

# Falcons Nipped With Last-Second Shot

Tip to basketball lovers! If you don't have a strong heart, stay clear of games involving Farmington High this season.

Based on what's happened in the first two Falcon battles, only the strong hearted can survive.

On opening night, Farmington won a ding-dong struggle from Bentley, 83-82.



By Jay Stokan

Then Friday, in its Inter-Lakes Conference debut, Farmington went against Walled Lake Central and was involved in another 83-82 duel.

Only this time the Falcons lost, and it took a shot with just a second to go to pull the game out for Walled Lake.

WALLED LAKE had the ball out of bounds when Mike Ridley passed the ball in. He fed to Ernie Gillett, who was racing into the clear, although he hadn't made a point all night.

Gillett made no mistakes as the ball touched his hands. He put it up... and in... to beat the final buzzer and crush the hearts of the Farmington team.

which had played brilliantly all evening.

Farmington had fought back from an 81-73 deficit with less than two minutes to go.

In amazing swiftness, Randy Cleveland, Paul White and Dan Steinke combined to shove Farmington ahead. The score stood, 82-81, for the Falcons and there were now under five seconds to go.

Walled Lake got the ball when it scooped off a Farmington out of bounds.

The clock showed a second left.

Farmington players rightfully figured that Ridley would pass to Bob Sierra, who already had 38 points. But Gil-

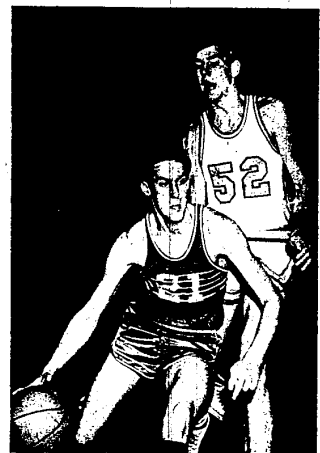
lett slipped around the defenders and made the biggest shot of his young life.

IT WAS a thriller all the way—tied at 82 after one quarter.

Farmington went four up at the end of the third period, 85-84, but the margin shrunk to just a point after three quarters.

Besides making the key pass for Walled Lake, Ridley scored 17 points and made 25 rebounds.

Cleveland was the scoring star for Farmington. He had 28 points by notching 10 baskets and eight charities. White followed with 19 points and Steinke 11.



DRIBBLING AROUND Bentley's Harold Hay (52) as he tries to get in for a short shot is Plymouth's Pat Cunningham (21). The Livonians whipped PHS in the league opener for each.

(Observer photo by Vince Witek)

## Bentley Upends Rocks In First League Test

If the home court advantage which experts claim is a vital basketball factor proves decisive in the Suburban Six Friday, all six teams could finish the action tied for first - or last - place.

All three of last week's winners in the opening round of the league schedule, Bentley, Redford Union and Trenton, will invade camps of first-night losers.

Trenton, last winter's gellar dweller, will face Plymouth's witless title defenders on the Rocks' court as Bentley plays at Belleville and Redford Union goes to Allen Park.

FRIDAY, BENTLEY overcame an early Plymouth lead to run away from the defending champs, 54-42.

Redford Union took an overtime decision from Belleville, 61-56, and Trenton squeaked through over Allen Park, 66-65.

Plymouth's opening appearance in defense of its '69 crown started on the same note where the Rocks left off in March as they raced to a 7-0 lead on the shooting of Bob Thornbladh and Howie Schryer and a pair of steals by Casey Jones.

Tom Guilfoyle led the Bulldogs into an 8-8 tie after which a bucket by Jones gave Plymouth the lead for the last time.

At 10-4, Dave Rice knotted it in 10-4 and after Bentley took an 11-10 lead on a free throw by Guilfoyle the Bulldogs were never headed.

They led 16-13 after one period, 25-21 at the half and 41-34 at the end of the third period before slipping in 13 more points in the last quarter to the Rocks' opening.

LONIE LOVETT not only was Bentley's high scorer with 21 points, but by personally bagging 10 of those points, on five baskets in the third quarter he provided all the second-half spark the Bulldogs needed.

Bentley dominated rebounding on both the offensive and defensive boards primarily through a height advantage provided by Lovett, Dave Veach and Harold Hay, although the general floor play on the part of both teams was ragged.

Plymouth exhibited extremely poor fire power, being outgunned 21 field goals to 16 and Schryer was the only Rock scorer in double figures, with 12. Box score:

PLYMOUTH (42)		FG	FM	FT	P
Thornbladh	3	1	2	7	14
Schryer	2	3	4	12	7
Wells	3	2	2	4	12
Jones	1	2	0	4	4
Cunningham	1	0	1	2	1
Mathews	0	1	2	1	1
Hay	1	1	1	2	2
Cruce	1	1	1	2	2
Sieker	1	1	1	2	2
Totals		16	10	38	42
BENTLEY (54)		FG	FM	FT	P
Guilfoyle	10	1	4	13	21
Lovett	10	1	4	11	21
Rice	1	1	1	2	2
Veach	2	3	4	7	7
Hay	2	2	0	6	6
Disamore	1	1	1	2	2
Totals		21	12	35	54
Score by quarter					
Plymouth	12	13	12	8	42
Bentley	15	9	16	13	54

## Rocks Relay Wins In RU Carnival

Trenton High's swimming team carried off honors in the annual Redford Union Relays held Saturday night.

The downriver school piled up 86 points to beat out Allen Park and Dearborn Edsel Ford tied for second with 57 points each.

Plymouth took fourth with 49, followed by Redford Union, 26, Belleville 25, Thurston 18, Franklin 16, Churchill 14, North Farmington 11, Bentley six and Farmington zero.

The results: 200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY: 1-Trenton, 2-Plymouth, 3-Ford, 4-Bentley, 5-Farmington, Time: 4:06.7.

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY: 1-Trenton, 2-Ford, 3-Belleville, 4-Thurston, 5-Churchill, 6-Plymouth, Time: 3:22.5.

200-YARD BREAST-STROKE RELAY: 1-Allen Park, 2-Trenton, 3-Redford Union, 4-Franklin, 5-Stevenson, 6-Plymouth, Time: 2:05.5.

200-YARD BACKSTROKE RELAY: 1-Plymouth (LeBlanc, Wee, Foster, Wendell), 2-Churchill, 3-Redford Union, 4-Franklin, 5-Allen Park, 6-Stevenson, Time: 1:54.7.

200-YARD BUTTERFLY RELAY: 1-Trenton, 2-Allen Park, 3-Ford, 4-Plymouth, 5-North Farmington, 6-Redford Union, Time: 1:42.7.

DIVING RELAY: 1-Allen Park, 2-Plymouth, 3-Belleville, 4-Edsel Ford, 5-Trenton, 6-North Farmington, 7-Farmington, Time: 1:42.7.

400-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1-Trenton, 2-Ford, 3-Allen Park, 4-Plymouth, 5-Belleville, 6-Redford Union, Time: 4:05.7.

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY: 1-Allen Park, 2-Thurston, 3-Trenton, 4-Redford Union, 5-Ford, 6-Stevenson, Time: 1:45.1.

200-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY: 1-Ford, 2-Trenton, 3-Belleville, 4-North Farmington, 5-Plymouth, 6-Thurston, Time: 1:37.7.



## Ski Heil

By "BILL" CAMERON

"The Mt. Eliot Ski Club was initially incorporated by a unique, selective, altruistic group of loyal expatriates.

"The location of the club was in a remote area picked for its aesthetic values in the State of Michigan. The original runs had some of the most unusual features in skiing, such as double track slides and enlarged gondola type transport lifts.

Many of the runs were named after famous setters in the area."

The above paragraphs give you some of the background (apologies to Hamtramck) of one of the "not-so-well-organized" ski clubs in Observantia. It all started seven years ago when a fun-loving group of Livonia skiers decided they

would ski in Aspen after having conquered the magic mountains of Michigan!

[And because one of the ring leaders, Noel Dittmar, was picked for his maiden name was Tomaszewski, and out of reverence to that haven of democracy, Hamtramck, the name Mt. Eliot Ski Club was adopted.

You could probably gain a different interpretation if you followed Jim McGinn, Marvin Crow, Dr. Grunheid, Bill Nicker or their wives.

But the point is, they are not a highly organized ski club, just a group of congenial people who enjoy having a good time together. That's what skiing is all about.

I'VE MET so many skiers the past few weeks that it makes writing this column more enjoyable for me anyway each week. I understand that Bill Covington, Bud Gould and Cal Jabara of Plymouth are the ones who enjoy having a good time together. That's what skiing is all about.

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## Franklin Loses For 3rd Time

The hustle is there The desire is there.

But for the present, at least, Franklin High's basketball team appears to be lacking in height and experience, which perhaps explains the Livonia's 63 record.

Franklin suffered its third loss when downed by powerful Oak Park, 81-65, in the opener of the Northwest Suburban League schedule.

It's going to take us a time to gain some experience," says Coach Bob Visser of Franklin.

The Franklin team was off on its shooting against Oak Park, managing only 26 out of 65. Meantime, Oak Park also had a big edge in rebounding, 49-35.

Oak Park held only a 16-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. But the margin swelled to eight at the half and 15 at the three-quarter mark.

Larry Foote looped in 25 points for Oak Park, including 11 in the last period.

Dave Multien scored 14 and Randy Lee to pace Franklin.

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