

# Sports News

## By George Maskin

Only the jet age makes it possible — One night you're in a hot, jammed dressing room in the Boston Gardens.

The Pistons have just beaten the Boston Celtics and now they're sweating out the result of a game at New York between the Knicks and the Cincinnati Royals.

A Knicks' victory would shoot the Pistons into the National Basketball Association playoffs. If the Royals win, the Pistons and Cincy would have to play for the right to enter the playoffs.

The news of what was happening in New York came through a radio broadcast which faded in and out.

"The Knicks are four up," somebody said. "Oh, oh, the Royals have gone up by one."

"They... there are 15 seconds left... the Knicks lead by one."

All ears now turned closer to the radio. Em Bryant of the Knicks had the ball and was fouled. He made a free throw. New York led, 108-108, with three seconds to go.

The broadcaster called the play...

"Tom Van Arsdale has it... he passes it into Jerry Lucas... he shoots... misses... Reed has the ball... IT'S ALL OVER."

And in an instant, the Pistons en masse leaped and shouted. They hugged one another.

A tear dripped from coach Donn B. Butcher's eye. After five years, the Pistons had made it into the playoffs again.

A COUPLE NIGHTS later, the scene shifts for this reporter. Now it was Jenison Field House, along side of the Red Cedar river into which in our college days at Michigan State we were tossed in as a freshman because a few baseball players didn't like what we said about them.

It was the night of the state high school semifinals. The Class B teams played first... Willow Run won and then Holland Christian.

Next the spotlight turned on the Class A semis. First it was Ottawa Hills from Grand Rapids beating Detroit Austin... then No. 1 ranked Ypsilanti downing Detroit Catholic Central.

It made no difference which team won. The exuberance was the same each time.

Screaming cheerleaders began to cry... fathers and mothers hugged in the open... students roared to lift their basketball heroes and carry them from the floor.

Everybody patted somebody on the back.

If the coach were to ask for a raise in pay at the moment, the school superintendent he works for unquestionably would have shouted "How much do you want? We'll get it for you tomorrow."

THE SCENE AT JENISON hasn't changed over the years... and the days and months and years sure have rolled by since first we covered a state high school windup.

You realize how old you are when you see a couple of brothers by the name of McGolgan star for Our Lady of the Lakes from Waterford.

The name is a familiar one. You picked their dad as an All-Stater when he played for Saginaw St. Peter and Paul some 20 years ago.

And, in that dressing room in Boston two nights before, the first guy you congratulated was Dave DeBusschere. Ten years have vanished now since the night Dave led Detroit Austin to the state "A" crown and you had no arguments in naming him an all-stater.

Nothing in sports can eclipse the thrills which come your way at a state prep basketball tournament.

Attending the games also dissolves any doubts you might have about our teenagers of today. True, there may be a few rotten eggs in the lot.

But there were when today's grandparents and mothers and dads attended school, too.

ORCHIDS TO RON JOHNSON, the University of Michigan football back who has been named the Wolverines' 1968 gridiron captain.

Ron, thus becomes the first Negro ever to captain a U-M grid team.

He rolled up more than 1,000 yards on the ground last season and already is being tabbed as a top candidate for All American honors in 1968.

HOW'D YOU LIKE to be Ralph Simpson of Pershing High, the young man who was picked on every All-State high school basketball team and also the Parade Magazine All America?

Ralph has offers from at least 100 colleges. Each has a full-ride scholarship waiting for him.

The inside word is that the battle for Simpson has narrowed down to Michigan and Michigan State. Ralph says he favors MSU.

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# Bentley Coaches Rebuilding Teams

This is the spring of rebuilding at Bentley High School — in baseball and in track. A year ago Bentley enjoyed one of its finest seasons in history in track, winning the league title and producing 11 new varsity records in the 14 events on the thinned program.

In baseball, Bentley finished third in its league, but then came up with a championship drive in the annual Greater Livonia Invitational tournament by nipping Redford Union, 2-1, in the final game.

But it's a new year and coaches Marty Kozik (baseball) and Ron Fedraw (track) will definitely present the new looks when their squads come forth in this week, if the weather cooperates, in their season openers.

The baseballers have a day at Bloomfield Hills Friday, while in track, it'll be Bentley vs. Stevenson at Bentley on Thursday.

Kozik has only two of his regulars back—Jim Powers, who played second, and John Schroeder, who operated at short.

Gene are such standouts as Bill McAlpine and Dave Gordon from last year's strong team.

IN TRACK, Bentley lost the nine seniors who made it possible for the school to win eight events in the league meet and go on its record-breaking binge.

Tragedy also befell the high-class, Gary Gilder; a fine polevaulter who went 12 feet, 6 inches last season and figured to clear 13 this year.

was killed in a motorcycle accident. "We may be rebuilding, but I still think we'll give a good account of ourselves," declared Fedraw during an indoor workout.

"We have some experienced boys back for the various events and in addition we have some good prospects who'll help our varsity."

"Bentley won all four field events in the league meet last year, but the champs are now gone."

In their places are Bruce Plimley (pole vault), Bob Crowder (high jump), Gary Haughey and Bob Capudan (shot put) and Gary Eggleston and Joe Chennello (long jump) who head the respective classifications.

TOM SPULLER returns to

lead the sprinters while Chennello, Mark Fredericks and Bill Warren figure to do well in the 440.

Roger Haggart looks strong in the 880-yard run while Tom McGhie stands out in the mile and Chris Morton in the two mile.

Returning in the hurdles are Fred Howell and Eggleston and they'll be joined by sophomore Mike Day, who did well for Bentley as a halfback in football.

Powers and Schroeder will be back at their posts with Ken Gowkowski slated for third base. Ken played on Livonia's Class E summer baseball champs last year; he also can help out with the pitching.

Bill Rice, another member of the Class E kings, shapes up as Bentley's No. 1 catcher.

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