

Franklin Nips Rocks In Last Minute

Call'em the new giants of basketball... meaning the Franklin High School varsity team. Remember Franklin jotted Oak Park right out of a share of the Northwest Suburban League title after Franklin had lost the first 10 games on its schedule. Some called it "a fluke." Coach Bob Visser of Franklin said it wasn't... warning that there'd be trouble ahead for all of Franklin's opponents as the coach declared: "We've been close to winning heretofore. Now that we have won this one, it'll give us the confidence to go on to bigger and better things."

FOR DAYS later, Franklin was matched against Plymouth in a non-league. Plymouth was fresh from a big hour, a 91-61 romp over Bentley to tie the Livonians for the lead in the Suburban Six League. The Rocks also had won their ways into the fifth spot in the Observer Newspapers' weekly ratings.

But was Franklin asked? Not any more than when the Livonians beat Oak Park. In one of the big thrillers of the season in these parts, it was Franklin over Plymouth, 62-61, on a jump shot by Jeff Kind just before the final buzzer went off. KIND WAS in the right spot at the right time... One of his mates had just missed on what was a desperation shot after Casey Jones had hit a basket for Plymouth with 15 seconds showing on the clock to put the Rocks on top, 61-60. Franklin called for a time out, set up a last shot bid only to have it fail. But Kind grabbed the rebound and put the ball in the hoop as the final buzzer went off.

Trojans, Raiders Sweep Foes In Gymnastic Meets

Revenge! That'll be the target of Clarenceville High's gymnastics team when it meets Taylor Kennedy next Wednesday. It was Kennedy, hailed by many as the team which may dethrone Clarenceville as the state champs, which handed the Trojans their only loss in 10 meets this season. Clarenceville turned in one of its best all-around performances Wednesday in downing Allen Park, 127-99. The Trojans won every event. Rob Struk and Bill Waddell each was a double winner. Struk won the floor exercise and the tumbling while Waddell took the long horse and the parallel bars. Other winners were: Trampoline - Kirk Cairns. Side Horse - Tom Paulson. Steel Rings - Mike McCorminn.



BACK IN FAMILIAR role was Athletic Director George Fefles, of Livonia Bentley. The former basketball coach, who retired at the end of last season, filled in for ailing coach Ken Timmons Friday in the Plymouth game. George is shown telling the players to bear down but this was the Rocks' night and they made the most of it. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

It was ding-dong game all the way, with Plymouth building up leads and Franklin fighting back before the closing moments of action, in which the score saw-sawed.

Plymouth moved in front, 18-12, in the first quarter when Charles Wolfe drilled in three baskets to lead the way.

Then it was Franklin, out-scoring Plymouth, 16-10, in the second period with Randy Lee rifling in nine points, to gain a 26-28 tie at the intermission.

PLYMOUTH AGAIN forged in front in the third period, this time gaining a seven-point edge at 48-41 as Jones paced the breakout with six points.

But there was no keeping Franklin down.

The Livonians cashed in on 11 free throws in the final period in their comeback surge. Kind had four. Lee had four and Frank Rasparek had three.

Two free ones by Rasparek with three minutes to play put Franklin ahead momentarily, but then it was Charley Wolfe for Plymouth. Kind for Franklin. Jones for Plymouth, etc. as the score fluctuated until the winning shot by Kind.

Lee with 23 points on seven baskets and nine free throws paced the winners. Pat Cunningham had 15 for the losers.

The box score:

FRANKLIN	R	F	P
Hobbes	2	2	12
Lee	3	3	12
Hildebrand	1	1	4
Lakso	1	1	4
Rasparek	1	1	4
Kind	4	4	12
Totals	24	4	62
PLYMOUTH	R	F	P
Wolfe	3	3	12
Walters	4	4	12
Wright	2	2	8
Jones	2	2	8
Franklin	2	2	8
Travis	2	2	8
Totals	26	9	61
By periods	18	15	23-62
Franklin	12	10	23-61

What's Doing In Prep Sports

BASKETBALL

Tuesday
Stevenson at Dearborn

Friday
Groves at Franklin
Thurston at Bentley
Pontiac Northern at Farmington
Andover at Clarenceville
Churchill at Walled Lake Western
Borgess at Aquinas
Walled Lake Central at Stevenson
Redford Union at Plymouth
North Farmington at Thurston

SWIMMING

Tuesday
North Farmington at Redford Union

Wednesday
Farmington at Pontiac Northern

Thursday
Thurston at Stevenson
Plymouth at Redford Union
Bentley at Trenton

WRESTLING

Tuesday
Kettering at Clarenceville
Bentley at Farmington
Wayne at Thurston
Walled Lake Central at North Farmington

Thursday
Franklin at Redford Union

Friday
Dearborn at Stevenson

Saturday
Wayne-Oakland, Northwest Suburban and Suburban Six League meets

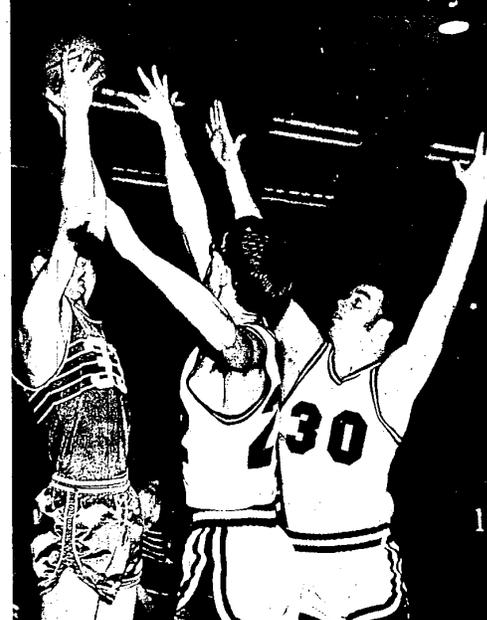
GYMNASTICS

Wednesday
Flat Rock at Farmington
North Farmington at Allen Park
Kennedy at Clarenceville

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday
Schoellercraft at Highland Park

Friday - Saturday
Schoellercraft in Cuyahoga and Lorain County tournament in Ohio



IT WAS A NIGHT of frustration for Plymouth when the Rocks traveled to Livonia to meet Franklin High. Howie Schryer (33) finds he has no place to go as Franklin's Frank Kasperok (left) and Jeff Kind (30) close in as he tries to pass off. (Observer photo by Craig Goffield)

Eagles Pin Oak Park Grapplers

Sparked by a brilliant performance by Capt. Brian McCreevy, who was making his first appearance in seven weeks after suffering a broken ankle, Thurston High's matters whipped Oak Park, 38-12.

It was the second lead win for the Eagles against three losses.

McCreevy showed he hadn't suffered from the long layoff when he pinned Eric Bolokofski in 43 seconds. It was the 15th straight victory for Brian in dual meet competition.

The Eagles won all but four of the matches, losing in the 110, 110, 116 and heavyweight divisions.

- The results:
- 101-pounds: J. Kartush (OP) won decision.
 - 100-pounds: D. Greenblatt (OP) won decision.
 - 118-pounds: T. Gentile (T) pin in 2:17.
 - 126-pounds: B. McCreevy (T) pin in 43.
 - 133-pounds: P. Johnson (T) pin in 5:42.
 - 140-pounds: G. Scott (T) pin in 2:46.
 - 148-pounds: E. Dineen (T) pin in 5:42.
 - 158-pounds: D. Kroll (T) by forfeit.
 - 168-pounds: M. Nyman (T) by forfeit.
 - 178-pounds: J. Martin (OP) by decision.
 - 188-pounds: D. Benedict (T) by decision.
 - Heavyweight: H. Kuretzky (OP) by decision.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Jack Stewart is best remembered by area sports fans as one of the pre-fest defenses never to play for the Detroit Red Wings.

They recall the games when Jack, better known as "Black Jack" because of the manner he took out opposing wingers as they rumbled towards the Detroit goal, was an all-time great in the National Hockey League.

After ending his brilliant career, Jack tried his hand at coaching but didn't like it and then decided to devote his attentions to officiating harness racing tracks.

That was sort of a natural thing since he married one of the daughters of Lindy Frasier from Ontario. Lindy is well-known in harness racing circles in the Detroit area, throughout the United States and Canada.

He was one of the big reasons for the growth and success of harness racing in Michigan. It was Lindy and Dr. Stanton, a doctor that became one of the nation's best, who built interest in the sport back in 1945-46 when Northville Downs was starting night parimutuel betting programs.

Dr. Stanton, a green pacer, had a string of victories that stretched for weeks at Northville and each win brought out more and more fans to view the "wonder" horse. And as the crowds grew so did the interest and it has never waned.

The big reason for mentioning Jack in the first place is that a recent announcement was made that he'll serve as president here at the Rockingham Park meeting in New Hampshire.

Stewart actually started his career as an official at Wolverine Raceway where he was an aide to Paddock Judge Clayton Smith for a few years.

Then he branched off to the officials' stand as a timer, a placing judge, a steward and now presiding judge.

While serving in Michigan, Jack was cited as a firm judge with a great deal of understanding of the problems of a

the drivers, grooms, trainers and owners. That same policy has attention of others and now he is ranked as one of the better officials in the United States.

ORRIN GRETENBERGER has been re-elected to second term as president of the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association.

He was renamed at the recent annual meeting in Flint where the MHHA also returned Charles Coon to its unimpaired term as secretary-treasurer and Paul Linehan as vice president.

Charley, a retired Detroit policeman, has served for at least 27 years as secretary-treasurer. He just returned to the harness racing scene after a lengthy illness.

Dr. John Gibson was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors. "Doc," who once served as state vet at many of the harness tracks, is devoting most of his time to training aid driving.

Philip Brian, the speedy veteran pacer, owned by the Mijals of Westland, was acclaimed "horse of the year" after his 1:58.3 clocking in a race at Hazel Park.

Divisional winners were: Knox Adios (S.M. Saunders) and Ellie R. (Terry Buter), two-year-old trotting colt and filly; Arbor Smoke (Three Guys from RPI), and Kendallwood Patty (Kendelwood Stock Farm), three year old trotting colt and filly; Esplan Knox (Dr. William Bennett and Frank Hunt) and Ebony's Bachelor (Herb Pierpont and Maida Lonyo) two year old pacing colts; Brassy Clock (Jack McCracken), two year old pacing filly; Top Knox

(Mr. and Mrs. Walter Peterson), and Just Fritz (Harold Arney) and Knoxville (John Schuler), three year old pacers.

ORLOW G. OWEN, retired vice president and general manager of Wolverine Raceway, was honored at the annual meeting with a plaque for his years of being a friend to horsemen and for his untiring services in bettering the sport.

Orlow hasn't missed the annual meeting for 27 years and even though he isn't in the best of health, he was there greeting and meeting friends just as he has done every year.

ONE WONDERS what thoughts Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley has had during the past few days after the tremendous success of Windsor Raceway with its first Sunday mainline.

More than 7,500 turned out and poured more than \$500,000 through the mutual machine.

That's just part of the story - Windsor handled close to \$2 million in four programs starting Friday night.

The irony of the situation is that 88 per cent of the customers came from Michigan. And the Commissioner didn't see fit to allot dates for winter racing at Northville Downs? One wonders if he realizes that the state is hurting for tax money.

3 Schools In Area Land State Meets

Livonia-Franklin, Southfield and North Farmington High Schools all have been awarded Class A meets for the forthcoming state high school basketball tournament.

In all, there'll be 128 district meets conducted from March 2-7.

The survivors will move on to play in 23 regionals, one of which has been assigned to Franklin and another to Southfield for Class A action.

Dates for the regionals are March 10-14.

THE STATE QUARTER-FINALS will be held on March 18 with the semifinals on March 20 and the finals on March 21.

This will mark the final year when the finals are held outside of Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Beginning with 1971, the State semifinals and finals will be alternated between the University of Michigan and Michigan State.

Raiders Win Finish Tied

North Farmington beat Groves, 31-11, to finish in a three-way tie with John Glenn and Franklin with 4-1 records in the dual meet season in the Northwest Suburban League's wrestling action.

The loop championship will be decided next Saturday at Thurston.

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HOMEOWNERS CORNER

by Marvin Kemp, President American Hardware & Supply Co.

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