

Unbeaten West Gets Scare But Sinks Stevenson

It took another of those cliff hangers that marked play in three of the four tournament games played on the Franklin high court and for the second time Garden City West's unbeaten Tigers came from behind to topple Livonia Stevenson and capture its second straight district championship, 58-55.

The finale will go down in the books as one of the tightest cage duels of the entire season. It appeared Stevenson would end West's string at 18 straight when Garden City's brilliant Rick Drewitz fouled out with 4:16 to play.

Stevenson, champion of the Inter Lakes conference, was trailing 54-49 at the time but the Spartans talked consecutive points to move in front, 55-54 with 2:02 on the clock.

held down the Stevenson scorers. At the same time Coach George Van Wagoner of Stevenson, had two men guarding Drewitz most of the time and they did a tremendous job.

The crowd of more than 2,200 jammed every inch of available space and Tournament Manager Walt Cozens told reporters he had to close the gates shortly before the opening tipoff and estimated that more than 300 were turned away.

Those that did get inside the gym witnessed a spectacular duel that wasn't decided until the final whistle.

West opened up a 13-8 margin late in the opening frame only to have Stevenson come-back and knot the score at 15-15 as the quarter ended.

The championship contest, which qualifies the victor for the quarterfinals, is slated for Saturday at 8 p.m.

John Rutter caged three straight free throws and West had a 40-39 count with 3:13 to go. The lead changed three times in less than a minute

when Gregg hit for Stevenson. Drewitz found the range from the side and once again West had a 42-31 edge.

Lewis converted on four consecutive foul shots and Leszczynski tapped in a rebound in the remaining time while Jetchick and Hecksira scored from the bench and just did as the final eight minutes started.

Garden City opened up a five point margin in the first two minutes but Stevenson came back again and trailed 30-49 with 5:23 remaining. That's when Coach Chris Babler, of West, sent Drewitz, who had encountered foul trouble back again and trailed 30-49 with 5:23 remaining.

he fouled Gregg and his night was over—he went to the bench to watch the remainder of the game.

MOST OF THOSE in the stands had a feeling that West couldn't make it without Drewitz but Leszczynski stepped into the breach and just did have enough to pull the Tigers through.

Stevenson never threw in the towel and was playing just as hard, perhaps harder, at the final gun as at the opening tip-off.

The defeat was a bitter one for Coach Van Wagoner who thought he had worked out a defense that would cut Drewitz down to size. It did hold the great Tiger star to 22 points in contrast to his 48 against Livonia Bentley on Wednesday

GREYSTON (58)	G	F	P
Gregg	2	5	8
Exarhos	2	5	8
B. Smith	2	5	8
Van Wagoner	4	5	12
Jetchick	1	2	4
Hecksira	2	2	4
F. Swift	2	0	2
Totals	19	17	35
G.C. WEST (54)	G	F	P
Lewis	0	5	5
Leszczynski	2	8	11
Drewitz	8	6	22
Nustad	2	0	4
Bitter	2	0	4
Gusowski	1	0	2
Totals	17	24	58
GREYSTON (55)	G	F	P
Stevenson	15	11	10-15
G.C. West	15	17	10-15

JOHNNY JETCHICK started the rally with a two pointer from the edge of the foul circle. Ted Exarhos was fouled and converted on the second of two shots to make the score 54-52. Rusty Gregg was fouled and hit on the second of the two tosses to whittle the margin to 54-53 with 2:16 to play.

Big Mike Swift brought roars from the Stevenson followers and moans from the Garden City delegation when he was ticked by Denny Leszczynski and flipped in both free throws to send his team ahead, 55-54 and there was 2:02 remaining.

Denny was fouled a few moments later but missed at the 1:37 mark. Then with 32 seconds remaining, Leszczynski was hacked by M. Swift while shooting.

The entire gym was quiet as he walked to the foul line and split the cords with the first to knot the count and then calmly dropped in the second to put West ahead, 56-55—the Garden City routers did everything but raise the roof and everyone was standing during the remaining 32 seconds.

Stevenson came out of a wild melee under the West basket with the ball and a long heave downcourt found Paul Van Wagoner open. He dribbled in with Kirk Lewis in close pursuit, laid the ball on the backboard, it rolled into the basket and back out again as the Livonia delegation moaned.

ACTUALLY THAT was the last chance for the Spartans. West took the ball out of bounds and Nustad hurled it far down court to Leszczynski who hit from the side with the basket that assured victory, 58-55.

Leszczynski had two free

Paul White's 42 Point Spree Eliminates Plymouth, 74-64

Record breaking Paul White and his Farmington High basketball mates had at least one more competitive date this season and maybe more as a result of their 74-64 triumph over Plymouth in Friday's district tourney finals on the North Farmington court.

The Falcons, who finished in a second place tie in the Inter Lakes Conference, have advanced to the regional tournament being played this week at Livonia/Franklin.

After drawing a first round bye Farmington is booked for an 8 p.m. battle Thursday against the winner of Tuesday night's game between Ypsilanti and Detroit Catholic Central.

The two other teams in action at Franklin are Garden City West and Ann Arbor Huron. Those two meet tonight, the winner going against Thursday's survivor Saturday night for the regional crown and the right to advance to the state Class A quarter finals.

Agatha Jolted In Finals

There's one thing about the state high school basketball tournament—the past form sheet means nothing.

Take the Class C final at Redford St. Mary's for district honors Saturday night as an example.

St. Agatha shaped up as a heavy favorite. The team took a 13-0 record against St. Hedwig, which had lost 12 times in prior action during the season. But St. Hedwig arose in the clutch and emerged as the district champs, 58-56.

St. Agatha fell behind by 10 points at the half, then rallied to get even at three quarters, then fell back by four points with 40 seconds left in the game.

A BASKET by Dave Urban put St. Agatha within two of a tie, then the Townshippers stole the ball and drove for what might have been the tying basket.

The shot missed and a jump ball followed with three seconds left. St. Agatha couldn't do anything and the season was over.

George Barbour had 13 points, Urban and Tim Flamboe had 11 for St. Agatha, which enjoyed a five season, winning the division title before losing out in both Catholic League and state tournament play.

Grady Peniger, Michigan State's head wrestling coach for eight years, has been named to the Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame by Helms Athletic Foundation.

Rich and Ron Saul, identical twins who were three-year regulars on Michigan State football teams (1967-69), were named together to the 1970 Academic All-America Team.



SHARPSHOOTING PAUL WHITE, who sparked Farmington High to the victory over Plymouth, aims from the foul lines and collects two more points. He had one of his hottest nights of the season. (Photo by Warren Bopp)

8 District Champs Clash In Puck Meet

Eight of Michigan's best Squirt division hockey teams will clash in a round robin tournament for the 1970 state championship over the weekend at the Ford Field Arena in Livonia.

The admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children 14 and under for each series of four games. Tournament tickets are available at \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 14 and under.

Sponsored by the Livonia Hockey Association, the tourney will bring most of the better junior hockey players to the attention of area fans.

AT THE SAME TIME officers of the LHA announced plans for a House League Hockey night on March 18 when the A and B champs from each division will meet.

The meet, slated for Saturday and Sunday, will bring sectional winners from Detroit, Trenton, St. Clair Shores, Port Huron, Ann Arbor, Sault Ste. Marie, Marquette and Hancock to Livonia.

Play is scheduled to start at 5:45 p.m. in the Ford Arena.

In addition, Bev/Griffith, head figure skating instructor for the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, will participate in an exhibition with Bill Marlin and a group of Livonia skaters who have been taking instructions for the past two years.

CUNNINGHAM's running mate at guard, Casey Jones, also played, despite an injury, having suffered a pulled leg muscle earlier in the week. Jones carried for only four points.

Despite the injuries, the Rocks stormed to the front in the first quarter as Charley Wolfe hit for nine points in the period and Scott Taylor for eight to help build a 23-18 bulge.

Even at that there was ample evidence of what was to come, for White hit the cords himself for 13 points in the opening quarter and once Farmington seized control a few minutes later the Falcons were never headed. They led 49-33 at the half and 69-50 after three periods.

Michigan's harness racing season will open on March 23 as scheduled—that became a reality recently when the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association reached agreement with Hazel Park Harness Racing Association on an unusual eight-year contract for purse distributions.

The proposed contract has yet to be approved by the MHHA members but the negotiating team agreed to principle and told the track negotiators that the pact would be okayed.

It appeared for a time that the horsemen's group wouldn't budge from its original demand for 50 per cent of the track's share of the mutual handle. This had been termed as unacceptable by the Hazel Park representatives.

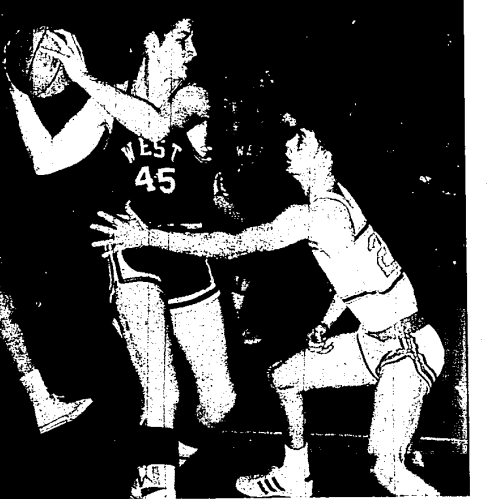
Complete details of the settlement won't be announced until the contract is signed but indications are that the horsemen have agreed on 45 per cent this year with an escalation clause and the percentage will go as high as 48 per cent in the final two years.

Whether the pact will be acceptable to the other track managements—Northville Downs, Wolverine Raceway and Jackson Raceway—isn't known at this time. Generally in negotiations of this type, the management of all tracks has sessions with the group involved and the final agreement has the accord of all.

We would hope this is true since it could mean nothing but trouble for Northville Downs, which has the longest period of negotiations that could carry up to the opening day and perhaps result in a damaging strike.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT but Philip Brian, the speedy veteran from the Mijal Stable of Westland, will make his third bid for the championship of the \$40,000 Provincial Cup next Thursday at Windsor Raceway.

Philip, who paced at 1:59.3 a year ago, has been wintering in the sunny climes of Florida in preparation for a busy spring and summer program. Trainer Jim Merriman, Jr.



TIGHT DEFENSIVE play of Stevenson High is shown here by Forward Paul Van Wagoner (right) who closes in on Garden City West's Dennis Leszczynski. It was a bitter battle all the way with unbeaten West pulling out a victory in the final minute. (Observer photo by Henry Mauthe)

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

worked him in a quick 2:08 over a long mile recently and feels the oddtimer will be ready to take on the challenge of seven of the nation's fastest sidewheelers in competition.

Racing Secretary Joe DeFrank announced acceptance of four more invitations and now has a total of seven of the eight starters he wants for the race stake.

The quartet, including Philip Brian, joint Billy Haughton's Meadow Elva and Winner's Circle Stables' Good Chase.

The others are Darn Vita, a popular name in Windsor, and Robert E. Adios, who completed at Wolverine Raceway last spring with a great deal of success.

Good Chase, the expensive import by Winner's Circle and Ira Helman, of New York, could become the early favorite off his recent performance at Roosevelt Raceway.

Unbeaten in three United States starts, the six-year-old has captured two rich Roosevelt features. He was clocked in 2:00.4 on Feb. 21 and lowered that clocking to 1:59.3 just a week ago.

Meanwhile, Stanley Dancer, who owns a pair of Provincial Cup victories with the retired Carigan Bay, was twice second with his latest New Zealand-bred Adaptor, purchased for \$200,000.

Robert E. Adios, who was one of the top pickers in the 1969 Motor City Pace at Wolverine, won the Grand Prix at Chicago's Sportsman's Park last week in 2:01.1. Trained and driven by Gene Hegel, of Wolverine and Jackson off (Greenview, O.), Robert E. Adios boasts a lifetime mark of 1:59.3 and earnings of more than \$60,000 while winning 17 of 27 starts a year ago.

Darn Vita, victor in two invitations at Windsor, has yet to taste defeat in eight starts of trotting. The Darn Husky gelding has the fastest time of the meeting—a 2:00.1.

Although troubled by dissen- among the top brass, Windsor isn't allowing anything to stand in its way to make the richest Provincial Cup the best of the series.

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and the story will be the same this year.

NORTHVILLE DOWNS, which will open its ultra-modern clubhouse for the first time when the 1970 campaign opens on June 3, has announced closing of four more invitations and now has a total of seven of the eight starters he wants for the race stake.

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