

Bentley Wallops RU... Now Game From Title

They could be celebrating their championship in basketball. Bentley High by Friday.

All Bentley needs is a victory on its home floor over Redford Union Friday. That would give Bentley no worse than a share of the suburban six-team crown.

Four more victories in its remaining games would give Bentley an outright crown.

The Livonians moved a step closer to the championship by their 59-49 win over Redford Union Friday.

More the "big" story of Bentley was its defense. The Livonians have been impressive in holding their rivals to fewer than 20 points per game. And such was the story against Redford Union as the cheerleaders made 13 points in three periods and 10 in the other.

FOR ABOUT five minutes of the games played on even terms. With the score 10-10, Bentley erupted to outscore RU, 8-3, during the rest of the period and from then on the Bentley team never trailed.

It was Bentley's seventh league conquest of the season in as many starts and Trenton, 5-2, needs to hope that somebody can derail the Bentley express if the downriver team is to figure in this year's title bout.

Overall on the season's play, Bentley has compiled a 12-2 record, one of the best marks fashioned by a Class A team. Surprisingly, the various state rating polls don't include the Livonia team.

Bentley had to fight off foul trouble in the early going to stay in front of Redford Union. Both Ken Bollin and Dan Doyle picked three fouls apiece before halftime.

The scoring for Bentley was on the balanced side. Leroy Watson had 12 points, Doyle 11 and Bollin 10 to finish indoubt figures.

IT WAS QUITE a "come-down" for Bollin, the All-Suburban star, who has been averaging 24 points per game.

"This was a team effort," said Coach George Feltes of Bentley.

Jim Powers contributed nine points, Mark Chaisson six, Walt Blacha five, Mark Hurlburt four and Dave Sterling two for the winners.

Jimmy Walker and Dale Bjerke paced the RU attack with 16 and 14 points, respectively. Bill Fahey scored seven, Dennis Fillet six, Bill Mirras four and Bill Styles two.



BENTLEY'S DAN DOYLE (43) fires over the outstretched hands of Redford Union's Bill Fahey (30) to score during the game on the RU court.

Showdown With Schafer On Horizon For West

Friday, Feb. 23...that's the night of the big one as far as Garden City West High's basketball team is concerned. Assuming West doesn't slump against Lowrey this Friday, the following Friday will find the Garden City squad locked in battle with Schafer, the current front-runner in the Tri Rivers League.

Schafer has a 10-1 record, compared to West's 8-3.

Each has three league games remaining—West against Lowrey, Schafer and Southgate; Schafer against Cherry Hill, West and Lowrey.

"We need some help," admitted West Coach Chris Babler after his charges swarmed past Crestwood, 88-73, in a game of revenge Friday night.

WEST NOW has a five-game winning streak going and since Christmas, has captured six of its eight starts.

The West charges were an inspired lot when they took the floor against Crestwood. The reason was simple: Crestwood

had downed West, 62-56, when the teams clashed earlier in the season.

The other loop defeats suffered by West came at the hands of Hiverville and Schafer. The latter rallied in the final 19 seconds to win.

"Oh, to have won that one," says Babler, "we'd be tied for first now."

Much as Babler would like to see his team on the top rung, he has to take pride in the way the team has rolled off late.

It was just a matter of the young West players getting used to one another and picking up some experience.

STRONG REBOUNDING again played a prominent role in the West victory as Garden City led, 16-12, after one quarter; 42-31 at the half and 71-44 after three periods.

Gary Robinson hauled down 21 rebounds and Craig Wilson 19 for the winners. Robinson, who stands only 6-2 1/2, is averaging 20 rebounds per game.

Wilson paced the winners in scoring with 21 points. Jerry Hopkins had 16 and Robinson and Dave Leemgraven 12 each.

Schoolcraft Whipped By Auburn Hills

Auburn Hills' basketball team thumped Schoolcraft College, 117-100, Saturday night.

It was the 15th loss of the season for Schoolcraft against only three victories.

Auburn built up a 49-41 half-time edge and added to the bulge with no problems in the second half.

Fred Neal scored 25 points and Steve Moore 22 for the losers. Carl Gulbransen added 20. Glenn Lenhoff led Auburn Hills with 29.

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