

Canton wins opener

Livonia Franklin couldn't overcome a fright start Friday and fell prey to visiting Plymouth Canton 66-59 in its basketball lifer.

"We had a very bad start," said Patriot coach Jim McIntyre. "We got the opening tip, went in for the layup and missed it. We gave 'em a 16-2 lead before we did anything at all. We never did get untracked until we regrouped at halftime."

The Patriots were down 34-22 at the half and 53-37 after three quarters. Franklin put on a furious fourth-quarter rally that nearly fell short. The Patriots closed the gap to as little as three, late in the game, outscoring the Cheetahs 22-13 in the final period.

Canton received a balanced scoring attack with four men in double figures. Scott Adler, the Canton pivotman, led the Chief attack with 16 points. Brad Weston chipped in 14. Sean Houle and Dave Visser had 12 apiece.

Bob Gehl, a forward, paced the Patriots with 10 points to share game honors. Jeff Weber tossed in 12 and Doug White had 11.

"We went nine for 27 at the foul line," said McIntyre. "That was the half game right there. We've got a good shooting team. We have shot better on our free-throws."

"But I thought the kids showed a lot by coming back like that in the second half and not getting blown off the court. Canton is a good team. We just couldn't buy a basket there in the first half. We're going to do all right," said McIntyre.

Canton also took the JV contest, 67-60. The Patriots will see what they can do when Garden City West comes to Franklin in non-league contest Tuesday.

LIVONIA STEVENSON has ideas about defending its Inter-Lakes League co-championship this season, and if Friday's 70-58 opening victory over Redford Union is any indication, the Spartans just might have something there.

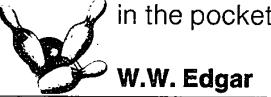
Stevenson began with a 12-3 first quarter lead in the JV gym, upped the margin to 34-21 by halftime and coasted in the second half.

The Spartans' frontcourt attack was just too much for the Panthers. Three big men led the charge. Senior forward Tom Finn was the game's high scorer with 23 points. Dave Hall, a 6-4 senior post man, popped in 20 more. Evan Lyall, the other starting forward, had 10.

For RU, Jerry Berry was tops with 16 points. Todd Hillis was the only other Panther in double figures with 10.

Stevenson coach George Van Wagner agreed that it was very nice, indeed, to start out the season with a big win.

"Especially when you're away from home," he said. "It was a good game. We didn't know that much about Redford Union. When you win that first one, you can point to the next one a little easier."



W.W. Edgar

The grand old game of toppling pins offers the competitors more excuses for poor showings than any other sport.

Let the score topple below a bowler's average and you are bound to hear such things as the pinsetting machines being off line, there is too much oil on the lane, the approaches are sticky or the gutters are high.

Strangely, you never hear more moaning about the pins. In the old days, the imps were the subject of more complaints than any other facet of the game.

The complaints ended when the plastic pin came in to being. Now all the pins are the same. They are better controlled whereas years ago when they were sold maple they were kept in dry places for some leagues and in cold storage for tournaments.

The atmosphere controlled the condition of the pins and the scoring. Those days are gone now — and good riddance.

SCORING FELL OFF in the area during the past week.

Only one 700 series was reported and that came from Garden Lanes where John Mercante, bowler No. 31, Lanes led with 226 and 247 for 650. But that is only part of the story. She had misses in the final frame of both her first and second game. Without them she would have been over the 700 mark.

Chuck Howton had much better luck. Competing in the Tuesday junior league he opened with 183, then rolled 12 strikes in a row for a perfect and then dropped back to 174 for a 657.

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