

Livonia Held Its Own In State Cage Finals

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

The Observerland area was well represented in the Michigan high school state basketball championships at Ann Arbor's Crisler Arena last weekend.

A mis-worded statement, you say. True, Franklin did get upended in regional action, and Churchill and Westland John Glenn both were crushed in state quarter-final bids, each losing in regional semifinals.

But Observerland was still well represented, and what a job these area athletes did. The Dearborn Divine Child Falcons captured the state Class B championship with a 58-54 victory over the Hudsonville Unity Christian Crusaders.

And three of the starting five of Divine Child are Livonia athletes, all juniors. Two of them could have been on the Churchill court and one on the Franklin court.

In fact, five of Divine Child's nine-man team are from Livonia which is fast becoming an important "feeder city" for parochial powers.

The Livonia "starting threesome" is composed of juniors Gary Forystek, Bob Wenson and Ed Kasperek.

Divine Child Coach Bill McCartney, who has compiled a 132-40 record in four years of coaching, also spotted two other Livonia athletes in his sixth and seventh men in junior Dave Swoish and sophomore Jim Wenson, brother of starter Bob.

Churchill basketball Coach Pat Montagnano and Franklin head mentor Bob Visser know just what they could have had.

Forystek is a 6-2, 180-pound, 16-year-old who attended St. Damians in Westland before making the jump to Divine Child.

In his sophomore stint, Gary was the seventh man on the Falcon court.

This season he averaged seven points a game and 10 rebounds. He scored six points and hauled in seven rebounds in the state finale over Hudsonville.

Basketball is not Forystek's only prowess. In two years of varsity football competition, Gary has tossed for 38 touchdowns, hit on 217 of 329 passes, was selected all-state Class B quarterback and Catholic All-American.

While in eighth grade at St. Damians, Gary once thought of going on to Franklin High but his father changed his thinking. It was on to Divine Child and now a state basketball crown.

Gary is also a shortstop on the baseball squad, and hit .270 his sophomore year.

Bob Wenson is a 6-3, 175-pound junior who attended St. Michaels school in Livonia.

The older of the two Wensons never gave it any thought to switch to the public school and Churchill High, where he would have gone. It was all Divine Child for Bob.

Bob averaged 14 points a game for Divine Child last year along with an average of 12 rebounds a game.

This year he averaged 17 points a game and scored 10 points in the championship clash against Hudsonville.

Ed Kasperek is another who could have gone to Churchill.

He also attended St. Michaels in Livonia before taking the Divine Child route.

Kasperek started in his sophomore season and averaged 10 points a game and upped his junior mark to 14 points a game, with 14 points in the Hudsonville victory.

The 16-year-old Livonian was another of all-state football acclaim, earning a berth on the Class B first team, catching 60 of Forystek's passes in two years.

Last season, with these three in their sophomore years, Divine Child piled up a 15-5 record which included the Double A Catholic championship.

Now in their junior stints, these starting three paced Divine Child to a 20-5 record and a Class B championship, the first state crown ever for the school which is in its 13th year.

Jim Wenson was the No. 7 man on this year's state champion, another ballplayer that Churchill could have had, and junior Dave Swoish was the No. 6 man, another roundballer Franklin might have had.

That's five of Divine Child's nine man roster from Livonia, five ball players who will again be wearing the Falcons uniform come the '73-'74 basketball season.

Yes, the Observerland area was well represented in the Michigan high school state basketball championships.



right are Ed Kasperek, Gary Forystek and Bob Wenson. (Observer photo)

LIVONIA'S THREESOME -- Three of Divine Child's starting five that won the state Class B basketball championship are from Livonia. Left to

St. Agatha Explodes Past Divine Child

St. Agatha track Coach Jim Goebel might have thought someone had turned on the film highlights of last year when his Aggie trackmen took on Divine Child in the opening dual meet between the two schools.

His Aggies toppled Divine Child, 65-58, in last season's dual opener and they did it again this year by the same score, 65-58.

The '72 win over Divine Child wound up being the lone setback of the year for the league winners.

St. Agatha captured six firsts in the '73 meet with senior co-captain Jim Huculak chalking up half of those firsts with wins in the long jump, high hurdles and low hurdles.

Huculak won the long jump with a leap of 17-6 1/2, the low hurdles with a time of :22.8 and the high hurdles in a :17.3 clocking.

Junior Mike Rex supported Huculak in the Aggie assault with a first place tie in the

pole vault, a second in the 100 yard dash and third in the 220 dash for eight points.

The meet went down to the final three events with the Aggies needing only four points to lock up another opening victory.

St. Agatha got that and more when Bolivian for-

ST. AGATHA-DIVINE CHILD MEET RESULTS

SHOT PUT: 1-Brown (A); 2-Morner (C); 3-Hogewick (C); Distance 45' 1"

LONG JUMP: 1-Huculak (A); 2-Trujillo (A); 3-Wastawski (A); Distance 17' 6 1/2"

HIGH JUMP: 1-Burton (C); 2-Rourke (A); 3-VanDervent (A); Height 6' 9"

POLE VAULT: 1-He between Rex (A) and Kaylez (A); 3-McHugh (A); Height 10' 0"

800 YD. DASH: 1-Divine Child; 2-St. Agatha; Time 1:42.9

800 YD. RUN: 1-Wastawski (A); 2-Rix (A); 3-Shomet (C); Time 2:09.9

100 YD. DASH: 1-Omerod (C); 2-Rex (A); 3-Trest (C); Time 16.9

440 YD. RUN: 1-Tansky (C); 2-Szostek (C); 3-Chadwick (C); Time 1:56.2

LOW HURDLES: 1-Huculak (A); 2-Grasel (A); 3-Lezotte (C); Time 22.8

TWO MILE RUN: 1-Ryan (C); 2-Toby (C); 3-Hornved (A); Time 10:25.5

220 YD. DASH: 1-Omerod (C); 2-AMM (A); 3-Rix (A); Time 21.5

MILE RELAY: 1-Divine Child; 2-St. Agatha; Time 3:52.0

440 YD. RELAY: 1-He between Divine Child and St. Agatha (Pringle, Olimzeck, Gerozi, Kaylez); Time 1:49.7

eight exchange student Guito Amati placed second in the 200 yard dash, followed by Rex in the third.

Other first place finishers for St. Agatha were Pat Brown with a winning toss of 45-1 in the shot put and 2:09.9 first in the 800 yard run by Steve Waslawski.

Rex and Rich Kaylez tied for St. Agatha in pole vaulting with jumps of 10 feet with -teammate Mike

McHugh in third for the second shutout. The Aggies also shut out Divine Child in the long jump.

Another occurred in the 400 relay when St. Agatha's foursome of Ron Fringle, Jim Olimzeck, Dan Gerard and Kaylez clocked in at :49.7, the same as Divine Child.

The Aggies are at Servite today (Wednesday) and Bishop Foley on Friday, April 6.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Perhaps it's because of the springlike weather, maybe it's due to the excellent condition of both racing strips and then again it may be that business conditions are better than we think.

Regardless of the reasons, attendance and business is near record figures at both the running meet at Hazel Park and the harness racing at Wolverine Raceway ... it operates over the facilities of the Detroit Race Course.

Despite the fact that both operations took a big bath a couple of Saturdays back when the area was hit by the blizzard that dumped something like 10 inches of snow in two days, each is well ahead of wagering and turnstile totals of a year ago.

Saturday's mutual action probably would have been much better hadn't a \$91 horse won the first race and the second race winner paid \$37.89 for a season high double payoff of \$719.20. Matter of fact longshots won the first four races and anyone close to the wagering picture knows that such prices kill

Wolverine shattered all kinds of records a year ago but only during April and May when the weather broke and the sun began to shine. Even though going against a record campaign, the big mile track plant is way ahead of 1972 figures and could be headed for the best year in history.

For instance, Wolverine's handle soared to \$719,639 Friday with a gathering of 8,967. Then 8,872 braved a night-long rainstorm Saturday and had the machines working overtime to a total of \$993,398.

Just think three Saturdays back Hazel Park handled just over \$350,000 during the crest of the blizzard on a day when most folks were snowbound in their homes and rather glad of it.

Contrast that to the \$748,000 of last Friday and then a big \$1,246,894 on Saturday and you have an idea of the action at the tracks.

Both Wolverine and Hazel Park report per capita wagering near \$100 over the weekends and that has to be miles ahead of betting at the same period a year ago.

Actually, Hazel Park didn't have such an outstanding racing program Saturday with a \$4,000 event as the high-spot of the day but still the per capita was almost \$100.

Wolverine, on the other hand, had one of the finest cards of the early season with a \$5,300 preferred pace highlighting an all-pacing program that also included a pair of \$3900 events.

Track management had visions of the first \$800,000 handle of the new year until the rains fell. Of all nights of the week to have

rain, drizzle on Friday and then full scale showers Saturday capped by an electrical thunderstorm just prior to the final race of the evening.

That makes one wonder if the situation is going to be the same this year as last. Remember showers most every weekend from the first week in April to the end of November.

Just around, the sharp sprinter from the Morris Janewick stable, and Jockey Jerry Santage made the host of a big day at the Hazel Park Saturday.

Just around stamped itself as the best on the grounds by winning the \$4,200 Pontiac Handicap by two and a half lengths and Santage, the track's leading rider, added four victories to his list.

If it hadn't been for a horse shipped in from Oaklawn Park by his old boss, Jimmy Garroutte, Santage might well have had five in a row. He was astride Kid Caliber in the opening event and had a length lead turning for home only to have Keep Needlin, a 20-1 shot owned by strongman and last missed catching Tricky Dale at the Wire.

Derry Snyder recorded three wins during the afternoon, this best day of the meeting.

At Wolverine, Bedford Jet, the six-year-old owned by Ed Weber of West Bloomfield, returned to the Michigan ways after spending several weeks in Windsor after running out of competition at Northville Downs.

But it wasn't the glorious return most followers of the standardbreds expected, after leading for most of the first three quarters, Bedford Jet fell behind midway through the stretch, came on strong again and just missed catching Tricky Dale at the Wire.

Tricky Dale, a six-year-old from the powerful Bob Kalish stable of Southfield, had enough to hit the wire ahead of The Jet in 2:07.4 over a slopping racing strip.

The victory gave Driver Tom Merriman and Kalish a total of four first in 40 nights, indicating the stable will make a strong bid for top honors as the season progresses.

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