals, while Jim Gudenburr and Don Mills each scored one. The loss dropped Concourse deeper into last place at 1-3-3.

In another Over 30 game, Spartan Concrete defeated second place Arley's Firestone, 4-2. Spartan's goals were scored by Tony Gucciardo, Gary Lamiere, Ray Tremblay and Jim Lepine. Bob Kiefek and Gordon Lawton scored for the losers.

### Mitzi's medal

Thirteen-year-old Mitzi Amelon is way ahead of her years when it comes to figure skating.

Miss Amelon of Southfield won a gold medal in a dance test last Sunday at Veterans Rink in Ann Arbor. The competition was sponsored by the U.S. Figure Skating Assn. Miss Amelon is a member of the Detroit Skating Club.

"It's really phenomenal for a girl so young to win a gold medal," said a spokesman for the Detroit Skating Club. "Usually they're in their twenties before they win something that big."

Northland Heating beat Suburban Sports Center, 3-1. Don Brooks scored two goals and John Gummerous added another for Northland. Greg Van Conant scored Suburban's goal.

Roger Penske Chevrolet and Star Lincoln-Mercury played to a 2-2 tie. Paul Kezelle scored both Penske goals, while Bryson Maddick and Elio Marulli scored for Star.

Games Thursday (Nov. 21) include: Sawyer-Fuller vs. Arley's (7:30 p.m.), Suburban Sports Cen-

ter vs. Roger Penske (8:35 p.m.), Concourse Camera vs. Northland Heating (9:40 p.m.) and Spartan Concrete vs. Star Lincoln-Mercury (10:50 p.m.).

The Over 30 League is accepting applications for its 1974-75 waiting list. It is anticipated that openings will become available this season, officials said.

Applications may be filled out at Suburban Sports Center, 28900 Evergreen Road. The application must be completed and returned by mail. Proof of age (over 30 years) and residency is required.

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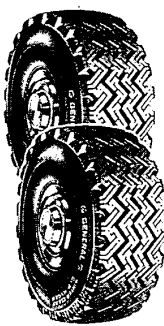
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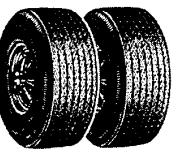
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