

RU Comeback Topples Plymouth Cagers, 64-60

By FRED DeLANO

Redford Union needed a hero in a hurry and found one in Gary Fuks.

The lean senior forward's five points in the last 34 seconds gave the Panthers a 64-60 come-from-behind basketball victory over Plymouth Tuesday.

Tuesday's Plymouth pushed RU to a 3-1 Suburban Eight record and 8-1 overall.

If ever there was a turn-about, switch-in-momentum cage contest in Observerland prop circles, this was it.

Three minutes into the third period RU was in command, 50-28, as the cohesive attack and defense of the Panthers made it look like child's play in besting the error-prone

Rocks in every phase of the sport.

Twelve minutes later—with the clock starting to run out—Plymouth was on top, 60-52.

In that span, the suddenly hot and aggressive Rocks outscored the Panthers, 32-9, as Tim Van Wagoner, Ron Egloff, Jim Szilagyi and Steve Robb powered the hoop for a string of 13 field goals and six free throws.

EVEN THE home-court Redford crowd which had been so content moments before sensed that Sub-8 disaster was in the air, and then along came the game's top scorer, Fuks, and one of Observerland's best floor generals, Scott Bjerke.

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prepared to beat everyone it faces the rest of the season."

Thomann thus joins RU's Carl Andrews and Allen Park's Mike O'Hara in predicting invincibility from here on out. They overlook that each must yet meet the other again to complete home-and-home contracts. And lurking in the title wings is Livonia Bentley, which didn't join the chase with the favorites until meeting Plymouth last night on the Rock court.

THESE WERE the salient features of the Plymouth-RU battle.

Amazingly, not only did the Rocks go scoreless during their first seven possessions of

the ball, they didn't even get a shot off! It turned out to be RU on top 22-14 at the quarter, 42-28 at halftime and 52-44 after three periods—with Plymouth strong in the stretch.

RU is rated No. 1 in Observerland and Fuks kept the Panthers there by scoring 12 of their final 14 points.

The only other bucket caged by a Panther after the 50-28 turn-about was a beautifully executed dribbling baseline layup by Bob Eland which Andrews characterized later as "worth two pints of blood because it came when we needed it." What he referred to was the only interruption in Plymouth's progression to the 44-point mark.

With 34 seconds to go, Fuks canned the shot that put Redford ahead again, and his subsequent free throw and a last-instant breakthrough following a Plymouth miss were only window dressing.

Classic basketball it was.

not, but exciting it was. Fuks was high with 27 points, and Van Wagoner paced Plymouth with 16.

Rebounds went 43 to 27 for RU, but clubs hit 25 shots from the floor and RU made 14 from the line to Plymouth's 10.

Momentum was the keynote. As Andrews put it, "We had it, lost it, and Plymouth found it."

And where did Plymouth find it? Thomann answered, "Egloff was absolutely outstanding. He was our only guy enough to get it started, then the rest caught the fever. To RU's credit, they forced us into mistakes. But instead of laying down and losing by 30, our kids came back all the way. This league is going to be a horse-race, and we'll be right there at the wire."



Churchill Sneaks Past Southfield

Pat Montagnano and his Churchill cagers are starting to enjoy playing out of the Western Six Conference.

The enjoyment has been brought about by three consecutive non-league victories, the latest a 57-55 conquest of Southfield High in the first meeting ever between the two clubs.

The Churchill triumph was a far cry from the showing it gave Franklin four days earlier when the Chargers dominated just about everything. Nonetheless, Southfield lacked the spark to catch the now 6-2 Chargers.

The Blue Jays slipped to an 0-6 record.

The Chargers hit 23 of 53 from the floor for 42 percent while the Blue Jays finished 25 of 55 for 45 percent.

REBOUNDING proved to be the key again for Churchill, outbounding Southfield, 41-23. Don Braun hauled in 18 and Mark Reed eight.

Churchill now has four straight home clashes, two in Western Six play with Waterford Holt this Friday, Jan. 19, and Harrison on Jan. 26. Sandwiched in between is a non-league with Bentley and Wayne is scheduled for Jan. 30.

PLYMOUTH (60)

G	F	P
Szilagyi	3	8
Robb	6	13
Jacobs	0	0
Mosire	2	3
Van Wagoner	2	5
Egloff	6	13
Johann	1	2
Totals	25	10

REDFORD UNION (64)

G	F	P
Ponsiville	4	7
Petsch	3	7
Eland	1	2
Ryke	3	3
Fuks	11	27
Richmond	2	6
Sander	0	1
Totals	25	14

Score by quarters: 14 14 16-60
Plymouth: 22 21 9 12-64

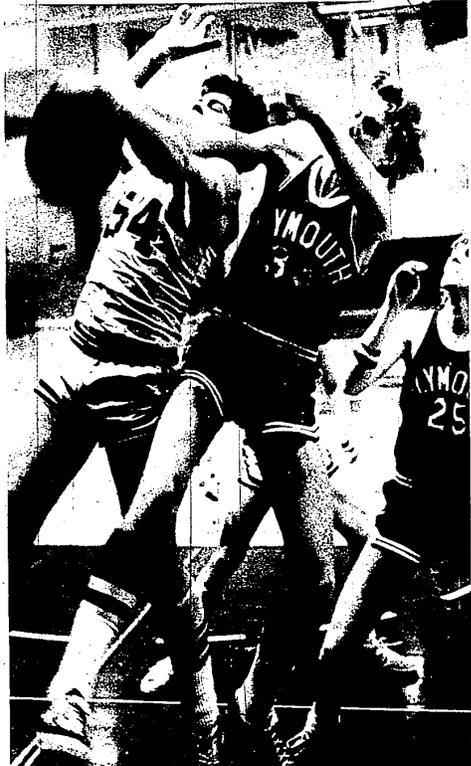
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BATTLE UNDER THE BOARDS - Redford Union's Jerry Petsch (54) clashes with Plymouth's Bruce Johnson (33) in a Suburban Eight showdown with the RU Panthers squeaking out a 64-60 victory. (Photo by Harry Mauthé)

SOUTHFIELD LED after one quarter, 14-13, and maintained at least a five point margin over the Chargers up to the end of the opening half when Churchill slipped to 29-28.

Churchill fought back in the early stages of the third period.

CHURCHILL (57)

FG	FT	TP
Blaiss	1	0-2
Skander	3	1-2
Damaska	3	1-2
Foster	3	1-3
Reed	2	0-4
Braun	2	2-7
Forest	2	0-1
Totals	23	0-21

SOUTHFIELD (55)

FG	FT	TP
Miller	1	0-2
Fassinder	4	0-8
Trowbridge	3	1-2
Lebelsky	4	2-3
Richards	4	1-2
Jamy	0	0-1
Herly	0	0-1
Totals	26	5-21

Churchill: 13 15 16-65
Southfield: 14 15 12-46-57

Cage Picks

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RU over Edsel Ford
Southfield over Groves
Lathrup over RO Kimball

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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Reaching the half-way mark in its 24-night winter campaign, first of the new year in Michigan, Jackson - Northville will present another of those sparkling all-pace programs Saturday night.

Racing Secretary Tom Smith scoured the barn area and received full cooperation from horsemen and the result is a 10-race card that features a \$4,000 preferred event and an unusual handicap claiming race for horses in the \$8,000 to \$10,000 range.

It isn't often that Smith has been able to get a full complement for such a claiming race midway through the winter. But he did it and it's another indication of the type of standardbred that are competing at the Jackson-Northville meeting this year.

With the Northville Downs winter season just two weeks away, horses are starting to check in from Windsor raceway, Chicago and the Atlantic Seaboard. That means Smith and his boss, Leon Slavin, president and general manager of Jackson Raceway, will be able to present better and faster fields during the final two weeks of the current session.

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THIS 'N THAT ... Monday will be live lottery ticket night at Northville. General Manager Slavin has a theory that it is better to change the night each week. But there are those who wonder why he picks Monday night when the Jackson - Northville action is the only game going in the area.

Windsor is dark on Mondays and certainly Northville doesn't need a gimmick to draw the crowd ... it has been one of the best nights of the week. However, who is to second guess an operation which is way ahead of attendance and wagering from a year ago.

From Hazel Park comes word that more than 300 thoroughbreds are stabled there, working out daily in the small indoor training track. Opening day is two months away but many trainers have decided it is better to train in Michigan than to move southward and then ship back in March.

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