

Preps Plunge Into State Cage Tourney Monday

Here we go!
It's March Madness time again in Michigan.
The opening shots will be fired Monday in the state high school basketball tournament.

As in the past, the tourney begins with district meets. There'll be 136 of them from Detroit to Houghton, from Benton Harbor to Port Huron.

The districts will be played from Monday through Saturday.

When they're over and the field has been sinned down to just district champions, the survivors will move next to the regionals, beginning a week from Monday.

By the time the regionals

are ended on March 11, only eight teams will survive in each of the four classes — A, B, C and D.

They'll go on to the state quarterfinals on March 13. This will cut the field to four teams in each class for the semifinals at Michigan State on March 20, and then finally two teams will remain for the finals to be played at Michigan State on March 21.

MORE THAN 750 schools will contest for state honors, all seeking the highest honor that can come to a prep team in Michigan.

The interest is as mighty as ever, and all indications point

to almost a half million people watching tournament games during the next three weeks.

The big spotlight, as always, will focus on Class A where the experts are divided, according to the various state ratings.

Most have picked Pontiac Central to reign as state kings when it's all over. Others are favoring Ferndale.

Observerland teams are spread over several districts, but in the main, most are crammed into four such meets — Class A action at Livonia Franklin, North Farmington and Southfield and Class B tournament at Northville.

GARDEN CITY WEST, the No. 1 hope from Observerland,

a team rated as high as No. 3 in the state polls, has been assigned to the Franklin tournament and there, among its rivals, will be cross-town Garden City East, Stevenson and Bentley.

Stevenson is the champ of the Inter-Lakes League this year and a sure-fire threat for state honors. Bentley entered the final weekend of Suburban Six League action tied for the league lead and has a history for reigning in the state district competition.

Up at North Farmington, meantime, Plymouth, Farmington and North Farmington all could go places, while at Southfield, the two Southern schools plus Redford Union and

Thurston might find West Bloomfield. A new addition to the Class A ranks, too difficult to cope with.

If the luck of the draw means anything they could wind up with "a natural" at Franklin. West and Stevenson are in opposite halves.

West starts with lowly Franklin Monday and, if victorious, then would face Bentley Wednesday. Stevenson should check Crestwood Monday, then face Garden City East Thursday.

Over at North Farmington, they've pitted Plymouth against North Farmington, the two top teams, right off the bat on Monday night.

But, there's nothing that can

be done about that. Open draws are conducted.

IN THE SOUTHFIELD meet, Southfield is paired with Thurston with the winner to face Redford Union. West Bloomfield faces Bentley in the other first round game.

It'll be either Clarenceville or Churchill in the Class B final at Northville since they are matched together Wednesday night with the winner going to the title game.

But there's little chance either can survive against a mighty Inkster team, which has lost only once in 16 games against the most part Class A opponents.

The area's three Catholic League teams are spread well around. Bishop Borgess will contest in Class A Detroit Henry Ford.

St. Agatha goes after Class C honors at Redford. St. Mary's while Our Lady of Sorrows plays in the Class C district at Dearborn St. Alphonsus.

The state tournament is strictly a one defeat and out competition.

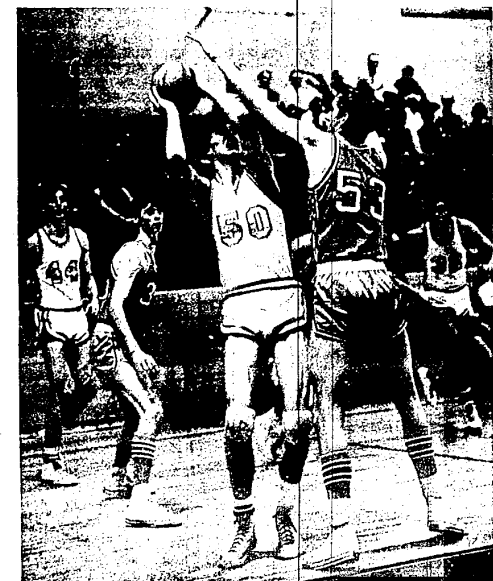
The maximum a team can play in the district tournament is three games. The same prevails in the regionals.

And, of course, the regional winners have a shot at three more games in the quarterfinals, semifinals and the finals.

THE WINNERS of the Franklin and North Farmington districts in Class A will go to the regional at Franklin, along with winners from Howell, Eastern Michigan and Detroit Ford.

Southfield will host a Class A regional for district winners from Mumfords, Lathrup Village, Southfield and Detroit Pershing.

The Northville Class B winner will go to Eastern Michigan University at Ypsilanti, while both the Redford St. Mary's and Dearborn St. Alphonsus Class C winners go to a regional scheduled at Bishop Gallagher High in Harper Woods.



NO CHANCE for Bentley's Craig Rosenthal (50) to get this shot away as Dearborn's Eric Ponds (53) has him covered. Others in the action are Tom Guilfoyle (44) and Lou Lovette (32), of Bentley, and John Renko (35) of Dearborn. The Livonians won handily. (Observer photo)

Bentley Outswims RU In League Meet Tuneup

Bring on the Suburban Six League swimming championships!

Joe Davis led Bentley with victories in the 200 and the 400-yard freestyle. RU had one double winner in Norm Jakust who took the breaststroke and the 100-yard freestyle.

The results:
Medley relay: 1 -- RU (Smith, Freeman, Michalak, Toth). Time: 1:56.6.
200-yard free: 1 -- Davis (B). 2 -- Stokley (RU). 3 -- Kuczek (B). Time: 1:59.1.

pressed with a 56-49 win over RU Tuesday night.

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The results:
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200-yard free: 1 -- Davis (B). 2 -- Stokley (RU). 3 -- Kuczek (B). Time: 1:59.1.

Individual medley: 1 -- Simpson (B). 2 -- Warren (B). 3 -- Kochevar (RU). Time: 2:18.

50-yard free: 1 -- Lawless (B). 2 -- Reed (RU). 3 -- Connolly (B). Time: 23.9 seconds.

Diving: 1 -- Blackman (RU). 2 -- Barber (B). 3 -- Mogel (RU).

Butterfly: 1 -- Kochevar (RU). 2 -- Ehrenfeld (B). 3 -- Reed (RU). Time: 50.9 seconds.



SWEATING IT OUT is Bentley Coach Ken Timmons who watches his team whip Dearborn. Timmons rejoined the team a week ago after spending a couple of weeks in a hospital and now is looking forward to action in the district tournament at Franklin High. (Observer photo)

North, Falcons Smash Records In Swimming

Records -- varsity and pools -- went by boards as North Farmington assured itself at least a .500 season in its initial swimming campaign by downing Farmington, 55-50.

The victory was the seventh in 13 meets for North Farmington which still has one more meet to go against a dual

rival before entering this week's Northwest Suburban League meet.

FRED BERTSCH led the record bar for the Raiders by figuring in three. He set varsity marks of 23.9 second and 54.2 seconds in winning the 50 and 100-yard freestyle races and also pool mark at Farmington with his time in the 50-yard free.

Backstroke: 1 -- Smith (RU). 2 -- Powless (B). 3 -- Molnar (B). Time: 1:03.5.

400-yard free: 1 -- Davis (B). 2 -- Stokley (RU). 3 -- Beatty (B). Time: 4:17.4.

Breaststroke: 1 -- Jakust (RU). 2 -- Warren (B). 3 -- Masheff (B). Time: 1:08.

Freestyle relay: 1 -- Bentley (Kuczek, Connolly, Ehrenfeld, Lawless). Time: 3:39.1.

Churchill Subdues Carlson

Churchill high's basketball team, tuning up for the state district meet at Northville this week, turned in a 65-51 victory over Carlson.

Keith Armstrong led three Churchill players who scored in double figures by dumping in 25 points. Jerry Olajide had 12 and Pat Welch 11.

Individual medley: 1 -- Hansen (F). 2 -- Goersens (F). 3 -- Shakkito (NF). Time: 2:04.5.

200-Backstroke: 1 -- Jenks (F). 2 -- Swan (NF). 3 -- Lawless (F). Time: 2:23.7.

100-yard freestyle: 1 -- Bertsch (NF). 2 -- Jenks (F). 3 -- Ackroyd (NF). Time: 54.2 seconds (Varsity record).

Area Tournament Pairings

4-7:30 p.m. -- Winner 3 vs. Winner 4
Champion to Southfield regional

(At Southfield Lathrup)
Tuesday
1-8:00 p.m. -- Lathrup vs. Lamphere
Wednesday
2-8:00 p.m. -- Ferndale vs. Oak Park
Thursday
3-8:00 p.m. -- Hazel Park vs. Winner 1
Friday
4-8:00 p.m. -- Winner 2 vs. Winner 3
Champion to Southfield regional

AT DETROIT FORD
Monday
Cody vs. Henry Ford. 4 p.m.
Tuesday
Bishop Borgess vs. Redford. 4 p.m.
Wednesday
Catholic Central vs. Cody. Ford winner. 4 p.m.
Friday
Final. 4 p.m.

AT YPSILANTI
Monday
Wayne vs. Ypsilanti. 7 p.m.
Belleville vs. John Glenn. 8:45 p.m.
Tuesday
Romulus vs. Wayne-Ypsilanti winner. 7 p.m.; Cherry
Friday
Final. 7 p.m.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

The announced plans of Windsor Raceway to close operations one week early leave the area without harness racing unless the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association and officials of the Hazel Park Harness Racing Association reach an agreement in the next couple of weeks.

Windsor, which is now under the direction of the new group from Montreal which successfully ousted Siegel from the presidency and from any part of management as far as that goes, has decided to call it quits on March 21 -- one week in advance of the announced closing date of March 28.

Hazel Park is scheduled to open the Michigan harness racing season on March 23 -- earliest date ever for a meeting at a plant which is not equipped for cold weather programs.

There was a chance that Windsor and Hazel Park would go head-head for the final week in March but now Windsor is backing off with the announcement that it feels six months of racing is enough for one meet.

William Rowe, newly elected president of the Canadian plant, made his surprise announcement earlier in the week.

Under the Siegel regime, Windsor had raced head-to-head with both Wolverine Raceway and Northville Downs in the metropolitan Detroit area in the past year.

During the first four years of Windsor's existence, Siegel had gone out of his way to avoid direct competition with Detroit area ovals.

After going against Wolverine Raceway for four nights last spring, he changed his thinking. Windsor went head-to-head against the Jackson-Northville meeting last November and December and found competition had little effect on the handle and attendance.

As it now stands, Windsor is enjoying its most successful campaign and it will be hard to sell the new regime on the fact that competition from across

the river would be that damaging.

While the situation in Windsor brings nothing but big smiles to the faces of the operating group, that at Hazel Park is becoming more acute daily.

It will be remembered that a strike of the mutual clerks union kept Northville Downs dark for an entire 25-day year last spring meeting a few years back.

Now the Hazel Park management is faced with demands from the MHHA for 50 per cent of the track's share of the mutual handle for horses.

THE AGREEMENT which ended a year averaged out at between 30 and 40 per cent and the MHHA leaders are emphatic in their stand that it will be 50 per cent this year or no meet.

And they could make it stand since we have yet to see any meeting operate without horses -- and that's where Hazel Park would be.

There isn't any question that if the MHHA declares a strike, there will not be any horses on the grounds. That also means that few if any of the drivers, owners or trainers would move stakes on to the grounds unless the situation is ironed out.

Racing Secretary Bill Coburn had planned to shift from Pompano Park to Hazel Park within the next two weeks to start screening horses and go over stall allotments with the MHHA screening committee.

There isn't any word from either side of the negotiating table but Coburn will probably stay in the warm flames of Florida until he knows for certain that there will be a need for his services.

Meanwhile, officials of the Mutual Clerks' Union are watching the negotiations very closely. They have members in the southland who would have to give up jobs and leases there to report a week in advance of the scheduled Hazel Park opening.

A strike by the horsemen

would keep some 450 union members out of work including ushers, plant maintenance, parking lot attendants and others.

If the MHHA and Hazel Park fail to reach an agreement, it would be far more reaching than just the horse men... it would involve hundreds of others and have a definite effect on the economy in Hazel Park.

Perhaps it's time for the horsemen to realize that business is in the throes of a mild recession at the moment, a recession that may continue through most of the year. Perhaps it's time to consider the full ramifications of a strike -- we feel it's better to continue negotiations and start the meeting rather to call everything to a complete halt.

Armstrong counted 15 points in the second half to help in Churchill's fifth win against 12 losses.

Medley relay: 1 -- North Farmington (Conklin, Pionder, Panosian, Smith). Time: 1:51. (Pool and NF record).

Individual medley: 1 -- Hansen (F). 2 -- Goersens (F). 3 -- Shakkito (NF). Time: 2:04.5.

200-Backstroke: 1 -- Jenks (F). 2 -- Swan (NF). 3 -- Lawless (F). Time: 2:23.7.

100-yard freestyle: 1 -- Bertsch (NF). 2 -- Jenks (F). 3 -- Ackroyd (NF). Time: 54.2 seconds (Varsity record).

Backstroke: 1 -- Conklin (NF). 2 -- Goersens (F). 3 -- S. Dolan (NF). Time: 1:03.9. (Pool record).

400-yard freestyle: 1 -- Hansen (F). 2 -- Henderson (F). 3 -- Shakkito (NF). Time: 4:29.7.

50-yard free: 1 -- Bertsch (NF). 2 -- Henderson (F). 3 -- Smith (NF). Time: 23.9 seconds. (Pool and NF record).

Diving: 1 -- Carr (NF). 2 -- Schwalm (F). 3 -- Priemer (B).

Butterfly: 1 -- Jamison (F). 2 -- Panosian (NF). 3 -- Swan (NF). Time: 1:02.4. (NF record).

Breaststroke: 1 -- Kerastas (F). 2 -- Pionder (NF). 3 -- Amperse (NF). Time: 1:12.7. (New Farmington record).

Freestyle relay: 1 -- N. Farmington (Worack, Elliott, McLean, Ackroyd). Time: 3:45.2. (Pool and NF record).

Trojans Drop Swim Meet

Northville High's swimming team turned back Clarenceville, 56-49, in a dual meet.

John Sydor and Don Ahonen each won two events for Clarenceville. Sydor captured the 200 and 400-yard freestyle races in the respective times of 2:07 and 4:42.3.

Ahonen took the 50 and 100-yard freestyle with times of 23 and 54 seconds.

Daryl Turk captured the breaststroke for the Trojans in 1:14.6.

Individual medley: 1 -- Squires (C). 2 -- Aili (B). 3 -- Kuczek (B).

50-YARD FREE: 1 -- Molnar (B). 2 -- Bar (C). 3 -- Beatty (B). Time: 25.5 seconds.

DIVING: 1 -- Barber (B). 2 --

Butterfly: 1 -- Jamison (F). 2 -- Panosian (NF). 3 -- Swan (NF). Time: 1:02.4. (NF record).

Breaststroke: 1 -- Kerastas (F). 2 -- Pionder (NF). 3 -- Amperse (NF). Time: 1:12.7. (New Farmington record).

Freestyle relay: 1 -- N. Farmington (Worack, Elliott, McLean, Ackroyd). Time: 3:45.2. (Pool and NF record).

Bentley Whips Churchill

Blake Lawless splashed to a pool and varsity record in the backstroke as Bentley High's swimming team downed Churchill, 69-36, in a dual meet.

Ward Squires, the Churchill star won both the individual medley and the butterfly and set a pool mark of 57 seconds in the 100-yard event.

The results:
MEDLEY RELAY: 1 -- Bentley (Powless, Simpson, Ehrenfeld, Lawless). Time: 3:52.1.
200-YARD FREE: 1 -- Davis (B). 2 -- Swalkowski (C). 3 --

Gering (C). Time: 1:58.5.

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1 -- Squires (C). 2 -- Aili (B). 3 -- Kuczek (B).

50-YARD FREE: 1 -- Molnar (B). 2 -- Bar (C). 3 -- Beatty (B). Time: 25.5 seconds.

DIVING: 1 -- Barber (B). 2 --

Butterfly: 1 -- Jamison (F). 2 -- Panosian (NF). 3 -- Swan (NF). Time: 1:02.4. (NF record).

Breaststroke: 1 -- Kerastas (F). 2 -- Pionder (NF). 3 -- Amperse (NF). Time: 1:12.7. (New Farmington record).

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HOMEOWNERS CORNER

by Marvin Kemp, President
American Hardware & Supply Co.

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