

## Sidelines

By RON HINGST

It was 4:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning.

It was still dark outside and one by one auto headlights pierced the blackness in the parking lot of the local rink.

Car doors opened and out jumped pint sized hockey players.

**BLEARY** eyed mothers and fathers gathered in small groups inside the artificial ice palace.

The hockey parent's day had begun.

Not every hockey practice takes place during the wee hours of the morning, but hockey does indeed own some characteristics peculiar to other sports. Practice times are not geared for the sleeping conven-

ience of players and their parents, expenses are high and the arena stands can be chilly and uncomfortable.

But, in the Birmingham Hockey Association hockey is a winter-time family recreation for many families and the result of hours of hard work and dedication on the part of parents.

"MY KIDS think hockey is the greatest thing since sliced bread," said Don Shere, BHA president, team sponsor, coach and player father.

Shere, who spends 40 to 50 hours a week with BHA activities, is the heaviest involvement in hockey is the heaviest with the squirt and

pee wee age groups with a slight decline at the bantam level.

"Most parents spend six to seven hours a week with hockey," he said.

Quick to point out the program has been the result of many families. Shere described the character building aspect of the sport.

"A CHILD learns to put out 100 percent and this carries into later life," he said. "Hockey is a real confidence builder."

Television has played a major role in popularizing hockey, and often a parent with Canadian heritage influences their children's participation in the sport.

"We have made hockey a family

project," said Fred Mueller, BHA coach, father of two players and instructor for a hockey clinic at the local arena. "My wife is Canadian and we all skate a good deal, so when the kids got old enough we got them hockey sticks."

**MOST** hockey practices and games last only an hour, but for the parent the effort involves leaving home one-half hour before ice time and returning home some two hours later. Add together one practice per week, two games and some free skating and the time can pile up.

"It takes a lot of effort to get the kids to the rink," Mueller said. "Parents also contribute to

whether the player will be a good skater. A youngster must get out and skate regularly and often."

Winter weather often provides some of the most miserable conditions for transporting players to a rink, and there is little doubt a warm basketball gymnasium would make a more comfortable environment than the chilly ice arena.

"I have really gotten to enjoy the sport," said Judy Maier, mother of three playing sons. "Getting up early is the hardest to take, but it's our winter recreation."

**WITH ALL** the parental involvement, mothers and fathers will agree that it's still for the kids. Personally, the efforts of the

hockey parents strike close to home. There was a time, maybe 18 years ago, yours truly could be found jetting down the frozen surface of an outdoor rink with visions of Gordie Howe dancing through my head.

During a break in the action, a quick glance would find dad quietly, but intently watching the action. The viewing accommodations weren't the best and many times the temperature got downright chilly.

Hockey players need an organization like the BHA. They need equipment that costs plenty. Now-

days they need indoor arenas. Hockey players need interested parents, parents with a capital "P"

## W. Bloomfield reaps benefits of cage program

The sound of a bouncing basketball can be heard throughout West Bloomfield. Roundball has indeed arrived in that community.

An estimated 500 youths are currently involved in WB basketball through a program which offers cages competition from the fifth through 12th grades.

"Our program is a year old and it has expanded through the efforts of many people," said WB High basket-

ball coach Tim Domke.

**ALTHOUGH** DOMKE has quarterbacked the entire program, he is the first to emphasize that the effort has resulted from the involvement of other coaches and parents.

"For example," Domke said, "Mike Abel, basketball coach at Our Lady of Refuge, has spent countless hours getting Little League Basketball off the ground. Others include our junior high

school basketball coaches Tom Thompson, Dave Baily, Greg Kopec, Dick Sauch; our freshmen coach Al Boback; our junior varsity coach Ken Smith, and Dick and Nancy Bossert, who helped found the Little League."

The West Bloomfield cage program has been designed so that participants receive a consistent type of coaching philosophy down through the ranks. When the player reaches high school he has a-learned instruction similar to

his earlier years.

"Our goal also is to make basketball a fun thing," Domke said, proudly noting that many of his varsity players often spend extra hours in the gym after formal practice.

**THE HUSTLING LAKER** mentor added that ideally the program can be developed to the point no boy will have to be cut from a team and he said: "Right now, we are working for

another coach here at the high school."

The instructional aspects of the program includes clinics by the coaching staff, spring and fall intramural competition for the high school players and a weight control program which according to Domke has paid some quick dividends.

"It has shown this year and each varsity player has gained at least 15 pounds," he said. The Little League which was started this past fall seeks to offer young players a chance at one practice and one game per week. An estimated 300 players signed up and the dedication of the organizers has been unprecedented.

And as Domke pointed out the program offers everyone a chance to play.

"We miss very few kids who can play basketball," he said.

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## Third time this year

### Southfield Christian beats Bethany

They say that three is the trick but things didn't work out that way for Bethany Christian of Troy when they met Southfield Christian Friday night.

The Troy school, which had lost to Southfield twice before this season, saw an encouraging first-quarter lead fade away and lost 60-32 at Bethany.

For awhile, though, Bethany not only stayed even, but dominated. Bethany coach Dave Guthrie pulled

his team out of its usual 2-1-2 defense into a 1-3-1 zone and the game got very interesting as Bethany jumped to a 12-6.

But Southfield Christian coach Bruce Calderwood sensing an upset in the making, made a change in his own, switching his team from man-to-man defense to a 2-1-2 zone and that made all the difference in the world.

Southfield pulled to within a

bucket by the end of the first quarter and pulled away for the rest of the game, limiting Bethany to just eight points in the second quarter and 12 in the second half.

"We just went cold," said Bethany coach Dave Guthrie.

Dave Phillips, usually the high scorer for Bethany, got just six points and was 0-7 from the field in the second half.

Gary Spruill, usually not the

high scorer for Southfield, came through with 18 points. Spruill has a specialty liking, it seems, for Bethany. He has scored in double figures in each game the two teams have played.

Eric Larson and Graham Nash both for Southfield Christian, were the only other players in double figures. Both scored 10 points.

Southfield Christian continued its domination of the Bethany junior varsity, taking a 51-28 victory.

## Falcons fall

When the Detroit Free Press ranks a team tenth in the state, it usually does so for good reason. The Rochester Falcons learned that resulting in believing as it turned to Sterling Heights Stevenson, 55-43 in an away affair Tuesday night.

It was a game that found Rochester outmanned and outgunned. The Falcons' front line was dominated physically and the backcourt was blinded by the incredible shooting of the Titans' guards. By the quarter, Rochester was down by ten, and by the half it was down (and out) by 30 points.

Stevenson was led by 6-4 swingman Jerry McCoil, whom Coach Bailey calls "the best all-around player I'll face all year."

**McCOIL** PROVED himself an excellent leaper and shooter, and should develop into quite a college prospect. The senior sharpshooter gunned in 20 points, mostly from the perimeter.

But if McCoil was hot, Len Voss was even hotter. Voss, who doesn't even start in the Titan's scheme of

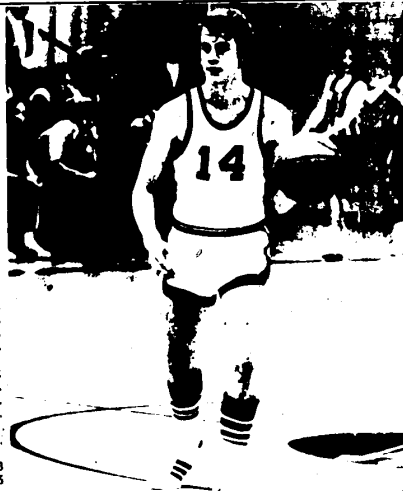
things, came off the bench to hit on nine of 11 shots from radar range. Voss connected on all six of his attempts in the second quarter of play. Stevenson capitalized on the game outside shooting to put the Falcons out of reach.

The Falcons had only Curt Smith's good game to use as a shield. The six-foot senior was good on six of twelve from the field in racking up 14 points. Rochester now stands at 1-7 on the season and is looking toward the Oakland A to make a charge at 500.

**ROCHESTER** — Boice 0, 1-3, 1; Corless 1, 0-0, 2; Hoffler 2, 2-2, 4; Jones 1, 1-2, 3; Lamphear 3, 0-0, 6; Ledgerwood 1, 0-0, 2; Martin 2, 2-4, 1; Potter 0, 1-2, 1; Smith 6, 2-3, 14; Studenski 0, 2-2, 2. **TOTALS:** 16, 11-16, 43.

**STEVENSON** — Olech 2, 0-0, 4; Gilbert 3, 5-10, 16; Spokarski 1, 3-5, 5; Jackson 1, 1-3, 3; McCoil 8, 4-1, 20; Voss 9, 2-2, 20; Lowell 1, 2-2, 1; Chval 0, 1-2, 1; Battaglia 1, 3-5, 5; Bush 2, 3-4, 7. **TOTALS:** 30, 25-47, 85.

Rochester 6 12 16 9-43  
Stevenson 16 32 21 16-85



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## Adams skiers win 1st

The Adams High ski team soundly defeated Lakeview in its 1975 season's opener on Monday. Coach Ken Pasbjerg watched on as his girls won on a disqualification and the Highlander boys copped by a 149-211 score.

The top individual time in the girls division was turned in by a Lakeview girl but the next three spots went into the Adams col-

umn. Mary Jo Mason came home in 43.5 seconds, Sue Candrian was next in 45.5 and Wendy Siffing was fourth in 49.5.

All four top finishers for the boys wore Adams' colors. Joe Kosik was first in 34.9, Dave Hartwig had a 35.4 tour, Cory Siffing was next in 37.7 and Jim Fox was good for 41.4. The Highlanders ski next Wednesday against Berkley.

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