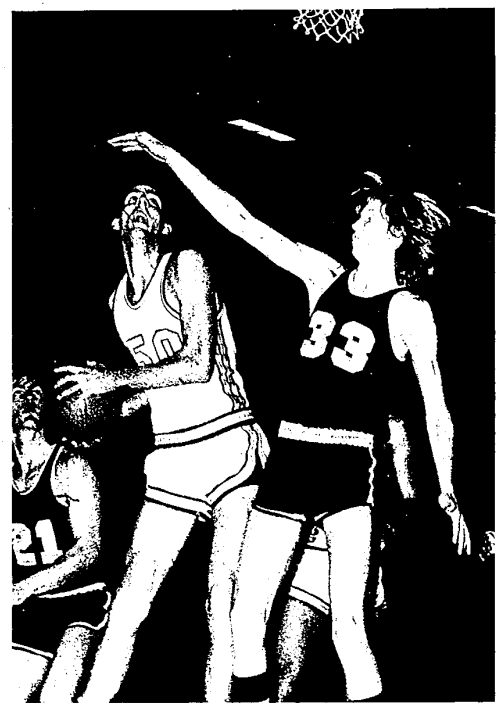


WL Central Captures NW Tourney



BULLDOG BLOCKED OUT -- Bentley's Tim Bollin (50) grabs a rebound but has nowhere to go as Randy McLean (33) of Walled Lake Central puts in an arm between him and the basket. (Observer photo)

Plymouth Wins Holiday Clash

By FRED DELANO

Plymouth's third holiday basketball tournament championship in four years, achieved through successive victories last week over Thurston and Stevenson, has buoyed the Rocks for the 10 game siege against Suburban Eight competition which still remains.

Hosting its own invitational for the first time, Plymouth continued its startling turnabout after three straight early season losses by crushing Thurston, 76-47, and then taking a 50-46 decision from Stevenson in the championship game.

The Rocks had warmed up for this doubled-dipper with a pre-tournament win over Edsel Ford and now will take a 3-3 record on its invasion of Bentley on Friday, Jan. 7, having held their last three opponents all to 47 points or less.

In 1968, 1969 and 1970 Plymouth had won the Wayne invitational twice, sandwiched around a runner-up finish, and in those three seasons the Rocks lost only four games in the old Suburban Six, three to Bentley.

STEVENSON had the roughest road in the tournament at Plymouth, getting to the finals only after outlasting Churchill, 36-34, in overtime on the first night's program. In the consolation game Thursday between first night losers, Churchill whipped Thurston, 60-54.

Dave Van Wagoner, who is the only senior in Plymouth's starting lineup, paired with Steve Robb to pace the Rocks to the crown, when each scored 12 points in the title game against Stevenson. Although Dale Haberman of the Spartans took game honors by pumping in 15.

The Rocks never trailed after Ron Egloff pushed them ahead, 15-14, in the first moments of the second quarter. Three times Plymouth led Stevenson by as many as 10 points before the Spartans staged a late surge that saw them put 15 points on the board in the last four minutes.

LARRY FISHER and Kelly Smith reduced a 41-31 Plymouth edge by four points, all on free throws, and frequent fouling by Plymouth

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

Walled Lake Central proved to be the best of eight teams in capturing the Northwest Suburban holiday basketball tournament championship. Central defeated Redford Union, Henry Ford and topped Bentley in the championship clash, 63-55. The tourney was co-hosted by Bentley and Redford Union. Other teams involved were North Farmington, Walled Lake Western, and Farmington.

This marked the sixth appearance for Central in the holiday battle with its best finish being runner-up twice before the win over the Bulldogs.

Henry Ford and Redford Union, along with Bentley were double winners.

WL Central 63 Bentley 55

CENTRAL JUMPED to a 13-2 first quarter lead in the championship battle with Bentley. Ron Bawalski managed the lone field goal for the Bulldogs while Central's Steve Serra popped in seven points.

Bentley was losing the ball every time it came down court and when the Bulldogs did manage a shot... it just wasn't falling through the hoop.

Bawalski found the range for Bentley in the second half but the Bulldogs trailed at the half, 31-18. Bentley was encountering difficulty working the ball in while Central was concentrating on its running game.

Bentley came to within four points but two minutes remaining in the third quarter, 39-35, but Central hit on six straight points and held a 45-35 fourth quarter lead. Central maintained the lead in the final stanza and the closest Bentley could get was at the final buzzer when Tim Bollin scored on a three point play to make it 63-55.

The championship game box score:

CENTRAL (35)	FG	FTA	FT	TP
Hyatt	5	3	3	13
Serra	6	5	5	16
Conrad	1	1	4	6
Howard	8	8	4	18
McLean	5	4	3	13
Totals	22	24	19	65

BENTLEY (55)	FG	FTA	FT	TP
Wass	4	1	1	9
Giles	4	0	0	8
Bawalski	8	1	1	17
Bollin	3	8	5	11
Chapman	1	6	2	7
Siefert	1	6	8	8
Nourse	1	0	0	2
Totals	21	22	13	55

Score by quarters:
WL Central 13 18 14 18-63
Bentley 2 18 17 20-55

Farmington 67 Redford 62

Farmington beat Detroit Redford in the first round, 67-62, with Joe Montgomery pacing the Falcon attack with 24 points. Dennis Hagan followed with 18 and Dan Lekovich with 16.

Farmington trailed at the half, 24-22, but bounced back with 45 points in the second half to win by five.

Bentley 69 W.L. Western 47

Bentley captured its first round win over Western, 69-47, with Ron Bawalski popping in 23 points. Gordie Chaisson and Dan Weiss also hit the double digit mark for Bentley with 14 and 11 points respectively.

Tony Howell paced Western with 15 points.

The Bulldogs jumped to a 27-17 first half lead with Bawalski scoring 19 of his 23 points. Bentley outscored Western in the second half, 32-30, with Chaisson totaling 10 in the final stanza.

Henry Ford 76 N. Farm 52

North Farmington spurred to a 15-14 first quarter lead but Henry Ford scored 20 points in the second quarter to lead at the half, 34-30. The second half saw Henry Ford outscore the Raiders, 42-22, with four players hitting the double figure mark.

Kim Parker led all scorers for North Farmington with a 26 point output but the Raiders were outshouted and outshot.

Karl Rogers paced the Henry Ford assault with 24 points, followed by Ted Forrest with 15, Daryl Booser with 12, and Bill Brown with 11.

W.L. Central 77 RU 70

CENTRAL LED all the way in a first round win over the Panthers, 77-70, despite a 30 point output by center Mark Kenny. Central balanced its scoring with Randy McLean totaling 26 and Steve Serra popping in 24.

RU made a run at Central in the closing minutes with a 27 point burst in the fourth quarter but the 50 point

combination of McLean and Serra proved too much for the Panther five.

RU 68 Redford 59

THE PANTHERS jumped to a 24-13 first quarter lead in a consolation clash and went on to topple the Raiders, 68-59.

Mark Kenny paced the RU attack with 22 points followed by Bob Schaner with 16 and Scott Bjerkie with 10.

Kim Park totaled 25 for North in its second loss of the tourney.

Bentley 79 Farmington 49

THE BULLDOGS ended any hopes Farmington had of a tourney championship in a second round, 79-49, crushing win.

Bentley was never challenged after holding a 41-27 first half lead. Dennis Hagan led the Bulldogs with 20 points while the Bulldogs had three players in double figures.

Tim Bollin led the victors with 20 points, followed by Dan Weiss with 19 and Ron Bawalski with 17.

Henry Ford 76 Farmington 64

FARMINGTON LOST its second game of the holiday meet to Henry Ford which finished with two wins in the three game match.

Henry Ford jumped to a 22-11 first quarter lead and led at the half, 43-33. Farmington was outscored in the second half, 33-31.

Joe Montgomery scored 22 for Farmington, and was followed by Jeff Baker with 16 and Dennis Hagan with 12. Darrell Costantini totaled 18 for Henry Ford.

N. Farm 73 W.L. Western 63

North Farmington won its only game of the tourney in a 73-63 battle over Western in a consolation clash at Redford Union.

The Raiders spurred to a 21-14 lead and were never challenged after building up a 38-24 halftime score. Kim Parker accounted for 24 points for North.

Three other players hit the double figure mark for the Raiders: Dave Ellsworth had 17, Fred Creighton collected 11, and Shawn McCrum popped in 10.

Dan Louiska totaled 20 for

Western in its third loss of the tourney.

RU 79 Redford 56

REDFORD UNION captured its second win after the opening loss to Central, in a 79-56 win over Redford.

The second quarter told the story as the Panthers outscored Redford, 21-8, to hold a 39-21 halftime advantage.

Mark Kenny led all scorers with 23 points, followed by Bob Schaner with 17 and Mark Durance with 15.

Tom Randall paced the Redford offense with 17 points.

Observerland Cage Ratings

The prep basketball season is rolling along... and here is the first prep ratings in Observerland which comprises 21 area schools.

Undefeated Garden City East gets the early nod with a 5-0 record, including victories over Edsel Ford, Bishop Borgess, Robichaud, Wayne and Franklin. The Panthers have averaged 77 points and have held their opponents to a 61 game average.

John Glenn went into its Christmas tournament with a 5-0 record, toppled Wayne, 85-75, in the opening round, but lost to Belleville in the championship clash. The Rockets at 6-1 hold down the No. 2 rating.

Brother Rice is undefeated at 4-0 and is positioned No. 3 in the ratings and Clarenceville claims No. 4 spot with four straight wins including a 106-61 triumph over Crestwood.

Churchill lost the opening round of the Plymouth holiday tourney to Stevenson but bounced back to down Thurston and extend its record to 5-1, for the No. 5 spot.

The Country Day Yellowjackets continued their winning ways and boast a 3-0 record and a No. 6 rating in Observerland.

Bentley is having its ups and downs but holds a 5-2 record and No. 7 position. The Bulldogs lost a squeaker to Edsel Ford, 52-50, and lost in the Christmas tourney finale to Walled Lake Central, 63-55.

Franklin turned in its best performance of the season against Garden City East but lost, 57-54, and holds a 3-2 overall record and No. 8 rank in the area.

The Panthers from RU lost to Walled Lake Central in the opening round of the holiday tourney and suffered a one point defeat against Trenton to stand 4-2 and place No. 9. Plymouth has won three straight, including the holiday tourney, after losing its first three games.

The ratings:

	W	L
1-Garden City East	5	0
2-John Glenn	6	1
3-Brother Rice	4	0
4-Clarenceville	4	0
5-Churchill	5	1
6-Country Day	3	0
7-Bentley	5	2
8-Franklin	3	2
9-Redford Union	4	2
10-Plymouth	3	3

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