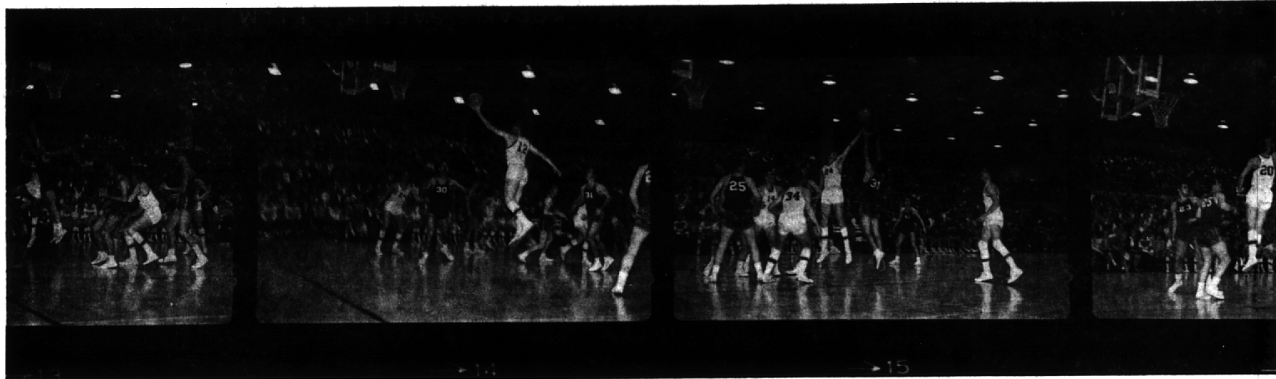


'Battle of the Bloomfields' Won by Aggressive Lakers



Hills Slips To 3rd in Title Race

By DAVE PHILPO
Sports Editor

West Bloomfield spoiled the evening for more than 1,500 Bloomfield Hills fans who came to see the Barons knock off the Lakers for the lead in the Wayne-Oakland League.

While the Barons weren't looking in the first two periods, West Bloomfield ran up a 38-22 lead and held on as the Hills five made a valiant come-back in the final half.

The final score was 58-49, in favor of West Bloomfield, but it could have gone either way at several stages in the rough-and-tumble contest.

HOW THE CAMERA SEES a basketball game might differ from our own impressions, since most cameras are unbiased. Eccentric Photographer Bill Thom, a fast man on the shutter release, gives us a panoramic view of the action in the game last Friday between Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield. The Lakers, displaying a potent offense and a stingy defense, outpointed the Barons, 58-49, and gained

sole possession of first place in the Wayne-Oakland League. The win also catapulted West Bloomfield (6-0) to fourth place in the Associated Press' Class B high school ratings. The Barons cut a 38-33 halftime deficit to 50-46 with a minute to play, but the Lakers applied the pressure and the Hills quintet was not able to keep pace. The loss dropped the Barons (5-1) to third place in the league standings.

Although it was a low-scoring game, both teams displayed a well-balanced attack. Dave Helmeich and Bill Eliason paced the winners with 13 points each and Jay DeBandt, with 13, and John Augusten, with 12, were high for the Barons. An estimated 1,500 persons, largest crowd in Bloomfield Hills history, watched the basketball game.

UNIMPRESSED by the Barons' billing as a stingy, defensive team, the Lakers jumped off to an immediate 6-1 lead. The margin stayed about the same until the end of the first quarter when it was 20-13.

Jay DeBandt came off the bench to spark a Barons rally late in the game, when the losers came within four points, 60-60, of a new ball game. Two consecutive intercepted passes converted into baskets, however, put the Lakers out of danger. The triumph was the sixth straight for the Lakers and left them alone in first place in the league standings. Bloomfield Hills (5-1) suffered its first loss of the season and dropped to third place.

BILL ELIASON and Dave Helmeich paced West Bloomfield's scoring with 13 points each. Bob Armistead had 10.

DeBandt paced the Barons with 13. John Augusten had 12 and Bill Calhoun, 10.

The Lakers scored several of their opening baskets on easy lay-ups. The Barons had a chance to knot up the score with free throws. (See HILLS, 2-E)

SETS NEW SCHOOL RECORD

Bitzers' 50 Paces Groves' Win

Amazing Russ Bitzer. That's what they're calling him at Groves High School.

The six-foot senior went on a scoring rampage against Oak Park Friday night and when he fouled out with 2 1/2 minutes to play, he had set a new school scoring record for the Falcons, racking up 50 points.

The previous high of 33 points in a single game was set by Mike Bearden during the 1960-61 season.

BITZER'S BUCKET hinge enabled his team to coast to a 74-65 victory over the visiting Parkers. He connected on 20 of 28 field goals and 10 of 11 free throws and wound up with a sizzling 72 per cent from the floor.

No one was happier about Bitzer's and the team's performance than coach Tom Carson.

"I'll have to admit that it was our best game of the season," he said. "The team only had seven errors for the whole game, which is very good."

GROVES TRAILED, 19-18, at the end of the first quarter, but went ahead in the second and led for the rest of the game.

Bitzer accounted for 14 of the Falcons' 18 points in the first period, 13 of 15 in the second, 10 of 22 in the third and 13 of 19 in the fourth.

He took up the slack from the loss of teammate Jim Kokones.

Groves' Lundy Named Prep League Officer

Northwest Suburban Activities Association is the name chosen for the new prep league of which Groves will become a part next fall.

Other teams in the new league are Livonia, Franklin, North Farmington, Thurston and Oak Park. Officers for 1963-64 are David Amerman, Fran Kiffin, president; Charles Lundy, Groves, vice president; and Harold Humble, North Farmington, secretary-treasurer. The league was formed due to the similar interests of the schools.

Bowlers Invited to Join March of Dimes Campaign

In a unique appeal, bowlers of Birmingham and Troy have been invited to actively join the March of Dimes campaign and "bow for the life of a child," Jan. 13-26.

The invitation is extended by Arthur J. Lake, 346 Tibbory, Birmingham, chairman for the 25th anniversary March of Dimes, and will apply to the 1963 singles bowling tournament.

THE EVENT will be conducted at Birmingham Bowling, 1600 Webster, and the Bloomfield Lanes, 1650 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. In Troy, the tournament will be held at Thunderbird Lanes, 400 W. Maple Road.

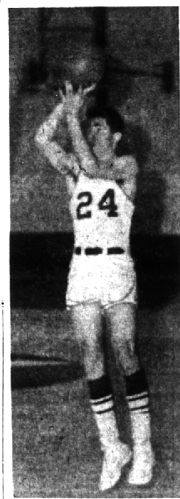
First prize in both the men's and women's divisions will be RCA color television sets. Second prize is a stereo console with AM and FM tuner. Third prize for the men is a car-top boat and for the women, a portable TV set.

who had not returned from Christmas vacation.

HILL STEPHENSON, back in the lineup after a bout with the chickenpox, carried the load under the boards as he came up with nine rebounds.

Al Ruby led the Oak Park contingent with 22 points. Mike Rapaport added 15 and Dennis Pink had 13.

The performance by Bitzer boosted his season average from 16 per game to a hefty 22. Last year he scored 233 points. The Falcons will travel to Ha-



GROVES' RUSS BITZER Produced 50 Points.

ton Friday night in an effort to improve on their 1-1 Tri-River League record.

Player	FG	FT	TP
Bitzer	20-28	10-11	50
Carroll	4-2-3	5-8	8
Whitney	3-2-3	4-4	4
Steenhoven	3-2-3	4-4	4
Russak	3-2-3	4-4	4
Bailey	3-2-3	4-4	4
Totals	31	12	74

Player	FG	FT	TP
Ruby	1-0-0	0-0	0
Pickens	1-0-0	0-0	0
Rapaport	2-1-1	1-1	13
Pink	2-1-1	1-1	13
Ferk	1-1-1	1-1	13
Totals	7	3	30

Score by quarters
GROVES 18 15 22 21
OAK PARK 19 10 12 22

Clipper on Ice

BARBER'S LOVE FOR KIDS, HOCKEY LEADS TO OFFICIALDOM

By DAVE PHILPO
Sports Editor

Barbers talk of many things. And most are well-versed on happenings in the world of sports—a topic which enjoys universal discussion in tonorial parlors.

Should you happen to wander into Birmingham's Adams Plaza Barbershop, 801 S. Adams, and sit in the corner chair, the conversation would inevitably turn to hockey and children.

For this is the space inhabited by Ralph Van Steenhoven, better known to his customers as "Scotty."

The barber, who came to America from Ireland in 1926, firmly believes that hockey is one of America's "best builders of men."

HE HAS LOVED the sport for more years than he cares to remember and he often reminisces about the "good old days" when he played industrial hockey while working for Briggs Mfg. Co.

Figuring that he's too old to play (he is 51), Scotty has turned his energies to teaching youngsters the fundamentals of the sport.

In 1954 he helped organize the Royal Oak Hockey Association, a

non-profit group, which last year alone enabled 300 area youngsters to participate in a hockey program.

FOUR NIGHTS a week, regardless of the weather, Scotty tosses his skates into the car and heads for an ice rink where he officiates amateur hockey contests.

Does his wife share his enthusiasm for the sport?

"Not quite."

"Some of the colder nights my wife thinks I'm very foolish to go out. But I explain to her that she is younger than I am and that in order for me to stay young I have to do this."

AS AN OFFICIAL, Scotty is subject to considerable razzing by partisan fans. However, he takes it all philosophically.

"When we're on top of a play we can see what's going on much better than someone that's 50 feet away," he declares.

Hockey officials normally receive the nominal fee of three dollars for calling a game, but it doesn't matter to Scotty whether he is paid or not.

For working with kids is a labor of love for him and seeing the happy, excited youngsters go about their play is reward enough for his efforts.



RALPH VAN STEENHOVEN ... on skates four nights a week.

Falcons Splash to Win Over Southfield Crew

Swimmers for Groves took seven first places in 11 events Friday and defeated Southfield in a dual meet, 61 to 43.

The Falcons started the meet off right by winning the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 15:4.4. On the team were Doug Hitch, Jim Sifferman, Charles Mitchell and Jim Krogerud.

Dave Mead, a junior, was a double winner as he took first in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events. His times were 24 seconds and 55.8.

GREG GEIGER and Ron Parsons

swept first and second places in the diving events. Geiger had 59 points.

Other winners included Kevin Tooma, in the 100-yard butterfly, 6:9.9; Hitch, in the 100-yard backstroke, 1:07.7; and Krogerud, in the individual medley, 2:26.7.

According to swim coach Jim Glister, most of the boys turned in their best times and were "real happy" about beating Southfield.

The Falcons, who boast a 3-1 record in dual meet competition, will travel to Warren on Wednesday to meet the Fitzgerald squad.

Faulty Passing Brings Defeat

Faulty passing led to a 65-55 loss by the Brother Rice basketball team last week at the hands of Divine Child.

One spectator summed up the game when he said: "The Warriors' passes weren't going where they were supposed to."

ENOUGH WENT into the hands of Divine Child players to enable the winners to leave with a 12-point lead. The ball game was all tied up, 28-28, at halftime.

Paul Jagels, with 21 points, led Rice's scoring efforts. Bill Moore had 11 and Dave Walters contributed 10.

Baseball Clinic Slated by Pony, Little Leagues

A joint Little League-Pony & Colt baseball clinic will be held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19 at Derby Junior High School.

Al Kaline, Detroit Tiger outfielder; Billy Pierce, pitcher for the San Francisco Giants; and Bill Freehan, catcher for the Tigers, are among the instructors who will give youngsters tips on batting, pitching, catching and fielding.

Steve Gromek, former Tiger pitcher, will be the moderator of the clinic.

LITTLE LEAGUE and Pony & Colt officials felt that the clinic would be more effective if held jointly. It will be open to boys, 8-16, who live within the Birmingham school district.

The clinic is free and the boys' fathers, managers and coaches are invited to attend.

Over 2,000 youngsters are expected to participate in the Little League and Pony & Colt programs this year.

Bloomfield Hills Girl Sets Swim Record

Sue Smith, 13, of 3060 Chickering Lane, Bloomfield Hills, holds the best time for a Michigan girl, ages 13 to 14, in the 100-yard backstroke.

Sue achieved this time, 1:13.6 seconds, swimming for the Pontiac Swim Club in the Patton Pool Christmas Meet, Dec. 28 and 29. She also took sixth place in the women's open 100 backstroke. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Smith, Jr.

Dog Training Class Begins Enrollment

The Sportman's Dog Training club will enroll dogs for a beginner's class today at 7:15 p.m. at the Ferndale VFW Hall.

Dogs must be at least six months old to be eligible. The class will last three months and during this time owners will be instructed on the methods used to teach their animals to heel, come when called, to sit, lie down, stand or stay. For further information, call Mrs. Carol Harrison at LI 5-4285.

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