

Bowling to Start Feb. 12;
Set \$2,500 Top Prize In Mixed Doubles

The New Year brings good news to area bowlers with the announcement that the top prize in the fourth annual Observer-Newspaper-Merri-Bowl mixed doubles bowling tournament has been boosted to a guarantee of \$2,500 from the \$1,500 of a year ago.

That was the announcement by Tournament Director Mac Goldman who stated the first three prizes for the 1966 tourney will be \$2,500, \$1,250 and \$750—all guaranteed.

"This tournament has grown so fast in the past three years that we decided to boost the top three prizes and guarantee each," said Goldman, "We anticipate an entry of close to 2,000 this year and expect bowlers from as far west as Lansing and Okemos, north to Saginaw and Bay City and south to Toledo and surrounding areas."

Goldman plans to have entry blanks available in another week and has set Feb. 5 as the opening date with the closing slated for May 29.

"Merri-Bowl Lanes will guarantee each of the top three prizes," Goldman said. "The remainder of the prize list will be broken down as in the past with all of the prize fee returned to competing bowlers."

The entry fee of \$10 per couple of which \$5 goes into the prize fund, \$3.30 for bowling and \$1.70 for tournament expenses.

"We paid 192 monies a year ago," said Goldman. "We expect to do even better this time since we anticipate the total entry will be almost double that of 1965. We have made one important change in the rules this year—no bowler will be allowed to compete more than once. In the past entries could compete three

times provided he or she had a different partner each time."

The tournament will be a handicap affair based on 70 per cent from 400 pins with a maximum of 120 pins per game based on the high average as of Dec. 31, 1965.

The averages must be based on a minimum of 21 games and if none is available for 1965, then the bowler may use the final average of the 1964-65 season.

All entrants must present their sanction cards at the time of bowling, either from the ABC or the WIBC. Any bowler who falsifies his average forfeits all rights to prize money. Prizes will be paid when averages of prize winners have been verified.

Goldman indicated that ABC and WIBC tournament play rules will apply in all instances not specific-

Observer Sports News

Page ★ 23 Wednesday, December 29, 1965

ally covered by the rules listed on the entry blanks.

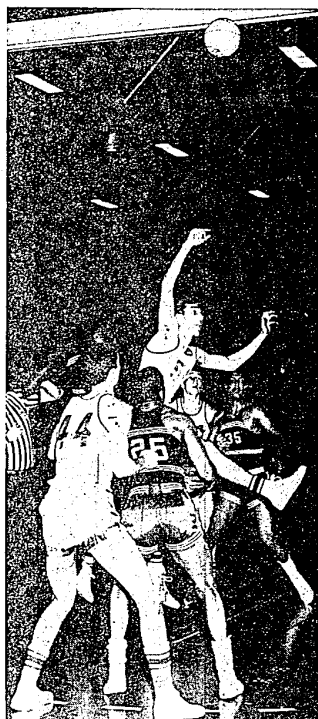
The new rules also provide that employees of Merri-Bowl are not eligible to participate.

The tournament will be held on the following dates:

SATURDAYS
February 5, 12, 19 and 26; March 5, 12, 19 and 26; April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; May 7, 14, 21 and 28.

SUNDAYS
February 6, 13, 20 and 27; March 6, 13, 20 and 27; April 3, 10, 17 and 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Squads will take the lanes on the following time schedule: 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.



GOING HIGH for a rebound is Ken Bowman (54) of Bentley as teammate Fred Matveia (44) and Frank Price (25) keep a close eye on the proceedings. Rouge's late rally ended Bentley's unbeaten streak at four games.

Rally by Rouge Beats Bentley

"There was nothing of which to be ashamed."

Coach George Fefles was talking after his Bentley High basketball team dropped a 77-72 decision to River Rouge, the State Class B champions for the last five years running.

"It was one of the best games we ever played at Bentley," explained Fefles. "Sure, I'd like to have won, but you can't fault your players when they do as well as they did against an opponent like Rouge."

Only a brilliant one-man effort by Frank Price saved the night for River Rouge in the battle of the unbeaten.

Bentley had carried a 4-0 record into the game. Rouge had won three straight.

With five minutes left in the game, Bentley led by 65-59 and appeared to be "in."

It was here that Price took over. He made two free throws before Bentley's Larry Grimm sank a basket to make it 67-61 with four minutes to go.

Then Price drilled in two from the outside and the Bentley lead was down to two points. After Fred Matveia eased the pain for Bentley with a basket, Price hit twice more, the second time with 2:17 left to knot the score at 69-69.

Moments later, a free throw by Bob Elmer put Bentley in front, 70-69. The lead was shortlived.

Here was Price again. He tossed two more from 15-20 feet out and with a minute to go, Rouge held a 73-70 lead.

Bentley was by no means through. A long blast by Matveia put the Lions within a point of the Rouge Panthers.

Then Bentley went into full press, but made the mistake of leaving Loren Pittman free under the hoop. A long pass to Pittman resulted in an easy basket and Price finished it up with two free throws.

Rouge had started the game by taking a 25-15 lead. But Bentley cut the deficit to 38-35 by halftime and they went ahead, 37-34, after three periods thanks to some fine shooting by Matveia.

Both teams pressed all over the court, although Bentley eased up in the second half when it ran into some foul trouble.

Price was the game's leading scorer with 31 points, getting 19 of them in the last quarter.

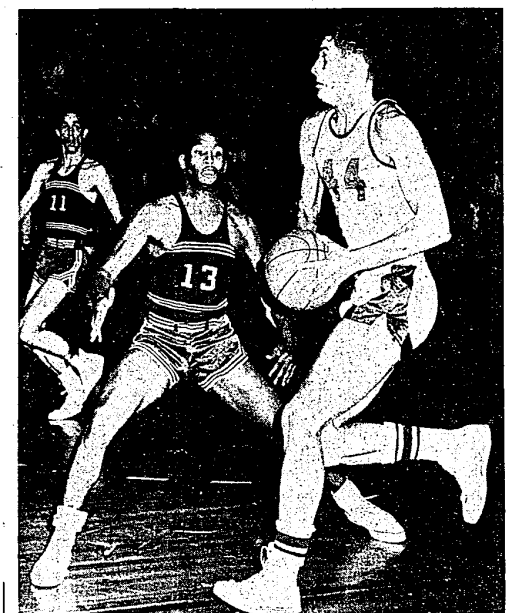
Matveia topped Bentley as he socked in 23 points on 12 baskets and four free throws.

Gary Faulks scored 13 points, Elmer 12, Nick Boulder seven, Ken Bowman six and Gracie six.

The game was decided at the free-throw line. Bentley had a 29-27 edge in baskets, but Rouge canned 23 of 31 free throws while Bentley clicked on 14 of 24 chances.

The night was a happy one for the Bentley reserves who trimmed Rouge, 51-31.

Ken Bollin continued his fine play for the Bentley reserves by scoring 25 points on 12 baskets and a single foul toss.



'HOLD IT, FELLOW'—This would seem to be what River Rouge's Bentley Elmer is telling Bentley's Fred Matveia (44) who checks his dribble on the way to the basket. Matveia is tossed in 28 points to pace Bentley's attack.

MSU Athletes Busy With Holiday Events

EAST LANSING—While the football team is out in the California sun and the student body is on vacation, many of Michigan State's winter sports athletes are hard at work preparing for upcoming seasons.

The wrestlers are working out prior to entering the Midlands tournament at LaGrange, Ill. Dec. 29-30. The grapplers are 3-0 thus far and hope to maintain their streak through the Big Ten meet early in March. Spartan lightweight Don Behm (130) and Dale Carr (137) both are unbeaten to pace the season thus far.

The MSU swim team under Coach Charles McConfree is preparing for a full round of practice sessions through the vacation before getting back into live action at the Big Ten Relays on Jan. 8.

The splashers, with most of last year's fine team returning, have been ranked No. 5 in the nation by Swimming World magazine.

The experts also predict that

TAKE 3RD BY TWO POINTS
Close Ones for Franklin

In Franklin high school's basketball team stuck on the "two-point" theme?

Coach John Hartig and his players had to be wondering as they wound up their 1965 season of operations, by nipping Dearborn Edsel Ford, 66-64.

It was Frank's 19th straight victory after losing its opening game.

All of the Franklin triumphs have come by TWO POINTS.

"Better that we win by just a point than lose," declared Hartig, "but it's pretty tough on a coach to have to endure so many close games."

"And, in a row, too."

Actually, the Edsel Ford victory just appeared close on paper.

With 5 1/2 minutes left to play, Franklin was coasting along with an 11-point lead.

Edsel Ford went into a full-court press and started to foul.

"This is where we had our troubles," explained Hartig. "We had all kinds of one and one situations from the free-throw line. We could have really built up a bigger lead, but we kept missing and kept coming down with the ball and scoring."

Hartig explained he would use the vacation practices to

West Fashions No. 3 In League Cage Play

It 1966 can just be like the end of 1965, you'll hear no complaints around Garden City West.

At least, when it comes to basketball.

Unheralded West finished the '65 portion of its Tri Rivers League schedule with a 3-0 record and tied for first with Southgate Schaar.

And, guess whom West meets a week from Friday night (Jan. 7) when the new year dawns? Nobody else, than Schaar to decide the league leadership.

Some hearts must have stood still last Tuesday when West stormed from behind to knock off Lowrey, 79-78, in a wing-ding finish.



SHORT HAPPINESS was the story for cheerleader Ann Friedrichs of Bentley high. Here she's jumping with joy as her team goes ahead of River Rouge. At the end, however, it was a victory for the downriver state champs.

Thurston Cagers Whip R. Union

Round one in the battle of the Redford Township high school basketball teams for 1965-66 went to Thurston last Wednesday evening.

In a game, whose outcome never was in doubt, Thurston scouted past Redford Union, 84-66.

With Gary Knock and Doug Block scoring six quick points and Reg Barringer and Randy Samelson adding four each, Thurston roared ahead, 22-15, by the end of the first quarter.

It was 44-29 at halftime and 62-50 by the end of the third period.

Thurston had a wide edge in the field goal department, making 34 for Redford Union's 23.

The lone RT advantage was the big one-two punch of Knock and Barringer provided the big one-two punch for Thurston as they scored 23.

Sorrows Falls To Lakers Five

It's a known fact that basketball players never shot better than the young men who presently play the game.

A classic example was last Tuesday's battle between Orchard Lake St. Mary's and Our Lady of Sorrows.

St. Mary's won, 99-75, to set scoring records.

The combined total of 174 points means that the teams scored better than five points every minute. Preps play 32-minute games.

The big quarter had to be the third. St. Mary's poured in 23 points, Sorrows 25 in an eight minute span.

"Everybody was hot, but they were just better," said Bob Morris, the Sorrows' coach.

The victors hit on 42 of their 84 shots . . . for an even 50 percent.

St. Mary's never was in trouble, taking a 21-12 lead after one quarter and holding a 46-26 edge at halftime.

Tim Doyle paced Sorrows with 26 points, making 11 baskets and four free throws. Right behind was Jerry Turner with eight hoops and nine charities for 25 points.

Mark Benner tallied seven, Paul Gunker five, Mark Cristopher four and Brent Sloops four.

John Stepien tallied 22 for the Lakers.

St. Mary's also won the reserve game, 62-57.

The West reserves had to battle into double overtime before registering an 81-77 victory. At one stage, West's reserves had led by 20 points.

Bill Merriman's basket proved the winner while Greg Conroy took high hoops for West by sinking 20 points.

Quarterback Steve Judy in 1965 received Michigan State's Ross Trophy awarded each year to the Spartan football player best combining athletic and scholastic ability.

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WINS HILLDALE AWARD

Rich Larsen, 1965 graduate of Bentley High School, played excellent football in earning his first varsity letter at Hilldale College. The freshman guard also played tackle and line-backer on defense and showed much promise in helping the Dales to a 6-3 season mark.

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REDFORD UNION B

Djerke	9	4	22
Moch	4	9	17
Schultz	4	2	10
Rooborser	0	2	2
Malby	0	2	2
Davis	0	3	3
Totals	23	24	58

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Redford Union 15 23 21 16-66
Thurston 23 21 18 22-84