

Seaholm, Brother Rice Hold Down Top Spots

4 Teams Jam EML Title Race

If anyone thinks picking a winner in the Irish Sweepstakes is hard, let him try his luck on the basketball race in the Eastern Michigan League.

At this moment, there are no less than four teams tied for first place. To make it even worse, only two other schools are a game off the pace. That leaves just two of the league's eight members out of the running with five games left on the schedule.

Seaholm, seemingly out of the battle two weeks ago, now finds itself in a torrid four-team murr for the wire with Kimball, Mt. Clemens and defending champ Ferndale.

THE QUESTION people have been asking for some time now is "How long can this last?"

Each week the EML seems to increase its number of contenders—from two to three, and now four.

Seaholm, by virtue of Kimball's defeat and the Maples' 68-49 pounding of Port Huron, moved into the tie on Friday. Mt. Clemens joined the elite Saturday when they also defeated Port Huron.

However, either Seaholm or Mt. Clemens will find the rarified air a very short experience since the two meet head-on at Seaholm tomorrow in an important game for Lew Ferry's Maples.

Seaholm had no trouble against Port Huron Friday. Parry used all 15 of his players as the Maples led all the way.

HAROLD WILBUR and Roy Jacobson shared scoring honors with 14 points apiece. Jeff Meyer added 12 and Bruce Nyberg chipped in with 11. Port Huron was led by Doug Mirera's 16.

The Maples built up a 20-9 first period lead and were never headed. Their margin at the half had increased to 38-20. They continued to outscore their opponents in the

third stanza, 15-11, and by the time Port Huron started to cut the gap in the final period, it was too late. Seaholm is now 6-3 in the EML.

Thurston Gets Fifth Win at Groves, 78-57

Groves hustled off to leads of 8-0 and 11-2 Friday against undefeated Thurston, but couldn't overcome a pressing defense and went down to defeat, 78-57.

The Falcons threw a scare into the Northwest Suburban League leaders by grabbing an early lead and dominating play throughout the first quarter to lead, 10-12.

But, a 27-point outburst by the visitors in the second stanza left Groves in its wake as Thurston went on to a 39-27 halftime advantage.

GROVES OUTSCORED Thurston in the third period, 16-15, and cut the lead to 10, but Thurston added 24 in the final quarter to cement the victory.

The defeat pushed Groves beneath the 500 mark in league play at 3-3. The Falcons are in third place, Thurston, on the other hand, is 5-0 and on top of the five-team league.

Jerry Samuelian sparked the winners with 22 points, while Paul Lawson added 19. Bob Vengoni 17 and John Page hit for 12.

Dennis Rafferty led Groves by pouring in 18 points on six field goals. (See THURSTON, 2-E)

B'ham Boy Captures Speed Skating Crown

Jimmy Johnson may be just a little fellow—only eight years old. But when he puts on a pair of skates, he gets mighty big. How big? Just ask any of the skaters



JIMMY JOHNSON
A whiz on skates.

in the state who tried to stay with Jimmy in a race.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Johnson, 203 S. Williamsbury, Birmingham, Jimmy only started skating in August of 1962. Seven

months later, he was champion of the toddlers' division in the Michigan Indoor Skating Championships on hockey skates.

BUT, THAT'S not the end of the success story. On Jan. 12 of this year, the little speed demon captured the Central Michigan Championships at Bay City, winning all three of his races; the 50, 100 and 220, for 15 points.

From there, he went to Petoskey last Saturday and won the Northern Michigan Championships, leaving his rivals behind in all four races of the Pony Boys division.

Jimmy won the 75-yard, 100, 220 and one-sixth of a mile. The eight-year-old whiz is now preparing for the Chemical City Meet in Midland Saturday and Sunday.

A member of the Wolverine Skating Club with his father, Jimmy keeps in shape by playing hockey for an east side Detroit team.

HE HAS AN 11-year-old brother, Jack Johnson, who's a pretty good skater in his own right. He placed fourth in last year's indoor meet. Jimmy also has a sister, Susan Johnson, 12. In fact, Jimmy Johnson even has a skating coach named Jim Johnson. But, this is where it gets too confusing.

Anyways, remember the name. You'll be hearing a lot of it in speed-skating circles for a while.



TWO CRANBROOK players wheel and start down ice as opposing Detroit Cathedral skaters (light jerseys) converge on them. Cranbrook scored once in the last period, but

lost the International League game, 2-1. The Cranes, now 4-7, must defeat Notre Dame Monday to escape the cellar. Notre Dame upended the Cranes earlier in the season, 4-2.

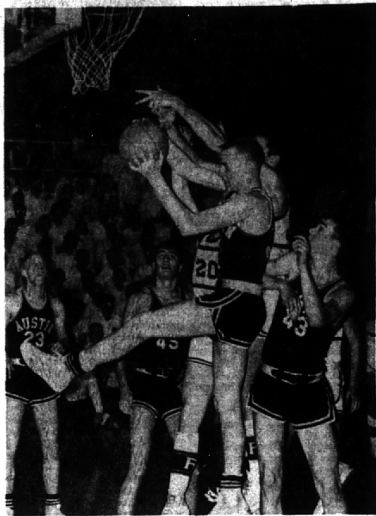


Photo by Joel Smith

AN AUSTIN PLAYER pulls down a rebound against Brother Rice in the Friday meeting of the two schools. Rice won the game in the last second, 66-64, but aggressive play like this almost gave Austin the victory. They outscored the Warriors and led for most of the contest. Rice, in first place, faces second-place U. of D. High tomorrow.

B'field Keeps Pace With Clarkston '5'

Bloomfield kept pace with Clarkston and remained ahead of West Bloomfield Friday with a 65-48 decision over winless Brighton.

The Hills took advantage of a 25-point first quarter to lead throughout the contest enroute to their seventh win of the year as against two defeats in league play. The defeat was the ninth of the season for the Bulldogs, who are mired in last place in the Wayne-Oakland League.

THE BARONS outplayed the

visitors for the entire game and were led by Dan Maute and Joe Menger, who accounted for 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Bloomfield Hills coach Hal Henderson noted 11 of his players joined in on the scoring, with Maute and Menger the only two to hit double figures.

Brighton was led by Cliff Ritter, who netted 17 points, while Skip Heller totaled nine. The Bulldogs trailed at halftime, 37-23, and although outscoring Bloomfield 15-13 in the final period, 22-11. (See BLOOMFIELD, 2-E)

FACE EACH OTHER FRIDAY

Maples, Falcons Rip Foes

Seaholm and Groves easily disposed of rivals Friday in preparation for tomorrow's intra-city swimming battle.

Groves possessed its fifth win in seven outings, dumping Ferndale's tankers, 60-41, in a non-league swim meet.

The dual meet victory was a sign that the Falcons were seriously getting ready for the Northwest Suburban League Swim meet, another crack at Thurston, who posed out Groves in a dual meet a week ago, 53-52.

Kevin Toome set pool and school records with a 3:57.8 time in the 100-yard butterfly. Toome, definitely the star of the meet, also captured the 300-freestyle.

THE FALCON medley relay took their event in 1:51.1, a little over two seconds slower than their best clocking. Ferndale's freestyle relay squad won with a time of 1:41.5.

Ferndale swept the diving competition, won the backstroke

and came in first in the 100-breast-stroke.

But, Groves piled up a few second-place finishes and then took the 200-freestyle, 200-individual medley, 100-freestyle and 400-free-style to easily defeat the Eagles.

Seaholm, meanwhile, warmed up the Falcons with a solid dunking of Mt. Clemens. The Maples handed their EML opponent an 80-21 thrashing.

The only first Mt. Clemens could manage was in the individual medley and that was only after they had the pool to themselves when entrants were disqualified.

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Last-Second Basket Gives Warriors Edge

By DICK ZEMMIN
Sports Editor

As they say in sports, every second counts, and Brother Rice had to make every second count against Austin Friday night before eking out its ninth win of the year.

The Priests gave Brother Rice their biggest scare of the season and, what looked like a defeat, until two baskets in 15 seconds brought the Warriors a 66-64 victory.

Austin led throughout the contest, though not by much, and had a two point edge with 15 seconds left in the game when Bob Vaughn hit for the tying shot.

West B'field Rolls Over N'ville, 57-42

West Bloomfield ran its victory string to five and kept alive its title chances by rolling past Northville 57-42, Friday.

The Lakers, now 6-3 on the Wayne-Oakland listings, remained hot in pursuit of first-place Clarkston (8-1) and second place Bloomfield Hills (7-2).

The battle for second spot comes to a head tomorrow when the Lakers play host to Bloomfield, who earlier handed West Bloomfield a 45-36 defeat.

BUT, WEST Bloomfield has changed considerably since then. The Lakers haven't tasted defeat in five games and they aren't the also-rans they were at the time of the first meeting. They want a share of the title they held with the Barons last year.

After trailing at the end of the half, 24-19, the Lakers forged ahead in the third quarter on 15 points by Dan Greig. He finished with 28.

Northville never could catch up again as West Bloomfield outscored them in the final period, 22-11.

AUSTIN LOST the ball coming up court and Rice, in a story-book finish, delighted the home-court crowd with a thrilling victory.

The Warriors called time with four seconds to go. Coach Ken Yastic set up his play and Paught passed the ball in to Dave Walter who passed ahead to guard Paul Jagels.

Jagels, one of the steadiest performers in these parts, went into the air and hit on a jumper from the corner as the buzzer sounded. Jagels finished the game with 23 points. John Parker had 19 for Austin and teammate Larry Victor canned 15.

Austin led at the half, 28-25, and at the end of three quarters, 48-40. The win for Rice brought their Catholic League record to 9-1. They remained one game up on Notre Dame and U. of D., both 8-2.

BUT, THE narrow victory, coupled with a poor showing against also-ran De La Salle a week earlier, has aroused interest as to whether Rice will whither in the stretch.

The Warriors' remaining two games are away. Tomorrow Rice faces U. of D. and then must play Notre Dame. They need one victory for a share of the title.

No doubt about it, the final two games will be the toughest. Rice best both contenders on their home court, but a club away from home can be entirely different when they're host.

Couch Yastic said "we were lucky" after the Austin contest. But he obviously wasn't satisfied. The Warriors were outscored, a sight that hasn't been seen very often this year.

RICE WILL need two top-notch performances against its next two opponents to keep the first-place role they have played so long.

Saturday's meet will pit individual performers against one another, while the Invitational Meet will be for team titles as well.



THE CLOCK SHOWED one second as Paul Jagels winning jump shot dropped through the hoop Friday, but the faces of the players of both schools showed a lot more of the excitement and tension that filled the hectic final 13 seconds that brought Rice its ninth victory, 66-64. Rice's Dave Walters (24) and Dick Kreuz (20) watch the final basket with two Austin players.

Hills Favored in Ski Meet

An army of young skiers will converge on Mt. Holly Saturday, and, weather permitting, will take part in the Michigan Open Ski Meet.

The following week end, 18 high schools will send competitors for the Interscholastic Invitational Skiing Meet, also at Mt. Holly. Both meets had been moved back due to poor snow conditions.

Saturday's meet will pit individual performers against one another, while the Invitational Meet will be for team titles as well.

Bloomfield Hills shapes up as the team to beat in the Invitational meet. The Barons are defending boys' champs and Geoff Smith, their number one man, returns to defend his individual title. He will be teamed with Dick Wood, whom he edged by just five seconds last year.

Berkley will defend the girls' championship. Southfield and West Bloomfield will also compete. Saturday's Open Meet begins at 9 a.m. The Invitational Meet starts at 11 a.m.



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