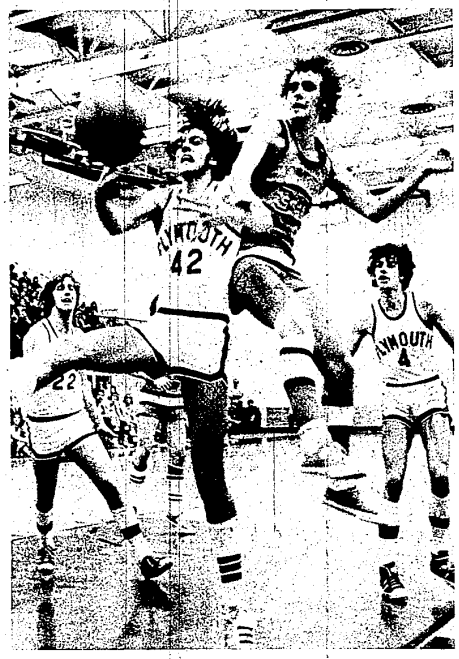
Plymouth Salem whips Dearborn for loop title



JIM ELLINGHAUSEN, 6-6 Plymouth Salem sophomore (42), outbutts Dearborn's Dan Huff (34) in a battle for a decisive rebound as the Rocks fought to a 51-46 victory that meant the Suburban Eight championship. Backing up Ellinghausen are Jeff Lamirand (22) and Dave Prueter (4). (Observer photo by Bob Woodring).

By FRED DeLANO

Plymouth Salem's 16th victory of the season, 12th in a row and 11th against only one league loss brought the Rocks an undisputed Suburban Eight championship Friday as they won a brutal, physical defensive battle from Dearborn, 51-46.

It was tight-to-the-vest, ball control basketball with both teams jamming the lane, seeking to hit the open man and disdaining any run and shoot tactics as Dearborn fought to stay alive as the Rocks' only remaining title foe.

However, Plymouth came back from a 14-11 first quarter deficit to lead 23-20 at the half and 36-32 after three periods before outscoring the foe in the final eight minutes 15-14 to leave Dearborn with a league record of 8-4, tied with Edsel Ford three games behind Plymouth with only two to go.

After a full loop card last night, the Sub 8 will finish up Friday with Trenton at Plymouth, Dearborn at Edsel Ford, RU at Belleville and Allen Park at Bentley.

From the opening whistle the game was a battle between the opposing big men, 6-9 Eric Agardy of Plymouth and 6-7 Jim Tracz of Dearborn. Tracz had the better of the early going, getting 15 of his 21 game-leading points in the first half as Agardy sat out the second quarter because of three personals.

However, when it began to matter in the sense that basketball fans recognize fourth quarter decisiveness it was Agardy who was there with the mostest, scoring 11 of his 13 points and grabbing eight of his 11 rebounds in the second half.

Capt. Bruce Johnson threw in three vital fourth quarter baskets for the Rocks to go into his 11-point total, and his defensive artistry was a key in keeping the score low-tone.

In an earlier contest at Dearborn, the Rocks had ridden the crest of a 27-point scoring spree by sophomore Jim Ellinghausen to a come-from-behind 59-50 victory but this time the Pioneers put such a blanket around Ellinghausen that he scored only eight.

However, in sagging into this 6-6 star they left Johnson, Rick Neu, Greg Lamirand and their mates open for the goodies, and that was the ball game.

Plymouth hit 40 per cent from the floor on 20 of 51 shots to Dearborn's 34 per cent on 18 goals in 48 tries. The Rocks also had a one-shot bulge from the foul line plus outrebounding the Pioneers, 28-27.

Plymouth Coach Fred Thomann chose to praise his team's defensive efforts the most, singling out the play of Johnson and a choice rebound by Agardy which kept Plymouth in possession when Dearborn appeared to be coming on with only seconds remaining.

For the 16-2 Rocks it was their first undisputed league crown since 1969, although they also tied with Livonia Bentley for the title a year later.

As head coach, Thomann, who took over Plymouth reins last year from Dick Bearup, stood 31-8 entering the final week of the regular season and with RU and Trenton on tap this week hopes to go into the 1974 tournament card reading 33-8 – by far the best record in Plymouth history. His 16 victories this season already establishes a school record.

***

Box score:
DEARBORN (46): Krause, 2—0-0—4; Wimmer, 1—0-1—2; Ashton, 4—3-4—11; Huff, 2—0-0—4; Vanderhub, 2—0-0—4; Tracz, 7—7-8—21. TOTALS: 18—10-14—46.
PLYMOUTH (51): Neu, 3—0-1—6; Moore, 2—1-3—5; Johnson, 5—1-3—11; Ellinghausen, 2—4-6—8; Agardy, 4—5-8—13; Prueter, 1—0-1—2; Lamirand, 3—0-0—6. TOTALS: 20—11-20—51.

Dearborn	14	9	13	14—46
Plymouth	11	12	13	15—51

Sports
Wednesday, February 27, 1974 Page ** 1C
OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS
Publishers of Farmington Enterprise & Observer, Garden City Observer, Livonia Observer, Plymouth Mail & Observer, Redford Observer, Southfield News & Observer, Westland Observer

Tourney pairings announced

The March "madness" season is with us again and from the way area high school quintets have been spotted in various sites for the first round of the annual state tournament, one wonders if the madness hadn't started some time ago.

Pairings for the first round of the district meets were made Monday in most areas and, would you believe it, four Livonia schools and two from Garden City are in the same meet at Livonia Stevenson.

For those who follow the prepsters closely, this means that of the trio of Churchill, Franklin and GC West, only one will advance to the regionals.

It means that three of the best teams from Observerland will oust each other. Fortunately, Plymouth Salem was placed in the Farmington Harrison tourney where it has an excellent chance of advancing.

Champion of the Suburban Eight, Salem feels it has the best chance in years of moving up in tournament play. It has the size, the type of players that make for a championship and could well go far.

The same kind of a story could be written about once-beaten Churchill, nearing its third straight Western Six crown, and Franklin, which needs a victory Friday over Oak Park to clinch the Northwest Suburban flag.

Franklin's Patriots get their first taste of tourney action Monday when they clash with Garden City East in the opening game at 7 p.m. at Stevenson.

On paper, Franklin should romp past East, which is far below the caliber that Coach Billy Joe Young has had for the past several years.

But in state tourney action, past performances mean nothing and more often than

Continued on Page 4C

Chargers on threshold of 3rd straight crown

Livonia Churchill accomplished what it set out to do in defeating Plymouth Canton to clinch at least a share of the Western Six cage championship, but not until the Chargers had been given the scare of their young lives in winning, 67-61.

The Chargers appeared to have victory safely tucked away when Coach Pat Montagano turned the game over to his bench with Churchill in front by 18 points, 51-33, after three periods. But nobody told the upstart Canton Chiefs.

Canton went on a 28-point fourth quarter rampage, Tom Close getting 15 of them, and Montagano began getting his aces back on the floor after the lead had shrunk to nine at 57-48.

With a minute and a half left, Churchill was up 65-54, but within the blink of an eye Close and Don Lloyd had combined for six more to cut it to 65-61.

The Chargers held Canton off in the final seconds but for the Chiefs of Casey Cavell, who were playing the last home game of their initial varsity season, the last-ditch rally was one of the most satisfying eight minutes of the campaign.

The close call left Churchill at 9-0 in the league and 17-1 for the season with the all-important home battle against Waterford Mott coming up Friday. Mott is 8-1 and 16-3 and Churchill needs to win this one for its third undisputed crown in a row, rather than settle for a Churchill-Mott at 9-1.

This would be the sweetest of the three for Montagano, however, for victory would mark this as first time his team ever has gone through a league schedule unbeaten. At Mott earlier in the season, the Chargers beat the Waterford contenders, 48-47.

Ken Landini, Rich Van Wagoner and Don Braun paced Churchill to 18-10 and 32-18 leads over Canton at the end of the first and second periods, and then Landini turned red hot in the third quarter and personally accounted for his team's next 15 points on seven buckets and a free throw.

He led as the game's high scorer with 26, Braun adding 19 – five on free throws in the last 90 seconds when they were vital to the Charger cause.

Canton had four in double figures, Close 15, Dave Edwards 11, and Brian Stemberger and Rich Thom 10 apiece. Canton, 0-9 in the league and 2-15 for the season, finishes at Northville Friday.

***

Box score:
CHURCHILL (67): Wagner, 2 — 1-2 — 5; Van Wagoner, 3 — 00-0 — 6; Leirstein, 1 — 0-0 —2; Landini, 12 —2-3 —26; Foster, 1 — 0-0 — 2; Forest, 2 — 1-2 — 5; Young, 1 — 0-0 — 2; Braun, 7 — 5-8 — 19. TOTALS: 28 — 9 - 15 — 67.

CANTON (61): Stemberger, 5 —0-4 —10; Mandle, 2 —1-4 —5; Dunagan, 1 —0-0 —2; Close, 4 —7-7 —15; Thom, 4 —2-2 —10; Lloyd, 3 —2-2 —8; Edwards, 4 —3-4 —11. TOTALS: 23 —15 -23 —61.

Churchill	18	14	19	10—67
Canton	10	8	15	28—61

KEN LANDINI (33) of Churchill, shooting from the right corner, missed on this shot but grabbed his own rebound and canned it against Plymouth Canton to help assure the Chargers of at least a tie for the Western Six title. Landini finished the game as high point man with 26, getting 15 in the third period. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring).

NOW ON SALE AT
LINDY BERRY'S
BERRY'S HOME SUPPLY & WAREHOUSE OUTLET
27419 JOY ROAD
AT INKSTER ROAD
WESTLAND
PHILCO-FORD
VALUE LAND '74
Philco Console Color TV with
AMERICA'S FIRST 2-YEAR PARTS AND LABOR GUARANTEE
The guarantee with no fine print, no gimmicks!
"For two years after delivery, we'll fix anything that's our fault."
Philco 25" diagonal Color TV with 100% Solid State Modular Chassis
It's sale priced now! Features Philco's 100% solid state chassis with 14 replaceable modules, "Hands-Off" automatic tuning, Super Black Matrix picture tube, Philco Picture Guard system and Instant Play for picture and sound. Come in! See it now!
Model C2516EWA
Contemporary. Finished to match Walnut.
PHILCO
Get Lindy's LOW LOW PRICE
SEE THESE OTHER BIG VALUES WHILE SELECTION IS BEST!
YOUR CHOICE
Mediterranean or Early American styling
Model C2572EPC
Mediterranean, with casters
Model C2571EMA
Early American, with casters
Get Lindy's LOW LOW PRICE
Both consoles feature a full 2-Year Parts and Labor Guarantee
Philco 25" diagonal Color TV
Beautifully styled console values! Both feature 100% solid state modular chassis, "Hands-Off" automatic tuning, Super Black Matrix picture tube, Philco Picture Guard system and Instant Play for picture and sound.
Philco 19" diagonal Portable Color TV with 100% Solid State Modular Chassis
Big set performer with "Hands-Off" automatic tuning and Super Black Matrix picture tube, plus
PHILCO-FORD 1-YEAR IN-HOME GUARANTEE
• 1-year parts exchange and service guarantee
• 2-year exchange guarantee on color picture tube
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR IN-HOME SERVICE
Get Lindy's LOW LOW PRICE
STAND INCLUDED
Model C1903EWA
Philco 19" diagonal Portable B/W TV
with solid state signal and sound systems, up to output tube. Matching rollabout stand included
Model B716BWA
Get Lindy's LOW LOW PRICE
Philco 9" diagonal Portable B/W TV with 100% Solid State Chassis
Smartly styled White cabinet swivels on base for easy viewing. Also available in Tangerine or Yellow.
Get Lindy's LOW LOW PRICE
Model B376EWH
BUDGET TERMS AVAILABLE
GOOD SELECTION TO CHOOSE FROM
LINDY BERRY'S HAS HIS OWN TV SERVICE DEPT. FOR SERVICE AFTER THE SALE!!!
BERRY'S
27419 JOY ROAD
At Inkster Rd.
Westland, Mich.
Phone
937-0700 or GA1-1717
STORE HOURS
Monday thru Saturday
9:30 to 9
Sunday 12 to 5
Home Supply & Warehouse Outlet