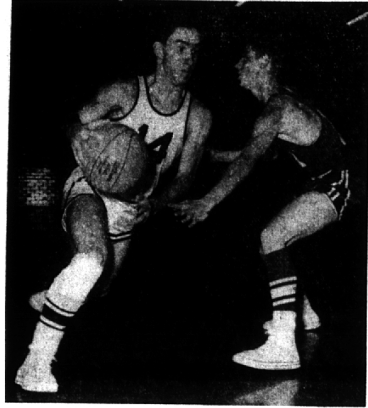


Area Prep Cagers Produce 'Cliff-Hangers' in Three Games



Tuesday's Hero

Nifty Seaholm guard Gene Schmidt drives around Groves guard Jim Kokones during Friday's contest between the intra-city rivals. Schmidt led the Maple scorers in that contest and also in Tuesday's thriller against Royal Oak Dondero. Schmidt's last-second set-shot won the game for the Maples, 58-56.



Who's Happy?

Falcon forward Larry Huffman is carried off the floor after Groves won over Seaholm Friday. After playing a starting halfback position for Groves football squad, "Huff" put away his shoulder pads and dusted off his

basketball trunks. Not only is he adept on the gridiron and the cage floor, Huffman also is noted as a "twister." He performed the teenage dance to the delight of the hundreds who attended the recent Men's Night.

Groves Surprises Seaholm In 45-40 Overtime Thriller

By JOE CADARIU
Sports Editor
It finally happened. Groves beat Seaholm in a varsity athletic contest. In September, 1959, a new high school opened its doors for south-side Birmingham area students. Since that time, and prior to Friday, no Groves team ever beat one from Seaholm. This fall the gridirers came closest, dropping a close decision, 15-13.

With its first senior class, the school and its students were intent on making their mark on the local sports scene. Word was getting around that Groves was a doormat.

That's bad. Friday night on Groves' own floor, Seaholm tasted defeat. And it wasn't too sweet. To be sure, it was a surprise. Russ Bitzer's only basket of the fourth-quarter came at a most opportune time. In the waning seconds of the game when Groves was down, 35-31 the Falcon senior drove toward the basket, faked and threw a sort of two-hand jump shot toward the basket. Only the swish of the nets could be heard, and not for long. The packed house roared its approval and the game went into overtime.

The Maples of Seaholm could muster only two baskets. One by Jack Barn. Schmidt, and the other by Gene Schmidt.

MEANWHILE, THE Falcons, dripping with confidence, sank three field goals and little Jim J. Kokones calmlyaced three free tosses. That was the game. History. A bit of playful psychology by Groves Coach Tom Carson set the stage for the game (see Chatterbox).

His players were relaxed and sure in their own skins. They scored only four points in the initial quarter, all by Bitzer, but their comeback was complete. They won just three points, all on free throws by Brandt Conley.

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CHATTERBOX

By JOE CADARIU

Schmidt's Last-Second Shot Stuns Foe; Maples Win, 58-56

In a complete reversal from Friday's dismal showing against the Maples, the Seaholm team, led by guard Gene Schmidt, won the game for the Maples, 58-56.

A jump ball was called after play was again started and the Maples got the tip. Coach Parry yelled for a time out and the clock was stopped with five seconds remaining.

WITH JACK HARVEY, John Slater, Shutt and Schmidt leading the force, the Maples kept the gap at four points with 2:51 to go in the game and the score at 52-49. Then Dondero went into a stall which didn't work. A free throw by Harvey and baskets by Shutt and Schmidt narrowed the difference to one point, 55-54 and a basket by Jack Bachler was disallowed because of a foul.

Goodman sank a free throw giving Dondero an added point and a 56-54 margin. Football fullback Harvey found a hole in Dondero's defense and with 11 seconds left, tying the score.

Seaholm was the underdog in the contest which was played in the confines of the Dondero "band-box" gymnasium, where players often stepped on the feet of the spectators. Dondero Friday beat its intra-city rival Kimball, which was supposed to have a powerhouse this year.

Seaholm was to have been the school's second victim. But the fighting Maples thought differently. They were up for the game, physically and mentally.

THE MAPLES were behind 16-11 after the first period of play, but fought back to within one point at the end of the first period. Schmidt drove in for an easy layup at the start of the third quarter and Seaholm jumped ahead for the first time in the game, 38-27.

Two quick baskets by Dondero's Tom Goodman, who came off the bench to tally 16 points in 20 minutes, again gave Royal Oak the lead. Goodman continually controlled both offensive and defensive

Tom Carson "handled" the basketball and Groves won its first game of the year.

Quirks: Carson is the coach. Groves beat Seaholm for the first time in any sport.

As a matter of fact, it really wasn't the jovial coach who "handled" the ball. It was Paul Spurlock, the school's day custodian.

That's quite a combination—coach and custodian. "I've waited eight months and 27 days for this day," said the very happy coach, Friday after his team eked a 45-40 victory over intra-city rival Seaholm.

Just better than nine months ago today the Maples of Seaholm rolled over, by and through Carson's cagers. It seemed as though the old-timers had no mercy on the fledglings. The difference was more than 30 points.

"I decided that night that I would beat them if it was the last thing I ever did," said Carson.

NO SMILEY AT WYLIE
A while back a new high school opened its doors on 13 Mile in Beverly Hills. It was named the Wylie E. Groves High School.

At first there were only 9th graders. The second year, there were 9th and 10th graders. Finally, this year, the school has its first senior class, thoroughly indoctrinated in the "Falcon" way of thinking.

But those first few years were something. Not one varsity victory over Seaholm, the big brother, the old Birmingham High—embodied in tradition.

During football season Coach Carl Pendrack's erudition almost became the icebreakers. They lost a close one, 15-13.

The Falcons went on to mark up a pretty decent record and also gave the county's top scorer, Art Schorer, with 20 touchdowns and eight extra points.

But let's look at the competition, said Seaholm critics. Groves played such "powerhouses" as Grosse Pointe University School, Cherry Hill and Dearborn-Haston. White Seaholm competed in the tough Eastern Michigan League. It's not fair.

Now the tide has turned. Groves has beaten Seaholm. Where will the comparative-score bugs find their meat now?

THAT'S QUITE A HANDLE
How did Groves finally beat Seaholm? The sports stories will tell of the last-second tying basket by the Falcons' Russ Bitzer and then the 9-4 Groves advantage in the overtime session.

Carson tells how he and the custodian, Art Spurlock, handled the ball. "I'm always telling my boys they need a handle on the ball. It's sort of a standing joke in basketball. Well, Spurlock and I got together and gimmicked a ball we couldn't use for playing. It wouldn't hold air.

"He taped two pall handles to the ball and gave it to me. I carried it in a grocery bag before the game. At Friday's student assembly I said we would have a surprise for the team that night.

"While the team was in its pre-game drills, I came up with the gimmicked ball and gave it to them. They got quite a charge out of it. And you know what, the laughter was just what they needed.

"They needed to relax, they were so tense and keyed-up for the game. "Everytime one of the boys would tense up I would point to the ball which was under the bench. It usually did the trick.

"They want to keep it as sort of a trophy. "And listen to this—I'm not superstitious but the ball was marked 'G.V. Groves, third year.' Get it? We lost to Lamphere and Clawson Seaholm was our third game."

YEH, HOW ABOUT THAT?
After another bit of meat for another controversy, Friday's contest was Groves' third, while Seaholm was playing its first.

You know, one can find an argument in almost anything. But when it comes to the dirty, old-fashioned "what counts" is what counts.

Birmingham never was, and may never be a basketball town. But you couldn't prove it by the standing room only crowd at the historic Friday contest.

(See CHATTERBOX, 7-E) Carson, Handle-Ball

President Wins Prize In BAC Bowl

Bettie Smith's 178 and Jim Moore's 199 were high individual games in last week's competition of the BAC Bowl. Betty's score was just what they needed. The Hawks, comprised of Jerry anton, Elag Echeverria, Jan Ithelan and Janet Dieffendorf rolled to high game, 643.

Struggle for Rebound

Groves' Fred Bailey (55) and Larry Huffman battle Seaholm cagers in an attempt to gain control of the ball during Friday's contest. The two Falcon cagers played an important role in the game as they pulled down a number of important rebounds. Groves picked-off 30 defensive and 15 offensive rebounds during its 45-40 upset over the Maples.

Last-Minute Basket Gives B'field Second Victory, 52-51

By RALPH HESLER
Sports Correspondent
"Five — four — three — two — one — zero. That's the game. Yes, that is the end of the game for normal basketball contests.

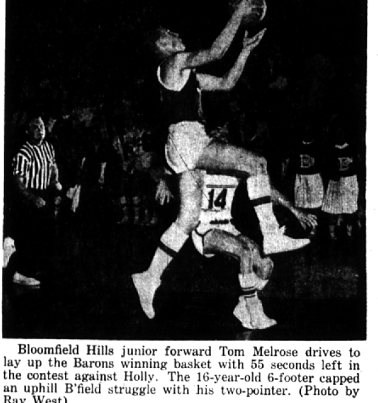
On top of Holly's nervousness, the Barons added a full court press which paid off with the winning basket.

Tom Melrose scored with 55 seconds left to play. There was no other scoring and the game ended. At least that is what most people thought. The referees said no. Holly took the ball out with one second left. They threw it away.

Derby Swim Card

Here is Derby's swimming schedule for this year.
Dec. 18—Derby vs Marshall Jr. High at Derby, 5 P.M.
Jan. 10—Derby vs Madison Jr. High at Derby, 4 P.M.
Jan. 17—Derby vs Plymouth Jr. High at Plymouth, 4:30 P.M.
Feb. 23—Derby vs Warren Jr. High at Warren, 4:15 P.M.
Feb. 24—Derby vs Groves Jr. High at Groves, 4 P.M.
Feb. 9—Derby vs Barnum Jr. High at Barnum, 4 P.M.
Feb. 13—Derby vs Kimball Jr. High at Kimball, 4 P.M.

Bloomfield Hills junior forward Tom Melrose drives to lay up the Barons winning basket with 55 seconds left in the contest against Holly. The 16-year-old 6-foot-6 forward capped an uphill B'field struggle with his two-pointer. (Photo by Ray West).



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