

# GC West Cagers Face Rough Going

For Chris Babler and his Garden City West basketball team it's going to be "a different kind" of a season starting against John Glenn Friday night.

For the first time in three

season's West must go forth without Rick Drewitz.

The prep cage world won't soon forget Drewitz. Certainly not Babler nor Garden City West.

He's the young man who led West to the Tri-Rivers League title the last two years.

HE PACED WEST to district and regional titles last year and into the state semifinals before West finally was dethroned by Pontiac Central.

With him in the lineup, West compiled a 39-4 record over the past two seasons. Last year, West went 22 straight games before finally bowing.

When a new season begins

Friday, West will be staking a regular-season winning streak of 20 straight.

But Babler isn't singing the blues, although he admits that it might take four or five players to replace Drewitz, who was all-everything and now is on the freshman team at the University of Kentucky.

Babler feels he has another great college prospect in Dennis Leszczynski, 6-5, who is being switched from forward to plug the spot left open by Drewitz' graduation.

Gary Nastad, a six-footer who will be a co-captain along with Leszczynski, and 6-3 junior Kirk Lewis are two other returning starters.

Mike Kilbourn, a 6-3 senior,

shapes up as a fourth starter while Jerry Volas, a six-footer, and Ken Pawenski, 6-4, are fighting along with 5-10 sophomore Tom Jones to round out the starting unit.

A late reporting player was Dave Wiacek, the top scorer on the JV team last year. Wiacek suffered a football injury and didn't get in his first basketball workout until last Monday.

It'll probably be a few weeks before Wiacek is able to work himself into the regular lineup.

AT JOHN GLENN, Coach Gordon Davis must rebuild with height a big problem.

The loss of Steve Brown has left Glenn with a big hole to fill.

Dave Wyrabkiewicz and Terry Marchand, who teamed at the guards during the last half of the 1969-70 season, are back.

Tim Harlow, No. 2 in rebounding behind Brown, is returning, but may be slowed down at the outset by a football injury. Darrel Demarey, the football quarterback, also

is being counted upon for cage action.

Demarey also may be handicapped for awhile because of a grid injury.

AT GARDEN CITY East, where the season began Tuesday against Desborn Edsel Ford, Coach Billy Joe Young sees the East team rebounding from last year's 6-12 record.

"Remember we started mostly sophomores," says Young.

## observing sports

Hey, look Saginaw . . . Take a peep, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo, too.

And over in Detroit, have you noticed? Noticed that the undisputed state Class A high school football champ for 1970 is none other than Observersland's own North Farmington.

So what if Flint Central had to lose on Thanksgiving Day before Hal Schram in the Friendly Free Press and the two wire services turned over their final No. 1 slot to North Farmington.

The Raiders already had ruled the roost. The Detroit News had honored them as No. 1 before Flint Central played its finale and just about all of us in these parts really knew to whom the No. 1 ranking belonged.

WHAT A TRIBUTE to North Farmington! What a tribute to Observersland!

There have been those who over the years have knocked the calibre of athletics in our area high schools.

"Good you are, yes," said one so-called expert. "But, just go against the other areas and see what happens."

Well, look now. Remember what happened last March in the state high school basketball tournament. Remember how well Garden City West did.

And, what about those Redford Township baseball teams every year and their success against outstate rivals. Most of the Township players had spent the spring playing either for Redford Union or Thurston or maybe one of the other high schools in the immediate vicinity.

THE NORTH FARMINGTON story is one that gets to you and how it was accomplished.

There's no prouder supporter of the Raiders than Free Press sports editor Joe Falls, whose own youngsters have and are attending North Farmington.

Falls has been kidding Schram all fall that North Farmington belonged at the top of the rankings.

"No, sir," Schram would counter.

"Wait and see," Falls would say.

It was a friendly bit of heckling, but in the end Falls had called his shot.

"A marvelous story," Joe told me the other afternoon. "Somehow I wish I could write it, but I suppose many people would accuse me of playing favorites."

Well, Joe, we'll say it for you . . . how you have marveled that a bunch of kids — and the team started with only 29 players — could do so well against such a stellar array of opponents.

"You have to take heart and say to yourself that 'there is still goodness in our kids' when you see something like this happen in your neighborhood," Falls went on.

Joe paused . . .

"What a coach that Ron Holland is . . . year after year his teams are right up there. Just once in 10 years has he had a loser.

"He should be the coach-of-the-year in all of Michigan."

As he said this, Falls looked across the Free Press sports department to brother Schram whose all-state selections will appear next Sunday.

Schram smiled.

"We'll see."

THE SUCCESS STORY at North Farmington brought joy all around Observersland.

"Nothing could be finer," said Gary Humphrey, the Garden City East football coach whose team finished with eight wins and one tie.

"They had a great football team over there," said Humphrey. "What they accomplished is good for all of us. I sure wish we could have played them somewhere along the line. It would have been a terrific game."

"This is wonderful," said Joe Miller, a top sportsman who happens to reside within the shadows of rival Farmington High School. (You know Joe's wife, if you read the women's pages of this paper).

THERE'S STILL a gala moment coming for the North Farmington team . . . the moment when Schram and Falls attend an assembly as representatives of the Free Press to present the state Class A championship trophy.

I'm rather hoping that Schram picks a day when I can be there.

## Prep Schedule

**BASKETBALL**  
**FRIDAY**

Friday at Bentley  
Clarencville at Northville  
Taylor at Garden City East  
John Glenn at Garden City West  
Redford Union at Southfield  
Thurston at Stevenson  
North Farmington at Harrison  
Bishop Borgess at East Catholic  
St. Agatha at St. Andrew  
Schafer at Churchill

**SATURDAY**  
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CORNERSTONE in honor of Executive Manager John Carlo, of Northville Downs, is placed in the new clubhouse as Northville Mayor Mike Allen (at mike) praises Carlo (right) for his contributions to the business economy of the community. Carlo is the lone survivor of the group of six partners who pioneered night harness racing in Michigan in 1944. (Observer photo by Dennis Pajot)

## 3 Catholic Teams Beaten

It wasn't a happy start for the three Observersland Catholic League high school basketball teams.

Our Lady of Sorrows dropped a 68-49 decision to St. Rita. St. Francis de Sales whipped St. Agatha, 83-70, and Benedictine downed Bishop Borgess, 59-50.

ST. RITA gained a 35-18 lead in the first half by out-scoring Sorrows, 20-12, in the first period and then 15-6 in the second.

Things didn't get much better for Sorrows in the third period when the Farmington team was held to only eight points.

Don Blouin topped the losers with 21 points while Dan Wood had eight and Chris Centers and Dan Feikens seven each. Centers turned in a brilliant rebounding game, grabbing 17 off the boards.

Tom Heberman had 19 and Red Ruppert 13 to top the winners who enjoyed a well-balanced attack.

Sorrows managed only 15 out of 69 shots from the field to St. Rita's 28 for 69.

JIM THIESEN scored 23 points on 10 baskets and three free throws, but it was in vain for St. Agatha. Mark Miron had 14 points and George Barber 11 for the losers.

St. Agatha had a tough time getting untracked, managing only eight points in the first quarter while St. Francis de Sales pumped in 21.

The 13-point margin held up the rest of the way as Steve Hicks notched 30 in a winning cause and teammate Ralph Mieron tossed in 26 more.

Bishop Borgess stayed within four points of Benedictine for three periods. Benedictine led, 27-25, after one of the first half and a 41-37 edge going into the closing period. Bob Davis with 12 points topped the losers.

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