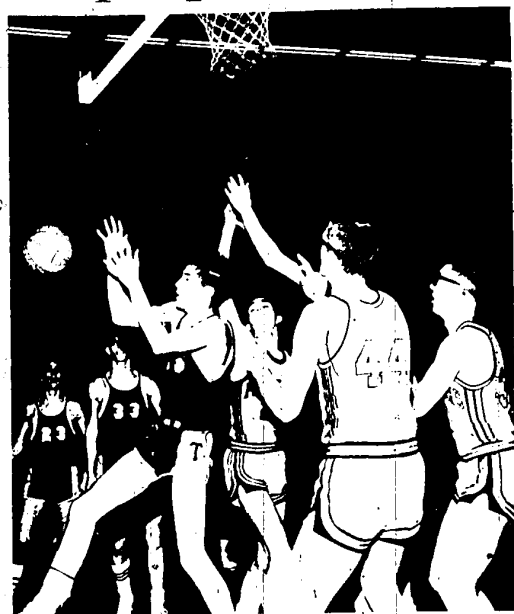


Prep Sports Heads Eye Suburban School Congress

Goal Is To Help Athletics Begin Exhibition Games Feb. 24



THREE GARDEN CITY East cagers close in on Thurston's Dick Wagner as he tries to get loose for a shot from underneath. Moving in to block the shot are: Charlie Sakmar (22), Harvey Knightlinger (44) and Mike Roth (30). The Panthers won this one handily to gain the finals where they lost to Ecorse.

Goal Is To Help Athletics

Formation of a Congress of Suburban Schools to help improve high school athletics has been proposed by a group of area pre-athletic directors who include Jack Cotton of Farmington and John Sandmann of Plymouth.

Cotton, who heads the athletic programs for all Farmington schools, including Farmington and North Farmington High, is chairman pro tem of the group.

IN A REPORT to 100 schools in the Greater Detroit area, the athletic directors declared: "During the past several years there has been a growing concern about current league assignments. Many leagues have experienced changes, not by design but rather expediency.

"One outgrowth of these meetings is that future discussions are imperative and should continue in an orderly fashion. A proposal has been advanced.

"This proposal suggests a congress of schools with a central nerve center. Several leagues or divisions would be the composite of such a congress.

"Leagues autonomy would be guaranteed but congress affiliation would foster cooperative endeavors between member divisions in all activity areas."

THE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS also have outlined their philosophy and purposes of the Congress which would be established to facilitate and improve the following concerns.

1. Equalize competition between schools.
 2. Improve and strengthen non-athletic activities.
 3. Improve some current league alignments.
 - a-School size
 - b-Geographic location
 - c-Activity offerings
 - d-Socio-economic factors
 - e-Personal desires of school administration
 4. Accommodate school district growth and a planned acceptance of new schools into an appropriate league affiliation.
 5. Improve scheduling procedures.
 - a-Cross-scheduling
 - b-Emerging sports: soccer, gymnastics, skiing, etc.
 - c-Improve girls sports offerings.
 - d-Establish non-conflicting seasons
 - e-Interest scheduling of some sports which a single league cannot accommodate.
- The target date for accomplishing these goals is 1970-71.

Opening of 1968 spring training on Saturday, Feb. 24, and a 30-game exhibition schedule featuring five games with the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals were announced Wednesday by the Tigers.

For the second straight year, all of the 30 exhibitions will be played in Florida. It was disclosed by Jim Campbell, executive vice-president and general manager, with the Tigers flying straight home for the American League opener April 9 with the Boston Red Sox.

Manager Mayo Smith has invited all Tigers to report Feb. 24 to the spring camp at Lakeland, Fla., where the Tigers have trained since 1934. In some previous seasons, but before they have been asked to report before other players, but all will hit camp at the same time in 1968.

In addition to the 39 players on their spring roster, the Tigers have invited four minor leaguers to work out with them. They are Outfielder Lenny Green, who finished the 1967 season at Tiger Stadium; Pitcher Tom Timmerman, who was at Toledo last year and has been pitching well in Puerto Rico this winter; and Catchers Arlo Brunsberg and Bill Heath. Brunsberg, who was on the Tiger roster a year ago, was

at Columbus in 1967, while Heath split time between Toledo and Detroit after his purchase from the Houston Astros in May.

In their Florida exhibition campaign, opening March 8 and ending April 7, the Tigers will meet every one of the other 15 clubs training in Florida. Half of the schedule will be played at Marchant Stadium, Lakeland, against 14 different teams and the other 15 games in 12 different Florida cities.

The Tigers and Oakland Athletics will lift the curtain on the Grapefruit League season at Bradenton March 8. The following day, the Tigers will meet the Minnesota Twins in their Lakeland opener. For the first time in three years,

the Tigers will make a swing to the Miami area to play the Baltimore Orioles March 23 in their only night game, the New York Yankees at Ft. Lauderdale March 24 and the Atlanta Braves at West Palm Beach March 25.

There is only one open date on the schedule, falling on April 4, after which the Tigers will play the Cardinals three straight days before flying home. There was a similar pattering with the Red Sox last spring, following five straight years in which the Tigers barn-

stormed their way north after the Florida campaign.

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Ecorse Ends GC East Streak In Finale, 62-54

Garden City East hit a cold spell; Ecorse became red hot at the same time and therein lies the tale of the championship game in the ninth annual River Rouge holiday invitational tournament.

After taking a 15-13 edge in the first quarter, the unbeaten East team still had two points at the halftime intermission, and led by one at the end of three periods.

Then lightning in the form of guard Dennis Smith hit Garden City, which was outscored 19-10 in the fourth frame, and Ecorse retained its tournament championship, 62-54. Smith, who had one field goal in the first half, broke loose for 16 points in the final two periods, 10 in the fourth, to spark his team to its sixth win in eight starts.

It was the first loss in eight contests for East which entered the game with a string of seven in a row.

THURSTON HIGH shocked host River Rouge in the consolation finals, 63-57, to win third place. Rouge won 22 straight before losing for the first time in last year's finale to Ecorse.

Urban Rice's 16 points topped the Eagles and Charley Pilar added 11. The victory enabled Thurston to even its season record at 5-5. Bill Kilgore with 19 and Vic Wharton's 17 were high for Rouge.

For three quarters, the East-Ecorse game was a tight battle with Garden City holding a slight edge. The Panthers had a 15-13 edge at the end of the initial period, led a 20-24 margin at the intermission and 44-43 going into the final eight minutes.

Then Old Dame Fortune turned thumbs down on the Panthers and gave her best smiles to Ecorse.

IT WAS STILL anybody's game with four minutes remaining when Ecorse's Jim O'Bannon tipped in a two-point shot to knot the score at 50-50.

That's when Smith personally took charge. He pumped in three field goals and a pair of fouls to put his team ahead by eight points with barely two minutes to play. That was it for East since the Panthers couldn't hit from anywhere.

It was just as if there was a lid on the Garden City basket and a wide open net at the other end. Garden City had four points in the final four minutes and Ecorse came in with 12 for the eight points margin.

Center Mike MacLazas was high for East with 20 points followed by Charlie Sakmar with 16. Dan Hague matched Smith's 16 points production.

THE PANTHERS gained the championship round with a 72-57 victory over Thurston in the semi-finals when all five starters were in double figures and seven players entered the scoring column.

The scorers for East were:

Macias 16, Harvey Knightlinger 15, Sakmar 13, Rick Clark 12, Harold Slade 10, Mike Roth 10 and Bill Crowell four.

THURSTON MOVED into the semi-finals with a 92-62 triumph over Dearborn Robichaud in the opening round, scoring 33 points in the final period. Garden City was a bit ragged in its opener against North-

Rocks Whip Glenn In Consolation Game

After blowing a first round game with a scoring famine in the final stanza, Plymouth High's Rocks came storming back in the consolation game of the John Glenn High invitational tournament to blast Glenn, 76-51.

Belleville, as expected, won

ville but managed to win by six points, 68-56.

In the final night's action, Ecorse topped Garden City for first place; Thurston spanked River Rouge for third place; Highland Park crushed Northville, 58-33, for fifth place; and Robichaud won its first game of the year over Lincoln Park, 66-64, in overtime for seventh place.

the championship although it had rough going in the finale where Wayne fell, 62-59, after losing three regulars on personal fouls in the last four minutes.

Plymouth had things much its own way in the consolation fray, taking an early lead and holding it all the way.

Mike (The Greek) Stakias, lanky Rock forward, had his best night of the season, pouring in 25 to help his team record its second triumph in six starts.

NHL Standings

EASTERN DIVISION			
Chicago	19	11	4
Boston	18	12	4
Toronto	16	13	3
DETROIT	16	13	3
New York	15	14	3
Montreal	14	14	3
WESTERN DIVISION			
Philadelphia	16	13	3
Los Angeles	15	14	3
MINNESOTA	15	13	3
Pittsburgh	14	13	3
St. Louis	14	13	3
Oakland	13	14	3

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
DETROIT 4, Oakland 2
Chicago 3, Toronto 2
Philadelphia 3, Los Angeles 1
WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
DETROIT 5, Philadelphia 2
Pittsburgh 3, St. Louis 1
Minnesota 3, Boston 2
New York 3, Chicago 2
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 2
Pittsburgh 3, Detroit 2
Detroit 3, Philadelphia 2
Philadelphia 3, St. Louis 2

NBA Standings

EASTERN DIVISION			
Philadelphia	23	18	3
DETROIT	22	19	3
Cincinnati	20	21	3
Baltimore	19	22	3
New York	18	23	3
WESTERN DIVISION			
St. Louis	23	18	3
San Francisco	22	19	3
Los Angeles	21	20	3
Chicago	20	21	3
San Diego	19	22	3
Seattle	18	23	3

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
San Francisco 122, Seattle 82
Los Angeles 127, San Diego 118
SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 122, DETROIT 102
Los Angeles 106, St. Louis 104

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Bentley

Continued from Page 28
The Bulldogs moved down court but missed the opportunity to score.

Bentley Friday had beaten Farmington - who they beat earlier this season in thriller at Farmington - to go into the finals. Bollin had 24 points in the 63-57 win.

IN CONSOLATION games Saturday Stevenson lost in the last seconds to Southfield 60-57. The see-saw battle was knotted 34-34 at half.

A poor second half cost Redford Union a game as Berkley trimmed it 68-49. Dennis Field had 14 for the losers.

In the consolation round for third and fourth place the two Farmington teams locked horns for three quarters and stayed close.

But in the fourth an apparently tired Farmington team was routed by N. Farmington 81-65 as Ron Fluter hit for 12 of his game-high 28 points. Rick Knock added 13 for the Raiders and John Mann 17.

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