

Panthers knock off Bentley for 4th straight win

Redford Union continued its late-season basketball surge by whipping Livonia Bentley 66-51 in their eighth battle which left the two clubs tied in the league standings at 5-5 behind Plymouth Salem, Dearborn and Edsel Ford.

It was the fourth loop win in a row for Coach Carl Andrews. Panthers are now 10-11 overall after a dismal December record that saw five straight defeats before the team could get untracked. For the in and out Bulldogs of Bentley, the record now reads 9-9 for the full campaign.

Curt Monterey, a senior who has been coming on strong in recent games, helped RU make amends for an earlier 47-46 loss to Bentley as he tossed in 19 points to beat out Bentley's Randy Little with 17 for game scoring honors.

The Panthers broke on top 6-6 in the opening minutes of the first quarter and never trailed again. Their leads at the first, second and third quarter breaks were by the slim margins of 14-12, 27-26 and 41-38.

RU turned on the heat in the fourth quarter for a 25-13 margin and Friday night will be the regular season at Polsonville with Bentley playing host to Allen Park.

Control of the backboards was instrumental in RU's victory. The Panthers grabbed 56 to only 30 for the Bulldogs as Jerry Kochish led the way with 14.

Box score:

REDFORD UNION (10)		BENTLEY (9)	
1st	14	12	12
2nd	27	26	23
3rd	41	38	25
4th	25	13	13
TOTALS	106	87	84
REB.	56	30	30
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	14	13	24
Blocks	12	14	12
Assists	12	12	13
13-31			



Lathrup loses overtime battle

If there is a tougher way to lose a basketball game, Southfield Lathrup hasn't found it.

Pitted against Utica Eisenhower, Lathrup put up a great battle to hold its own in the first half that ended in a two point deficit. Then, with Joe Gardner finding the range, the Southfield team came back to knot at the count at 47 points at the final whistle.

Then came the heart-breaker.

Sighting victory as the extra session started, hopes were sunk when Joe Rice sank two free throws and settled the issue, 49 to 47.

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

LATHRUP (47)		EISENBERGER (49)	
1st	10	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
OVERTIME	12	14	12
4-9			
13-31			

Cville goes down again

In a game that was more interesting than the score would indicate, Clarenceville went down to a 62 to 37 defeat against the Bloomfield Hills' Bluejays.

Forced to trail, 17 to 7 at the end of the first quarter, the Middle Belt group fought on even terms in the second, only to be held to a single goal from the floor in eight shots in the third period. After that it was all Andover as the Bluejays won the 23 points in the final period.

Don Smith, the Andover sharpshooter, was the villain in the fray with nine goals from the floor and four from the charity line for 22 points.

Box Score:

ANDOVER (23)		CLARENCEVILLE (37)	
1st	10-0-2	10-0-2	10-0-2
2nd	12-0-2	12-0-2	12-0-2
3rd	12-0-2	12-0-2	12-0-2
4th	12-0-2	12-0-2	12-0-2
TOTALS	32-0-6	37-0-6	37-0-6
REB.	17	11	11
3-Pointers	7	12	4
Turnovers	17	11	11
Blocks	23	22	22
Assists	11	11	11
13-37			

State rankings

The latest Michigan High School gymnastic state rankings show six area athletes ranked with teams North Farmington and Farmington Harrison placing in the top 10.

North Farmington is ranked eighth with 75.14 points and Harrison a step behind at 74.28. Ann Arbor Pioneer is No. 1 with 107.35 points.

The lone Farmington High product to make the listings is Brian Ratliff with a 10th place on the still rings at 5.72.

From Harrison High is Kip Bottom in eighth place on the floor exercise with 6.98 points and Marshall Yee in ninth place on the still rings with a 5.78 average.

North Farmington's John Dickson is placed eighth in the high bar event with a 5.70 average. The top 10 area finishers in all-around competition with 24.10. Mike Sharp of North is eighth all-around at 20.90 and North's Tom Tomson has been placed sixth at 6.23.

DRIVING IN for two points is Blue Jay Robbie Richards (13) in Southfield's 66-58 loss to Hazel Park. (Photo by Enno Korthals)

Easy triumph

Plymouth Salem grapplers won nine matches in a 55-3 victory over Bentley. The Lions won the 135-pound class on a decision but lost all others.

The win gave Salem a record of 6-3-1 for the season.



GIVING WAY TO A CHARGING CHIEF is Farmington Harrison's Bob Mason (45) with Plymouth Canton's Ron Lack (32) putting up two of his 24 points in Canton's first varsity basketball win ever, 55-47. (Observer photo by Harry Mautha)

IRA LABENSKY (32), whose 16 points helped Southfield score its fourth straight victory in a 49-44 win over Royal Oak Kimball, may have been off balance when he took this shot, but when it fell through the hoop it didn't matter. (Enno Korthals photo)

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	12
TOTALS	49	44	44
REB.	12	12	12
3-Pointers	1	1	1
Turnovers	12	12	12
Blocks	12	12	12
Assists	12	12	12
13-44			

Even in defeat Joe Gardner played the hero role as he hit a three pointer with 1:14 left, but had to share honors with Bill Willis, who had 18 for Eisenhower, and Tony Copatia who had seven baskets and five successful free throws from the foul line.

Box Score:

SOUTHFIELD (49)		ROYAL OAK KIMBALL (44)	
1st	12	12	12
2nd	12	12	12
3rd	12	12	12
4th	12	12	1