

Phillips fires in 27

Lathrup rips Stevenson in non-league contest

By DOUG FUNKE

A much quicker, stronger Southfield-Lathrup quintet combined a sticky man-to-man defense with a hot offensive shooting night Tuesday to blast Livonia Stevenson in basketball action, 79-52.

The Chargers completely stifled Stevenson during the opening eight minutes, as the Spartans connected for only three field goals and a single free throw for seven points, while a run and shoot style of play netted Lathrup 20 points.

Stevenson coach George Van Wagener switched from a zone to a man-to-man defense after the first quarter in an attempt to shut down the potent Chargers' offense, but by then, the damage had been done to an irreparable degree.

Lathrup continued its scoring rampage during the second period, besting the Spartans 19-12 to take a commanding 39-20 halftime advantage, a margin which never was seriously threatened.

Stevenson ran its offensive patterns much better during the second half and connected on field goal attempts, which had bounced off the rim much of the first half, to notch 42 points, a pair more than Lathrup, but the Chargers' big early spurt was insurmountable.

"They (Lathrup) handled the ball very well and shot very well too," assessed Van Wagener. The statistics bear out Van Wagener's observation, as the Chargers canned 20 of 42 field goal attempts and 19 of 23 from the charity stripe.

In spite of the loss, the Stevenson mentor also had some good things to

say about his team's performance. "I thought we executed very well after the first quarter, but I guess it was just one of those nights," Van Wagener said.

Lathrup was paced by Bill Phillips, a 6-4 center, who scored 27 points and blocked numerous Stevenson shots. Tom O'Rourke and Mark Johnson added 20 and 14 points respectively for the Chargers.

Rob Rose led the Spartan scorers with 16 points, while Dave Haberman chipped in 12.

The victory hiked Lathrup's record to a perfect 6-0 mark, while Stevenson slipped to an even 2-2 standing. The Spartans' next competition is tonight

(Thursday) at Waterford in an Inter-Lakes League affair.

Southfield-Lathrup-Livonia Stevenson

Southfield Lathrup (79): Tom O'Rourke 7, 6-4, 38; Gary Hawthorne 3, 3-4, 9; Bill Phillips 16, 7-7, 27; Mark Johnson 7, 6-6, 14; Casey Forward 1, 1-2, 2; Mark Konry 1, 0-4, 2; Bruce Beers 6, 5-2, 2. Totals: 79, 19-23, 79.

Livonia Stevenson (52): Rob Rose 5, 6-16, 16; Ron Colone 4, 1-3, 9; Dave Haberman 5, 2-3, 12; Steve Gaborian 2, 3-4, 7; Dave Gulland 0, 2-2, 2; Greg Spas 3, 0-1, 6; Bill Mullaity 1, 2-4, Steve Palmisano 1, 1-2, 2; Jim Dolmetsch 1, 0-4, 2; Brent Erickson 0, 1-3, 1. Totals: 52, 18-23, 52. Lathrup 20 19 20 20 -79 Stevenson 13 13 21 -52

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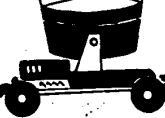
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