

Front-Running Stevenson Nips Franklin, 3-2

Stevenson High tightened its grip on first place in the Suburban Hockey League by slipping past Franklin High, 3-2.

But it wasn't an easy victory for Gerry Goode's Spartans who stand 9-0-2 in the Suburban for 20 points. Churchill is next best at 8-3-1 and 17 points.

Franklin kept Stevenson bottled up in its own zone and came close to breaking things open in the closing minutes when a total of nine players was in the penalty box.

Paul Ferguson's Patriot

squad is starting to put the pieces back together after friction within the squad started to take its toll.

Franklin slipped into fifth at 5-7-1 and 11 points, behind Bentley and Southfield who have 12 points each in a tie for third.

The early going gave an indication that Stevenson power would again prevail, Franklin having fallen twice to the Spartans by scores of 4-1 and 9-0.

At the one minute mark in the first period, Don Finn

took a pass from Kurt Geiger and slapped it home past the sprawled Franklin netminder, Don Perrie.

It was Finn's 16th goal in 11 games.

That was it for the scoring in the period as Van Vermeesch and Perrie each chalked up seven saves.

Franklin's Mark Field and Stevenson's Don Finn added some late period excitement with twin minors late in the first.

Each team picked up only one penalty in the second

stanza, Franklin's proving to be the costly one.

With Tom Lubig off for tripping, Steve Hillman bested Perrie, Dale Marczak getting the assist putting Stevenson in command, 2-0.

At the 7:11 mark in the third, Stevenson appeared to have things under control as Paul Vermeesch picked the corner of the Franklin net with Bob McLive assisting.

Then at 10:07, Franklin proved to itself that it could score on Vermeesch.

Franklin had Larry Pennington and Mark Field off

for tripping and holding while Stevenson's Dale Marczak was called for holding.

Thus playing a man short, Franklin put the light on behind the Stevenson net. Dave Hochstadt beat Vermeesch, Ken Karpacz assisting.

Then the fireworks started.

The Stevenson's Brian Van Norman went off for charging and Franklin's Dan Longway for roughing at 11:04. At 12:10, Stevenson's Marczak was called for tripping and 24 seconds later, it

was close to going dropping time.

Stevenson's Don Finn and Franklin's John Vella went at it, were called for holding and cross checking and each was given a roughing call.

Then 18 seconds later, Stevenson's Hillman was called for tripping and Franklin was facing all sorts of power play opportunities.

But 13 seconds later, the white went off again and Franklin's Mark Field was called for slashing and Coach Ferguson saw his squad's chances dwindle away.

With three seconds remaining in the clash, Franklin's Tom Lubig snapped a shot by Vermeesch to narrow it to 3-2 but time had run out for the oncoming Patriot club.

SECOND PERIOD
Stevenson - Hillman (Marczak), 11:00
Penalties: Lubig (F), 9:38; McDonald (S), 13:48

THIRD PERIOD
Stevenson - P. Vermeesch (McLive), 7:11
Franklin - Hochstadt (Karpacz), 10:07
Franklin - Lubig (H. Vella), 14:57
Penalties: Juntila (F), 3:36; Field (F), 8:32; VanNorman (S), 8:32; Pennington (F), 8:32; VanNorman (S), 11:04; Longway (F), 11:04; Marczak (S), 12:10; D. Finn (S) double minor, 12:38; J. Vella (F) double minor, 12:38; Hillman (S), 12:54; Field (F), 13:07

STEVENSON - 1 1 1-3
FRANKLIN - 0 0 2-2

FIRST PERIOD
Stevenson - D. Finn (Geiger), 1:00
Penalties: B. Finn (S), 4:13; Field (F) 8:19; Gha (S), 8:24; Field (F), D. Finn (S), Field (F), D. Finn (S), double penalties, 13:29; Pennington (F), 14:39

Bentley Rally Falters, Churchill Triumphs, 6-3



Bentley's Wally Cornwall dives for the puck.



Suburban Hockey League

STANDINGS

W	L	T	GP	GA	
Stevenson	9	0	20	77	20
Churchill	8	3	17	54	39
Southfield	5	6	12	40	37
Bentley	5	5	12	72	48
Franklin	5	7	11	41	48
Lathrop	0	13	0	14	108

SCORES

Stevenson 14, Aquinas 0
Southfield 5, Lathrop 3
Churchill 6, Bentley 3
Stevenson 3, Franklin 2

WEDNESDAY
Churchill vs. Stevenson (Ford), 8 p.m.

THURSDAY
Stevenson at Lathrop, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY
Bentley vs. Franklin (Ford), 7 p.m.
Churchill vs. Southfield (Ford), 9 p.m.

MONDAY
Southfield vs. Bentley (Ford), 3:30 p.m.

OVERALL STANDINGS

W	L	T	GP	GA	
Stevenson	11	3	25	110	43
Churchill	9	6	20	73	57
Franklin	8	3	17	61	60
Bentley	6	8	14	93	67
Southfield	6	2	12	40	27
Lathrop	0	14	0	17	112

Bulldog power was late coming and when it did arrive it didn't stay long enough.

Bentley High bounced back from a 4-0 third period deficit to close to within one, only to fall to Churchill in a Suburban League hockey clash, 6-3.

The victory for Churchill all but assured it of a second place finish.

"We played four minutes of good solid hockey," said Bentley Coach Mike Dudley, realizing that hopes of a second place finish vanished with the loss to Churchill.

"We just can't seem to play any defense."

Churchill strengthened its hold on second place to stand 8-3-1 for 17 points behind Stevenson at 9-0-2 and 20 points.

Bentley slipped into a tie for third with Southfield. The Bulldogs stand 5-5-2 and Southfield 5-4-2.

Stevenson has only to win one of its last three games to lock up first place and it looks like Churchill will have to be content with second.

Churchill and Stevenson go at it tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. at Ford Arena in what should be a preview of the upcoming George Gee Tournament.

"The kids have accepted the fact of us finishing second in the league behind Stevenson," said Churchill Coach Adam Mitchell. "We are getting geared for the playoffs now and I think we are starting to peak."

"Tonight's game with Stevenson could tell the story," added Mitchell. "A big win tonight could carry us through the playoffs."

The George Gee Suburban High School Hockey Tournament being co-sponsored by the Observer Newspapers and Livonia Parks and Recreation begins action on March 12. The finals will be March 16 at Ford Arena.

Churchill didn't waste any time or effort jumping on the Bulldogs.

With only 30 seconds elapsed, Bob Rion slapped home a goal, Brian Vessley picking up the assist.

Each club picked up two penalties in the first and it ended with Churchill up, 1-0.

At 5:03 in the second, each team playing a man short, Kris Kostolansky beat Bentley goalie Mark Reid unassisted to make it 2-0.

At 8:37, Jim Gagnon made it 3-0 Churchill.

With Paul Jencka off for tripping, Steve Ursitt popped in another Churchill goal to make it 4-0 after two periods.

"I really raked them over the coals between that second and third period," said Bentley Coach Mike Dudley. "We just weren't playing the type of hockey we are capable of."

At 5:39 into the third, the Bulldogs finally got to Churchill netminder Mike Parks.

Dave Manogian scored for Bentley, Wally Cornwall chalking up the assist.

The Bulldogs then let two power play opportunities slip by before tallying No. 2.

Rion put the icing on the Charger cake less than a minute later for his second goal.

One stick was smashed across the boards and Bob McCann heaved his stick over the boards and the screen and was promptly handed a misconduct.

That's the way it ended for the Bulldogs.

Frustration.

The Bulldogs jump back into Suburban competition Friday against Franklin in the Ford Arena 7 p.m. contest with Churchill going against Southfield in the 9 p.m. game.



Churchill goalie Mike Parks misses the stick save.



Badminton Finals At Cranbrook

The 27th National Junior Badminton Championships will be held at the Cranbrook Schools, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, March 19-23.

The tourney is open to any resident of the United States 18 years or under as of last Oct. 1.

Events scheduled are boys and girls singles and doubles, and mixed doubles in three age brackets: 18 and under, 15 and under and 13 and under.

Entrants must register at the Kingswood School, 885 Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills on Monday, March 19, from 2-6 p.m.

Entry fee is \$5 per person.

Farmington's Paul Rogind is the defending national champion in the boys singles, 13 and under bracket.

Bob Wasilewski scored his 15th of the season to cut it to 42 and 40 seconds later, Greg Rakowicz scored for the Bulldogs to cut it to one.

Churchill's Rion was called for tripping and Doug Lloyd for slinging. Lloyd picked up a game misconduct on route to the penalty box and the Bulldogs had a two-man advantage.

Wasilewski hit the crossbar for Bentley, but the Bulldogs just couldn't get that equalizer.

Then at 12:55, playing two men short, Churchill tucked away a victory.

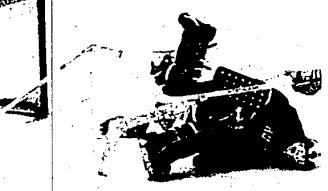
Kostolansky picked up a loose puck behind his own net, skated the length of the ice and beat Reid to give Churchill a 5-3 advantage.

Penalties: Monson (B), 1:50; Rion (C), 1:33; Merrill (C), 4:10; Rakowicz (B), 4:10; Rion (C), 5:24; Cornwall (B), 6:08; Ware (B), 8:42; Ursitt (C), 8:42; Jencka (B), 10:31; Melrose (B), 12:14; Birt (C), 14:03; Vessley (C), 14:31

THIRD PERIOD
Churchill - Manogian (Cornwall), 5:39
Bentley - Wasilewski (Monson), 9:28
Bentley - Rakowicz (McCann), 10:26
Churchill - Kostolansky, 12:55
Churchill - Rion, 13:46
Penalties: Rakowicz (B), 3:20; Bellore (C), 5:39; Rion (C), 6:28; Rion (C), 10:42; Lloyd (C), 10:52; Lloyd (C), game misconduct, 10:52; McCann (B), misconduct, 13:48; Roehri (B), 14:12



But the puck slides past the net with the stick scoring.



Area's Top Prep Hockey Scorers

SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

	G	A	TP
HILLMAN, Stevenson	16	16	32
WASILEWSKI, Bentley	15	17	32
D. FINN, Stevenson	16	11	27
RION, Churchill	10	12	22
MONSON, Bentley	13	8	21
MARLOWE, Bentley	9	9	18
VEASEY, Churchill	8	10	18
B. MEAD, Southfield	8	10	18
KOSTOLANSKY, Churchill	13	4	17
GEIGER, Stevenson	9	6	15
BOTH, Southfield	7	7	14
RAKOWICZ, Bentley	7	7	14
MCKERMAN, Bentley	9	4	13
FIELD, Franklin	7	6	13
WARD, Bentley	2	11	13
FARBER, Southfield	10	3	13

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