Berkley Wins, 60-58

Lathrup Title Hopes Dashed

Southfield Lathrup's district basketball tourney battle with unbeaten Berkley was the classic everyone expected and it took a layup with four seconds remaining to give Berkley a final 60-58 edge.

Lathrup thus dropped from state competition with a brilliant 20-2 mark for the season and in Saturday's district finals at Seaholm it will be Berkley vs. Brother Rice for the title 7:30 p.m.

Bob Malaby, Observerland's No. 1 scoring ace, started the tense battle as though he were going to lead Lathrup to victory single-handed. Malaby popped in the first 15 points scored by the Chargers, who led after the opening period, 17-15.

As an overflow crowd of 3,500 screamed, the two cage rivals traded the lead nine times, with the score tied on 12 other occasions, to set the scene for the final dramatics.

Berkley led at the half, 32-27, and after three periods, 49-46. In the final stanza, with 2½ minutes remaining, the score was knotted at 54-all and it was tied again at 58 with 45 seconds left.

Berkley's Bears, in possession, kept the ball and went for the final shot. Bruce Flowers, a 6-7 sophomore, put it in the hoop for the two points that killed Lathrup's hopes in a real heartbreaker.

Malaby led all scorers with 25 points, with Andy Tracey and John Gardner also in double figures for the Chargers. Bob Pyykkonen and Flowers were high for Berkley with 19 and 18.

★★★

BERKLEY (60)	FG	FT	TP
Bloom	5	0-0	10
Flowers	9	0-1	18
Karchon	3	0-2	6
Potter	2	1-2	5
Pyykkonen	8	3-4	19
Jenkins	0	2-2	2
	27	6-11	60

LATHRUP (58)	FG	FT	TP
Brodsky	0	2-3	2
Malaby	12	1-2	25
Tracey	6	4-5	16
Gardner	5	3-4	13
Courtney	1	0-1	2
	24	10-15	58
Berkley	15	17	16 12–60
Lathrup	17	10	19 12–58

FIRING A SHORT shot for two of his 25 points in the losing battle against unbeaten Berkley is Southfield Lathrup's Bob Malaby. Berkley pulled out a victory in the final four seconds, 60-58. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Henry Ford Captures Title From Harrison

Farmington Harrison went the distance, but the last few yards were just too much.

Detroit Henry Ford took the measure of Harrison's club on its own court in the district championship round Friday, 57-52, after Harrison had fought its way to the finals with victories over Southfield and North Farmington.

Jeff Sieloff was worth 12 points to Harrison in the first quarter as the Hawks and Ford fought it out, 12-12. Before the first half was over he had run his count to 19 points, plus grabbing 10 rebounds, and at that point Harrison held a 32-24 margin.

Henry Ford made a different story of it in the second half, pounding the Hawks 17-8 in the third period and 16-12 in the fourth.

Neither Sielofi nor any of his mates could consistently crack the Ford defense, particularly from the outside, and after three periods Ford was in command, 41-40.

Sieloff wound up with 27 points for the night, but only eight of them were in the second half as Ford changed its defensive tactics. He was Harrison's only man in double figures.

Harrison led late in the fourth period, 50-49, but Ford rallied for the points that turned the tide and Harrison was sent to the sidelines with a 14-8 mark for the season.

★★★

HENRY FORD (57) -- Williams 3 0-0 6; Harmon 4 0 0 8; Kelser 3 2-2 8; Baskin 5 0-0 10; Howard 7 2 2 16; Perry 3 1-3 7; Rogan 1 0-0 2; Totals 26 5-7 57

HARRISON (52) -- Hickey 2 0-1 4; Nicolay 1 2-2 4; McGrath 1 6-13 8; Cleary 3 2-5 8; Sieloff 9 9-12 27; Herpich 0 1-2 1; Totals 16 20-35 52

Henry Ford 14 · 10 · 17 · 16 -- 57
Harrison 14 · 18 · 8 · 12 -- 52

SINKING A TWO POINTER despite the efforts of Harrison's Jeff Sieloff (53) to block the shot is Southfield's Dave Trowbridge (30). The Jays pressed Harrison but wound up on the short end of a 60-51 count. (Photo by Enno Korthals)

6 Teams Open Gee Memorial

The first George Gee Memorial hockey tourney starts Monday at Ford Field Arena with six teams in competition.

The pairings:

Monday, March 12

1—Franklin vs. Bentley, 7 p.m.

2—Southfield vs. Lathrup, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14

3—Winner 1 vs. Stevenson, 7 p.m.

4—Winner 2 vs. Churchill, 9 p.m.

Friday, March 16 (Championship)

5—Winner 3 vs. winner 4

Clarenceville Beaten, 74-64

Riverside knocked Clarenceville out of district basketball competition with a 13-point burst in the last two minutes for a 74-64 victory in the South Lyon tourney.

Clarenceville led in the late stages of the fourth quarter, 62-61, when Riverside caught fire for a 13-2 margin in two minutes time.

Clarenceville had four scorers in double figures: Paul Simons, 22; Greg Saarela, 16; Brian Luka, 14, and Rick Beyer, 12. The loss was the team's 15th of the season against four wins.

Hawks Eliminate North; Falcons Lose In Semis

Hawks

Farmington Harrison broke in front for keeps at the end of the third quarter in its intra-city district cage tournament battle with North Farmington and went on to win, 50-41.

A slow-paced first period saw North in front, 7-6, but at the half it was Harrison on top, 23-22. The Hawks had the upper hand in both of the last two periods after North's Raiders had shot into a 27-22 lead early in the second half.

Jeff Sieloff led Harrison with 16 points and Dan Hickey added 15 in reversing a 49-43 Hawk loss to North in the first game of the season.

North Farmington wound up with an 11-10 record for the campaign.

★★★

Falcons

Prospects for an all-Farmington district cage final were killed when Detroit Henry Ford eliminated Farmington High in the semifinals at Harrison, 60-59.

It was a see-saw battle all the way, being tied seven times.

Farmington's Falcons led at the half, 30-28, but trailed after three periods, 43-39. After the Detroiters took a 57-52 lead Farmington came back to tie it up at 57-all on Bob Drake's jumper.

Falcon Jim Eathorne knotted it again at 59-all but a free throw by Jesse Williams gave Henry Ford the victory with nine seconds to go. Joe Montgomery led Falcon scorers with 17 points, while Duane Howard was high for Henry Ford with 21.

Farmington finished the season at 3-18.

★★★

Southfield

Farmington Harrison's host club began its drive toward the district finals by eliminating Southfield High in the first round, 60-51, as Jeff Sieloff and Dave Cleary combined for 46 points.

Although Southfield opened a 10-2 lead, Harrison had pulled into a 12-12 tie by the end of the first period. The Hawks took a 29-23 lead with them at halftime and led after three periods, 45-42.

Sieloff led the scoring with 26 and Cleary picked up 20 as the Hawks shot 53 per cent from the floor. Ira Labensky with 14 and El Holton with 12 were Southfield's only men in double figures as the Blue Jays finished their season at 7-14.

★★★

Andover

Superior rebounding and balanced scoring carried Farmington to a 65-63 tournament basketball victory over Bloomfield Hills Andover.

The Falcons entered the district meet at Farmington Harrison with only a 2-17 record, but put four men in double figures to beat Andover with a 21-point surge in the fourth quarter.

Andover led at the half 29-28 and after three periods, 46-44, in Tuesday's opener. But with two minutes left in the ball game, Farmington had gone in front by six.

Jim Eathorne, Bill Marra and Joe Montgomery scored 15 points each for the Falcons and Dennis Hagen added 14. Tom Fischer led Andover with 19.

Box Scores At Harrison

HARRISON (50)	FG	FT	TP
Hickey	4	7-9	15
Nicolay	3	0-0	6
Herpich	0	0-0	0
Cleary	2	1-2	5
Sieloff	7	2-2	16
McGrath	3	2-2	8
	19	12-15	50

NORTH FARMINGTON (41)	FG	FT	TP
Ellsworth	4	0-0	8
Fredericks	2	2-3	6
Doot	4	0-0	8
Gasior	5	1-2	11
Daley	2	2-3	6
Foster	1	0-0	2
Bancroft	0	0-3	0
	18	5-11	41
Harrison	6	17	16 11–50
N. Farmington	7	15	13 6–41

★★★

FARMINGTON (59)	FG	FT	TP
Drake	5	1-1	13
Eathorne	4	2-3	10
Hagen	4	2-4	10
Marra	3	1-2	7
Montgomery	8	1-1	17
Love	1	0-0	2
	26	7-11	59

HENRY FORD (60)	FG	FT	TP
Williams	6	1-1	13
Harmon	5	3-5	13
Kelser	1	2-2	4
Baskin	1	1-2	3
Howard	9	3-3	21
Bowman	2	0-0	4
Perry	1	0-0	2
	25	10-13	60
Farmington	14	16	9 20–59
Henry Ford	14	14	15 17–60

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

After an investigation that extends back to the first week in February, it appears that Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley is finally taking action on a reported scandal at the Jackson-at-Northville meetings in early winter and during the month of January.

Although his name probably won't be mentioned, we somehow get the idea that the investigation was started by John Carlo, executive director of Northville Downs.

At the start of the current Northville Downs meeting in late January, Carlo announced his track would not have any of the betting gimmicks that involved more than two horses.

"There are too many things that can happen with trifectas and quadractors," said Carlo. "I don't approve of either type of gimmick and won't allow them at any of our meetings.

"Besides stories have been coming to me of some monkey business in these two gimmicks and I don't like it one bit."

Perhaps it was that remark that set Commissioner Shirley and his staff off on a thorough investigation of the trifectas at the Jackson-at-Northville meetings.

It is known that about the same time a similar probe was started at Windsor Raceway and each investigation appears to have brought out some fire where there was so much smoke.

From Windsor come rumors that a leading Michigan driver-trainer is involved.

From the information sifting in from the barn area at Northville Downs, one is told that several drivers have been questioned about possible collusion in trifectas.

It's all in the rumor stage at this point but Shirley did send his deputy commissioner, Richard Morris, who is in charge of harnesss racing, to Lansing earlier in the week to present facts from the investigation to the Attorney General's office for a review and recommendation for action.

At the time this was written (Thursday) no definite action had been taken but Windsor did conduct a lengthy meeting earlier in the week during which more than 20 persons were questioned.

If the rumors at Northville Downs have any truth, then one has to believe that eight or 10 drivers, a couple of trainers and some owners may be called in for additional questioning.

Meanwhile, Northville Downs, which has a nightly double and three perfectas as its gimmicks, moves into the final Saturday (tonight) with a better than average program headed by the weekly $3,000 preferred pace.

Johnny G, a nine-year-old who gets better with every start, and Wendy W, a seven-year-old with nothing but victories during February, share the spotlight in the co-features.

Johnny G, owned by Angus McIntyre of Port Huron, didn't get to the races until two weeks ago but flashed his oldtime speed last Saturday in winning the rich overnight race.

The veteran was one of the state's best last season when he had a winning time of 2:01.1 and added $25,083 to his bankroll. In two starts this year he shows a win and a third.

Tricky Dale, the six-year old star of the Bob Kalish stable from Southfield, pressed Johnny G. all the way last week and will be back again as the top challenger.

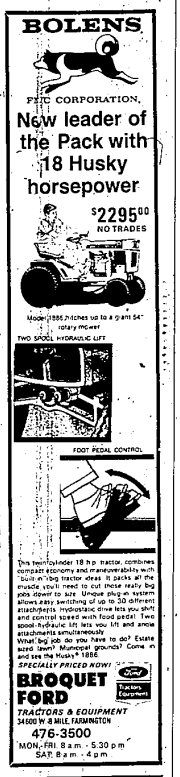
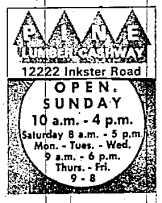
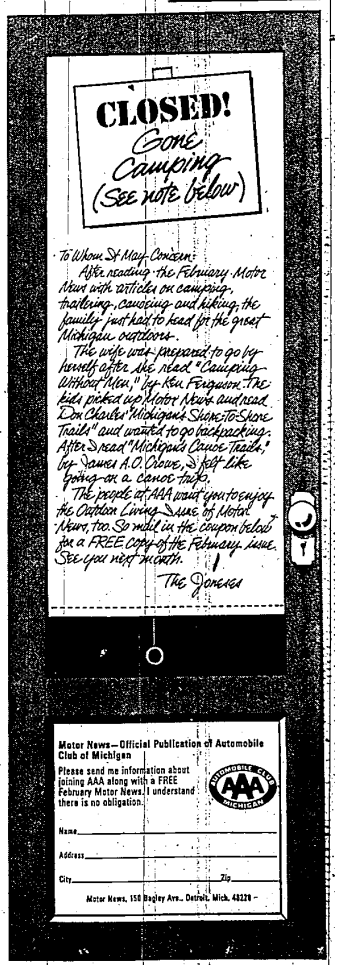
Others starting are Knox Abbe, Katfish, Action and Erlanas Valley.

Fans will be watching the performance of Wendy W, owned by Arlie Auckerman of Jackson, in the eighth race where it will bid for its fifth straight win.

After finishing way back in his 1973 debut, the son of Elly Hanover has been unbeatable. Even though moving up in class, Wendy W will be the choice again this time.

Going against him are: Scamp Direct, Sis's Time, Ruby's Mission Time, Apparition Hal, Ricky Worthy, Shiaway Tommy and Timmy Dares.

THIS 'N THAT ... Dick Rudnicki, currently paddock judge at Northville Downs, will have the same position at the Wolverine meeting. A former editor and owner of the Fowlerville weekly, Dick decided it was easier to build up a bankroll by announcing and officiating at the races. So he sold the newspaper and is doing quite well, thank you, as a track official.

John Broderick, longtime presiding judge at Wolverine Raceway and at Hazel Park, has left the ranks of confirmed bachelors. John recently confirmed reports that he had wed a longtime friend from his hometown of Chatham.

Mal Linehan, former state steward for harness racing and considered one of the best officials in Midwest, will be in the judges' stand at Wolverine again this year for the first six weeks N.Y. John and the new bride will be on hand for the Wolverine Raceway opening in mid-March.