

White's Record 45 Points Keep Falcons In Running

It's been a season of ups and downs for Farmington High School in basketball. Notwithstanding the two weeks remaining in the Inter-Lakes conference race for honors, the Falcons still find themselves in contention for a high spot.

With Paul White leading the way, firing in a school record of 45 points, Farmington jolted Pontiac Northern, 73-60, Friday night.

It was a "big" victory for Farmington and it also helped nearby Livonia Stevenson. At the same time it jolted Pontiac Northern.

THE WIN by Farmington

assured Stevenson no worse than a share of the league title.

It also gave the Falcons some hope of tying for the flag. If Farmington can win its final two league games—over Waterford and Stevenson, while the latter loses its last two...there could be a tie

for the top spot in the final standings.

Even if the Falcons miss out on the crown, they're now in the position to finish second and could cause a flock of troubles in the forthcoming state tournament.

FEW PREP individuals

have sparked the way White, a senior, did for Farmington against Pontiac Northern.

He had started the game with a 29.3 point average, tops in Oakland County and one of the best in the entire state.

His mates were trailing by a 16-4 score after the first quarter when White really

caught fire in the second period.

He had made 11 points in the first session, but then in the second he notched 17 of Farmington's 21 points and his mates took a 35-27 lead they never relinquished.

White shot in 16 of his 27 tries from the field.

THE FARMINGTON statistician reported that White made "only 17" points in the second half. Most preps would settle for that figure in an entire game.

Randy Cleveland collected 11 points, Dan Steinke eight, Mark Maniowski four, Paul Kopperschmidt three and Bob

Chapman two for the winners.

Northern missed the services of star Charles Moncrief, who was ailing and unable to play.

Overall Farmington now is 6-8. But it's the 5-3 mark in the league that gives the Falcons and their fans something to cheer about.

George Maslin observing sports

Why not split seasons to decide league high school basketball championships?

In virtually every Overboarder league, all teams face loop rivals home and home.

So what's wrong with crowning one winner when the first half of the slate is completed and a second when the second round is finished.

Then have the two champions play off. Of course, if the same team wins each round, it'd be the automatic kingly for the season.

We realize there could be some complications, like if:

1.—There were ties at the end of either half season.

2.—The limit on the number of games state prep basketball teams are permitted to play.

But something could be worked out.

ON THE SUBJECT of games state preps can play in Michigan basketball—for schools sponsoring football the total is 23 with nine the maximum on the gridiron—we note that other states, in many instances give their prep cagers far more opportunities to perform.

Coach Bill Van Breda Koff of the Pistons, whose son, Jan, is a senior schoolboy star out in California this winter, notes that Jan's team already has played more than 20 games and by the time the regular-season finishes will have engaged in something like 25 contests.

And, that doesn't count the state tournament, either.

Of course, the number of games a Michigan team plays in the state meet isn't charged against its total...but, did you ever stop to think of this?

A team going all the way to the state finals often plays nine games in less than a three-week span.

Yet, in regulation play, it can engage in only 16 of 17 games over a three-month period.

Why not be a little more liberal? What's wrong with playing instead of practicing?

In many situations, you'll find schools scrimmaging another, which is legal. But to play an official game...well, that can't be done...otherwise the state rules will be violated.

WHAT'S MORE EXCITING than walking down a corridor in one of the country's major airports and casting an eye at about the various planes lined up at the gates are about to head.

It always gives us a thrill...and it wasn't any different the other morning in Chicago's vast O'Hare airport.

As we strolled along, changing from one plane to another carrying us from Detroit to Omaha...there were the signs: American Airlines Astro Jets for New York, for San Francisco, for Palm Springs, for Washington, for Boston, for Buffalo...for City.

We walked around the corner to where the United Airline flagships were lined up.

There were those going to New York and Philadelphia...to Las Vegas and Portland...to Honolulu and San Francisco...to Los Angeles and Boston...

And down...there were the big Delta Airlines...heading for Miami and Fort Lauderdale...Dallas and Houston...for New Orleans...

So, where to my friends? Wish we had a ticket for all of us to use.

If we had a pick right now, where we'd like to go immediately, it would be Fort Lauderdale-Miami...or maybe the Tampa-Lakeland area.

It's spring training time for the baseball teams...and it's something to go down and watch baseball under the hot sun when everybody back home is freezing, sliding and shoveling snow.

But we'll have to settle for Syracuse, N.Y., and the snowbelt of the country come Thursday morning.

IT'S A SHAME that Michigan's high school sports program lacks for indoor track.

At least, on a sustained basis.

There are some schools which hold meets on oval tracks in the balcony. But not many.

Too bad. Track is a first-rate sport and offers a great many boys a chance to compete at the same time, since there is such a variety of events on the schedule.

The lack of full-scale indoor meets doesn't keep the trackmen from working out in the winter. At many schools they do.

Also, several area schools will have representatives in action next month in the annual Huron Relays at Eastern Michigan in Ypsilanti.

NICE TO HEAR that swimming coach Ralph Deetz was in and out of the hospital in short order.

The Observer owes Deetz of Redford Union a thank you for the special swimming relay he compiles every week for these pages.

It's to be noted that several of the Observer-area swimmers rank right up there in the state listings which are printed in The Detroit News.

'Spoiler' Glenn Key To Loop Title

Can John Glenn do it again? North Farmington certainly is hoping so...as is John Glenn.

It was Glenn which upset Oak Park in a real squeaker Friday, 84-83, while North Farmington was slipping past Thurston, 78-49, and Groves continued its blazing ways

with an 82-59 romp over Franklin.

As a result with two Fridays of action left in the chase for the Northwest Suburban League title, it's Groves on top with a 7-1 record, followed by North Farmington at 6-2.

help. They are through with Groves as far as the regularly season is concerned.

THAT'S WHY Glenn could be so important. It'll be Glenn hosting Groves, which has won seven straight in the league now, Friday night and North Farmington entertains Oak Park.

"You can be assured we'll be cheering for Glenn," said Coach Dick Wilson of North Farmington.

Down at Glenn, Coach Gordon Davis is proud of the way his team has been coming on in recent weeks.

Davis. "Now the kids are beginning to jell and Brown has been one tremendous player for us."

"Tremendous" fits the bill for Brown, a 6-5½ senior. He has been averaging 18.5 points and 16.5 rebounds.

Along with Mark Magee he provided the one-two punch in the win over Oak Park, Magee

scored 23 points, Brown 22. But Brown also grabbed off 26 rebounds, two shy of his season's high against Franklin.

WHAT DOES he think of Glenn's chances against Groves?

"Well, we've won three of our last four. We'll be ready," says the Glenn coach.

Glenn rallied from a 45-36 halftime deficit with Brown scoring 10 points in the third quarter to go ahead, 60-58, starting the last period.

The Glenn lead rose to 65-59 as nine points before back came Oak Park. Led by Larry Marshall, the Parkers pulled within two points with three seconds to go when Terry Marchand's free throw clinched it for Glenn.

The final Oak Park basket came when Glenn players stepped aside and made sure there was no foul.

Glenn now is 4-4 in the league and 7-8 overall. Dave Wyprukiewicz added 12 for the winners and Marchand 11.

Sherman with 35 topped Oak Park, while Rick Seid had 22.

DREW MAHALIC was the big gun for North Farmington, which took an early lead, then outscored its foe, 25-14, in the second period and won without much trouble.

Malahic, who finished with 27 points, had six in the first period and 12 in the second.

Coach Wilson of North Farmington, commenting on his team's 42-27 edge at the half, declared:

"We cut down on turnovers, we handled the ball well, shot well (the Raider made 15 of their first 33 shots) and executed the fast break well."

Thurston put on a late rush with a 30-point final period, but had too much of a deficit to overcome.

Craig Dhu with 15 points, Ken Kikka 14 and Steve White 11 joined Malahic in double figures for the winners.

Paul Hayes with 14 and Larry Marshall 10 topped Thurston, whose strong finish had to ingress coach Mike Pasternak.

IT WASN'T CLOSE as Grove rolled past Franklin, 82-59.

The Birmingham team grabbed a 17-7 lead in the first quarter, made it 30-22 at the half and went into the final quarter with a 68-37 bulge.

Groves had too much height and rebounding for Franklin, forcing the Livonians to settle for one shot, usually from the outside, most the time in the game.

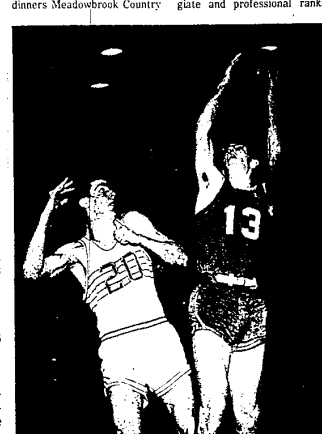
The loss left Franklin with a 1-7 league record and a 1-12 mark overall.

Scott Love continued his brilliant shooting for Groves with 25 points. Randy Lee and Dick Madam each had 10 and Mark Letto nine for Franklin.

Honor 'Bo' and Stram At Meadowbrook Stag

For the first time since the inauguration of the annual stag dinners Meadowbrook Country

Club will honor football coaches from both the collegiate and professional ranks



and will name Jim Mandich, Michigan's All-American end, as the top amateur athlete of the year Friday night.

"Bo" Schembechler, the Michigan coach who was named coach of the year prior to being felled by a heart attack on the morning of the Rose Bowl game, will be paid high tribute for his selection by fellow coaches.

TURNING TO THE professional side, Hank Stram, coach of the world champion Kansas City Chiefs who has the longest service record of any rival, will be honored as the pro coach of the year.

Stram, who also is a gifted speaker, will be the featured orator on the program that has come to be looked upon as one of the highlights of the winter season.

Mandich will be awarded the huge trophy that goes annually to the athlete adjudged the most outstanding in the state.

The last University of Michigan athlete to receive it was Ron Johnson two years ago.

Livonian Honored At WSU

John Gores, Wayne State sophomore distance runner has been named to receive the first "Track Athlete of the Week" Award by WSU Head Coach Dick Swanson.

Gores, a Livonia-Stevenson graduate, was selected by the Tartar track coaching staff for his "double" at the four-school meet in Chicago in which the Tartars trimmed host University of Chicago, North Central and Wheaton in dual meets scored simultaneously.

Gores clocked a 9:47 two-mile time, his first time under 10 minutes in the event indoors and came back with a 4:24.6 mile race. That time was also his fastest indoors and both were good enough to win the races.

Gaining honorable mention from the coaches was Livonia Bentley freshman Jeff Lane, a half-mile.

After a 2:02.8 timing at Chicago, he came back with 2:02.7 at Kalamazoo, then added a 2:01.7 time on a relay leg and closed out with a 4:24.6 mile race. That time was also his fastest indoors and both were good enough to win the races.

An opportunity to play "spoilers" presents itself to coach Bill Van Breda Koff and his Pistons.

FOR EXAMPLES: The Pistons have three games left with the 76ers who not only are trying to lift themselves into third place in the Eastern Division, but also are casting an eye back at fifth-place Boston Celtics who

What's Doing In Prep Sports

BASKETBALL Friday

Garden City East at Inkster

Garden City West at Crestwood

Groves at John Glenn

Stevenson at Southfield Lathrup

Waterford at Farmington

Oak Park at North Farmington

Churchill at Ann Arbor

Kettering at Clarencville

Plymouth at Allen Park

Thurston at Redford Union

Tuesday

Walled Lake Central at North Farmington

Dearborn at Bentley

SWIMMING Thursday

Riverview at Thurston

River Rouge at Clarencville

Garden City West at Crestwood

Allen Park at Plymouth

Redford Union at Bentley

Garden City East at Ypsilanti

Saturday

Franklin in West Wayne Relays

North Farmington at Farmington

Northville at Clarencville

Glenn at Cherry Hill

Garden City West at Garden City East

Franklin at Plymouth

Churchill at Bentley

GYMNASTICS

Farmington at Trenton

Kennedy at North Farmington

Clarencville at Allen Park

WRESTLING

Saturday

Class A district tournaments at North Farmington, Redford Union and Romulus

Pistons Face '76ers In 'Free Cap' Game

are making a belated rush to get into the playoffs.

Nine of the remaining Pistons' encounters will be played at Cobo Arena with the 76ers making their last visit to Detroit Saturday night which has been designated as "Free Cap Night."

All youngsters, 16 and under purchasing a ticket, will receive the cap as a gift from the Pistons.

Take Heart, East! Sophs Sparkle In 76-68 Victory

Take heart, Garden City East.

Better days are on the way in basketball. Coach Billy Joe Young has a fairly young team going for him this season. There were three sophomores, Jeff Delarte, Dave Jackson and Jack Hayes, in action Friday when East rolled past Riverview, 76-68, for its second league win in eight Mid-Wayne conference starts.

Overall, East is 5-10.

But Young had to be encouraged with the showing. East made against Riverview, one of the league's stronger teams.

"WE HAVE BEEN putting together several good 3½ period games," said Young.

"This time we were in there for all four periods."

This was reflected in the quarter-scoring summary for East—17-20-22-17.

Jackson's play was outstanding. He had nine baskets for 18 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and blocked five shots. Delarte didn't score, but he made fine contributions.

Hayes, playing his first game on the varsity, collected seven points.

Rod Shafer, one of the East veterans, was brilliant. Shafer had nine baskets and six free throws for 24 points. Craig Puihu, a recent transfer student, fired in 15.

THE FOUR PROSPECTS are:

Ken Stouffer, 21-year-old catcher from Sandusky, O. He is 6-3 and 210, bats and throws right-handed, was signed by Tiger Scout Wayne Blackburn.

Steve Ring, 20-year-old outfielder from Malden, Mass., signed by Scout Joe Cusick. A right-hander all the way, Ring is 6-1 and 200, played at Buxley Junior College.

Daniel Ruth, 21-year-old first baseman from the University of Colorado, whose home is Boulder, Colo. Drafted by the Tigers in the June, 1969 free agent draft, he is 5-11 and 195, bats and throws right-handed.

Don Batts, 20-year-old third baseman from Wilson, N.C., who has been playing baseball in military service and was recommended by John Sharkey, a Tiger farmhand outfielder who was at Batavia of the New York-Penn League last season. Batts is 5-11 and 175, bats and throws right-handed.

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