

GC West crushes Southgate, 77-43



No. 1 Churchill gunning for Mott and loop title

Label the first varsity basketball meeting ever between Livonia Churchill and Plymouth Canton...no contest.

The No. 1 club in Observersland, charged by a winless Canton squad, 30-52.

It was Churchill's fourth victory against no defeats in the Western Six and its ninth overall against a "Franklin setback. For Canton it was setback No. 10.

The no contest set the stage for the first of two Western Six loop titles.

It will be Churchill at Watford Mott Friday in the battle of the Western Six unbeaten to conclude the first round. The 4-0 clubs will meet again in the regular

season finales at Churchill, March 1.

"This one with Mott will be for half the marbles," said Churchill Coach Pat Montano.

"I look for a good tight game," added the Churchill coach whose Chargers won the Six last year but lost at Mott, 55-40.

"We will have to contain Mott's fast break and I would have to say they are a lot like Dearborn's team," said Montano. Churchill beat Dearborn earlier, 68-43.

Churchill's defense stands No. 1 in the 10 school area. The Chargers have held opponents to only 48.7 points in 10 games for a 48.7 points average.

The Charger offense ranks

third, topped only by the Northwest Suburban leaders, Franklin and John Glenn.

"This is the season's pivotal game for us," said Montano. "If we can win at Mott, they will have to come at us."

The tuneup against Canton started off in a 27-10 first quarter fashion with Churchill hitting 13 of 19 from the floor. Don Braun pumped in 11 points and Brian Kelly, eight.

The Chargers continued their assault, winning the second stanza, 15-9; the third period, 28-14; and the final, 22-19.

Braun's 21 rebounds along with his season high of 25 points sparked the Charger

attack which outscored the Chiefs, 56-19. Don Forest added 10 rebounds and sophomore Matt Foster had eight. Churchill wound up 43 of 82 from the floor for 52 per cent.

While the Chargers are pitted against Mott Friday, Canton will be out after its first win in a home clash with Northville.

Box score:

CHURCHILL (43)
Wagner, 2-3-4-8; Kelly, 5-0-0-12; Braun, 11-3-4-25; Lendell, 4-2-3-18; Forest, 2-0-3-4; Nelson, 1-0-0-2; Laine, 1-0-0-4; Nelson, 2-0-1-4; Foster, 4-3-3-10; Young, 3-0-0-4. TOTALS, 43-20-24-52.

PLYMOUTH CANTON
Last, 1-0-0-0; Nelson, 4-2-3-14; Steinberger, 4-2-3-10; Close, 2-3-3-8; Toom, 4-2-3-8; Pack, 0-2-2-2. TOTALS, 20-10-24-52.

CHURCHILL: 27 15 28 22-82
CANTON: 10 9 14 10-52

the Garden City West Tigers are hungry for a championship.

"If we can't beat Riverside this Friday, we don't deserve to win the title," was the comment by Coach Chris Babler after his Tigers roared past Southgate, 77-43.

"This one is it, and I really feel confident about taking a 5-0 mark into the second round."

Riverside and West went

into last Friday's action with identical 5-0 marks.

On and coming Cherry Hill, which West defeated early in the season, 76-68, knocked down Riverside, 67-77 with Bob Fowler punting in 42 points.

"We take this one Friday and we have two games on our schedule," added the West coach.

Riverside now trails West with a 5-1 mark followed by Cherry Hill at 4-2 and Melvindale with 3-3.

West's championship road could well be smoothed out as the Tigers play host to Cherry Hill a week following the Riverside clash.

Babler's Tigers have never finished below second place in his six years. West placed second in the 1967-68 season, then proceeded to reel off three consecutive titles and have finished second the last two years.

The West, mainstream is hoping for a continuation of

his skills over Riverside Friday.

"You know, I lost my first game as a coach against Riverside," said Babler. "But it has been 11 straight wins since."

Southgate slipped to a 2-4 loop mark in the 34 point defeat but Babler wasn't all smiles as he had to be concerned with his leading scorer Ken Kinsvater.

Kinsvater, at 5-6, picked up three fouls in the first six minutes against Southgate, sat out the second quarter and fouled out in the first two minutes of the third quarter, finishing with only five points.

In the last two weeks, Kinsvater's points per game average has dipped from 14.8 to 13.5.

"Ken has been in foul trouble in almost every game," said Babler. "Of our three losses, his absence really hurt us in two of them."

West sports an overall 9-3 record, having lost three non-leaguers to John Glenn.

the free throw line to take a 37-22 lead at the half. Chidester hit seven of eight from the line in that quarter and scored nine of his 11 points.

West won the third stanza 17-13, and poured it in the final eight minutes, 23-8.

Gooch's eight graceful paced West to an overall, 46-33, decision in rebounds.

"Good execution and the boards will tell the story Friday," concluded Babler. "Riverside is a lot like North Farmington in that it is a scrappy-hustling ball club but with better shooters."

"I told the kids, if we don't win Friday, we don't deserve the championship." Finished the Tiger mentor.

Box score:

GC WEST (77)
Tatto, 2-0-0-4; Chidester, 2-7-4-11; Kinsvater, 2-1-2-5; Paxon, 2-5-8-11; Shaley, 1-4-12-10; Collins, 5-0-0-12; Niles, 2-1-1-5; Davis, 1-2-3-4; Hinkle, 1-0-1-2; Gooch, 4-5-5-13. TOTALS, 77-23-37-77.

SOUTHGATE (43)
Frellish, 2-0-0-4; Jaskin, 5-2-4-12; Barnett, 4-0-0-2; Paxon, 1-0-0-2; Swickel, 2-1-2-5; Corbin, 0-3-3-5; Coghermo, 2-1-2-5; Paxon, 1-0-0-2; Bradley, 1-0-0-2. TOTALS, 43-20-24-52.

GC WEST: 27 15 28 22-82
SOUTHGATE: 10 9 14 10-52

Franklin cagers blitz crippled North, 63-37

The Franklin Patriots just keep rolling along.

After dropping their first two games by a total of seven points, Bob Visser's cagers have reeled off eight straight wins and outscored their opponents, 573 to 463.

Franklin's latest conquest in its Northwest title drive—against a team that has been without the services of its top player, team leader and No. 3 scorer in the area.

North's Jim Fredericks, who was sporting a 20.9 point per game average, injured

his knee two days prior to the Franklin clash.

Franklin blitzed North, which has now lost two of its last three games, 63-36.

"Sure North might have been without its best player but it didn't make much difference," commented Franklin Coach Visser.

"They might have been hurt some in leadership and all but our kids were ready to play, they were chopping at the bit. The only reason it was so close at the beginning was because we were too eager."

It was Franklin, 14-10, after one quarter and 28-19 at the half. The third quarter broke things open as North hit only one of 15 from the floor and Franklin outscored the Raiders, 18-4, to carry a 46-23 margin.

North finished only 14 of 55 from the floor for 25 per cent and Franklin, 28 of 55 for 51 per cent.

"Fredericks strained his knee in a practice session," said North Coach Ken Dean whose Raiders now stand 8-3 overall and 2-2 in the league.

"Thus we lost our captain, team leader, top rebounder and No. 1 scorer."

"I really have to wonder if our kids felt they had a

chance in this one," Dean added. "We have our work cut out now in getting back in the race."

Fredericks is expected to be back Friday as North hosts John Glenn in a key Northwest battle.

The Patriots also find themselves in a crucial clash at Oak Park Friday. Box score:

FRANKLIN (63)
Demary, 2-0-0-4; Neuman, 5-2-3-10; Krapp, 3-2-3-15; Blazula, 0-0-0-0; Karsila, 6-0-0-12; Balgrie, 0-0-0-1; Chidester, 2-0-0-8; Polard, 0-1-3-1; Gibson, 1-0-1-2. TOTALS, 63-28-17-43.

N. FARMINGTON (36)
Gaskin, 1-0-1-2; Creighton, 1-0-2-2; McQuerry, 3-0-3-10; Moore, 1-0-0-2; Dwyer, 3-3-4-9; Gernsey, 2-2-2-8; Benyon, 2-1-0-2. TOTALS, 36-20-27-58.

FRANKLIN: 14 10 18 17-63
N. FARMINGTON: 10 9 14 10-36



Kimball topples Southfield, 53-48

Royal Oak Kimball overcame a 14-9 first quarter deficit and went on to outscore Southfield, 22-10, in the final eight minutes to score a 53-48 Southeastern Michigan loop victory.

It was Southfield's eighth cage loss with victories over Redford Union and rival Southfield Lathrup the only sparkles in a disappointing season.

This setback had to be a tough one for Coach Don Kaup to swallow. His Blue Jays led the way until it really counted.

It was 14-9 Southfield after one quarter and 22-21 at the half. The Blue Jays stretched it to 38-31 heading into the final period.

Kimball never said die and with 50 seconds remaining, two free throws by Kevin Friesen pushed Kimball to a 49-48 lead.

Southfield lost the ball on a

steal and Kaup was called for a technical foul. Kevin Smith proceeded to make good three of three at the line and all of a sudden, Kimball was up, 53-48, with another charity toss finishing off the Blue Jays.

Southfield came up with three more field goals, 21 of 66 for 32 per cent, than Kimball at 18 of 32 for 56 per cent. But Kimball made use of the free throws, 17 of 21 while Southfield had only 11 chances and hit on six.

The Blue Jays beat Birmingham Seaholm tomorrow (Thursday). Box score:

R. O. KIMBALL (53)
Friesen, 2-2-2-5; Gernsey, 4-1-2-8; Smith, 7-7-4-21; Friesen, 3-7-9-12; Tamm, 5-0-0-2; Gervais, 1-0-0-2. TOTALS, 53-21-17-43.

SOUTHFIELD (48)
Townbridge, 5-2-4-8; Labadie, 5-0-0-10; Miller, 4-0-0-8; Friesen, 2-0-0-4; Richards, 6-0-1-12; Wynn, 1-0-0-2; Brown, 1-0-0-2; Jones, 0-0-0-4. TOTALS, 48-21-17-43.

KIMBALL: 14 14 14 14-53
SOUTHFIELD: 10 9 14 10-48

Western swimmers sport 3 from area

Western Michigan University's swim squad is three classes deep from Observersland.

Senior Ray Woods from Redford Union, junior Dan McLean of North Farmington and freshman Dave Foley from Livonia Franklin

High make up the Observersland squad on Coach Dave Diget's squad.

Woods, who transferred from Schoolcraft Community College, led the team last year in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle with efforts of :22.63 and :49.69.

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GLIDING THROUGH THE AIR for a rebound is Franklin High's Ken Fry (22) in a 63-36 win over North Farmington. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)