

Suburban 8 Race Could Be A Real Scramble



The word is out. Nobody is keeping it a secret. Allen Park is the team to beat this basketball season in the Suburban Eight and according to some persons, the other seven teams in the league might as well concede the championship right now. The word is just a bit premature.

THE SUBURBAN EIGHT is sporting some good basketball talent this '72-73 season in the Suburban Eight and according to some persons, the other seven teams in the league might as well concede the championship right now. The word is just a bit premature.

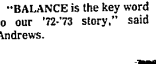
it's not how big you are but how good you are."



"ALLEN PARK is going to be tough," added Farrar. "But Plymouth will be just as tough if not tougher."

"BALANCE is the key word to our '72-73 story," said Andrews.

only one starter in Gary Fuks. RU captured the conference last year in Coach Carl Andrews' rookie year with Andrews taking Coach - of - the Year honors, in Oberverland.



"We will be right in the thick of it this year again." Fuks is the one returning starter, standing 6-3 and weighing 180 pounds at guard. Scott Bjerkie, a 6-0, 160 pound senior will be at the other guard slot, with 6-5, 185 pound Rick Pomaville the pivot man. Forwards will be 6-3 Bob Eland and 6-4 Jerry Petsch.

With Ron Campbell and Mike Dolan the sixth and seventh men. Over at Bentley High, Farrar knows he has a good thing in Bolin and will be relying heavily on another senior in 6-1 forward Brent Boeger.

The Bulldog guard berths belong to Juniors Alex Chaires (6-0) and Mark Newall (5-10). "I'll be calling the dice for the No. 5 man in either 6-5 junior Randy Like or 6-1 junior Paul Veach," said Farrar. "As obvious as it looks, Juniors will be the key to a winning season."

Bentley finished 9-3 in the league last year and 15-6 overall in Farrar's first season. "We could be in it this year," Farrar said. "But according to other papers, we should be happy if we win three games."

"It's a toss-up now between Plymouth and Allen Park," added Farrar. "RU won't be in it. They can't match last year's talent."

Now we come to Plymouth.

THE ROCKS and new Coach Thomann will be a senior club, something like the football team that faltered in the stretch.

Like the football team, if any basketball squad at Plymouth could do it, this has to be the season.

The starting senior returning five some is composed of 6-3 Ron Egloff, 6-3 Steve Robb, 6-2 Tim VanWagoner, 5-11 Jim Sillagay and 6-4 Jeff Jacobs. Four other returning lettermen include 6-4 senior Kevin Moore, 6-2 senior Gary Close, 6-2 senior Rob Willette, and 5-10 Kevin Stemberger, also a senior.

THREE HOPEFUL juniors are 6-5 Bruce Johnson, 5-11 Rick Neu and 5-10 Dave Pruetter.

"We are going to have to be able to compete with the big men," said Thomann. "We have enough veterans to do the job and will concentrate on a pressure defense and running game."

"No one player will dominate our game," added Thomann. "We are going to increase the tempo of the game, press, run and constantly keep the pressure on our opponents."

THE PRESSURE is on. Can Allen Park live up to its pre-season press coverage? Can Redford Union defend its crown? Can Bentley do it on the performance of one possible all-star?

Can Plymouth find itself under the eyes of a new coach? The answers will lie in the following pages of the '72-73 basketball season.

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FRED THOMANN



GARY FULKS--The 6-3 senior forward is the lone returning starter on Redford Union's basketball club. Fulks averaged 12 points a game as a junior.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

HOPING TO DEFEND the Suburban Eight basketball title successfully is Redford Union Coach Carl Andrews who captured the crown and received Oberverland's Coach of the Year honors with a 17-4 mark his "rookie season."

Michigan's thoroughbred racing season closes Saturday at the Detroit Race Course, which is struggling through the poorest campaign since the early years of operation, and just one day before the closing Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley will announce the allotment of running dates for 1973.

State law requires the commissioner to release the dates no later than Dec. 1 and those for harness racing no later than Dec. 15.

There doesn't appear to be any disagreement between Hazel Park and DRC officials over the 1973 season. Matter of fact, it appears that each actually knows its dates already or at least a reference facsimile of what to expect.

Shirley has been in close contact with Bernie Hartman and Herb Tyner, new owners of Hazel Park, as well as the DRC management for the past several weeks going over plans for 1973.

Thus, it isn't going to be any surprise when the dates finally are announced. Shirley and the track bosses have thrashed everything out and all that remains is the official announcement.

Rumors are that Hazel Park will receive 120 days and the DRC will be allotted 90 days, as requested, with the option of another 30 days if the meeting is better than that of 1972.

Once again we take pen in hand (or rather a trusty typewriter) to congratulate personable Dick Wilson for his assignment as vice president and general manager of the Detroit Racing Association.

charge of all racing operations of Castleton Industries Inc., owner of the DRC at Hazel Park, Fla. and St. Augustine, Fla. and the dog racing plant in Hollywood, Fla., succeeds Paul Ryder.

HIS OPERATION of Wolverine Raceway in the past three years has made that harness racing track one of the best in the nation. During the past season, he directed Wolverine to the first million dollar handle in Michigan harness racing history. A year before, Wolverine became the only state track to go past the \$900,000 mark.

The imagination of Wilson and his staff in promoting races has done wonders for Wolverine and we feel it will do the same thing for the runners, who have had rough going at the DRC for the past two years.

Wilson's first step in his new post was to rehire Tom Dorsey, longtime leader of the Michigan thoroughbred colony, as his No. 1 aide. Dorsey will have the title of director of racing. We know that his name on the staff will be a great help in building better relations with horsemen, especially those from Michigan.

The Jackson-Northville Downs program tonight (Wednesday) is headlined by a race that looms as one of the better mid-week events of the early season.

The eighth race finds Blu Water Duke, a winner in his last, outdueling Miss Brenda, who was a nose back last week. Miss Brenda drew to the inside of the Duke this time and that may be a deciding factor.

The field also includes Miracle Wendy, owned by Stan Jason out of Cass Peters of Dearborn Heights, who won a week ago in a quick 2:05.2, one of the fastest miles to date.

Double G. Battle, with a specialty coming from far back in the stretch, is also in the field of eight.

the year and probably the greatest of all time. The honors have to go to Albatross, the brilliant four-year-old, who won the \$50,000 Western Pace on the west coast by more than five lengths in a blistering 1:56.

The victory was No. 19 for Albatross in 24 starts and boosted his world record earnings for a pacer to \$1,156,470. The Bird will end his racing career this week in the \$100,000 American Pacing Classic at Hollywood Park near Los Angeles. Then he retires to stud duties.

Strangely enough, Silent Majority, one of the top contenders for three-year-old of the year honors, was fifth and last in the Western. Nansomend, a victor over Albatross on four occasions in the past two years, including the 1972 Little Brown Jug, was second with Brons Bug, by Deo Max third.

Michigan harness racing fans will long remember The Bird, winner of the four year old Matron at Wolverine Raceway last spring when he attracted the second largest crowd in state history and was responsible for the first million dollar handle at a Michigan harness racing track.

DRC president John R. Davis also announced the hiring of Tom Dorsey as director of racing for the Detroit Racing Association. Dorsey is well known in Michigan thoroughbred circles.

He will be in immediate supervision of the thoroughbred racing program at the DRC.

THE TOP LEVEL changes in administration at the track will find Ryder accepting a new assignment with Castleton Industries, owners of the plant.

Ryder, who tendered his resignation earlier this month after 22 years in various capacities at the track, plans to move his residence to Florida as soon as the current meeting ends.

Trojans Lack Height And Need Experience

Clarencville High has gone last year and lost 10 of their 12 front line players. Coach

Ralph Weddle now finds himself with an all-senior club.

"We are going to have to do a lot of pressing and cut down on mistakes," said Weddle. "We have hardly any experience, no size and this has to be the smallest club I have coached in 14 years."

The two returning lettermen are 6-0 senior Paul Simons who averaged eight points a game and 5-10 senior Greg Saatchi.

The remaining three in the Trojan starting line-up will be 6-2 Brian Luka, 5-10 Dave Gwilt and 6-0 Jerry Bittikoto.

Weddle sees the Wayne-Oakland League with two top contenders in Milford and Kettering.

"Milford lost only one starter but will have Kettering on its back," added Weddle.

"Rebounding will be our biggest problem," said Weddle. "If we don't score when we get the ball, we will be in big trouble."

Clarencville finished at 6-4 last year in the Wayne-Oakland and scored an average of 72 points a game, giving up an average of 68.

The Trojans travel to Clawson Friday (Dec. 1) for their opener with Cody last night and open Wayne-Oakland competition on Dec. 8 with favored Milford.

DORSEY, who once served as assistant to the general manager of DRA, owns and operates the 200-acre Kay-Dee Farms in Howell where he breeds, raises and trains thoroughbred horses and purebred cattle.

Dorsey has served as president of the Michigan Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association and as vice president of the Michigan division of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

Ryder has been a member of the original staff on hand when E. Dale Shaffer opened the DRC in 1950. He was promoted from safety director to general manager in 1956 and in 1964 was elevated to vice president.

He has come up through the ranks, serving as assistant program director, paddock judge, publicity and public

relations chief and then general manager. For the past several years he has been vice president of public relations and publicity for the Detroit Racing Association in addition to his post with Wolverine Raceway.

During Wilson's three years as Wolverine general manager, the track has set all-time Michigan records in attendance and wagering. Last spring Wolverine became the first harness racing operation in the state to go over the million dollar mark for a single night. It had passed the \$900,000 hurdle a year earlier.

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Michigan Junior B Hockey

STANDINGS		AMERICAN DIVISION	
	W	L	T
St. Clair Shores	12	0	25
Eastland	7	4	11
Westland	6	7	11
Waterford	2	9	5

NATIONAL DIVISION		W		L		T	
From	4	4	11				
Forest Oak	5	6	11				
Westland	6	7	11				
Plymouth	0	3	1				

WEDNESDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
St. Clair Shores	at	Westland		Westland	at
		Plymouth	at	Westland	at

Farmington Basketball For Men

A men's basketball program is under way in Farmington. The Farmington Optimist Club is sponsoring the cage program which will be held at Eagle Elementary School on Sundays.

Anyone interested, team or individual, should contact Frederick Wenson on 25079 Chapelweigh in Farmington.

JUNIOR "B" HOCKEY Westland Jays vs

PORT HURON
Wed., Dec. 6th
8:00 p.m.
At the NEW SPORTLAND ARENA
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STUDENTS under 16 ... 60¢

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