

GC West's Rick Drewitz Shows Why He's Rated Among State's Best

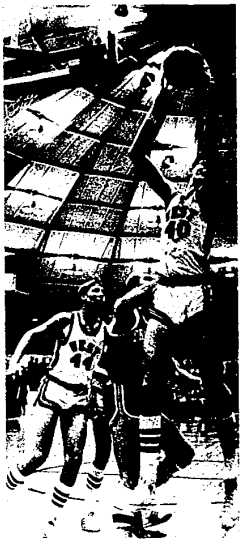


Discussing rules with game officials

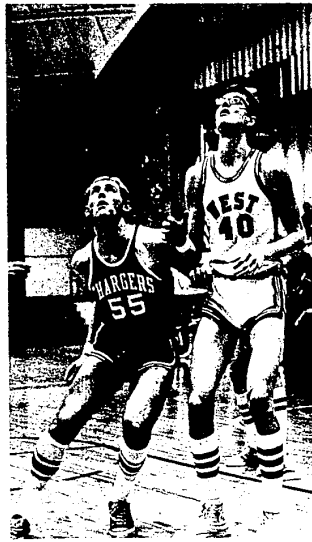
(Observer photos by Craig Gaffield)



Rick blocks shot by opponent



He fires a lefthanded shot



Waiting for ball to bounce off backboard

West Survives Thriller, Remains Unbeaten

It apparently makes no difference to Garden City West -- whether the game is close or lopsided -- Coach Chris Babler's charges are equal to the task. Last week was a classic example.

On Tuesday it took a pair of game saving rallies before West could beat Taylor Kennedy, 65-64, in double overtime.

Three nights later, things were much different. The outcome never was in doubt as West trounced Crestwood, 83-62, to run its winning ways to 7-0.

Coach Babler and his players won't forget the game played at Taylor for a long time.

ONLY 12 SECONDS remained in regulation time when Rick Drewitz, ace of the West team, who this

week was saluted as the "Prep of the Week" in the Free Press, made a free throw to even matters at 56-56 and force the game into overtime.

Babler went for some strategy in the extra session. He elected to have his players sit on the ball.

They did for over two minutes. Then they lost it on a violation and Kennedy took advantage to make a basket.

But again there was Drewitz in the clutch. With just 15 seconds remaining in the overtime, he fired a basket and that sent the game into another extra stanza.

THIS TIME Gary Nustad had four points, John Rutter two and Drewitz one to enable West to pull out the conquest.

Drewitz finished with 32 points and 19 rebounds

while Nustad had eight along with Rutter.

In the game Tuesday, West had built up a 36-28 halftime lead, before Kennedy rolled back to lead, 43-42, at the end of the third period.

Against Crestwood, Nustad had 10 points in the first period to shoot West ahead, 27-7. Drewitz fired in 11 points in the second period and West took a 50-19 lead into the halftime break.

BY THE END of the third period, the subs were playing for West.

Drewitz nonetheless wound up with 25 points and 27 rebounds, the latter a high for him in a prep game.

Nustad had 16 points, Dennis Leszczynski 10 and Rutter 10 as 11 men scored for West in the game.

West now has won 22 of its last 23 regular season games and moved into the lead in its bid for the Tri-Rivers League title.

Raiders, Oak Park Set For Showdown

Basketball life isn't all blue for General Manager Ed Coil of the Detroit Pistons.

The Pistons maybe have their problems, but it's not the same for Coil's "other team" -- North Farmington High.

Coil resides within the shadows of North Farmington High and his son, Rick, is one of the managers of the Raiders' basketball team.

If Coil could lure away some of the North Farmington winning touch for the Pistons, he'd be a happy man, indeed.

The GM watched Friday night as North Farmington ran its winning streak to seven in as many starts by romping past Thurston, 95-55.

THE VICTORY also upped the Raiders' record in the

Northwest Suburban League to 3-0 and set up a showdown with Oak Park Friday in the Oak Park gym for the undisputed league lead.

Oak Park also made it 3-0 in the league by trouncing John Glenn, 74-54.

North Farmington bounced ahead to a 20-14 lead in the first quarter against Thurston

with Drew Mahalic rifling in 12 points.

Mahalic added six points and so did Craig Dhue in the second quarter as the North Farmington lead grew to 45-25, at the half.

THINGS NEVER were close the rest of the way as Mahalic wound up leading all scorers with 26 points.

Larry Marshall had 13 for the losers, who are still to win one in the league this season.

North Farmington notched 26 baskets and 23 free throws. Thurston had 24 hoops and only seven free throws.

Oak Park trailed John Glenn, 29-28, at the half, but then it was strictly Oak Park the rest of the way as Mark Glassman and Larry Sherman led a one-two assault.

By the end of the third period it was 49-33 for Oak Park, which outscored Glenn, 25-11, in the last quarter.

Glassman wound up with 22 points and Sherman had 19.

Steve Brown had 18 points

N. F. TON.

	B	F	P
Mahalic	8	10	26
Kikka	6	1	13
Herpich	3	3	9
Gilmour	4	1	9
Glew	4	1	9
Dhue	3	2	8
White	3	0	6
Tollis	3	0	6
Driggs	0	4	4
Raede	1	1	3
Hickey	1	0	2

THURSTON

	B	F	P
Marshall	6	3	15
Gillen	4	1	9
Hays	4	1	9
Keena	2	0	4
Woelke	2	0	4
Raymond	1	1	3
Mallow	1	0	2

Totals

North Farmington	20	25	27	23
Thurston	14	11	14	16

for Glenn, now 1-3 in league play. Dave Wybrakiewicz had nine and Mark Magee eight for Glenn.

What's Coming Up In Prep Sports

BASKETBALL

Friday

Churchill vs Annapolis at Franklin
Melvindale at Garden City West
Franklin at Thurston
Farmington at Waterford
Redford Union at Bentley
Allen Park at Plymouth
Glenn at Groves
St. Agatha at Mt. Carmel
O. L. St. Mary's at Sorrows
Cabini at Bishop Borgess
Lathrup at Stevenson
Clarenceville at Kettering
North Farmington at Oak Park
Inkster at Garden City East

Saturday

Redford Union at Franklin
Tuesday
Glenn at Taylor
Garden City West at Schafer
Churchill at Belleville

WRESTLING

Wednesday

Thurston at Franklin
Waterford at Farmington
Bentley at Redford Union
Stevenson at Lathrup
Fordson at Garden City West
Glenn at Groves
Crestwood at Garden City East

Saturday

Thurston at Trenton
Glenn at Adrian
Tuesday
Walled Lake West at Farmington
Stevenson at Clarenceville
Glenn at GC West

SWIMMING

Thursday

Oak Park at North Farmington
Bentley at Redford Union
Thurston at Franklin
Farmington at Andover
Plymouth at Allen Park
Willow Run at Clarenceville
Groves at Glenn
Cherry Hill at Garden City West
Garden City East at Riverview

GYMNASTICS

Wednesday

Trenton at Farmington
Flat Rock at Clarenceville
North Farmington at Kennedy

Demery's
DETROIT • BIRMINGHAM • FARMINGTON



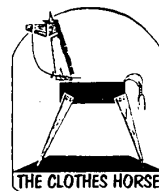
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THE STABLE'S WIDE OPEN
THURSDAY, FRIDAY NIGHTS TILL NINE.



THE CLOTHES HORSE



THAT WAS SOMETHING. Two youthful followers of the powerful North Farmington High quintet show their delight over the first half score in the game against Thurston. The Raiders took an early lead and stayed in front all the way in winning the league contest.

(Photo by Warren Bopp)