

Eagles' Height Topples Franklin Five

Coch. Bob Visscher, of Franklin High, knows now that a good basketball team is one that has plenty of height with strength under the baskets and excellent marksmanship from the field.

He learned it the hard way in the season opener at Romulus where his Patriots absorbed a 76-46 setback from a Romulus quintet which averages 6'6" and has plenty of know-how to go

with the exceptional height.

Matter of fact, Visscher came away from Romulus with a firm conviction that the Eagles will be one of the teams that will be heard of before the start of the state tournament next spring.

"We knew we were in for trouble before we even went to Romulus," said Visscher, "but I'll have to admit even we are shocked when those giants start-

ed coming out of the dressing room."

And giants they were -- Romulus out-rebounded the Patriots, 70-20, with Kate Davis, a 6'4" forward, up from last year's junior varsity, grabbing 27 of the rebound.

CHUCK JOHNCAN, smallest of the Romulus starters at 5'11", was the biggest scorer with 23 points. Johncan began where

he ended a year ago, hitting from near and far and his accuracy from far out was tremendous.

"We have a long ways to go," said Visscher, "but I'm hoping Wayne Florida and Frank Kasperak, the star passing combination of our football team, will develop into the same kind of players on the court. Florida was exceptional in his first

year, especially when one considers the relatively short time he had to make the shift from football to basketball.

"I believe Kasperak will show much improvement in the next few weeks and then we have Bob Hollandsworth, Dave Muliken and Dan Ryskamp who saw considerable service and should give us a much better combination than we showed in the

opener."

The Eagles roared to a commanding lead in the first half and stayed well in front all the way in recording the one-sided victory.

Florida topped the Patriots with 23 points, equalling the output of Johncan, but Davis contributed 20 to the Romulus cause and Frank Nesbit added 13.



IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR

Frank Sinatra Jr., (no relation to the singer) had the biggest night of his 27-year bowling career last week at Bel-Aire Lanes in Farmington. Before his stint in the league was finished he had rolled the first perfect game of the season in the house and followed with games of 177 and 190 for 667, which also was the highest series he ever bowled.

Fifty-seven years old, he carries an average of 176, and the feature of his big night was the fact that he posted 14 consecutive strikes. After his perfect game he added two in the second before he was stopped.

The perfect game was the 14th bowled in Bel-Aire since it was opened. There were only three last season and five the year before that.

While Sinatra was posting his big game, Erv Watson, the

manager, was watching and pondering over what might have been. Twice in the last two weeks he was well on his way -- only to be stopped at the tension mounted. He had two big 600 series last week and came right back with a 637 to top the senior house league this week.

Right behind him came John Watties with 631 and Bill Newman had the high single of the league with a 254.

MADLINE ROBINSON did some fancy shooting to lead the Ladies Classic at Livonia Lanes with 537-117-654.

Other high scores among the women were Meg Edman with a 232 single; Kay McCollidge with 197-27-214; Carolyn Nederkorn with 197-27-224; and Marie Schaefer with 208-43-251.

DICK BEATTIE, the high scoring southpaw who has been blasting the pins at a great rate in the Overland Leagues, kept up the pace this week with a 655 series in the Wonderland Classic.

He linked games of 223, 223 and 210 for 655 to keep his average above 220. It is one of the highest averages in the state.

Despite the big count he didn't take the night's honors. That went to Ken Kossick who had games of 245, 254 and 278 for a 797 that set a high mark in the league for the season.

Other high scores included: Ken Geister with 225-248-214-667 and Bob Vassar with 259-194-227-670, who was tied with Danny Campbell who had a 211-255-204.

Before league play started Campbell fired a 239 in practice. It was a different story when league play started.

LORA RYCKMAN showed the way in the Ladies Classic at Farmington Lanes with a 205 in 582.

At this figure she had a one pin edge over G. Dinebeck who posted a 224 in 581, while Gladys Slesha had 225 in 577. Tim McKendry went on a scoring spree in the Teen Classic a middle game of 243 in a 595 series.

In the Prep Boys Brian Turper was high with 178 in 492, while Andy Tolgen had a 173 game. In the Junior III Girls Barbara Hamlin was the pacesetter with a 189 game and Judy Bird topped the Prep Girls with a 195.

MIDGE PASHKET was in high spirits at Westland Lanes -- and for a good reason.

In the Ladies Classic she fired games of 169, 168 and 243 for 579. The closing 243 was the highest game of the season in the league.

Carolyn Talac topped the scorers with 214, 209 and 179. Johnny Wodaski showed the way in the Men's Classic when a closing game of 246 after scores of 226 and 202 gave him a 676 series. Runner-up honors for the night went to Denny Feloni with a 670.

LARRY GORMAN gave his rivals in the Garden Lanes Mixed Classic something to shoot at for the rest of the season when he set a high of 740. After opening with a 280, he followed with 221 and 229.

High scoring marked other leagues at the Garden, too. Harry Fill had a 686 in the Plumbers League, while Ernie Parkes had a 650 in 529.

Cass Tielis paced the St. Louis League with 613, while Betty Simonson paced the Ladies Friday circuit with 237 in 628 and Judy Anderson had a 628 in 614.

ONE OF THE WEEK'S features was the continued high scoring of Elvira Toepfer, the Metropolitan Detroit bowling queen.

Seeking the honor for the fifth year in a row she is averaging over 200 in the Wolverettes League and she kept up the pace this week with a 704 series.

Orchard Ridge Exhibits Power In Opening Win

It appears as if Tom Phillips, new basketball coach at the Orchard Ridge and already the Oakland Community College, is well on the way to fulfilling the job of producing a powerful cage machine in his first season.

Phillips, who moved from Alpena Community College, at the start of the college year, saw his team crush Jackson CC, 110-90, in its debut on the Power of Junior High court in Farmington.

It is only the second year for basketball competition at Orchard Ridge and already the team is considered one of the powerhouses of the Michigan Junior College Conference.

BUILT AROUND the performance of three former standouts from Detroit high schools, the Riders rolled to a 55-41 edge at halftime and held a 26 point lead over their rivals at one point in the second half.

Fred Street, 6'3" scoring ace of the St. Martin De Porres quintet of last season; Bill Miller, 6'2", from Detroit Northwestern; and Gary Waters, 6'1", from Detroit Mackenzie, are the nucleus of what Phillips believes could be a team that may be a threat for conference honors.

"Of course, I realize that one game doesn't make a season," the genial coach said, "but we do have the makings of a better than average team. If the players

will as we hope they will, then Orchard Ridge will be heard from this year."

Street was the big gunner in the opening victory with 32 points on 14 field goals and four of four free throws. He started off with a hot hand in the first half, cooled off a bit in the early moments of the second period and then found the range again in the final 10 minutes.

MILLER FOLLOWED with 19 points with eight fielders and three of four charity tosses and Waters added 14 with four buckets and six of eight free throws.

John Lovitt topped Jackson with a total of 23, hitting nine from the field and five of six foul shots.

The Riders started the second half with a deluge that had Jackson on the short end of an 86-60 count before Phillips began to experiment with various combinations before going back to his starting five in the closing moments.

Orchard Ridge is one of three campuses in the Oakland Community College complex and each has a team in the MJCC competition.



WHO WOULDN'T SMILE? Certainly Paul Weiner, of 111 S. Holbrook, Plymouth, had a reason for that grin when he showed the rack of 11 points on the deer he bagged while hunting in Alcona County. It was just about the best reported to the Observer Newspapers by an area marksman.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

There probably is a good reason but, if so, then it hasn't been adequately explained by Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley why he awarded the same number of days to the thoroughbreds but started the 1970 season a week later in April and extended it a week longer in November.

As announced a week ago, the runners will begin on April 20 and end on Nov. 14.

That appears to give the DRC and Grand Park a chance to test a bit of winter racing in the spring and fall without actually terming it such.

THE HARNESS RACING dates will be announced either on or sometime around Dec. 15. The Commissioner by law must announce the thoroughbred dates by Dec. 1 and the harness racing by Dec. 15.

As much as he didn't see fit to add any days to the runners then it automatically follows that he probably won't extend the nights for the pacers and trotters.

Boxer Lewis Coming Back

Hedgemon Lewis, sharp punching Detroit welterweight who made it big on the West Coast, will return to fight Don Cobbs, St. Louis brawler, at Olympia Thursday Dec. 18.

This will be Lewis' first Detroit appearance since he stopped Carl Jordan in nine rounds at Cobo Hall in August, 1967.

There is a persistent rumor making the rounds that Commissioner Shirley is prepared to give Jackson Raceway President Leon Stavin an additional 20 or 45 nights for winter racing after Jan. 1.

If so, this would be part of the 1970 dates and would add that many more nights to the season. But Hazel Park, Wolverine and Northville Downs appear certain to have the same number of nights next year as they did this.

Inasmuch as Executive Manager John Carlo will open his ultra-modern clubhouse at the start of his meeting, which is expected to begin in early June, it was thought that Northville Downs could receive additional dates.

Then, on the other side of the picture, perhaps it is the reasoning of Commissioner Shirley that the nights awarded by the Jackson-el-Northville Downs campaign should be charged against Northville since the races are held there.

All of which makes the forthcoming announcement of dates more interesting than in several years.

More than that, the Commissioner has in his hands a request for dates at the proposed track for the Flint, Pontiac and Saginaw areas.

TIME WAS WHEN the job of a Racing Commissioner was a simple one -- the awarding of titles for two thoroughbred tracks and three harness plants in the Detroit area and the onstate meeting at Jackson. Now he has to ponder about the future of winter racing,

where the dates should go, which track is best equipped to handle winter programs, which can best handle races in the early spring and which can best operate in the late fall.

It almost takes a Solomon to make decisions that are acceptable to all and we feel that the salary of the Racing Commissioner isn't enough that he should have all of this harassment on his shoulders.

WINDSOR RACEWAY has a new driving champion in the person of Windsor's Greg Wright who registered 12 victories in a matter of five nights and boosted his total over 50. That was eight more than the previous record for a single meet of 42.

The Jackson-el-Northville meeting also saw a long standing record go by the boards when Prince Manuel established a new mark for the distance of a mile and a quarter.

With Grove Stimer, of Parma, Mich., in the sulky, The Prince trotted the distance in 2:46.3, shattering a mark that had stood since the early '50s.

LOOKING FOR some "good ones" to watch at Northville Downs? From the barn areas come such names as Flickwick, Jai Gals, Supermatic, Chickie Boy, Billie Buckeye, Brown Ranger, and Jerry Farago.

It might be as opportune to pick up some of that needed Christmas cash. Who knows when one might come in and make it a real Yule gift for those holiday winning tickets.

Agatha Has Close Call But Wins

Two free throws by Dave Urban in the fading seconds enabled St. Agatha High's cagers to roll to their second straight pressure-loaded victory -- this time by a 68-67 count over Ann Arbor St. Thomas in a Catholic League Second Division contest.

Just a few days earlier Urban clicked with 17 seconds on the clock to beat St. Andrew, 68-57.

As it was Urban ended the evening against St. Thomas with 19 points. However, scoring honors went to teammate Doug Inch with 25. Pete Joyce led St. Thomas with 23.

Five players were in double figures as Farmington's Our Lady of Sorrows fended Our Lady of the Lakes, 82-51.

The quintet included: Dan McGrath, 15; Rose Patton, 14; Mike Hart, 13; Chris Strand, 10; and Don Blouin, 10.

Pat McGolgon sparked the Lakers with 21.

Bishop Borgess found the going rough against defending champion Holy Redeemer and came out on the short end of a 65-55 count.

Brigido Rojas had 17 points for Redeemer, 11 coming in the final quarter when the victors pulled away for the triumph. Redeemer held a 27-23 margin at the intermission.

Offer Directory Of Snowmobile Trails In State

Copies of a new directory listing 29 snowmobile trails which collectively span about 700 miles of state forest lands in northern Michigan are available free from regional and district offices of the Department of Natural Resources and its Publications Room in Lansing.

The folder guide, "Michigan State Forest Snowmobile Trails Directory," individually describes the location and length of each route. It also dot-marks each trail on an adjoining map of the state, and lists safety tips and a code of ethics for snowmobilers.

Detailed individual maps of all 29 state forest snowmobile trails will be available free later from DNR area and district foresters in northern Michigan.

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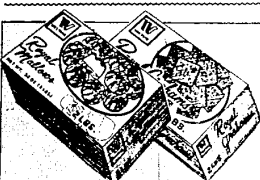
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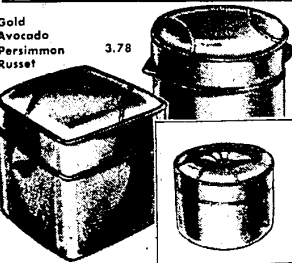
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