

# Prep Cagers Open State Tourney Action Monday

By GEORGE MASKIN  
Observer Sports Editor

Hello, March Madness. It's state tournament time again, starting Monday, for Michigan's more than 750 senior high schools.

Everything begins in 131 districts, 11 of which will

involve Observerland teams, as the quest starts for the four titles — Class A, B, C and D — to be decided on March 27 at Cramer Arena on the University of Michigan campus.

A year ago, Garden City West was the big noise of Observerland as led by Rick

Drewitz, the all-state center now at Kentucky University. West roared to district and regional titles and finally lost in the state Class A semifinals at East Lansing.

IT'S ANOTHER season and West again could be a factor on the heels of repeating as the Tri Rivers League champion.

But the major area Class A threat would appear to be Southfield High's Blue Jacks which streaked to 15 straight wins before being upset by Hazel Park a week ago.

Southfield has been ranked as high as No. 3 in the var-

ious Class A ratings and with the home court advantage in the districts is regarded as a sure-fire winner in the first phase of the tournament.

In addition to Southfield and Garden City West, there are other Observerland powers to watch in the districts.

There's Birmingham Groves, playing at Birmingham Seaholm. Groves has repeated as the Northwest Suburban League champ and led by Scott Love and Tom Rex should make a strong bid for honors.

Nor can Livonia Bentley, a four-time previous district still, be overlooked at Farmington. Bentley is fresh

from sweeping to the Suburban Six League title and always has been dynamite in the state meet under Coach George Fettes.

Still another Class A threat could be Garden City East, the co-champ with Inkster, in the Mid-Wayne League. East, like Garden City West, is in the district at Franklin, which means that both can't survive the final which serves up as a strictly Garden City battle, barring any upsets.

SOUTHFIELD LATHRUP, an up and down team this season, has been assigned to a district at Farmdale while

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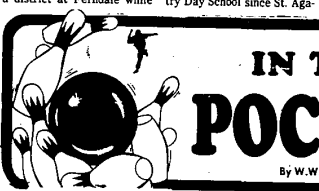
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## Bentley Power Tips Dearborn

It was tabbed as a fore-runner of what's to come next year when the Suburban Six League expands to include Dearborn High and Dearborn Edsel Ford High.

Battling were Bentley, the perennial champ of the Suburban Six basketball wars, and Dearborn, a longtime winner in the disbanding Sauk Trail League.

When it was over, Bentley



Bill Spargo showed his old-time form last weekend when he paced the Michigan Raps monthly tournament at Mayflower Lanes.

A rugged competitor at all times, he showed the way with a 3037 to beat his closest rival, Fred Vitali, by 87 pins.

Third place went to Ed Lubanski who fashioned a 2622 to win one pin edge on Art Pearson.

## Jackets Stretch Win Streak To 15

The big and the small...they haven't made much difference to Country Day School's basketball team this winter.

Although Class C for state competition, Country Day has been picking on Class A and B rivals all season and doing right well.

Perfect, in fact.

Country Day's Yellow Jackets made it 15 straight without a loss in dribbling Class A Berkley, 64-50, and

Jack Ryder, of Grand Rapids, had the high single game with a 256.

NOW THAT ENTRIES have closed for the ABC tournament, opens next week in Cobo Hall, Tom McKay, secretary of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, is hopeful of a late rush for the men's city championship.

To take care of the late entries the deadline has been extended to March 10. The team event that opens the tournament is scheduled at Parkside Lanes on April 3.

Dorothy Palocz, a 145 average bowler, got the biggest thrill of her bowling career at Mayflower Lanes when she registered a middle game of 241 in a 559 series.

THE CHARMED 700 circle still seems to be off limits for Classic bowlers at Westland.

This week top honors went to Jim Wroblewski who put together games of 236, 256 and 203 for 695.

Hal Jolley, a veteran campaigner, landed in the runner-up spot with a closing game of 259 for a 686 and Harold Fisher was third with a 255 in 684.

TEEN-AGERS in the Merri-Bowl Classic had one of the highest scoring seasons of the season.

Terry Driscoll was high with a 234 in 680. Other good counts included Don Mueller with 211 in 598, Jim Doherty 227 in 592, Randy Smith 226 in 581, Roger Peters 227 in 576 and Rick Monies 216 in 570.

LIVONIA LANES has scheduled its annual "Dad's" night — a tribute to the Hoffman family — on March 20.

The elder Hoffman who pioneered bowling in the city, is ending 31 years as a proprietor.

Monday - Oak Park vs. Madison Lanes, 7:30 p.m.  
TUESDAY - Farmdale vs. Berkley, 7:30 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY - Hazel Park vs. Oak Park-Lamotho winner, 7:30 p.m.  
THURSDAY - Southfield Lathrup vs. Farmdale-Berkley winner, 7:30 p.m.  
SATURDAY - Championship game, 7:30 p.m.

DETROIT CODY Monday - Detroit Redford vs. Detroit Cook, 4 p.m.  
TUESDAY - Bishop Borgas vs. Detroit Henry Ford, 4 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY - Detroit Cooky vs. Redford Cody winner, 6 p.m.  
FRIDAY - Championship game, 4 p.m.

AT NORTHVILLE Monday - Northville vs. Inkster, 7 p.m.  
TUESDAY - Clarenceville vs. Farmington Harrison, 7 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY - Dearborn Riverside vs. Northville Inkster winner, 7 p.m.  
FRIDAY - Championship game.

AT DEARBORN ST. ALPHONSE Monday - St. Alphonsus vs. Dearborn Sacred Heart, 7:30 p.m.  
TUESDAY - St. Mary vs. Novi, 7:30 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY - Mt. Carmel vs. St. Alphonsus Sacred Heart winner, 7:30 p.m.

AT ROCHESTER Tuesday - Goodrich vs. Farmdale St. James, 7:30 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY - Detroit Country Day School vs. Otterville, 7:30 p.m.  
THURSDAY - Orchard Lake St. Mary vs. Goodrich-St. James, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY - Championship game, 7:30 p.m.  
REDFORD ST. MARY'S Tuesday - St. Hedwig vs. St. Francis de Sales, 7:30 p.m.  
THURSDAY - St. Agatha vs. St. Rita, 7 p.m.; St. Andrew vs. St. Hedwig, 8:30 p.m.; St. Edna vs. St. Rita, 8:30 p.m.  
SATURDAY - Championship game, 7 p.m.

## Bentley, Churchill Share Puck Honors

While Bentley tightened its hold on first place in the All Livonia Hockey League, Churchill last week started to make some big noises.

Bentley captured a 3-0 showdown from Stevenson to take a three point lead in the race for the crown over its victims.

Meantime, Churchill ran its winning streak to three

## NF Gymnasts Edge Cville

North Farmington's gymnasts barely edged Clarenceville, 107.4 to 105.7, to chalk up their ninth league victory of the season.

Taylor Kennedy is the leader in the Southeastern Michigan Interscholastic Gymnastic Assn. North is second with a 9-2 mark and Clarenceville third with a 7-4 record.

Rob Struk, of Clarenceville, was the only dual winner. He won the tumbling and floor exercise events.

Other winners were: Dick Healy (NF), high bar; Dan Paulson (C) trampoline; Jack Waterstone (C) parallel bars; Rupert Hansen (NF), side horse, and Joe Neuwander (NF) still rings.

The SMGA league meet was set for March 5 and 6, but Dennis Fitzgerald, North coach, announced it has been moved back to 7 p.m. on March 8 and 9 at North Farmington.

The state gymnastics meet will begin at noon on March 13 at Taylor Kennedy.

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## Love Leads Groves Past Lahser Five

How nice it is to have a player around like 6'6" Scott Love.

Love, one of the state's finest basketball players, paced a late comeback that enabled Birmingham Groves to down Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 87-81.

Until midway in the fourth period, it appeared that Groves was in trouble, trailing 72-67.

Then Groves went to work and with Love leading the way, tied the game at 79-79, with 70 seconds remaining.

MOMENTS LATER it was Love again and Groves led 81-79. Then he fired in two more baskets and Tom Rex hit for a pair of free throws and the issue was settled.

Love personally accounted for 15 of his 24 points in the

final period as Groves outscored Lahser, 27-19.

All of the game's 10 starters tallied in double figures as Rex and Mike Pagano had 14 each, Haynie 12 and Dallas Haun 10 for the winners.

John Cengros tossed in 24 for the losers.

Both teams blazed from the field. Groves clicked on 36 out of 66 shots for 54 per cent. Lahser made 35 out of 68 for 51 per cent.