



FANCY STEPPER: That's Greg Coleman (22) of Bentley as he takes off for a basket against Belleville that ran the Livonia team's record to 9-0 in league play this season. Coleman also was a football star at quarterback for Bentley.

1st Perfect Team?

Bentley Nears Loop Record

Something that hasn't happened in more than a dozen years—if ever—in Suburban Six League basketball action stands within the grasp of Livonia Bentley today.

If the Bentley team can hurdle Trenton in the Basketball Gym Friday night, it would become the first team in more than most can remember to finish with a perfect league record.

Bentley goes against Trenton Friday.

1—The league title wrapped up.

2—A 5-0 record in the loop.

"We have checked and checked and as far as we can determine, we can't find a team that has ever finished with a perfect record," said Coach Jack Kelly.

Thurston Scores Twin Loop Victories

Franklin Out to Stop Champ

Can Franklin high cool off Birmingham Groves?

This shapes up as the big question as the Northwest Suburban League basketball race reaches its finish this Friday night with Groves hosting Franklin in the featured attraction.

Groves has the little leaded up with an unblemished 9-0 record for league play, plus an overall mark of 14-0 for the season.

Franklin holds second place at 7-2.

Chances for the Franklin-Groves finale carrying title

significance went out the window last week when Thurston squeezed past Franklin, 67-55, in a thriller when Don Block dropped in a

basket as the buzzer went off to end the game.

It made no difference for Franklin that the Livonians bounced back to beat Glenn, 64-59, because when Groves

trounced North Farmington, 80-37, in another Friday game—that settled the championship issue in favor of the high-powered Birmingham team.

for Thurston's Block to get the ball off. As all hearts stood still, the ball swished neatly through the hoop and Thurston's bounced in to the thick of the scramble for at least finishing in second place.

Steve Atkinson, who was hurt, and minus Earl Neely and Dave Stott in the late stages when the pair fouled out.

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.500 Season Looming For Clarenceville Five

A .500 season or better! It loomed possible this week for Clarenceville high's basketball team in Wayne Oakland League action.

With battles remaining against Brighton and Milford, Clarenceville stood at 6-6 after a pair of weekend decisions over Holly, 49-47, and West Bloomfield, 74-51.

pace Clarenceville to its fourth league win in the last five starts. Ray again was brilliant rebounding with 17

grabs, plus 14 points. Watkins and Jim Amick contributed eight points each to the Clarenceville attack.

Observing SPORTS

By George Maslin

You're in New York for three days . . . and in the short span of some 72 hours you jam in two professional basketball doubleheaders, a Broadway show, a big track meet, a hockey game and watching the Rockettes perform on the big stage at the Radio City Music Hall.

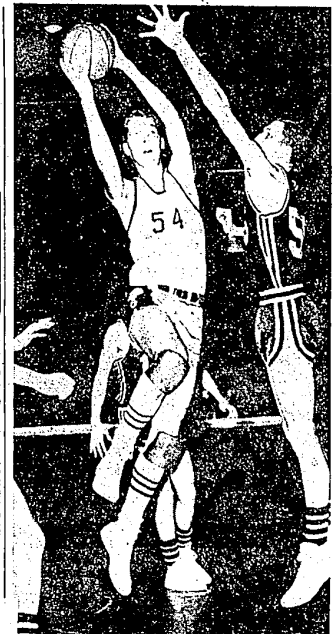
Exciting? Sure.

But your biggest thrill comes from watching youngsters flock to sports heroes for their autographs and how Oscar Robertson, perhaps the greatest of all basketball players, always seems to find time to help in his way to keep kids on the right side of the tracks.

Picture this scene, if you will: It's Saturday night with the midnight hour approaching. Robertson had started the day in Cleveland where his Cincinnati team had played the night before.

There was a plane ride, a cab ride, an appearance at a boys' basketball clinic and then a battle with the New York Knicks in which Robertson played every moment as Cincinnati was nipped by a 101-97 in an exciting finish.

The Cincinnati team, like most other professional basketball teams playing in New York, is in a hotel across the street from Madison Square Garden. The kids, now this as they flock in around the building, in their quest for autographs.



TWO POINTS: Thurston's Don Block (45) moves around a Franklin defender while in the air to get off a basket that helped Township team upset Franklin in Northwest League battle.

McMasters tossed in 21 points and Mahakian 16. For Franklin the high men were Reich and Neely with 15 points each, followed by Stott with 14.

Wicks had nine points, but more important he hauled down 20 of the 49 Franklin rebounds in the game.

The game was actually decided at the free throw line. Glenn made 26 baskets to 23 for Franklin. But in the charity department, it was 18-7 in favor of Franklin.

Prior to losing to Franklin, 64-59, Glenn had beaten Cherry Hill by the same score as Mahakian led the way with seven baskets and seven free throws.

Too much height made the difference as Groves walked past North Farmington, 80-37, to clinch the Northwest flag.

Groves presented a front line of players standing 6-9, 6-5, 6-4 against North Farmington which has nobody over 6-2.

Groves pushed ahead, 19-12 in the first quarter. The margin remained the same at half time. In fact, North Farmington had a good chance until the last quarter when Groves exploded with 23 points to the Raiders' 16 to put the game far out of reach.

The Groves front wall of Mike Rafferty with 25 points, Greg Lowe with 17 and Roy Isenberg with 17 was too much for the Raiders.

Ron Flutur led the losers with 28 points. Mike McCarty had 1-0, with John Mann next with seven. The rest of the Raiders scored four points or less in the encounter.

Borrowing Press Pays for West

As long as one borrows legally, there's nothing wrong. What's more, if you can borrow and profit by same, well, it's sure a happy day.

For Garden City West, coach Cal Krupa spotted something he liked when he watched the Catholic League basketball playoffs.

He was impressed by the pressing defense that Catholic Central of Detroit employed.

So in practice, Krupa had his players pattern their press after Catholic Central's.

And when West went against Southgate last Friday night, there was the Catholic Central press a la Garden City West style.

"Our kids really adapted to it in a hurry," says Krupa after West walked off the floor a 72-54 victor.

The press turned what had been a tight first half—36-33 for West—into a runaway in the second half as Southgate was held to 12 points in the third period and just nine in the last quarter.

"We slowed down their big fellows, made them shoot from the outside, and it made all the difference in the world," added Krupa.

Franklin Finds Stevenson Easy

The Franklin high swimming team turned in an easy victory over Stevenson, 64-28.

Craig Anderson won the individual medley and the 400-yard free style, while Tom Bates took the breast stroke and swam on the victorious medley relay team to pace Franklin.

On the heels of beating Franklin, Thurston added Oak Park to its list of victims in easy style, 87-60.

The game never was close after Thurston took a 21-11 lead after the first quarter and made it 46-20 at half time.

Five Thurston players finished in double figures as Don Block led the way with 22 points. Bob Wardrobe meshed 15, Gary Schulte 11 and Roger Steffen and Reg Barringer ten each.

The Franklin-Groves box score:

	G	F	P	P	F	P
Mahakian	16	0	4	0	0	0
Reich	15	0	4	0	0	0
Neely	15	0	4	0	0	0
Stott	14	0	4	0	0	0
Wicks	9	0	4	0	0	0
Glenn	26	23	0	0	0	0
Block	23	23	0	0	0	0
McMasters	21	0	0	0	0	0
Amick	8	0	0	0	0	0
Watkins	8	0	0	0	0	0
Ray	8	0	0	0	0	0
Block	14	0	0	0	0	0
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