

Prep Cagers Await State Tourney Draw

By GEORGE MASKIN
Observer Sports Editor
Lotteries are supposed to be illegal.

But a big one will be held next Tuesday when high school coaches from all parts of Michigan participate in draws which determine who'll play whom in the various district basketball tournaments next month.

There'll be 131 districts staged from the Detroit river to the farthest tip of the Upper Peninsula, from New Buffalo to Sault Ste. Marie and in between.

And for each, there must be a draw to decide on how the teams will combat.

In most districts there are five teams. Some have six or seven. A few have only four.

THE NAMES of all teams must go into a hat. There is one rule that guides the pairings... a team playing at home can't draw a bye.

There's no such thing as seeding a team any more. It used to prevail in the Upper Peninsula where the team with the best record was

placed in one half of the draw, the team with the second best mark for regular season action in the other half of the draw.

But that has been eliminated.

So, now, everywhere in the state, it's possible for the two best teams to face right off the bat head-on... or they can meet for the title... or maybe never meet at all time.

The drawing naturally takes on great importance. A coach whose team has beaten another twice in the regular season hopes his team can steer clear of such a rival.

History proves that the two-time regular season winner often has troubles with a pair of 5-6 games for a 7-5 series. It was a season in the state tournament.

The gents who sponsor the various districts hope for the best draw because it could mean bigger crowds and more money.

Suppose the two top teams get knocked out on the first night. This could have sharp effects on the subsequent games.

The state regulations bar any draws for district meets before Tuesday. Thus, the various meet directors have indicated that they'll hold their drawings sometime during the day.

OBSERVERLAND TEAMS were assigned to districts "all over the place." They'll compete in 11 different districts with the majority contesting in Class A, a few in Class B and another small group in Class C.

The format for the district has undergone a major change from other years.

In the past, all the Livonia schools were in the same district. The two Southfield schools wound up the same way.

Now one will find Livonia Bentley and Stevenson at Farmington while Southfield hosts a district without Lathrup, which has been assigned to Ferndale.

Glancing over the various districts, here's the "suspense" that the draw will create:

AT SOUTHFIELD: What's in store for Southfield, the Observerland's No. 1 team which has streaked along unbeaten to rank among the state's top four? While Southfield is obviously the class of the field, teams like Dearborn, Fordson, Dearborn Heights, Crestwood, Dearborn Union and Thurston could make a lot of noise. An interesting finale would be Southfield vs. Dearborn Union, which come on fast in recent weeks.

AT FARMINGTON: Will Farmington High draw North Farmington or will Bentley land against Stevenson? The fifth team at Farmington will be strong West Bloomfield.

AT FRANKLIN: Another interesting development. Garden City East and West both are league champs. A "natural" for a final would be East vs. West. But will this happen in a field that includes powerful Plymouth, Franklin, Churchill and Cherry Hill Plymouth could surprise them all.

AT FERNDAL: "Up and down" Lathrup may have its hands full here with Berkley.

Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison and Oak Park.

AT OGDY: It's hard to see how Bishop Borgess can advance too far with Cody, Cooley, Henry Ford and Redford from the Detroit league all in contention.

AT BIRMINGHAM: Here's another of those classy fields... topped by Birmingham Seaholm, Birmingham Groves and Brother Rice with Andover, Lahser and Lake Orion also present to create some noise. Seaholm vs. Groves or Rice or Rice vs. Seaholm or Groves would make for the best finale and jam the gym. Will it happen?

AT NEW BOSTON: That's the designation for John Glenn, but it doesn't look like Glenn can survive with Wayne, Taylor, Romulus and Taylor Kennedy.

AT NORTHVILLE: This is a Class B tournament and from an Observerland standpoint, it would be nice if the draw matched Charnerville and Farmington Harrison in opposite halves so they could advance to the finals. But, it's not likely to happen, be-

cause Inkster is the class here with Riverside and Northville rounding out the five team field.

AT DEARBORN ST. ALPHONSUS: Our Lady of Sorrows isn't too particular whom it draws here. Sorrows likely won't last very long.

AT REDFORD: ST. MARY'S: St. Agatha will be biting off a little too much, too.

AT ROCHESTER: Can Country Day flourish in the state meet as it has in the regular season? The unbeaten private school has landed what shapes up as a fairly easy district, but would probably like to steer clear of Orchard Lake St. Mary, at least until the district final.

THIS IS THE last week of regular-season action for the preps.

For the most part, it's just a matter of running out the string. Southfield, Birmingham Groves and Bentley have won their titles. So has Garden City West while Garden City East is sure of a co-title.

The district play begins the first Tuesday in March. The regionals follow the next

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IN THE POCKET
By W.W. EDGAR

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Because of the last minute rush of out-of-town bowlers the team entry in the ABC tournament that opens in Cobo Hall on March 6 has unexpectedly passed the 6200 mark.

Only a week ago it was feared the planned schedule for 6184 teams would not fill. The last rush has boosted the total to 6220 teams and forced an extra squad on the first night, May 23.

Meanwhile, the deadline for entry in the Greater Detroit Bowling Association Tournament has been extended to March 1.

Originally scheduled to close Saturday, Feb. 20, lack of entries has forced the extension of the deadline.

Tom McKay, Secretary of the Association, stated that while the entries are disappointing, the senior citizens section is setting a record.

"In other years," he said, "we had about 50 to 60 teams. Now, we've passed the 100 mark."

WHILE MOST of the men's classics in the Observerland area are in the midst of a scoring slump the pins still are flying at a fast clip at Bel-Aire Lanes in Farmington.

Jerry Hay forged his way to the front this week with a 744 series that included games of 257, 268 and 279. At this figure he had a margin of 45 pins over Dick Frank who posted a consistent series of 228, 233 and 232 for 688 and Jack Brown, in the midst of his best year, was third with a 678.

Jack came right back in the Our Lady of Sorrows circuit with a 766 where he opened with a 279 and followed with games of 244 and 243.

Dick Zeris added another 700 when he linked games of 217, 263 and 246 for 726.

At Westland Bowl the sharpshooters are having trouble. Bob Fite gained top place with a 535 that included a 244 opener. Paul Sterling followed with 649 and Mike Belson landed third with a 640, the result of an opening 556.

Dondero Turns Back Harrison

Farmington Harrison High's basketball team, a Class B entry in next month's state tournament, stepped up into the Class A ranks again Tuesday, and the results weren't too happy.

Harrison suffered a 62-48 loss in bowing to Royal Oak Dondero. Dondero took a 35-21 halftime edge against Harrison which has no seniors on its team.

John Kirkland led the winners with 19 points while Joe Thomas scored 18 in a losing cause.

Mike Taschner missed the magic 700 circle by a single pin in the Garden Lanes Classic. With his 699 he gained a five pin margin over George Hollenbaugh. Others in order came Dave Waters 690, Bob Grenier 688, Gary Johnson 677, Terry Burns 674, Mike Mathis 673 and Paul Isken 672.

A NEW VOICE was heard from this week when Mike Cooney, bowling in the senior house league at Town & Country posted a 231 between a pair of 256 games for a 743 series. It was a season in the league.

THERE WERE plenty of fireworks in the lower average leagues at Bel-Aire with Ed Pigeon, of the Moonshiners, setting the pace. He put together games of 212, 268 and 204 for a 648. His 268 and 648 were high marks for the season.

In the 151 Mixed League, Bud Vint had a 254 in 511 and Judy Mann came through with a 214 in 473. In the Monday Mixed loop Marge Demeduk had a 215 in 548 and Pete Rodgers had a 550 with an opening game of 242.

Between these scores Kathy Blasko moved into the spotlight by converting the 6-7-10 split.

Marge Ackerman, a 155 average bowler, paced the special handicap event at Country Lanes with a 525-105-631.

The head-to-head matches in the regular Michigan Majors Tournament are scheduled at Mayflower Lanes on Sunday afternoon.

Most of the area's stars competed in the qualifying rounds Saturday and the top scorers moved into the title round to battle for the \$500 top prize.

While waiting for the stars Jim Buckner listed his name on the odds list for the season when he contributed a 160 triplicate.

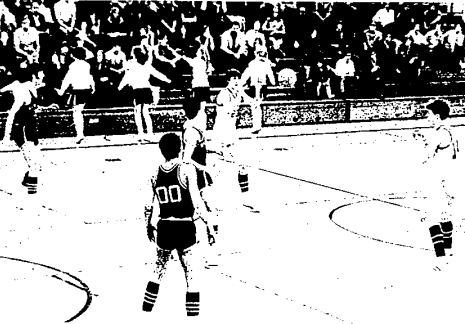
LEN GORECKI paced the Teen Classic at Merri-Bowl with a middle game of 211 in 596. Behind him came Ken Zirall with 585, Don Mueller with 577 and Mark Barber with 572.

Bob Williams stole the show in the Father & Son league with a 269.

THE SUBURBAN bowling proprietors traveling league went on a wild scoring spree at Livonia Lanes.

When the final pin fell, Mike Colucci, of the Livonia team, was high with 700 and helped his mates to a 3082 series that was good for top place.

Mike had games of 277, 199 and 224 while Jerry Fisher took runnerup honors with 699 on games of 256, 211 and 231.



STALLING TACTICS like this almost ended Southfield High's unbeaten string in its game against Farmington. The Falcons went into ball control maneuvers from the start and had the Jays behind most of the time before Southfield finally pulled away to win. (Photo by Enno Korthals)

Falcons Give Southfield Big Scare Before Losing

It started on a strange note... it ended with Southfield High beating Farmington, 50-43, in one of the season's more exciting high school basketball games.

Here were two teams with contrasting records.

Southfield took the floor with a 14-0 mark and third ranked in the state. Farmington meantime could show only three wins in 12 starts.

Yet, Farmington continued to play like a team whose record should be 12-3, or something like that.

UNDAUNTED by the fact they were up against one of the state's powerhouses, the

Falcons resorted to stalling tactics in the first period.

Farmington took only one shot in the first eight minutes which wound up with Southfield leading by the dainty score of 5-0.

In the second period, Southfield began to make penetrations, as Farmington continued its stall. With Roger Peterman personally firing in six points, the Blue Jays uttered their lead to 21-10 at the half.

Farmington still wasn't in the mood to concede anything and with Bob Chapman, who has been averaging 24.5 points per game, to rank among the area's leaders, pumping in eight points,

Farmington sliced Southfield's lead to 34-28 at the end of the third quarter.

IN THE FINAL period, Farmington kept getting closer. With 21+ minutes to go, the Falcons trailed by only 42-40 as Dan Steink, Chapman and Paul Kupferschmidt helped bring them back.

In the fading moments, Farmington had to foul to get the ball and Peterman and Randy Levine each made three free throws to put the game out of reach.

Peterman finished with 15 points and Rick Moscow 14 for Southfield while Chapman would up with 18 and Kupferschmidt 10.

The box score:

FARMINGTON	G	F	P
Chapman	7	4	18
Kupferschmidt	4	2	10
Levine	2	0	6
Lukovich	2	0	6
Hagen	1	0	2
Touss	2	0	4
SOUTHFIELD	G	F	P
Peterman	6	2	15
Moscow	5	4	14
Allen	4	1	9
Levine	1	0	8
Klainman	0	0	2
Greene	0	2	2
Totals	17	16	60

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Stevenson Tankers Win Relay--Meet

A victory in the 400 yard freestyle relay, final event of the evening, enabled Stevenson High swimmers to sink Franklin, 54-51, for their sixth straight victory. It gave the Spartans a 6-2 season record.

Franklin held a 47-46 edge with only the relay remaining. That's when the combination of Bell, Mallon, Donovan and Cavicholi sped past the Spartans to win in 3:45.3. The victory was worth eight points against four for Franklin.

Rick Brown, of Stevenson, was the only freestyle victor, winning the 50 and 100 freestyle events. Fred Webb, of Stevenson, tied a varsity record in the 100 backstroke when clocked in the winning time of 1:03.5.

The summaries:

Sorrows Beaten By Stanislaus

Our Lady of Sorrows' basketball team dropped a non-league decision to St. Stanislaus, 73-70.

Sorrows led, 36-31, at the half. St. Stan tied it at 51-51 in the third quarter before Al Makuroff went on a

last period assault to win for his team.

Makuroff counted 17 of his 32 points in the final eight minutes of the game.

Chris Center tossed in 25 points while Don Blouin tallied 21 for the losers.

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