Finally. . .Trenton Loses To Rocks

By FRED DELANO

The name Van Wagoner, which already had been indelibly inscribed upon basketball fortunes at Livonia Stevenson and Churchill High Schools, has double meaning at Plymouth this winter, and it largely was a family project when the Rocks squeezed by Trenton Friday, 67-66, to tighten the Suburban Eight title chase.

Capt. Dave Van Wagoner and his younger brother, Tim, a junior, were 1-2 in scoring for Plymouth with 18 and 17 points respectively as the Rocks gave Trenton its first league defeat.

The two Plymouth stars are sons of a basketball fanatic, John Van Wagoner, whose brother, George, has built an enviable record as head coach at Stevenson. The latter's oldest son, Paul, was an all-area guard on his dad's team two years ago, and now plays at Alma. Paul's brother Bruce is a regular at Churchill.

In both families there still are younger brothers who are on the way up and if Observerland produces a Van Wagoner all-star team all of its own the fans of Stevenson, Churchill and Plymouth will have to merge their loyalties.

PLYMOUTH NEEDED Friday's home court victory over Trenton badly and got it by staying in front all the way, except for two tie scores, after taking a 3-2 lead in the opening moments on a bucket by Jeff Jacobs.

The Rocks led by 10 after the first period (16-6), nine at the half (37-28), and by eight (53-45) after three quarters, getting the best of the rebounding and showing greater consistency in shots from the floor even if they did continue their slovenly foul shooting.

But midway in the fourth period, with Plymouth still nursing a comfortable 59-49 lead, Trenton exploded with a 10-point burst before the Rocks could regain their composure.

Steve Spallsbury, a hot handed junior guard who had demonstrated his worth earlier by dumping in 35 points against Redford Union, hit for a fast six, and Mike Whaley followed with the two baskets that made it 59-all with 4:28 to play.

The teams traded free throws to push it to 61-61 and then Jim Szilagyi broke that tie with a jumper that put the Rocks back on top. The edge grew to 67-64, all on free throws, as Trenton's pressing defense gambled to gain possession.

Spallsbury, who led all scorers with 25 points, canned his final basket before the buzzer, but time ran out before the Trenton comeback could do more harm.

IT WAS AN outcome which left the Suburban Eight in a real scramble -- Redford Union and Trenton both at 3-1, Plymouth, Bentley, Belleville and Dearborn at 2-2, and Edsel Ford and Allen Park at 1-3 -- and with all teams facing double assignments this week to make this one of the most pivotal four day spans of the season.

Tuesday night it was to be Plymouth at Allen Park, R.U. at Belleville, Dearborn at Bentley and Trenton at Edsel Ford. Friday's card calls for Plymouth invading R.U., Bentley going to Trenton, Belleville taking on Allen Park and Edsel Ford facing Dearborn. It's a week that either will uncover a real title favorite or give rise to a second semester cavalry charge down the stretch.

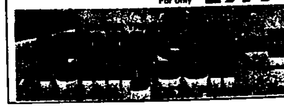
TRENTON (68)

	FG	FT	TP
Whaley	2	0-1	4
Spallsbury	7	11-12	25
Selleck	7	8-12	22
Van Goethem	1	3-6	5
Lancaster	0	2-4	2
Assenmacher	1	2-3	4
Lutz	0	4-6	4
Totals	18	30-44	66

PLYMOUTH (67)

	FG	FT	TP
T. Van Wagoner	6	5-8	17
Egloff	2	4-6	8
Jacobs	3	2-5	8
Szilagyi	3	0-4	6
D. Van Wagoner	8	2-6	18
Yermal	1	1-2	3
Dybas	0	3-4	3
Close	1	0-0	2
Willette	1	0-0	2
Totals	25	17-35	67

Score by quarters:
Trenton .... 6 22 17 21 -- 66
Plymouth .... 16 21 16 14 -- 67



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St. Agatha Squeaks By Mt. Carmel, 41-39

The "up and down" St. Agatha cagers squeaked by winless Mt. Carmel, 41-39, for their sixth win in 10 starts. Aggies hold third place in the Catholic League Second Division West.

Orchard Lake St. Mary is on top with a 10-0 record after a 57-40 win over St. Hedwig and St. Alphonsus remains in contention with a 9-1 mark after a 60-54 verdict over Ann Arbor St. Thomas.

Lourdes follows St. Agatha in fourth with a 5-5 record with St. Thomas and St. Hedwig in a tie for fifth with 4-6 marks.

The first four teams qualify for the Catholic playoffs and St. Agatha Coach Tom Sankovic believes an 8-6 record will be good enough for playoff contention.

St. Agatha hosts St. Hedwig Friday and have games remaining with St. Thomas and OL St. Mary.

THE AGGIES handed Mt. Carmel its 10th loss in a contest that saw Phil Hickey score the first basket and from that point on . . . the Aggies were in command.

It was 12-8 after one quarter and 23-19 at the half with St. Agatha hitting on nine of 13 from the field.

"Mt. Carmel played a slow style," said Sankovic. "That's what kept them in the game. They controlled the ball and we were letting them shoot from the outside but they wouldn't shoot."

ST. AGATHA outscored Mt. Carmel in the third quarter, 11-7, to carry a 34-26 lead into the final quarter.

The Aggies got cold in the final stages and Mt. Carmel came to within one, 38-37, with one minute remaining. Gary Campbell hit a bucket for St. Agatha to up the score to 40-37 but Larry Daltaiz scored for Mt. Carmel to make it 40-39.

Then came the hectic part for Coach Sankovic as Mark Miron and Pat Brown both missed on one - and - one situations in the Aggie opportunity to put the game away.

Mt. Carmel was also faced with a one - and - one from the line but the shot bounced off the rim and with 14 seconds remaining, Tom Nemes hauled in the rebound for St. Agatha, and was fouled.

NEMES hit on the first of two from the line to give St. Agatha a two point bulge and Mt. Carmel couldn't get off a shot before the buzzer sounded and the Aggies were up by two, 41-39.

"It appeared that we would lose the game at the line," added Sankovic. "But they hit on only 15 of 29 while we connected on 15 of 21, so they lost the game at the line."

Miron and Nemes led Aggie scorers with 11 points apiece while Don Janner and Larry Macek collected 11 each for Mt. Carmel.

Miron hauled in 12 rebounds followed by Tom Churches with 11 as Agatha outrebounded Mt. Carmel.

Stevenson Wins, 63-52

Topple Pontiac Northern

Livonia Stevenson remained one step behind powerful Walled Lake Central in the battle for the Inter - Lakes cage crown with a 63-52 win over Pontiac Northern.

The Spartans stand 3-1 while Central holds down first with a 4-0 mark. The showdown will be Friday as the 5-4 overall Spartans travel to Walled Lake. Central stands 10-0 with a holiday tournament under its belt.

"This is the game we have to win if we want to remain in contention," said Stevenson Coach George VanWagoner. "I firmly believe Central will be beaten . . .I just hope we can get it together Friday."

Pontiac Northern spurted to an 11-10 first quarter edge and outscored the Spartans, 16-7, in the second frame to hold a 27-17 edge.

"Northern started hitting and we went flat," added VanWagoner.

Northern hit on seven of 19 in the second quarter while Stevenson mustered a lone field goal on 19 attempts.

THE SPARTAN DEFENSE came to life in the third quarter as did the offense . . . Stevenson outscored Northern, 20-11, and trailed by one, 38-37, going into the fourth.

Stevenson exploded for 26 points in the final quarter with Dave Kelly providing the spark with eight points. The Spartans hit on eight of 17 while Northern connected on six of 20 from the floor.

"We finally started getting our second and third shots," said VanWagoner. "Northern started fouling and we started hitting from the line."

NORTHERN collected 25 fouls to only 12 by Stevenson.

Stevenson hit a 31 per cent from the floor on 22 of 70 shots and Northern totaled 82 shots but connected on only 23 for a 28 per cent average.

The Spartans hit on 19 of 35 from the line and Northern followed through on six of nine. Stevenson committed only eight defensive fouls.

"We were playing a zone and played good position basketball," added VanWagoner. "We carried less fouls and forced them to shoot outside."

Dale Haberman paced all Stevenson scorers with 26 points. He was followed by Larry Fisher with 12 and Kelly Smith with 10.

Lou Gibson paced Northern with 15, followed by Don Copeland with 12.

Observerland Top 10 Prep Rebounders

	G	RB	AVG
1. Halstead, Clarenceville	7	136	19.4
2. Kenny, RU	8	142	17.7
3. Jackson, GC East	8	126	16.7
4. Meyralles, Clarenceville	7	107	15.2
5. Sieloff, Harrison	7	102	14.6
6. Sopko, Borgess	8	102	13.5
7. Rich, Country Day	7	95	13.5
8. Williams, John Glenn	9	121	13.4
9. Dietz, Franklin	8	105	13.1
10. Schaner, RU	8	100	12.5

INTER-LAKES LEAGUE

	W	L
WL Central	4	0
Livonia Stevenson	3	1
Farmington	2	2
S. Lathrup	2	2
Pontiac Northern	2	2
Waterford	0	4

SUBURBAN EIGHT

	W	L
Redford Union	3	1
Trenton	3	1
Bentley	2	2
Plymouth	2	2
Belleville	2	2
Dearborn	2	2
Edsel Ford	1	3
Allen Park	1	3

MID-WAYNE

	W	L
Inkster	4	0
GC East	3	1
Robichaud	3	1
Lutheran West	2	2
Taylor Center	2	2
Annapolis	0	4
Wayne	0	4

TRI-RIVER

	W	L
Melvindale	6	0
GC West	5	1
Southgate	3	3
Taylor Kennedy	3	3
Schafer	3	3
Riverside	2	4
Cherry Hill	2	4
Crestwood	0	6

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN

	W	L
John Glenn	3	1
Oak Park	3	1
Thurston	2	2
Livonia Franklin	2	2
Birm. Groves	1	3
North Farmington	1	3

WAYNE-OAKLAND

	W	L
Clarenceville	3	1
Clarkston	2	1
Andover	2	2
Waterford Kettering	2	2
West Bloomfield	1	2
Milford	1	3

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

	W	L
Berkley	4	0
Birm. Seaholm	4	0
Southfield	1	3
Royal Oak Kimball	1	3
Hazel Park	1	3
Ferndale	1	3

WESTERN SIX

	W	L
Churchill	3	0
Waterford Mott	2	1
Farm. Harrison	2	2
WL Western	1	2
Northville	0	3

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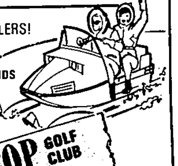

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