Beat Raiders and Rocks

Franklin Hopes Alive

A basketball championship for Franklin High?

It's still a strong possibility for the Livonians who charged along in Northwest Suburban league play last Friday by trouncing North Farmington, 88-64, and then came back the next evening to best Plymouth, 47-44, in a non-league duel.

Franklin, now 5-1 in the league, still remains a game behind powerful Birmingham Groves which shows no signs of tumbling.

"We're finally playing all-around basketball," declared coach John Hartsig after Franklin's happy weekend.

He was particularly gratified with the shooting his charges turned in against North Farmington when Franklin stroked a merry 48 per cent in the first half and cooled down to just 44 per cent in the second half.

The Observer
Sports News
Page ★ 2B Wednesday, February 8, 1967

North Farmington seized a 15-14 lead after the first period, but Franklin began to click in the second stanza, outscoring North Farmington, 26-16.

The teams played the third period on even terms— 18 points each — after which Franklin outtallied North Farmington, 30-15, to turn matters into a rout.

A pressing zone defense helped Franklin to force North Farmington into several errors and easy baskets.

Earl Neely with 22 points and Ron Wicks with 21 led the winners while Ron Flutur had 20 in a losing cause.

The Plymouth-Franklin game was a thriller right down to the final wire.

It was Franklin 13-12 after the first period, 25-21 at halftime and 33-32 going into the last period.

Plymouth bounced back to get even with 1:50 left in the proceedings.

Franklin put on a full court press and it paid off in two baskets by Wicks and a free throw by Neely to put the game out of reach.

Wicks had gone scoreless until he caged the two baskets in the closing stages.

Tom Reich fired in 21 points on ten baskets and a charity for the winner while Mike Stakias topped the Plymouth cause with 15.

Plymouth had faced Franklin after winning a thriller from Belleville, 83-59, in Suburban Six League action.

The Rocks bounced back from a 20-17 deficit after one quarter to lead, 42-40, at halftime as Stakias, Nate Luibrand and Greg Corrigan combined to give Plymouth a 28-point second period as Belleville was held to 18.

The two teams slowed down in the third period to the point each made only eight points but Plymouth had more than enough left to win in the final period.

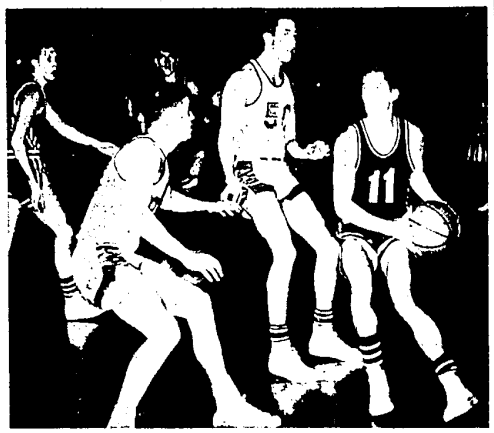
Stakias and Luibrand each pumped in 14 points. Mike Kubik was right behind with 13.

The Franklin-Plymouth box score:

FRANKLIN	B	F	P	PLYMOUTH	B	F	P
Neely	8	1	13	Davis	2	0	4
Stett	0	2	2	Kubik	5	1	13
Wendrick	1	1	3	Stakias	6	3	15
Wicks	2	0	4	Luibrand	2	0	4
Atkinson	2	0	4	Lowe	0	1	1
Reich	10	1	21	Ellison	3	1	7
Totals	21	5	47	Totals	18	6	44

The Franklin-N. Farmington box score:

FRANKLIN	B	F	P	N. FARMINGTON	B	F	P
Neely	7	8	22	Flutur	7	6	20
Paden	0	3	3	Coop	1	0	2
Stett	3	3	9	Mann	3	0	6
Wendrick	3	0	10	Rulaupugh	3	1	7
Wicks	7	7	21	McCoy	6	3	15
Reich	8	0	16	Krock	2	1	5
Atkinson	2	4	8	Semak	0	2	2
				Renya	1	0	2
Totals	22	24	88	Peterson	1	0	2
				Totals	24	10	64
N. FARMINGTON—				15	18	15	16—64
FRANKLIN—				14	26	18	30—88



SURROUNDED CAGER: Earl Neely (11) of Franklin finds himself in a traffic jam as he runs into a pair of Bentley defenders. Larry Grim (50) stands to Neely's right.

One-Man Show Makes for Joy At R. Union

When time rolls around three weeks hence to pick the All Suburban Six League, All-Area and All Suburban teams, it's going to be almost impossible to pass over the name of Leland Bjerke of Redford Union.

No high school coach likes to single out one individual over another after his team has sprung an upset as Redford Union did last Friday in beating Trenton, 70-62.

Coaches much prefer feeling victories "are team affairs."

But Dave Mattingly of Redford Union could talk only in the most glowing terms about senior Bjerke who came about as close as a player can in turning in "a one man show."

Trenton held a 31-25 lead at halftime and also had its hopes alive for the league crown.

Then Bjerke took over. Leland Bjerke, that is. A brother, Dale, helped too.

As RU outscored Trenton, 25-16, in the third period, Leland dumped in 11 points and Dale eight.

Then in the final period, when RU put the game out of reach, Leland counted 14 of the winners' 20 points while Trenton made only eight in the closing eight minutes of operation.

Bjerke — Leland, that is — had entered the game with a 29-point average. Now he's up to around 31.

But, in fairness to the RU performance which netted the team its second league win in six starts, there were some other fine efforts, too.

Ron Kimble, who had 14 points and Dale Bjerke, who finished with 10.

Bill Fahey showed only eight points and Dennis Fifield four, but their defensive work on Trenton aces Eldridge and Lutz made quite a difference.

For example, Lutz made 20 points the first time RU faced Trenton. This time he was held to two by Fahey. Fifield contained Eldridge with eight points.

Redford Union then made the weekend complete by rolling to a 74-58 victory over Walled Lake in a non-Leaguer.

The Bjerkes again shared scoring honors as Leland fired in 22 points and Dale tossed in 20. Fahey and Fifield contributed eight apiece to the victors' cause. For Walled Lake it was Bill Fogle with a lusty 31 points.

Redford Union led, 42-26, at halftime.

Pistons to Hold "T-Shirt" Day Sunday, Feb. 19

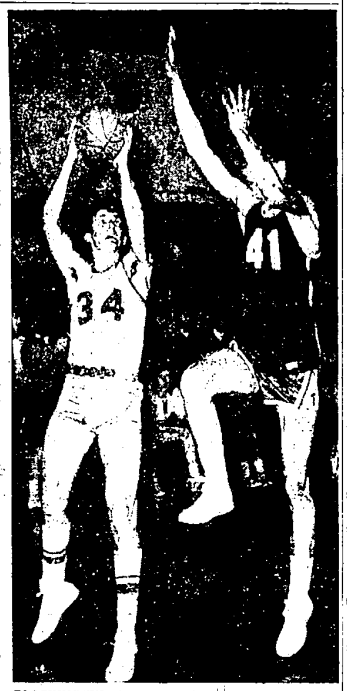
"T-Shirt Giveaway Day" for the Detroit Pistons' fans has been re-scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19, when the Pistons host the Baltimore Bullets at Cobo Arena at 2 o'clock.

The T-shirts originally were to be presented to youngsters, 16 and under, at the Jan. 28 game with Chicago which was postponed when the Bulls were snowed in at home.

Fans, who have purchased tickets for Jan. 28, may turn them in for the Feb. 19 contest so that their boys and girls may receive a T-shirt.

Each youngster must attend the game with a full-priced reserved seat in order to get a T-shirt.

The Jan. 28 game itself has been rebooked for Wednesday evening, March 15, at Cobo Arena.



BLOCKING THE WAY: A Trenton defender goes high to keep Tom Kimble of Redford Union from getting off a shot. Redford Union, however, won the game in an upset.

Long Drouth Ends for Glenn

Coach Chris Theodore of Glenn High told his basketball players to have patience.

Meantime, he worked with them to correct mistakes, to build up confidence, to improve on their play.

"One of these days we'll do something big," said Theodore.

And "big" was the word that befit Glenn's accomplishments last weekend.

On Friday night, Glenn pulled off a stunning upset over Thurston, 65-51, in a Northwest League game. Then on Saturday, Glenn bounced right back to beat Ypsilanti Lincoln, 68-57, in a non-leaguer.

"We just played the way I figured we could," said Theodore after the happy weekend.

A closing spurt won for Glenn against Thurston and all but knocked Thurston out of contention for the league crown.

It was Glenn's first conference win after five losses while Thurston had taken the floor with an overall 9-3 record and a 3-2 standing in the league.

With the score tied at 59-59 in the final three minutes, **a basket by Mike McMasters and two free throws by Ken Decker lifted Glenn to its winning margin.**

Thurston hit a cool spell after leading 44-38 at halftime. The Townshippers made only six of their 28 basket attempts in the second half as they were held to 10 points in the third period and seven in the final period.

Glenn, meantime, hit 16 points in each of the final two quarters.

The Thurston - Stevenson box score:

THURSTON	B	F	P	STEVENSON	B	F	P
Barringer	7	2	16	Lowe	4	3	11
Eiffen	6	3	15	Exarhos	2	2	6
Bjeke	4	1	9	Daniels	0	2	2
Wagrop	4	2	10	Detter	3	3	9
Pohl	1	0	2	Tonnemchr	1	2	4
Schultze	3	1	7	Johnson	0	2	2
Wagner	3	1	7	Mastny	3	0	6
Nak'zany	0	3	3	Pender	3	3	9
Forber	1	0	2				
Kopee	1	0	2	Totals	15	22	52
Totals	30	13	73				
THURSTON—				20	19	19	15—73
STEVENSON—				11	14	8	19—52

The Thurston - Glenn box score:

THURSTON	B	F	P	GLENN	B	F	P
Steffen	6	4	16	Shirlevant	6	3	15
Block	6	2	14	McMaster	4	3	11
Wardron	5	3	13	Mahakian	3	6	12
Barringer	4	2	10	K. Decker	3	5	11
Schultze	2	0	4	Jackson	3	1	7
Wagner	0	2	2	S. Decker	2	0	4
Joyce	0	3	3	Webb	0	1	1
				Wright	3	0	6
Totals	23	15	61	Totals	22	21	68
THURSTON—				9	24	20	7—61
GLENN—				16	17	18	16—68

Sophs Add To Cheers For West

Sophomores are making the future for basketball look brighter at Garden City West.

Jack Mellinger and Greg Wilson gave the west coach, Cal Krupa, "something to cheer about last Friday night when they made 13 and nine rebounds, respectively, in West's 65-56 victory over Crestwood."

Along with Gary Robinson, who nailed 21 off the boards, they combined to give West almost complete command under the boards at both ends of the court.

Meantime, Dan Bazzarelli turned in another fine scoring effort as he collected 19 points, including seven out of seven from the free throw line.

Robinson added 12 and Jim Mincey 10 to the victors' cause.

The victory gave West a split in Tri-River League action during the week. The team had lost on Tuesday to Kennedy, 65-56, as Bazzarelli and Robinson each fired in 18 points and Robinson picked up 12 rebounds.

West thus entered this week's league action with a 6-4 record and in good position at least to finish second.

FOR BENTLEY CAGERS:

Jackpot is Nearing

The golden jackpot gets closer and closer for Bentley high's basketball team.

With a 6-0 record in Suburban Six League going into action this week—first against Redford Union on Tuesday and then against Belleville Friday—all that stood between Bentley and the league flag were two victories.

And should Bentley slip this week, there still will remain two more conference contests before the campaign ends on Feb. 24.

"We're just playing great," explained coach George Fefles after Bentley socked Allen Park, 80-81, in a league battle last Friday after trimming Franklin, 75-55, in a city duel on Tuesday.

"We're scoring well, getting fine rebounding and doing a good job on defense," said Fefles. "When you play that kind of basketball, you're going to win with great regularity."

Bentley needed a little time to get started against Allen Park. The Parkers led, 19-17, after one quarter.

From then on it was all Bentley. Ken Bollin struck for 11 points in the second period as Bentley outscored the Parkers, 24-13, to gain a 41-32 halftime edge.

Paced by Greg Macy the rest of the way, Bentley fattened its margin to win going away.

Macy finished with 23 points, Bollin 17. Mike McCauley 15, Greg Coleman 14, Ed Ryan eight and Larry Grimm three.

Against Franklin, Bentley pulled away to a 19-15 lead after one quarter, held command 37-29 at halftime and went into the final quarter with a 56-42 edge.

The Macy-Bollin combine again stood out for Bentley. Macy meshed 11 baskets for 22 points while Bollin hit seven hoops and six charities for 20 points.

Earl Neely was king for the losers as he meshed 19 points on seven baskets and five free throws.

Bentley's reserves matched the efforts of the varsity. The second stringers beat Franklin, 75-42, as Carl Hurlbert scored 16. Gary Haughsby registered 15 in a 68-55 win over Allen Park.

BENTLEY	B	F	P	FRANKLIN	B	F	P
Ryan	1	0	2	Neely	7	5	19
Grimm	3	1	7	Wendrick	3	0	6
Bollin	8	6	20	Scott	1	0	2
Coleman	3	2	8	Wicks	1	1	3
McCauley	6	3	15	Guibronsen	4	2	10
Thomma	11	0	22	Reich	5	2	12
Macy	11	0	22	Atkinson	0	2	2
				Totals	21	13	55
Totals	23	12	70				
BENTLEY—				19	18	19	14—70
FRANKLIN—				15	14	13	13—55

Observing SPORTS

By George Maskin

It's the people you meet . . . the people whose memories you cherish . . . that help to make this crazy, and at times, mixed up world just a little more interesting.

There's Dr. Al August of Farmington whom you meet for the first time, but feel that you have known him for at least 30 years.

It was in those infancy days for you on The Detroit Times that you first wrote short items about Al August, one of the finest handball players ever developed in the United States.

More recently, his sons, Steve and Larry, have followed in the "old man's" footsteps by winning national and state and area championships. Both Steve and Larry presently are students at the University of Michigan.

Dr. August talks about handball:

"It's just a shame that so few participate in this sport. It's a great recreational event, wonderful for one's physique. And, it's something a man can engage in well along in years.

"But, we are lacking in facilities around the Detroit area for handball. Just a few places have the necessary courts.

"What's more, we are not able to muster any excitement within the high schools and colleges, as far as handball is concerned. It's not that way in all parts of the country. Down Texas way, they have a gigantic program for schoolboy handball."

Doc August is a patient man. He also is a man with a dream. Someday, he may see it come true.

You say goodbye to Doc August, head back to your office . . . and the phone rings.

Bob Sieger, the sports editor of The Detroit News is calling.

"Our old friend, Bob Wood, is dead," Siegar tells you. And you are stunned.

Bob Wood . . . a guy who was gray in his 20's . . . and who outwardly never seemed happy. But he had to be, because of the great work he turned out as an editor as he worked at different times for all of Detroit's dailies.

To us, Bob, who made his home in Redford Township, was more than just a guy we worked with —first on the Stars and Stripes during World War II days in London, and later when he was associated with The Times in Detroit.

If we have known any success in this business of newspapering, a lot of the credit belongs to Bob Wood.

Those days in London . . . even when the V-1's were striking with no warning and later in the even more nerve-wracking era of the V-2's, Wood would take time to show us the way newspaper copy should be edited . . . how to write a headline . . . how to get the most said in the least amount of space.

Bob would growl from time to time . . . but those packages with "goodies" from home, like salami, would cool him down.

As Doc Greene wrote so beautifully in The News last week, there was none better at writing head-

(Continued on Page 3 B)

Ski Comedian Plans Return To Pine Knob

Following a sensational tour of seven Michigan ski resorts during National Ski Week, Art Furrer, generally acknowledged as skiing's foremost performer and the funniest man on skis, will return for a repeat performance at Pine Knob Ski Lodge, Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m.

Joined by members of the National Ski Patrol, Furrer will present a dramatic and exciting torchlight show on the slopes. The show is open to the public without charge.

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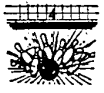
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Realtors Will Hear

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ira Polley, will be the speaker at the Thursday, Feb. 9, luncheon meeting of the United Northwestern Realty Association at Cregar's Restaurant, Detroit.

Polley, appointed head of Michigan's education department in 1966, will speak to the Realtor group on education in the suburbs.