

Unbeaten GC West Crushes Cherry Hill

Displaying sharp claws on defense as well as offense, the Garden City West Tigers ran their unbeaten streak to 13, clinched the 1969-70 Tri-State League championship and snapped a 11-game string of arch rival Cherry Hill Friday before an overflow home crowd by a 64-41 score.

School officials locked the gates a half hour before the opening tipoff and hundreds were turned away from the contest tagged as the game of the year in the area.

The reasons: West had barely squeezed past the Spartans in their first meeting on the Cherry Hill court, winning by two points, in the interim the Spartans had won 11 in a row and the Tigers had rolled past 12 straight foes. More than that, it was a rematch between West's brilliant 6' 7" Rick Drewitz and the Spartans' 6' 8" Jim Kroll - top performers for their respective teams.

Just to add a bit of drama to the situation, it was the second major game of the week for the Tigers who had whipped crosstown rival Garden City East Tuesday by a 61 to 50 score.

THUS, THE STAGE was set for the big showdown crowd, which filtered onto the edge of the playing court at the end, was primed and ready for a tight battle from the opening whistle to the final sound of the buzzer.

But such wasn't to be this night. With the Spartans double and triple-guarding Drewitz, Coach Chris Babler quickly made changes in his offense with the result that West had an 8-0 lead in less than two minutes and never trailed thereafter.

To show the effectiveness of Babler's strategy, the Tiger goals were scored by Kirk Lewis, Denny Leszczynski (2) and John Rutter with Drewitz acting in the role of a decoy.

Pat Burke and Kroll hit for Cherry Hill to make the score

8-4. Lewis connected for West, Kroll from the foul line, Leszczynski from the corner and Kroll again from the free throw stripe for a 12-0 count.

That was the sum of Cherry Hill's first period scoring but West moved along, aided by four points by Drewitz, to hold a 19-6 edge as the quarter ended.

IF CHERRY HILL supporters didn't realize that time had already run out on the Spartans, Drewitz made them aware of the situation in the second stanza when he connected six times from the field for 12 points that sparked West to a halftime margin of 37-18.

The Spartans had a mild flurry in the early moments of the third quarter and whittled the lead to 39-23 before running into a drought that continued for six minutes during which they went without a point.

Meanwhile, Garden City continued its hot hand and widened the gap to 48-23 before Kroll tucked in a pair of free throws and Keith Cabanaw flipped one in from underneath at the buzzer for a 49-27 score at the three quarter point.

Cherry Hill had another surge to start the final frame and whittled the deficit to 15 points only to have the Tigers break loose again for seven straight points and a 57-35 lead with 2:38 on the clock.

THE TIGERS built their margin to 62-38 and Coach Babler sent his starters to the showers to give the reserve a chance to show their stuff. The Cherry Hill mentor did the same thing and it was a ragged performance in the remaining time.

Kroll won the individual scoring battle with Drewitz with 26 points against 24 but Rick had a decided edge in rebounds and was a giant on defense, snapping up Cherry Hill passes on numerous occasions.

With Drewitz shackled by the defensive tactics of Cherry Hill, Leszczynski had 14 points, Lewis 10 and Rutter 12.

None of the other Cherry Hill players was able to get into double figures.

West has three games remaining on its regular season schedule, meeting Taylor Kennedy and Crestwood in league contests and Melvindale in a non-league encounter. Then it went to tournament play.

Plymouth Whips Trenton Five

Repeat victories over three second division teams of the Suburban Six in Plymouth's remaining conference games are all that stand between the Rocks and at least a tie for the 1969-70 title following an impressive 88-71 triumph over third-place Trenton.

Plymouth's defending champs trailed Trenton by eight early in Friday's game, led by as many as 19 in the

second half, dropped back to their own eight-point bulge, and then came on strong again for a sixth straight league victory.

IT LET THE ROCKS knotted with Livonia Bentley at 6-1, trailed by Trenton at 4-3, Redford Union (Plymouth's home opponent this Friday) and Allen Park are 2-5, with Belleville in the cellar at 1-6.

After the RU game, Plymouth has only Allen Park and Belleville remaining on its Suburban Six schedule.

It was a coach's scoring dream when Dick Bearup saw his Rocks overcome an early 10-2 deficit to take a 20-17 first quarter lead and then roll to victory as no less than six players scored in double figures.

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Coach Returns, Bentley Shines In 70-54 Rout

Coach Ken Timmons was back in command again after missing two games because of illness.

His Bentley High Eagles responded with what Timmons called one "of our soundest performances" in scalping Belleville, 70-54, to remain tied with Plymouth for the Suburban Six League lead.

"We haven't played harder or hustled more," said Timmons, who's team has a 6-1 standing with three starts left in league play.

"We can't afford to slip the rest of the way," he added. "If we win 'em all, we are assured no less than a share of the crown."

"Maybe somebody can help us in the final three weeks and beat Plymouth."

BENTLEY and Plymouth have met for the last time in the regular season, so they'll be no future showdown for the league crown.

Bentley took a 33-28 halftime lead and pulled away in the second half against Belleville.

Lou Lovett had 18 points to lead a four-man Bentley assault. Harry Ray followed with 15. Tom Guilfoyle and Dave Rice each had 11.

Guilfoyle made his points in a hurry. He was in constant foul trouble and finally exited early on five personal fouls.

Rice turned in another outstanding floor game while Ray came through with 12 rebounds to top Bentley.

The Livonians weren't at full strength. Guilfoyle and Craig Rosenthal both were in action after suffering from the flu earlier in the week.

"I hope everybody really is sound and healthy for our game with Trenton next Friday," Timmons added.

While he was absent, Bentley broke even.

NF Loses In Final 15 Seconds

Dave Logan's four point play with 15 seconds left in the game Friday night let Birmingham Groves sneak by North Farmington and into the Northwestern Suburban League lead.

Playing on the Farmington court, Groves battled back after trailing in the first half to win 61-59.

Logan tucked the game away when he laid in a break-away then canned two free throws after officials called an intentional foul on North Farmington guard Craig Dhue. That made the score 61-55.

GROVES needed both the basket and at least one of the free throws to win sole possession of the top spot in the league.

North Farmington's Ken Kilka hit two baskets in the last 10 seconds of the game to bring the Raiders within two at the final gun.

The loss, North Farmington's first of the season at home, dropped it to 5-2 in the league with three conference games remaining.

The Raiders are tied for second place in the league with Oak Park, the only other squad to beat North Farmington this season.

The Raiders' desperation run at Groves was aided by a faulty in-bounds pass from one of the Birmingham team's players after Kilka scored with eight seconds left.

from long range during the first half.

Groves' big center, Scott Love, finally got his team moving with eight points in the third period. Spectacular defensive work by Kilka couldn't stop Love as he finished with 21 points.

Kilka, who led the Raiders with 18 points, blocked three consecutive shots by Love during one stretch.

North Farmington shot 44% for the evening, scoring on 22 of 50 shots from the floor. Groves finished with 39% from the floor, 27 of 70, after hitting only five of 20 field goal attempts in the first period.

WEST (44) G F P
Lewis 5 6-1 19
Leszczynski 10 6-16 24
Drewitz 10 4-12 24
Rutter 10 4-12 24
Nustak 1 0-2 2
Gusowski 1 0-2 2
Totals 44 28-48 61

CHERRY HILL (44) G F P
Burke 1 0-2 2
Cabanaw 3 8-9 16
Pillgrau 2 2-6 6
Kroll 9 8-16 26
Sachanski 1 0-2 2
Skalsky 1 0-2 2
Totals 17 10-44 34

By period:
West 19 18 11 48-27
Cherry Hill 6 8 8 22-44

THE FANS who filled every cranny in the North Farmington gym, flooded the court, thinking the game was over. Officials put one second on the clock, which was just enough time for Kilka to drop in a basket.

The Falcons needed three quarters to catch the Raiders. North Farmington led, sometimes by as much as 12 points, until Groves tied the score at 43 at the end of the third quarter.

Groves jumped out to a six point lead during the first half of the final period, but a flurry by Dhue cut the margin to a basket. Later Dhue hit six consecutive points for the Farmington eagles to keep them close in the fourth quarter.

COLD SHOOTING by Groves and good shooting by the Raiders was mainly responsible for North Farmington's dominance in the first three periods.

Groves used its height advantage on the front line to shoot effectively on the offensive boards, but on occasion wasted as many as four shots on the Raider's basket during one trip down the floor.

While the lid was locked for Groves, North Farmington's starting five each shot well. Rick Herpich, Dhue, and Doug Gilmore scored consistently

jammed behind one of the backboards. West had an easy time recording a 66-44 victory.

(Observer photo by Vince Witke)

Borgess Battles For Spot

How's this for perfect scheduling?

When Bishop Borgess and Aquinas clash Friday night at Aquinas, the two will be matching identical 9-4 records in the West Division of the Catholic League.

But, that's not all.

The winner will earn the right as the divisional runner-up to qualify for the Catholic League's overall First Division playoffs which start Sunday in the U-D Memorial Building.

THUS, IT'S EITHER win or else, there can be no tomorrow since Friday's game drops the curtain on the regular season championship race.

Borgess turned back Dearborn Sacred Heart, 69-63, Friday after trailing 38-37 at the half.

But a 20-11 surge in the third period but Borgess in front far keeps as Mark Quay led the winners with 27 points. Jeff Crowley had 13 and Jim Pomranski 12.

When Borgess and Aquinas met earlier in the season, Borgess won in overtime at home, 64-79.

Three Wayne State University athletes - Richard Milazzo (Cormack, N.Y.) in fencing, Dennis Stanek (Clauson) in swimming and Don Robinson (Detroit-Osborn) in track - received All-American honors in 1969 and are competing again during 1969-70.

NOT EVEN A MOUSE could have squeezed into the Garden City West gym Friday when the Tigers clashed with Cherry Hill. This shows a small section of the crowd

THUS, THE STAGE was set for the big showdown crowd, which filtered onto the edge of the playing court at the end, was primed and ready for a tight battle from the opening whistle to the final sound of the buzzer.

Falcons Fluff Golden Chance

Opportunity knocked, but Farmington High's basketball team wasn't equal to the occasion.

Mark Lindberg (98 pounds), Dennis Campbell (115), Bob Metz (137), Chip Wood (155), Jon Peach (175) and Gary Pruss (beaverweight) all pinned their rivals in winning for RU. Bill McCurry (123) and Mike Marr (130) won on decisions.

Redford Union had no problem routing Allen Park, 38-13, in its final league meet.

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Falcons and not only left them two games back of leading Stevenson (4-1), but also dropped Farmington out of a tie with Northern (5-2) for second place.

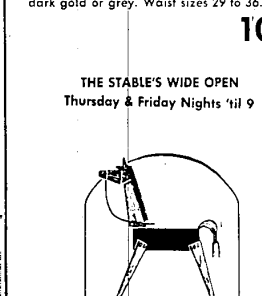
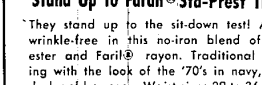
Farmington just couldn't get untucked. It was outscored, 19-9, in the first period.

Lathrup led, 30-20, at the half and 41-31 after three quarters.

White, the top Farmington scorer, hit double figures for the Falcons, flipping in 23 points. Randy Cleveland had eight, and Mark Maniewski seven.

Jim Preston was high for the winners with 17 points.

Bob Chapman had 11 rebounds to stand out on the boards for Farmington, which totaled only 14 baskets in the game.



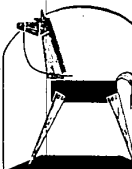
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THE CLOTHES HORSE

Thurston Swims Past Oak Park

Southfield Lathrup's swimming team turned back Farmington, 57-47. It was Farmington's sixth loss in nine starts.

The Falcons came up with four winners:

- 50-yard freestyle - Larry Henderson, 24.2 seconds.
- Butterfly - Bob Jamison, 1:03.
- Backstroke - Doug Geersens, 1:06.1.
- Breaststroke - John Kerastes, 1:15.

HAPPY MOMENT for North Farmington cheerleaders who have big smiles as they start a cheer. Such



RU, Trenton Square Off For Mat Title

It'll be Redford Union vs. Trenton in the big battle for the Suburban Six wrestling title Saturday.

The teams wound up dual meet competition tied this week.

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N. FARMINGTON

	G	F	P	T
Nahallie	1	1	2	10
Herpich	3	4	1	12
Kilka	2	1	2	5
Gilmore	1	1	2	3
Dhue	6	2	0	2
Priggs	2	0	0	2
Totals	16	11	14	50

GROVES

	G	F	P	T
Rex	2	1	1	16
Beer	1	1	1	2
Love	1	1	1	2
Marr	1	1	1	3
Logan	3	2	2	7
Duke	1	1	1	3
Totals	11	7	13	41

By Periods

	1	2	3	4	5
N. Farmington	17	23	43	59	61
Groves	15	25	43	49	61