

Bentley, N. Farmington KO a Fast in Class 'A'

Area Fives in Quarters

Detroit area schools dominate the field for this Wednesday night's quarterfinals in the state high school basketball tournament.

While no teams from the immediate Observer Newspapers' section have made it to the quarters, many "neighboring" teams have.

Leading the field of survivors are East Detroit, ranked No. 1 in the ratings all season, and River Rouge, bidding for its seventh straight Class B championship.

Fordson, the team which knocked out Bentley, also has landed in the quarterfinals.

The winners of Wednesday's games will move on to East Lansing for Friday night's semifinals. The championship encounters will be played on Saturday beginning with Class B at 11 a.m.

Class D and C teams will contest in the afternoon with the Class A championship in the evening at 8:30. Tickets for Saturday's finals have been sold out, but stay-at-homes can see the games on television over

Channel 50 which also will carry Friday's Class A semifinal title.

Here are the pairings for this Wednesday's quarterfinals:

CLASS A
Mumford vs. East Detroit, Ann Arbor vs. East Lansing, Fordson vs. Ferndale, Grand Rapids Catholic vs. Alpena.

CLASS B
River Rouge vs. Holt, Shrine vs. Marysville, Allegan vs. Grand Rapids East Christian, Belding vs. Ishpeming.

CLASS C
Visitation vs. Flint Holy Redeemer, Middleville vs. Leslie, Saginaw SS Peter and Paul vs. Scottville, L'Anse vs. Traverse City St. Francis.

CLASS D
Grosse Pointe University School vs. Covert, Flint St. Mary's vs. Maple Grove St. Michael, Trout Creek vs. Ellsworth, Ellsworth vs. Freeland.



HAPPY SMILES on the faces of Bentley High rooters changed to sad looks when their team fell behind in the second half of the regional final with Fordson High and then faded out of competition by a 63-35 count. Bentley had a commanding edge at halftime but couldn't cope with the Dearborn quintet in the final two periods.

Rebounds Costly To Livonians

It frequently has been said by coaches in basketball: "The shots that beat you are not the first ones your opponents take. It's the second, third and sometimes fourth ones."

George Fefes of Bentley High's cagers had reason to reiterate these words after his team was knocked out of the regionals at Franklin by a 63-35 score.

"They beat us on the boards," Fefes said. "They had a declared rebounding strategy. You might say that's where they killed us."

Bentley had come fresh from district championship at Franklin and shaped up as a favorite in the Franklin regionals.

But the Livonians couldn't survive their initial test. Except for the second quarter, Bentley played Fordson pretty even. But in the second frame, Fordson ran in 19 points to Bentley's 4.

Fordson continually capitalized on those second and third shots. "I don't know what went wrong with our rebounding," Fefes said. "We have done real well on the boards all season (Bentley finished with an overall record of 18 wins and 3 losses). But we had to pick such an important game to fall in the rebounding department."

Fefes, however, took nothing away from the Bentley conquerors from Dearborn.

"They deserved to win. They played extremely well."

In particular it was Dearborn's guard combination of DeGiulice and Spann that ruined Bentley. The former knocked in 20 points on eight baskets and four free throws. Spann pumped in five baskets and two charities for 12 points.

Fred Matveits again was the leader for Bentley. He had eight baskets to go with three free throws for 19 points. Mike McCauley was the only other Bentley cager to connect in double figures as he scored 11.

Fordson led, 15-14, after the first period in which Matveits made four baskets—the only field goals Bentley made in the initial period.

In the second period and the Bentley attack was again held to 14 points by McCauley.

In the third period, Bentley made 14 points and Bentley cager to connect in double figures as he scored 11.

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Thurston High Matmen Honor Dan Harris

Heavyweight Dan Harris, a junior and one of the reasons for Thurston High's successful season, was named recipient of the Wrestler award at the annual dinner honoring the grapplers.

More than 100 parents, friends and members of varsity squad attended the affair. Thurston ended the season with a 10-3 record, the highest championship at Franklin and third in the state meet.

Dean Rockwell, well-known booster of wrestling in Michigan, was the principal speaker. Guests present included: Supt. Merlin Roe, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Block, Jack Harms, Ed Haddock, Coach and Mrs. James Knotts, and Robert Pfifer and Dave Post, former Thurston High wrestlers who won state championships.

Varsity letters were awarded to: Glen Schneeman, Glen Taylor, Louis Plossner, Bob Bryant, Chel Proctor, Manager Jerry Papagian, Tony Spittstedt, Bruno Ruspaj, Randy Auld, Dan Harris, David Belknap, Paul Liddell, Dennis Celano, John Roubly, Ron Stewart, Mike (Continued on Page 7B)

Raiders Too Cold Too Often

There are things coaches can't explain in sports. Why does a team suddenly fall apart? How is a basketball team outscored 15-0 and 23-0 over a period of seven minutes? How come a team starts strong, slumps, rebounds and then collapses?

Coach Dick Wilson of North Farmington High's basketball team has been seeking the answers to the above questions since his cagers were dumped from the Class A regional by University of Detroit High, 53-33.

North Farmington had entered as the surprise and giant killer in the district at its own gym the week before. Overall the regular season had, the Raiders had won only three of 16.

But then came three straight victories and the title trophy in the district and North Farmington gave indications it might go places in the regionals.

Against the University of Detroit high, the Raiders started like tigers. Within two points, North Farmington led, 5-0, on baskets by Curt Schumacher and Bill Bowles and a free throw by Rick Schultz.

In the next few moments, the tide reversed itself. UofD scored five points to none for North Franklin.

Then it was North Farmington's turn to turn in a 5-0 streak (Continued on Page 7B)

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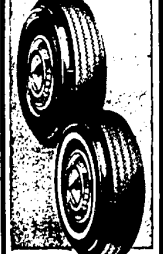
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Whitmore Lake Duo Takes 3rd in Pin Meet

Sally and Lloyd Trove, of Whitmore Lake, maneuvered the only change among the top 10 leaders in the fourth annual Observer Newspapers-Merrill-Bowl Lanes mixed doubles tournament over the fifth weekend of the three-month long event.

Sally, who entered with a 157 average, found the Merrill-Bowl lanes to her liking and fired a big 559 actual count to pace her team to a 1261 score—good enough for third place.

Lloyd, who has a 175 average, was off to a slow start with 159 but settled down with 192 in the second game and 204 in the third for 555.

Sally opened her big night with 160, came back with 202 and then finished with 197.

The team of Doris and Ray (Continued on Page 7B)

Raiders Reign as Gymnasts

Hat's off to North Farmington high school's gymnastic team.

The Raiders walked away with the state championship last week in a sport which fast is adding more schools every season.

Runner-up a year ago, North Farmington this time was led by Dave Slueter who took second in the overall individual standings with 236.4 points.

Two members of the team emerged as individual champs in their respective classes. John Kirk won the stilling with 76 points while Rick Kainz won the Side Horse with 78 points.

In other events, here's the way North Farmington entries placed:

FLOOR EXERCISE: 2—Gary Herr
TUMBLING: 2—Jim Mette, 3—Herc
TRAMPOLINE: 3—Mette.

John Gabler Accepts U-M Football Tender

ANN ARBOR—John Gabler, all-state halfback from Royal Oak Kimball high school, has declared his intention to sign a University of Michigan football tender April 1 and enter the University next fall.

The 6-2, 217-pound back is a younger brother of Wally Gabler, Michigan quarterback who guided the Wolverines last fall.

Wayne State University's 1966 Presidents Athletic Conference fencing championships marked WSU's fifth title in the six years the championships have been held.

Celtics End Season with Clean Slate

The Celtics closed out the regular season in the Plymouth Community Junior Basketball League with a perfect record in the 'B' Division and will meet an all-star outfit on championship day, Saturday, March 26 at the senior high school.

The Badgers captured the "AA" honors with a 10-2 record and a playoff 53-21 victory over the Buckyeys. They also will meet an all-star aggregation on championship day.

The second half of the 'A' League has been a close fight all the way and will end Thursday when the Warriors (5-1) clash with the Bullets (5-1) for the title. The winner battles the first round champion Celtics on March 26 for the league honors.

Observer To Honor Cage Stars

Who are the top prep basketball players in the area? The answers will be forthcoming next week when the Observer Newspapers present their annual All-Area dream quintet.

There'll be pictures, statistics and other features. Read the Observer next week.

12 Cagers Gain All-Star Honors

Twelve area players gained places on the all-league teams presented by The Detroit News in connection with its 1968 All-Suburban selections.

The honored players include:

SUBURBAN SIX LEAGUE—Leland Bjerke, Redford Union; Fred Matveits, Bentley; Mike Stakias, Plymouth.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN—Rick Lorenz, North Farmington; Randy Samelson, Thurston; Paul Katesh, Franklin.

MIDWAYNE — Paul Kichtinger and Joe Huber, Garden City East.

INTERLAKES—Mike Wilson, Mike Ames and Greg Dorow, 21 of Farmington.

TRI-RIVERS — Gary Slade, Garden City West.

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