LHA Slates Twin Bills To Boost Varsity Hockey

Can high school hockey be sold to Livonia school officials as a varsity sport?

That's the question officers of the Livonia Hockey Association hope to-have answered when they present two hockey doubleheaders on the next two Monday nights in the Ford Recreation Center arena, Farmington and Lyndon Roads in Livonia.

The twin bills will match teams, comprised of Livonians from the four high schools, against the powerful Assumption High sextet of Windsor and Notre Dame High, one of the leaders in the Catholic League.

THE DOUBLEHEADER for next Monday (Feb. 2) sends the Stevenson Wings, a team made up of students from Stevenson, Churchill and Clarenceville Highs, against Assumption at 8 p.m.

The second game pits the Stevenson Bruins, another group from Stevenson High, against Notre Dame at 9:15 p.m.

Slated for Monday, Feb. 9 program is a duel between the Franklin Rangers and Ann Arbor Huron High at 8 p.m. and a meeting of the Bentley Leafs and Trenton High at 9:15 p.m.

The Livonia teams have been playing in the leagues at the Ford Arena and the Devon-Aire rink since the start of the season in October.

The players are all in the 15 to 17 year old group and compete in the Juvenile division.

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THE TWO CATHOLIC sextets are coached by priests who have won national recognition for their efforts. Assumption is under the direction of Fr. Ron Cullen, considered one of the finest prep hockey mentors in Canada, and Notre Dame is handled by Fr. Edward Sheehan, who has had great success.

Coaches of the area teams are: Wings, Dick Hayward; Bruins, Jim Sheridan; Rangers, Joe Goetz, Leafs, Ray Anderson; Hurons, Marty Read; and Trenton, Tom Pendelberry.

As is generally the custom, the prep teams adopted the nicknames of clubs in the National Hockey League — and each hopes to better the standings of its pro club.

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THE LIVONIA HOCKEY Association has been trying to have hockey recognized as a varsity sport for the past two years with scant success – due primarily to lack of finances by the school board.

However, the LHA has invited all athletic directors and members of the various athletic staffs to attend the doubleheaders with the thought of helping to sell the program.

The Livonia Board of Education has been invited to attend next Monday's double bill. However, it is the regular meeting night and trustees have indicated they would make an effort to attend the final periods of the 9:15 contest.

The LHA started a year ago, when the Ford arena opened, with a registration of 512 boys in the hockey program. This increased to 742 at the present time with the thought that it will continue to grow now that the Devon-Aire rink is available.

The LHA's objective was and is to provide, in conjunction with the City of Livonia, a sound competitive hockey recreation program for the youth of Livonia.

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IT HAS RECOGNIZED from the start that a high school varsity program is an essential ingredient of a sound community hockey program.

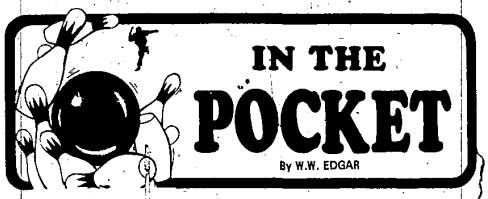
It offers:

- Academic achievement must be maintained for eligibility.
- The school system provides opportunities for better regulation of team administration and coaching.
- Game attendance and interest is greater by far than for amateur programs involving similar age groups.
- Opportunities to play collegiate hockey, frequently on a scholarship, seem to favor the varsity players (former Detroit area high school players are now playing at such schools as Bowling Green, Brown, Colgate, Colorado, Michigan, Oberlin, Detroit, Ohio State, Western Michigan and Yale).

There are now 18 high schools (10 public, five parochial, and three private) in the Tri-County area that have varsity hockey programs. These schools together form the International High School Hockey League. In addition, there are six schools in the Windsor area that comprise another high school league.

The doubleheaders are open to the public free of charge.

A NEW FARMER JACK'S supermarket was opened on Eight Mile Road west of Grand River in Livonia last week by Borman's, Inc. It completes a discount center with a Yankee Discount store and an Arnold Drugs. Officiating behind the bow at the ribbon cutting is Al Borman, founder and chairman of the executive committee of Borman's, Inc., and the tall fellow next to him is Joe New, store manager.



One of the most unusual charity bowling matches of the season is scheduled Sunday at Oak Park Lanes in Oak Park.

It is the third annual Interfaith match game series in which 20 teams from B'Nai B'rith meet a like number of teams from the K of C, with all the proceeds reverting to the Plymouth State Home.

This year the B'nai B'rith teams will be selected from Ivan S. Bloch lodge and the K of C pin spillers will represent Father Kramer Council.

This is the only match of its kind held in the country and enthusiasm for the annual struggle has reached a new high. It will be decided on total pins and if previous years are indication the match will be close all the way.

Originated by Robert Kella and Lou Kaiser and it has grown with each succeeding year.

Bloch Lodge has won the traveling trophy in each of the past two years.

This year's match will really be a family affair. Brunch will be served for the bowlers, their wives and children before the pins start to fly.

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DAVE SOUTAR, the former Detroit sharpshooter who is well known in Observerland, turned in an extraordinary feat before the nation's television cameras last week in Las Vegas.

Gaining the fifth and last place in the TV finals he shot his way through the field to take the top prise of $11,111.11.

It was his sixth pro title and qualified him for the Firestone National championships, later in the season. To gain this victory he averaged 233 for the five games of the title round.

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SPEAKING OF UNUSUAL performances Elvira Toepfer posted the first triplicate of her colorful career last week in the Bowlerettes League.

She fashioned games of 202 for a 606 to help keep a big lead in the averages.

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TOM McKAY, secretary of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, has announced an extension of the entry deadline for the annual city tournament.

The definite closing date will be Feb. 7, for the regular divisions and the senior section of the competition.

The team event will be held at Holiday Bowl in Dearborn with the minor events at Eastland and the seniors at Ark Lanes West in Southfield.

FOUR MORE 700 series were turned in at Westland during the week.

The top man was Mike Belson who linked games of 248, 268, and 247 for 763 in the Classic.

Ron Sharples added a 702 on games of 277, 228 and 192, while Jim Macomber fashioned counts of 235, 226 and 248 for 709 in the Men's Senior House League to beat out Jerry Holt by a single pin.

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WHILE THERE WERE no 700's in the Classic at Garden Lanes the scores were relatively high.

Ray Nowicki topped the list with a 694 and in order came Mylan Rulick 670, Harry Pitt 662 and Len Nega with a 653. At the same time Jerry Fisher knocked over a 4-6 split.

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ANN SETLOCK, who is in the thick of the competition for the role of bowling queen fell below the 600 mark Monday night, but had an unusual series. She converted the 4-9 and 8-10 splits to wind up with 585.

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JERRY WILSON stole the show in the Ladies Morning Classic at Livonia Lanes when she posted a 580-96-683 series. Included were games of 219-52—251 and 198-32—230.

High single game honors went to Darlene Cook with a 234-25—259.

Scores were high, too, in the Whirlwind League. Terry Donaldson had a 265, Ed Moler 257 and Ken Burek 248, while Pod McAllister had 640 for high series.

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DAN CAMPBELL was top man in the Wonderland Classic with a 711 series from games of 234, 243 and 234.

Right behind was Al Dent with a 701. It was Al's second 700 in two weeks. Last week he had a 724 at Westland.

Mike Tarlo topped the junior circuits with games of 203, 204 and 188 for 505.

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BUZZ HANSEN showed the way in the Classic at Bel-Aire with a 257 in 734 to gain a few notches on the average leaders. Jack Brown and Maury Quinlan who are tied at the top with 201.

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MARILYN COLE, with a 626, was named Woman Bowler of the Month at Merri-Bowl, while the men's honor went to Anthony Herman with 721.

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MILLIE REYNOLDS found the range in the Ladies Classic at Farmington Lanes—at least for one game. She fired at 255 to beat out Marge Brown who had a 237.

In the school leagues Ken Strom topped the boys with 219 while Kim Morley with 167 and Cheri Robinson with 189 showed the way to the girls.

Don Dames topped the high school division with a 229 and Brad Cook shared runnerup honors with Tim McKendry at 237.

Swim Mark Smashed

Don Ahonen set a school record of 2:05.9 in the 200-yard freestyle as Clarenceville High's swimming team defeated Inkster, 72-29, for its fifth victory in six meets.

Other Clarenceville winners:

Medley relay: Don Redford, Daryl Turek, Carl Sjogren, Bob Muir. Time: 1:59.

200-yard individual medley: Dale Kuhen. Time: 2:25.3

50-yard freestyle: Mike Ireland. Time: 27.1 seconds.

100-yard butterfly: Rick Waldeman. Time: 1:13.6

100-yard freestyle: Ken Denhison. Time: 1:05.1.

100-yard breaststroke: John Bass. Time: 1:08.

100-yard freestyle: John Sydor. Time: 4:44.8.

Tigers Land 2 Detroiters

Two Detroit high school stars were among 11 players picked by the Tigers at the recent winter free agent draft meeting in New York.

John Orr and Mike Strickland, both outfielders who graduated from Detroit high schools in January, were tapped in the regular phase. Strickland, who was a standout in baseball and football at Northwestern High School, is the brother-in-law of Tiger Outfielder Willie Horton. Orr starred for Finney High School.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Seems strange that Michigan would turn its head against winter racing in the Detroit area and reject an opportunity to pick up some much needed tax funds for the general fund after reading the annual report of Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley.

The report shows the state picked up more than $19 million in taxes from the operation of the harness and thoroughbred tracks. And one might add that it's about the easiest way to pick up that kind of money ever devised.

The cost to the state is minimal since the budget for the commissioner's office is probably among the smallest of any state permitting parimutuel wagering.

Matter of fact the commissioner's salary is far below that racing dates and similar returns to the state treasury.

Winter racing probably never will reach the heights of the summer programs in Michigan but the state could reap a tax harvest if the powers that be saw fit to allow the additional dates.

Perhaps they will in another year but the fact is that Windsor Raceway, just across the Detroit River, is enjoying its biggest campaign—a good deal of those dollars could have been siphoned off to Michigan if winter dates had been allowed.

MILT EFTHEMES, currently a patrol judge at Bowie, will be the new racing secretary at Hazel Park for the runners. He succeeds Ray Hopton who resigned at the end of the meeting last summer.

A native of Wheeling, W. Va., Efthemes has served in many thoroughbred racing capacities. He was racing secretary at Waterford Park in West Virginia and on the staff at Laurel before moving to Bowie.

Norris Gwin, director of racing and racing secretary at the DRC, is slowly recovering from a battle with the flu. Gwin expects to arrive on the scene within another three weeks to start working on start Sunday matinee programs today with a nine race card. This means the plant will be dark on Mondays.

Meanwhile, the Canadian oval is making plans for the Provincial Cup Pace, premier event of the season, slated for Thursday, March 12.

The purse has been boosted plans for the DRC meeting which opens on April 20.

WINDSOR RACEWAY will to $40,000 making it one of the richest early closing harness racing stakes in Ontario.

The Cup was introduced in 1966 when Chuck Goin of Lansing won the winner's share of the $15,000 purse behind Dancing David.

Stanley Dancer twice won the Cup, with Cardigan Bay, harness racing's first million dollar winner, and last year it was W.W. Smith with Carmen Abbatiello in the sulky.

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Theodore J. Smith of Lansing, who drove his first competitive harness race in August of 1968, was the leading North American percentage driver in 1969.

Smith, a graduate of Everett High School in Lansing, scored 44 victories with 16 seconds and seven thirds in 104 starts to win the U.S. Trotting Association title for drivers with 100 to 199 starts.

This gave him a Universal Driver Rating System average of .531, highest of any driver in the United States and Canada. The UDRS percentage, which compares to a batting average in baseball, is calculated on total starts, firsts, seconds and thirds.

Young Smith received his first license to drive in a non-betting race in August of 1968 and on October 24, 1969, was granted a pari-mutuel license from the USTA. During 1968 Smith made but 10 starts, his best finish being one second place effort. Ted won his first race on July 5, 1969 at Lake Odessa, Mich., with the mare, Honor Again, over a "muddy" track.

Prior to receiving his parimutuel permit, Smith was restricted to county fair competition where in 1969 he won 34 races in 78 efforts with 13 seconds and four thirds. He compiled his tremendous county fair record at such places as Imlay City, Marshall, Hillsdale, Centerville, Vassar, Mason, Allegan, Bay City and Standish. He wound up '69 at Jackson Raceway and Windsor, in Ontario.

During the '69 season the Smith Stable contained 13 standardbreds including the top flight pacing mare Debbie Chief, owned by James R. Brownlow and Stanley L. Cimbal of Jackson.

"We got Debbie in our stable after Brownlow and Cimbal noticed me driving Honor Again," Ted said. Honor Again recorded 15 firsts, 11 seconds and one third for earnings of $4,620. Smith won 18 times in 28 tries with Debbie Chief...and $6,044.

Franklin Wrestlers Pin Bentley

Franklin High's powerful wrestling team turned back Bentley, 41-11, in a non-league dual meet. Seven of the matches ended with pins.

The results:

98 pounds – Miller (F) dec. Beck (B), 10-7.

107 – Geier (F) pinned Toth (B).

115 – Henderson (F) pinned Goers.

123 – Barnes (B) dec. Lee.

130 – Robinson (B) dec. Copeland.

137 – Crosslin (F) pinned Sullivan.

145 – Pippio (F) pinned DelGrosso.

155 – Wright (F) pinned Horbeck.

165 – Moore (B) pinned Pennebaker.

175 – Sterns (F) dec. Brian.

185 – Floyd (F) pinned Abar.

Heavyweight – Lang (F) pinned Holcombe.

A PIN -- That's what Bruce Thayer, of Farmington, aims for in his heavyweight wrestling match with Jim Sockalah, of Garden City West, in the North Farmington Invitational meet. Thayer (on top) succeeded in turning his opponent shoulders down on the mat for the pin. (Photo by Warren Bopp)

Remember?

Tiger pitchers hurled 20 shutouts in 1969, the most for the club since 1944, when they also blanked the opposition 20 times.

Tom Matchick batted .500 as a pinch hitter for the Tigers in 1969. He had 8 hits in 16 appearances and batted in four runs.

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