

Schoolboy Cagers Ready For Openers

Another name returns to the coaching scene at Bentley High this basketball season. Back in command is George Fefles, who for nine seasons guided Bentley to six Suburban Six League and six district titles.

He bowed out a year ago because of a health problem, turning the reins over to Ken Timmons, his assistant.

BUT ILLNESS struck Timmons during the season and there were games in which he couldn't handle the team. The doctors finally ruled in June that Timmons would not be able to coach again and Fefles, who had been devoting fulltime to coaching the Bentley athletic program, moved in.

"We didn't have an opening then on our faculty to name a new coach," explained Fefles. "We thought that there'd be a spot open by the fall. But nothing has materialized.

"So here I am in charge, but this will be just a one-year proposition for me. I sure hope that I'll make it through without running into any health problems of my own."

BENTLEY OPENS Friday against Farmington at Bentley and he has three veterans available from last year's team. They are Lou Lovett, 6-4;

Brian Dinsmore, 5-10, and Dave Veach, another 6-4 front liner. Then there's an old familiar name - player-speaking - Tim Bollin, the third of the Bollin brothers to play basketball for Bentley. Bill and Ken preceded Tim and were all-stars. Ken now is attending Harvard, but isn't out for basketball.

"I think we should have a good team," says Fefles, who sees another rough battle for honors in the Suburban Six League with the Livonia area, the basketball story shapes up as follows:

FRANKLIN - Coach Bob Visser had three starters back for Tuesday night's opener against Romulus. Visser is building around Tony Kaseta, 6-5; Mark Lehman, 5-11, and Bob Hollandsworth, 6-2 $\frac{1}{2}$. The latter is one of the more brilliant all-around athletes in Observersland.

The Franklin roster also includes twins in Mike and Rick Graham. Mike stands 6-2, his brother an inch taller. And a player to watch at Franklin is 6-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tim Dietz, a junior. "He'll help us as time goes on," says a confident Visser.

PLYMOUTH - Four starters are back for Coach Dick Beard's team which looms as a major contender for

honors in the Suburban Six League. He has Charles Wolfe, 6-3, who was the all-suburban and all-Observer football player; Scott Taylor, 6-4; Howie Sawyer, 6-3, and Casey Jones, 5-11.

Also on deck are lettermen Dale Sieker, 6-2, and Steve Straley, 6-1. Dave Van Wagoner, 6-2, and Gary Close, 5-9, all figure prominently in the Plymouth picture, while Plymouth, like Bentley, has the third member of a famed brother contingent in Ron Egloff, a 6-3 sophomore.

Egloff's older brothers, Randy and Dick, were great stars in all sports for the Rockets in past years. Wayne Williams, 5-11, is another sophomore who should make a major contribution to this year's team.

THURSTON - Three starters are back on coach Mike Pasternak's team. Jeff Gillen, 6-5, will lead the team which opens at Stevenson Friday and then engages Churchill on Saturday.

Chuck Malton returns at guard and Pat Woeike at forward while Gillen handles the pivot. Steve Hunter, a guard, shapes up as the other starter at guard, although he is only a sophomore, while Leonard Gloud, Larry Kruze and Mark Hebenhart are staging an interesting fight for the other starting forward slot.

REDFORD UNION - Coach Dave Hattagally has lost all his starters and will field a team which will be on the small size, starting with the opener at Southfield Friday night.

There are five seniors on the team. Keith Everett, 5-8, Mickey Robinson, 5-9, and John Varvari, 5-9 all are guards.

Ron Proux, 6-5, didn't letter last season, but should see considerable service this season, along with 5-9 Tom Bogio, who was a wrestler a year ago, but now is out for the cage squad.

Among the juniors, the group is topped by Dean Naudi, 5-11, the all-area football end, and Bob Schaner, a 6-2 forward.

CLARENCEVILLE - Five lettermen, three of them returning starters, bolster the hopes of the Trojans and coach Ralph Weddle. The starters are Chip Meyerelles, 6-2; Jim Hover, 5-9, and Phil Halstead, 6-4.

Other lettermen are Randy Weddle, 6-2, the coach's son, and Fred Watson, a 5-10 forward-guard. Paul Simons, 6-foot sophomore and Dick Nowell, 6-1 also figure to see plenty of service for the Trojans as they bid for honors in the Wayne-Dakota League.

STEVENSON - It'll be a "small" team that coach

George Van Wagner fields. Back is Ted Exarhos, 6-1, the leading scorer and rebounder at Stevenson the past two years.

Ron Hoekstra, 6-2, who started last year's first three games, then lost his spot with a sprained ankle, is ready to open again. Dennis Carroll, 6-0, will be the other forward with Junior Kelly Smith, 5-11,

and Pete Gresock, a 5-8 senior at the guards.

Bert DiStefano, 6-2, a senior who was born in Italy, along with Jerry Kennedy, 6-0, and Tom Wiltzie, 5-9, also

figure in Van Wagner's plans. The latter two are questionable for major service at the moment because of knee injuries suffered in football.

Steve Block and Paul Krugel are two junior guards who will see service. Four sophomores also are on the roster: Dale Haberman, 6-3; Mike Patrick, 6-2; Jim Macy, 6-1, and Dave Kelly, 5-9.



BACK IN HARNESS - George Fefles, Bentley High athletic director and former basketball coach, will be back at the helm of the Livonians again this year. Fefles took over the cage coaching assignment when Ken Timmons asked to be relieved of the duties. That's good news for Bentley and bad news for opponents since Fefles was rated one of the area's top mentors until his retirement a year ago. George is shown with three letterwinners from last season's squad. The trio: (from left) Lou Lovett, Brian Dinsmore and Dave Veach. (Observer photo by Harry Mauth)

CHURCHILL - This is the first year Churchill will present seniors and also the first year the team goes after honors in the Western Six League.

Much depends on how Roy Young, a 6-7 center, works out.

"If Roy does well, we should, too," says Coach Pat Montagna.

Keith Armstrong, 5-11, and Gary Leirstein, 6-2, are rated two standout players at guard and forward, respectively.

Bruce Van Wagner, whose father George coaches at Stevenson High, appears to have won a regular job. The six-foot Bruce is an excellent defensive player. He was the sixth man for Churchill last season.

Brian Sherman, a junior, and Jerry Oljace, a senior, are fighting for the other starting spot for Friday's first game at home against Southgate. On Saturday, Churchill visits Thurston. "We'll know fast how good we are," says Montagna.

Two North Players Win All-State Berths

Observersland football stars placed prominently on the Detroit News and Associated Press All-State high school teams announced over the weekend.

They also are expected to be featured on the Free Press and United Press International selections to be released during the next few days.

GUARD GREG COLLINS, of Brother Rice, and back

Mike Gow, of North Farmington, were named first team by the News and Associated Press. Quarterback Drew Mahalic of North Farmington landed a spot on the AP's first team.

Collins, a 210-pound 6-3 forward, was rated the best lineman in the Catholic League during the past season. He averaged 10 solo tackles per game, intercepted four passes and recovered four fumbles.

Mahalic and Gow were two-way stars for North Farmington which swept through nine straight games and was crowned unanimously as the state's Class A champs in polls conducted by the News, Free Press, Associated Press and United Press International.

One other area prep, back Mike Page, of Country Day School, also was named all-state - making the Class C team.

Page scored 15 touchdowns, ran for two conversions and piled up 880 yards in 122 carries for 7.2 yards. He also grabbed nine passes for 134 yards.

THE NEWS accorded Class A honorable mention all-state recognition to several players from Observersland. They are: ENDS - Dean Naudi and Tom Tullock, Redford Union; Steve Bard, garden City East; Charles Wolfe, Plymouth.

TACKLES - Bob Zycik, Redford Union; Garden Lyman, Garden City East; Jim Craig, Franklin; Rick Ryan, Farmington; Tom Massey, Farmington; Gordon Roach, North Farmington.

GUARDS - Paul Benton, Bishop Borgess; Gary Lebowicki, Southfield Lathrup; Paul Bouza, North Farmington; Don Strzelkowski, Garden City West.

CENTERS - Cass Mulka, Garden City East; Mike Graham, Franklin.

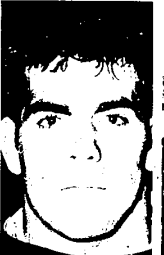
QUARTERBACKS - Drew Mahalic, North Farmington; Greg Pushes, Garden City East.

BACKS - Jim Gerbach, Brother Rice; John Solberg, Southfield; Bob Kleinbrook, Garden City East; Dan Steinke, Farmington; Bruce Ruhl, Southfield Lathrup; Larry Weinberg, Southfield Lathrup; John Pippo, Franklin; Mark Miller, Thurston; Ed Scott, Plymouth.

THE NEWS ALSO honored North Farmington's Ron Holland as the prep coach of the year.

This gave Holland a sweep of honors, which included being named the top coach in the Observer area and the suburban area coach-of-the-year by the Free Press.

Holland's teams at North Farmington have won 66, lost and tied three in the 10 years he has served at the school.



MIKE GOW, N. Farmington

GREG COLLINS, Brother Rice

DREW MAHALIC, N. Farmington

It's Varsity Hockey Time For Livonia High Schools

Welcome to a new high school sport in Observersland. It's hockey and it makes its introduction for the first time. The four Livonia schools - Bentley, Churchill, Stevenson and Franklin - will field varsity teams.

The teams will play in what amounts to two leagues. One is an all-Livonia circuit, the other with three other schools from the area and possibly a fourth.

HOCKEY ACTUALLY is not new for most of the players on the four Livonia teams.

They have been playing on teams sponsored by the Livonia Hockey Association since the opening of the two arenas in Livonia.

Coaches of the Livonia teams are hopeful that they are starting a program which will become Observersland-wide within a few years.

Already there is talk that Farmington, Plymouth, Garden City and Redford Union all may sponsor varsity hockey teams.

AT STEVENSON, there are 15 men plus two goalies on the squad.

Bruce McDonald and Bill Wager will share the net-minding while John Koivuhalve, a center, has been named captain. The alternate captains will be Pat Wojtylak and Dewey Plumley, also centers.

Don Finn, Rich Belt, Kurt Geiger, Bill McCracken, John Restun and John Rogin will operate on the defense for Stevenson which opens its season Friday against Bloomfield Auldover.

Ecorse, then meets Bentley the following Friday at Livonia's Ford arena.

Up front on the wings, Stevenson will have Jim Bowin, Frank Getuso, Mike Hill, Paul Holyck, Dale Marczak, Paul Peters and Gary Waz.

THE BENTLEY squad presently lists 21 players as the team prepares to skate against Stevenson a week from Friday.

Tom Cook and John Fountain will divide the work in the goal.

On defense, Bentley has John Jeppson, John Callow, Doug Scott, Bill Scruggs, Tim Derda, Dave Lomas and Herb Rogers.

Kirk Ramsey, Doug Moulis, Mark Evasic and Dennis McLean will work at center. The wingmen will be Ake Flintoft, who hails from Sweden; Kurt Kaur, Jim Brady, Tom Smith, Gordon Mulholland, Dennis Combe, Mike Maderostan and Dave Bushey.

FRANKLIN WILL have for the most part a young team with only six seniors on the roster.

Startups include junior Bob Golota, at center, who played Junior B hockey a year ago; Brian Said, Tom Vestrand, Griff Roberts and Mark Canale.

Keith Bingham and Wayne Oliver have landed the jobs as co-goalies for the open against Churchill on Saturday night at the Ford Arena.



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