

Stevenson Assured Of Tie For Title

Meet the champs! They're celebrating again at Stevenson High School in Livonia.

The Spartans have assured themselves no less than a tie for the Inter-Lakes Conference title. All that stands between the Spartans and an outright title is beating either Latrup this Friday night at Latrup or winning at home a week from Friday from Farmington.

A 78-57 romp over Walled Lake Central, while Farmington trimmed Pontiac Northern, 73-60, made it certain that Stevenson will reign at least as champion.

THAT'S THE WAY it was last season in the

league—Stevenson sharing the crown with Pontiac Northern.

If Stevenson should slip in its last two games Northern and Farmington could catch the Spartans and force a tie for the top spot.

But it's doubtful that it will happen. Stevenson, rebounding from a pair of losses, looked sharp, especially in the final period in downing Walled Lake for its seventh league win in eight starts.

It was anybody's game for three periods. Stevenson had taken a 19-13 edge after the first period, but it was tied at 29-29 at the half. In the third period, Walled Lake went one point up, 51-50.

But it was strictly Stevenson in the closing eight-minute drive as the Livonians flipped in 28 points while holding Walled Lake to just ONE basket (that's right ONE) and four free throws.

"WE JUST began to execute our plays better, get the rebounds and perform brilliantly on defense," said Coach George Van Wagoner of the Spartans.

The Stevenson coach had to admit that the departure on fouls of Walled Lake's Mike Ridley, a big center and rebounding specialist, helped in the closing drive.

But his Stevenson players did some spar-

king things of their own like Paul Van Wagoner (the coach's son) dropping in three straight baskets to break a 52-52 tie and put Stevenson in the lead for keeps.

Ted Exarhos, sparking on scoring and rebounding, added eight points in the final period drive to give him 23. Mike Swift scored 14, Randy Hickerson eight and Paul Van Wagoner eight. Swift, Ron Hoekstra, the latter a junior, and Exarhos gave Stevenson good control of the backboards.

Bob Serra was the big gun for the losers. He scored 22 points.

Rocks Rip RU, 81-59; Remain Tied With Bulldogs

The scoring balance which has become Plymouth High's greatest asset in the Rocks' drive for at least a share of a second straight Suburban Six cage title showed itself again in Friday's 81-59 romp over Redford Union.

The Rocks now possess a string of seven in a row in league play, remaining deadlocked with Bentley at 7-1 for first place.

PLYMOUTH WILL INVADE Allen Park this week and will close out at home Feb. 27 against Belleville. Knowing nothing less than two wins will guarantee a co-championship unless Bentley is upset in either of its last two starts against Redford Union and Allen Park.

From a team which started the season with observers saying, "as goes Cunningham, so go the Rocks," Plymouth demonstrated again against

RU that its scoring power now runs deep. In four league games in a row, all won by margins of from 17 to 30 points, the Rocks have had from four to six players in double figures.

Against RU they were Jones, 22; Cunningham, 18; Charley Wolfe, 15, and Scott Taylor, 11. Schryer, the fifth starter, picked up nine. Of this quintet, Cunningham is the only senior.

In contrast, Redford scoring saw Gary Bevington set the pace with 12, while Kirk Taylor notched 11.

THE VISITING PANTHERS proved bothersome in the

early going as their exceptionally close guarding forced Plymouth into numerous turnovers. The Rocks didn't get the lead until after five minutes of play when a jumper by Cunningham gave Plymouth a 9-8 edge. The game never again was that close.

Jones hit six for six from the floor before the first half was over to pace the Rocks to a 41-31 lead at intermission. Plymouth then broke things wide open with 10 quick points before RU could score at the start of the third quarter.

Eight came on four baskets by Wolfe and the Rocks eventually led by as much as 27 before Coach Dick Bearup

pulled his starters in the last three minutes.

REDFORD UNION (59)				
	G	FM	FT	P
Bevington	6	0	1	12
George	5	1	2	8
R. Taylor	4	0	3	11
Kellman	4	0	1	8
Everett	4	0	1	8
R. Taylor	4	1	4	2
Hickman	1	0	2	2
Kennedy	3	0	2	6
Graff	0	0	1	4
Nasif	2	0	0	4
TOTALS	27	5	17	59

PLYMOUTH (81)				
	G	FM	FT	P
Schryer	6	3	5	15
Wolfe	6	3	2	15
Taylor	6	1	2	11
Jones	8	7	9	23
Cunningham	8	7	9	23
Hickman	0	2	4	2
Slicker	0	0	4	2
Mathews	0	0	1	0
Thornbald	0	0	1	0
Crice	0	1	1	1
TOTALS	28	21	37	81

Western Routs Churchill

Walled Lake Western packed too much first-half punch and went on to trounce Livonia Churchill, 77-56 in basketball. Western was on top, 24-10, after one period and led 43-20 at the intermission.

The teams reached the three-quarter mark with Western leading, 59-40.

JERRY OLJACE flipped in 18 points and was the only Churchill player to score in double figures.

Pat Welch added nine points while Gary Leistner and Brian Van Wagoner had eight each. Keith Armstrong seven, Roy Young five and Joe Watson one.

Walled Lake's Marvin Gross, who stands an even six foot, was a sensation for the winners. All he did was score 39 points and haul down 20 rebounds.

Tigers List Game With Farm Club

The Tigers have scheduled another mid-season exhibition game with the Toledo Mud Hens, their No. 1 minor league affiliate, to be played at the Lucas County Recreation Center in Toledo on Thursday, Aug. 27.

It will be the fourth straight meeting of the two teams, an event which annually fills the 7,000-seat stadium at Toledo.

The Tigers won the first two games of the series in 1967-68 but bowed to their farm hands, 5-4, in 1969 when Ike Brown collected three hits, including a home run, for the Mud Hens to earn almost-instant promotion to the Tiger roster.

The Tigers previously announced a benefit exhibition game with the Philadelphia Phillies to be played at Tiger Stadium June 18. Tickets for the benefit will be distributed by the Recreation Association of Michigan.

Borgess Loses, Misses Playoff

There was no Bishop Borgess in the Catholic League's First Division playoffs at the University of Detroit Sunday.

Whether Borgess made it into the title series hinged on the outcome of "a showdown" game with Aquinas last Friday.

The teams were tied with 9-4 records in First Division-West when the battle began. The winner would qualify for the playoffs as the divisional runner-up.

West Gets Scare From Taylor; Runs Unbeaten Streak To 14

Practice does make perfect... It was Saturday morning and there was occasion for Garden City West High's basketball team to do some celebrating.

After all, West had downed Taylor Kennedy, 54-49, the night before and this assured West a share of the Tri-Rivers League title.

Just one more victory—and West has two loop games left—means an outright crown for the second straight year.

THE WIN over Taylor Kennedy also ran West's winning

streak for the season to 14 (12 in the league). There have been no losses.

That's the way Coach Chris Babler would like it to be in the final two loop games—at Crestwood Friday and then at Melvindale the following Friday.

Then comes the state tournament in which West won the district and reached the regional finals a year ago.

So, it was Saturday and the West cagers could have been celebrating. But they weren't.

Babler called a practice. There was some work to be done. West hadn't zipped past Kennedy in overly convincing fashion.

IT WAS a tough go for West, which went ahead, 15-12, in the first quarter, but then fell back, 29-27, at the half.

Fortunately, West had a good third period, outscoring Kennedy, 13-7, with two free throws by John Rutter and a basket and two free throws by Rick Drewitz putting West ahead for keeps after they had

trailed, 49-48 with 2:31 left in the period.

Dennis Leczyevskni with 19 points and Drewitz with 17

topped the winners. Drewitz also was the dominating figure on the boards with 22 rebounds.



N. FARMINGTON'S Jay Pease clamps down on Jim Thever, of Birmingham Groves, during the Northwest Suburban league wrestling championships Saturday at Thurston High. Note how Jay has locked his fingers while the referee is on the other side of the action. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

Trojans Are Beaten By Andover

Andover High not only clinched a share of the Wayne Oakland League basketball title, but also turned in an easy win at the same time in downing Clarenceville, 64-44.

Andover went ahead, 17-10, at the end of the first quarter and outscored Clarenceville, 23-11, in the second and 27-7, in the third period.

Bob Souther had 25 points for the winners while Jim Hoover with 13 points topped Clarenceville, which remains last in the league.

Tankers In 2 Meets

Swimmers from eight area junior high schools will compete in two swimming meets at the Redford Union High School pool next week.

The seventh and eighth grade meet is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m., and the ninth grade competition is on Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

Admission will be 50 cents for students and 75 cents for adults. This will be the third annual junior high swim meet at the RU pool, according to Howard A. Kraft, Athletic Director, who is making arrangements for the event.

Participating schools are Hilbert and Pearson of Redford Union; Northville in the seventh and eighth grade meet only; Plymouth East, West, and Pioneer; and Pierce and Marshall of South Redford.

Bentley Stays Tied For League Lead

It's a most interesting record to what appears a share of the conference crown with Plymouth.

Within the Suburban Six League, Bentley is rolling along at a 7-1 clip; outside the circuit the team is 2-5.

But, since it's what happens in the league that counts most, Bentley fans are excited these

days. Their team is rolling along to what appears a share of the conference crown with Plymouth.

Bentley matched Plymouth's 7-1 loop record Friday by dumping Trenton, 73-49.

Now all Bentley needs are wins over Redford Union and Allen Park to be assured a share of the pennant.

BENTLEY GAINED its nine-point bulge against Trenton in the first quarter with a 20-11 outburst paced by Tom Guilfoyle, who had eight of his 23 points in the opening eight minutes.

The teams battled on even terms the rest of this way. They were 29-20 in the second

period, 16-15 for Bentley in the third and 18-17 for Trenton in the fourth.

Guilfoyle, who earlier in the season, canned 50 points in a game, was more than the No. 1 scorer for Bentley against Trenton. He also had 17 rebounds.

MEANWHILE, Dave Rick proved himself the Oscar Robertson of the Bentley team when he was credited with a total of 18 assists.

In addition he had 14 points, while Lou Lovett had 11, Harold Hay eight, Craig Rosenbark six, Dave Veach four and Brian Dinsmore two.

Jim Grace pumped in 21 for the losers.

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