

Plymouth Sinks Raiders In 'A' Tourney

by GEORGE MASKIN
Sports Editor
What else could one expect? Here were Plymouth and North Farmington, two of Observerland's top-rated high school basketball teams, clashing head-on in the first round of the district Class A tournament at North Farmington.

North Farmington was No. 5. One knew that when North Farmington went ahead by 10 points in the third quarter, this would be no runaway or even when Plymouth took a 12-point lead with four minutes left in the game. Nothing was in the bag.

It was destined to be "a barnburner"—and it was—before Plymouth emerged a 70-57 winner after North Farmington, fighting back desperately, twice pulled within a point of a tie in the closing moment.

Moments later, the lead was one, 65-54, when Charles Wade hit from the side for the Rocks. But Driggs, a little dynamite all evening, counted down with another basket and with a minute left, it was 67-66 for Plymouth.

GC West Burries Franklin; Stevenson Nips Crestwood

Unbeaten Garden City West and three defeated Livonia Stevenson advanced to the semifinals of the regional 'A' tournament at Franklin High with victories in the opening round.

It was the official opening of the 1970 Michigan High School Athletic Association championship playoffs with four titles to be decided in the finals on March 21 in East Lansing.

West's Tigers had one of their poorest nights but ousted Franklin of three quarters before pulling away from a scrappy Crestwood quintet, 73-65.

THE SEMIFINALS COULD develop into two of the best games viewed in the area all season.

Stevenson, champion of the Inter-Lakes Conference, for the second straight year, had a stiff fight on its hands for the better part of three quarters from Crestwood, a decided underdog, but finally rolled up a commanding 51-47 margin early in the final stanza and stayed in front to the final whistle.

Crestwood, from Dearborn Heights, was anything but a soft touch in the early going. The lead changed hands three times in the first period before Stevenson took a 17-14 edge as the bell sounded.

The Spartans from Livonia hit a dry spell in the opening minutes of the second quarter and trailed four different times during the period.

CRESTWOOD WENT ahead 24-23 after five minutes. Randy Hickerson hit from the side for Stevenson and it was 25-24.

Gary Marley was fouled and flipped in both shots to put the Chargers in front, 28-25. Gerry O'Hara was loose in the corner and connected and Crestwood was ahead again, 28-25.

Ted Exarhos found the range twice from close up and Rusty Gregg batted in a rebound to give Stevenson a 31-28 edge with 55 seconds on the clock.

Don Rousseau and Marley contributed baskets to give Crestwood a 32-31 margin with seven seconds to play. Gregg was fouled while shooting and converted on the first to knot the count, 32-31 as the teams went off the court for the intermission.

IT WAS STILL a nip and tuck affair for three minutes of the second half with Stevenson holding a 41-38 margin.

Then the bottom dropped out for the Chargers as Paul Van Wagoner split the cords from long range and Exarhos flipped in a two-pointer from underneath.

Rousseau hit for Crestwood for a 45-40 count. Ron Hoekstra grabbed two successive rebounds and turned each into a two-pointer to widen the gap to 49-40 and it was all over but the shouting for the Chargers.

STEVENSON OPENED UP a 55-43 lead at the three-quarter point and had a 63-48 edge after three minutes of the final period when Crestwood started another rally that carried it within six points at 69-65. The Livonians pulled away again and had a comfortable eight-point spread at the final whistle.

Rousseau was the game's high point man with 11 field goals and two fouls for 24 points. Exarhos topped the scorers with 23 and Van Wagoner contributed 14 points and Gregg 13.

Livonia Bentley, co-champion of the Suburban Six League with Plymouth on identical records of 9-1, has the chance to become a giant killer in Wednesday's semifinal at 7:30 p.m. The Bulldogs clash with the undefeated Westsiders in what may be the game of the tourney.

Bentley came on strong during the latter part of the campaign and was rated the most-improved club in Observerland West, sparked by All-Starter Rick Drewitz, mowed down 17 straight opponents.

Stevenson faces a rugged test Thursday at 7:30 p.m. when it tangles with the always tough at tournament time Panthers from Garden City East. Coach George Van Wagoner figures his Spartans will be better in the semis than in the opener—if true it could turn into a bad night for East.

Held to a single point in the opening period when they trailed 12-1, Franklin High's warriors came back with 12 points in the second quarter and actually pulled within nine points of the unbeaten Tigers midway through the third stanza.

Then they hit another scoring drought in the final stanza when West tallied 19 points against seven and romped away with the easy victory.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS their 17th straight win, the Tigers looked anything but an unbeaten club, making many errors that handed the ball over to the Patriots.

Especially was this true in the third quarter when Franklin actually outscored West, 17-13.

Then Coach Chris Babler took his boys aside for a 12-minute rest period before the fourth quarter—whatever he said it worked for West was a different ball club in the final eight minutes.

There wasn't any question of the outcome after the fourth quarter opened—Rick Drewitz gave his team a three-point lead to start the action to boost the lead to 45-30 and Franklin never recovered.

The Tigers tallied seven straight points to take a commanding 50-30 edge and the evening was over for the Patriots.

West's all-state candidate Drewitz sparked on offense and defense and his rebounding was the difference in the teams for most of the evening. But even Drewitz lacked his usual zip and even though he collected 23 points to lead these scorers he was far from at his best.

Dennis Leszczynski was next in line with 18 points. Randy Lee was high for the losers with 10 followed by Frank Kasparek with nine.

Salesian High's basketball team routed Our Lady of Sorrows, 74-57, in a non-league game. Mike Hart scored 22 points and Chris Centers had 19 for the losers.

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RICK DREWITZ, brilliant scoring star of Garden City West, eludes two Franklin High defenders to drop in a two pointer. The Tigers rolled off their 17th straight victory in the opening round of the district tournament at Franklin High. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Tourney Pairings

- AT NORTH FARMINGTON**
Wednesday
Farmington vs. Walled Lake Western, 7 p.m.; Plymouth vs. Walled Lake Central, 8:30 p.m.
Friday
Finals at 8 p.m.
AT FRANKLIN
Wednesday
Garden City West vs. Livonia Bentley, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday
Livonia Stevenson vs. Garden City East, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Finals at 7:30 p.m.
AT BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM
Wednesday
Birmingham Seaholm vs. Bloomfield Lahser, 8 p.m.
Friday
Final at 8 p.m.
AT SOUTHFIELD
Wednesday
West Bloomfield vs. Berkley, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday
Redford Union vs. Southfield-Thurston winner, 7:30 p.m.
Friday
Final at 7:30 p.m.
AT SOUTHFIELD LATHRUP
Wednesday
Ferndale vs. Oak Park, 8 p.m.
Thursday
Hazel Park vs. Lathrup-Lamphere, winner, 8 p.m.
Saturday
Finals at 8 p.m.
AT HENRY FORD
Wednesday
Catholic Central vs. Cody, 4 p.m.
Friday
Final at 4 p.m.
AT NORTHVILLE
Wednesday
Clareville vs. Cherehill, 7 p.m.; Inkster vs. Riverside, 8:30 p.m.
Friday
Finals at 7:30 p.m.
AT DEARBORN ST. MARY'S
Wednesday
Our Lady of Sorrows vs. St. Alphonsus, 7 p.m.
Friday
Final at 7:30 p.m.
AT REDFORD ST. MARY'S
Thursday
St. Agatha vs. St. Francis de Sales, 7 p.m.; St. Andrews vs. St. Hedwig-St. Rita winner, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday
Final at 7 p.m.



CAPT. PAT CUNNINGHAM is carried from the floor on the shoulders of teammates following Plymouth High's 83-75 victory over Belleville Friday for a share of the Suburban Six title. The Rocks opened state tournament competition Monday with a 70-67 win over North Farmington and will face Walled Lake Central at 8:30 tonight in the second round on the North Farmington court. Victory would send Plymouth against the Farmington-Walled Lake Western winner in a game Friday night for the district championship. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

Rocks had a three-point edge. Driggs was fouled, a few seconds later made the first and missed the second. North Farmington rebounded the ball and had a chance to tie it, but the attempt was blocked.

The Rocks had the ball again, Cunningham was fouled and made one shot to put the game out of reach and hike his final evening's total to 29 points, two away from the Rocks' school record.

KILKKA'S EFFORTS had enabled North Farmington to break loose in the second period after the score had been tied six times the last at 18-18. He made 12 of his 22 points in the second period in which the Raiders went ahead, 40-22.

"One has to be proud of these kids," said Coach Bearup. "Except for Cunningham—they're all juniors and for a bunch of youngsters they sure have shown a great amount of poise under clutch situations."

There were no alibis on the North Farmington side, but the absence of Rick Herpich with a broken wrist and Craig Dube with an injured ankle hurt badly. Both are starters.

N. FARMINGTON (47)	G	P	F
Mahalik	3	0	6
Schreyer	5	2	22
White	4	2	10
Driggs	4	2	10
Gow	1	1	2
Totals	18	15	67
PLYMOUTH (50)	G	P	F
Schreyer	3	0	15
Wylie	5	1	11
Jones	5	2	12
Stefler	2	0	4
Totals	20	10	42
By periods:			
N. Farmington	18	24	7
Plymouth	18	18	17

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★ Chuck Roast ★ Swiss Steaks
★ Pot Roast ★ Ground Beef
★ Bar-B-Que Beef Ribs

Total For Example **\$78⁶⁵** 143 lbs. @55c/lb.

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★ Porterhouse Steaks ★ Club Steaks
★ T-Bone Steaks ★ Eye Roasts
★ Sirloin Steaks ★ Round Roasts
★ Round Steaks ★ Sirloin Tip Roasts
★ Minute Steaks ★ Ground Beef

Total For Example **\$78⁴⁷** 133 lbs. @59c/lb.

STEAK PAC
U.S.D.A. CHOICE
Consisting of Loin, Rib, Flank
★ Porterhouse Steaks ★ Minute Steaks
★ Rib Steaks ★ Rib Steaks
★ Sirloin Steaks ★ Filet
★ Club Steaks ★ Chop Steaks
★ Cube Steaks ★ Ground Beef

Total For Example **\$78⁶⁵** 121 lbs. @65c/lb.

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Sports Briefs

Wayne State University's single-season record for best wrestling dual meet wins is 11 set by the 1967-68 squad.

Wayne State University's basketball team has met or will face Kennedy College, North Central College, Rockford College and Parsons College for the first time in history during the 1969-70 season.



RICK DREWITZ, brilliant scoring star of Garden City West, eludes two Franklin High defenders to drop in a two pointer. The Tigers rolled off their 17th straight victory in the opening round of the district tournament at Franklin High. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)