

By George Maskin

observing sports

The Winter Olympics are just around the corner in Grenoble, France.

Thanks to the modern techniques of television we'll be able to sit in our homes and watch live the action taking place 3,000 miles away.

There's one unhappy aspect, however, from an American standpoint.

The U. S. may be the greatest nation in the world in athletics — and some other things, too. But when it comes to the winter aspect of the Games, we are due to take another bad beating.

We just can't seem to ski or skate or bobsled or play hockey with the other countries on this globe. They (meaning the other nations) show us up badly.

The last time the Winter Games were held, the U. S. won a total of something like six medals — Gold, Silver and Bronze.

It's not that we don't try. Our young men and women try as hard as they do any place else in the world.

Perhaps, our terrain or weather just doesn't give us a chance against those who reside in the proximity of the Alps, etc., or where they have chilly weather the year around.

IT'S IRONIC, too, that hockey has become a big sport—for the fans—in the U. S. We also have more and more youngsters playing the game.

But when it comes to the big leagues, we still have to count on Canada to produce the players who stock the Red Wings, Black Hawks, Rangers, Blues and all the rest.

Perhaps, the hockey trouble explains something: we are short on artificial rinks.

Let's look around in our own neighborhoods. The good people who like to ice skate, must wait for the thermometer to drop below freezing in most cases.

It's especially true for the hockey bugs.

The few rinks that operate, regardless of the weather, can't accommodate all who wish to use them.

Little wonder that a place like Gordie Howe's Iceland over on Detroit's Far East Side stays up the clock around and that be it 2 p.m. or 1 a.m., the place is jammed with skaters or hockey players.

The question of local artificial rinks has come up several times. Very little has been done. Doc Penkell brought up the subject the other evening at a press get-together held by the Tigers. Doc lives in Plymouth.

"Why not plug for artificial ice rinks?" Doc pleaded.

Well, if you'll check the back files of the Observer you'll find that we have mentioned the subject at least three times every year.

It's always a prime subject on our list of New Year's wishes for Observerland.

MAYBE, IT'S TOO much to expect at this critical time with costs so high, that the taxpayer should be slapped with the cost of erecting such buildings. Granted, an artificial rink would be wonderful from a recreational standpoint.

The various overseers of our tax money already have more places to use the cash than they have cash coming in.

Our schools are plagued with financial problems. If they aren't at the moment, they will be next month or next fall.

So luxury items must stand aside.

All of which should bring the enterprising private citizen into the picture. It strikes us that if somebody had the necessary cash to put up, he not only could benefit handsomely in the pocketbook, but he'd also be doing his community a great service.

With more rinks, we would be pulling more youngsters off the streets.

Give the kids more to do . . . there's less chance they'll get into trouble or less chance they'll get hurt.

Do we have any takers?

Or givers?

Swimmers Split Meets

Schoolcraft College's swimming team broke even in a triple dual meet last Friday.

Schoolcraft beat Jackson, 46-39, but lost to Windsor, 47-43.

Roger Zygnowicz won the 200-yard free style for Schoolcraft while teammates Russ Hoffman copped the 200-yard individual and Larry Bars the 200-yard back stroke.

The Schoolcraft 400-yard free style relay of Les Ferguson, Bars, Dave Tremblay and Zygnowicz also triumphed. Schoolcraft swims Kellogg at Stevenson High Friday.

Bentley Girds For Trenton Duel; Suburban 6 Lead Up For Grabs

The halfway point has been reached in the Suburban Six League basketball race and it's Bentley of Livonia, as expected, showing the way.

The Livonians stand 5-0 in the circuit (11-2 overall) as they start the second half of their league schedule this week at Trenton in what could be the biggest game of the season for both teams.

Trenton holds down second place with a 4-1 mark after bumping Plymouth, 64-52, Friday as Bentley trimmed Belleville, 78-45.

"If we can win this one, we'll be in pretty good shape," said coach George Fettes of Bentley, in referring to the Bentley invasion of Trenton.

"Pretty good" is a modest way to put it. A victory would give Bentley a two-game bulge over its nearest rival with only four games left on the schedule and its roughest test behind.

BENTLEY HAD no problems against Belleville. Ken Bollin flipped in nine points in the first period to shoot Bentley on top, 23-15.

The lead swelled to 46-25, at halftime and in the second half, Belleville was held to 20 points—only six in the last period.

Bollin again paced the winners with 25 points on 11 baskets and two free throws as he upped his scoring average for the season to 23 points. Mark Chaisson had 16 for Bentley, 10 in the second period. Dan Doyle with 12, Leroy Watson with eight and Jim Powers, Mark Hurlburt and Walt Blacha with four each contributed to the victory. Dave

Stirling scored three and Dan Devanny two to round out Bentley's scoring.

Tennis Squad Captain Picked

ANN ARBOR—Dick Dell of Bethesda, Md., letterman junior, has been chosen captain of the University of Michigan 1968 tennis squad. Coach Bill Murphy announced, Dell, who lost only one match last season, succeeds Ed Walts of Jackson, Mich.

NBA Standings

Philadelphia	W	L	Pct.	Behind
Philadelphia	21	15	.583	—
Boston	21	16	.568	1
Detroit	22	28	.439	10
Cincinnati	24	26	.480	12
New York	23	29	.443	13
Baltimore	20	31	.392	16 1/2

Western Division	W	L	Pct.	Behind
St. Louis	18	15	.545	—
San Francisco	22	22	.500	7 1/2
Los Angeles	20	22	.476	9 1/2
Chicago	18	24	.435	12 1/2
Seattle	16	26	.385	15 1/2
San Diego	14	29	.326	23

Saturday's Results	W	L
DETROIT 123, Los Angeles 119	1	1
St. Louis 122, Cincinnati 111	1	1
Baltimore 122, San Diego 122	1	1

Sunday's Results	W	L
Boston 115, Philadelphia 103	1	1
New York 123, San Francisco 130	1	1
Los Angeles 128, St. Louis 111	1	1
Seattle 135, Baltimore 126	1	1

Named All-Stars

KALAMAZOO—Three Western Michigan University coeds were named to the Michigan State all-star girl's volleyball team in a sports day held at Ferris State College. Freshman Ferol Cooklin of Cedar Falls, Iowa, was named to the first team while selected to the second team were senior Dee Dushin of Kalamazoo and junior Judy Moore of Sarnia, Ont.

Win Streak

KALAMAZOO — Western Michigan University's swimming team compiled the longest dual meet win streak in its history when it won 25 straight meets from 1962 to 1964.

2nd NOW AT FIRESTONE...

TIRE 1/2-PRICE

Brand new fine quality tires...not retreads or factory seconds

When you buy the first tire at price listed below.
(Plus taxes and 2 trade-in tires off your car.)

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Don't miss out!

Firestone CHAMPION

The safe tire

FULL 4-PLY NYLON CORD BODY

- *Wide deep precision-bladed tread for long mileage.
- *Modified wrap-around design for better handling.
- *Modern sculptured sidewall design.

SIZE	Tubeless Blackwalls		Tubeless Whitewalls		Fed. Excise Tax (Per Tire)
	1st Tire	2nd Tire	1st Tire	2nd Tire	
8.50-13	\$16.50	\$8.25	\$19.50	\$9.75	\$1.81
7.35-14	18.75	9.37	21.75	10.87	2.06
7.75-14 (7.50-14)	19.25	9.62	22.25	11.12	2.19
7.75-15 (7.50-15)					2.21
8.25-14 (8.00-14)	22.50	11.25	25.50	12.75	2.35
8.15-15 (7.10-15)					2.36
8.55-14 (8.50-14)	25.00	12.50	28.25	14.12	2.56
8.45-15 (7.50-15)					2.54

All prices PLUS taxes and trade-in tires off your car.

NO MONEY DOWN

Take months to pay... credit established in minutes!

DRIVE IN TODAY!

Firestone Store

*LIVONIA
Ply. Road at Middlebelt
GA 7-5000

Firestone Store

*PLYMOUTH
at Evergreen
VE 6-4232

Firestone Store

W. McNICHOLS
at Schaefer
UN 4-8511

Northville Tire

NORTHVILLE
448 S. Main St.
349-0150

Loper Firestone

PLYMOUTH
1094 S. Main
GL 3-3900

Arley's Firestone

SOUTHFIELD
at 11 Mile Rd.
353-5253

Compact Color TV in a Mastercrafted Cabinet!



When you're first in Color TV, there's got to be a reason. And greater highlight brightness this year is just one of the reasons why you'll prefer RCA Color.

RCA COLOR TV FROM \$299.95
Model EJ 505

Check Our Low Prices
Immediate Delivery

THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN ELECTRONICS

No Money Down-Up To 3 Years To Pay!

COLORLAND T.V.

33644 S. Mile Rd.—2 Blocks W. of Farmington Rd.

RCA Authorized Sales & Service

Open 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Every Night