

First hockey win ever for Lathrup

By TOM BAER
Lathrup hockey coach Dave Butler learned about losing the hard way — by losing game after game since the sport was established at the school in November, 1972.
From that time until last Thursday night, Lathrup compiled a frustrating 0-41 record. But then last Thursday the long wait ended. Lathrup defeated Allen Park, 4-3, in a Suburban Hockey League game before a large crowd at Southfield's Beechwood Arena.
Butler described the scene after the game.
"The players were bananas," he said. "It was like this game was for the high school championship of the world. At the end of the game, there was a massive pickup in front of the net. The players and the crowd were so excited."

"It was like this game was for the high school championship of the world."
Dave Butler
Lathrup hockey coach

man power play going for about a minute and a half.
Lathrup had one important thing going for it: the large, enthusiastic crowd, which never stopped cheering, according to Butler.
"The crowd won it for us," he said. "They gave us that extra something in motivation and desire. What loses a lot of these games is that the players experience a letdown. But that crowd didn't let our kids get down."

"HE (TOWERS) pulled off some fabulous saves near the end of the game," Butler said. "At times we were two men short. They had a two-

players from the (recreation) travel teams next season.
"Now that we're over this barrier (the first victory), what other mountains could there possibly be?"
Lathrup plays next against Grosse Pointe University Leggett School in the state regional tournament. The game is set for Monday (March 3) at 8 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Community Rink.
Last Thursday was an especially happy day for Butler. It was his 10th wedding anniversary.

Scoring: Allen Park (Crosen) (Petrera) 2:19; Allen Park (Crosen) (Witkowski) 4:38; Possibilities: Isaacson (SL) elbowing misconduct 1:21; Nasonom (AP) elbowing 3:22; Petrera (AP) slashing 4:44; Crosen (AP) tripping 10:28.

Third Period
Scoring: Lathrup (Kelly) (Isaacson) 1:05; Allen Park (Nasonom) (Crosen) 1:22; Lathrup (Isaacson) (Hoff) 5:53; Lathrup (Isaacson) (Lewy) 8:20; Possibilities: Davis (SL) high sticking 5:30; Kallher (AP) high sticking 5:30; Isaacson (SL) slashing 6:16; Lax (SL) holding 7:09; Witkowski (AP) high sticking 12:30; Lewy (SL) charging 12:30; Nasonom (AP) interference 12:30; Lax (SL) delay of game 14:40.

First Period
Scoring: Lathrup (Kelly) (Isaacson) 1:17; Possibilities: Isaacson (SL) elbowing 1:17; McCullough (SL) interference 3:12; Kline (SL) interference 7:14; Witkowski (AP) 11:22; Russell (SL) high sticking 11:47; Lax (SL) tripping 14:40.

LATHRUP 1 0 0 1-0
ALLEN PARK 0 0 0 0-3



John Harding (left) congratulates Bob Frackelton for his play against Detroit Cooley

Chargers falls, 59-58

Thurston nails Lathrup in district thriller

By TOM BAER
Southfield-Lathrup coach Jim Kouratkin and his players hoped to advance to the state regional basketball tournament at Livonia Franklin this week.
But after Friday's 59-58 loss to Thurston High in the district final, the Chargers will be in the stands at Franklin if they go at all.
Coach Bill Croteau's Thurston Eagles advanced to Friday's district final with victories over Dearborn Heights, Ann Arbor and Dearborn Heights. Crestwood last week. Lathrup, which hosted the district, beat Redford Union and then surprised Detroit Cooley, 55-48, last Wednesday.

THAT SET UP the championship game: Lathrup (12-10) vs. Thurston (10-11).
Thurston jumped to an 18-14 lead after one quarter. The Chargers flipped that score around in the second quarter, and the teams were tied, 32-32, at halftime. Dave Poldori, a 6-3 forward, was the big gunner for Thurston in the first half. He fired in 17 of his 20 points before halftime.
The score was still tied, 44-44, at the three quarter mark, but then Thurston pulled it out with an exciting finish. Lathrup went up by four midway through the final quarter, but the Chargers couldn't break it open.
With 1:25 left in the game, Lathrup junior Gary Hawthorne scored, was fouled by Poldori, and missed the free throw. But the rebound went to Lathrup. Ron Silbertsen ended up with the ball and finished a long shot to put Lathrup ahead, 58-57.
Thurston's Gary Bireta scored the next basket, making it 59-58 with :43 seconds left. That ended the scoring, although both teams had opportunities.

CONY RODRIGUEZ and Jeff Krywada joined Poldori in double figures. Both scored 14 points. Bireta added nine points and sophomore

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SPORTS

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David Beebe had two in his first starting role.
Lathrup guard Tom O'Rourke scored 20 points on seven baskets and six of six from the line. John Harding scored 14 points, while Ron Silbertsen, Bob Frackelton and Tom Hart all added six.
Thurston's man-to-man press used throughout the game was definitely a factor. Lathrup was guilty of 25 turnovers in the game.
"We've been saying all year that defense is the name of the game, and the kids are believing it," Croteau said. "We play strictly man-to-man. We pressed and a good off guard off in quite a few steals."
"We had a slow start in the first quarter," Kouratkin said. "That was the ball game. We were tight. 25 turnovers. That's more than we've had all year."
Things went much better for Lathrup against Cooley. The Chargers exploded for 22 points in the second quarter, while holding Cooley to just five. Five Lathrup players finished in double figures. Frackelton, who came off the bench in the second quarter, scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Silbertsen had 15 points. Mark Johnston



Lathrup's Tom Hart scored six points against Cooley

Andover tops Harrison, 64-46

Murray-Wright wins district

Bloomfield Hills Andover basketball team gave it their best Friday night against highly rated Detroit Murray Wright, but came up two points short and fell to a 64-46 defeat.
"The kids played one heck of a ball game," said Andover coach Hal Henderson.
Wright, winner of the North Farmington district tournament, now moves into regional play while the Barons concluded their season on a 15-4 note.
"I don't think too many people

thought we could win tonight," Henderson said.
THE BARONS mentor should have added a footnote to that statement, "not too many people" except the Andover players. The Bloomfield Hills cagers outdid the Pilots in every department but the score. Unfortunately, their performance also included more turnovers.
Andover suffered 31 miscues as compared to 21 for Murray Wright and out-rebounded the Detroiters 44-38.

"WE TOOK it to them," Henderson said. "We non-pressed them the whole game."
Andover outshot the Detroit city championship runnerup 64 per cent to 30 per cent from the floor with Wittan and Wright's Robert King sharing game scoring honors with 20 each.
Henderson's squad had moved into the district finals by slipping past Farmington Harrison 64-46 last Wednesday night.
Wittan and Hal Strait combined for 18 points in the fourth quarter as the Barons outscored Harrison 23-9 to seal the victory.
The Baron guards finished the game with 21 and 12 points respectively while Mark Brown and Bob Mason hit for double figures for Harrison.

DETROIT MURRAY-WRIGHT
(64): Meter 2-4-4; Davis 1-1-4; King 5-4-4; Hill 1-3-3; WB Jones 1-3-4; Swanson 1-4-4-1; Brackett 2-0-4-4. Totals: 27-10-40.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS ANDOVER
(46): Meter 2-4-4; Wittan 2-4-4; McLoughlin 2-4-4; Wittan 2-4-4; Strait 1-3-4; Drexel 0-0-0-0; Benson 0-0-0-0; Henderson 1-0-0-2. Totals: 20-10-12-42.

M. WRIGHT 23 30 17 15-40
ANDOVER 14 13 14 21-40

ANDOVER (46): Meter 4, 0-1, 8; Therman 3, 1-2, 7; McLoughlin 2, 0-0, 6; Wittan 10, 1-1, 21; Strait 4, 0-0, 12; Drexel 2, 1-2, 7; Benson 1, 0-0, 2; David 0, 1-2, 1; Korman 0, 0-0, 0; Henderson 1, 0-0, 2. Totals: 30, 4-10, 64.

HARRISON (46): Mason 4, 0-1, 13; Stader 3, 0-4, 6; Brown 4, 3-4, 15; Otto 0, 2-2, 2; Wick 2, 0-4, 4; Lopez 0, 0-0, 0; Gilbert 0, 0-0, 0; Pump 0, 0-0, 0; Spaulz 0, 0-0, 0; Mankel 0, 0-0, 0; Stetick 0, 0-0, 0. Totals: 17, 12-22, 46.

ANDOVER 15 13 13 23-44
HARRISON 14 14 14 21-40

Sports coming up

Baseball Regional
Wednesday (March 6) winner of Southfield-Lathrup-Thurston High game vs. winner of Southfield High district, Livonia Franklin High School, 3000 Joy Road, 8 p.m.

Hockey Regional
Monday (March 6) Southfield-Lathrup vs. Grosse Pointe University Leggett School, Grosse Pointe Community Rink, 601 Canyon, Detroit, 8 p.m.

Wednesday (March 6) Southfield High vs. Detroit Catholic Central, Grosse Pointe Community Rink, 601 Canyon, 8 p.m.

Swimming State Tournament
Tuesday through Saturday (March 6-8) Area Swimmers who have qualified will participate in the state meet at Michigan State University.

Wrestling State Tournament
Friday and Saturday (March 6-7) Area wrestlers who have qualified will participate in the state meet at Michigan State University.

Volleyball
Tuesday (March 5) Southfield Hills Lathrup at Southfield-Lathrup, 1901 Twelve Mile Road, 4 p.m.