



PUTTING IN two points for Haslett is Gary Magley (34), while Bob DeLind (43) of Okemos is Bill Hoskin of Okemos. Bob Hansen (40) and Dave Cecil (14) of Haslett look on. Meridian News Photo

## Chieftains Take Old Rival 58-42

Okemos turned on its former Ingham County league rival Haslett, Friday night and posted a 58-42 victory. The win over one of the Ingham County league's stronger teams added to the pre season raves Okemos was receiving.

Friday night Okemos will find out whether those pre-season raves were warranted. The Chiefs will entertain the always rough Rocks from Resurrection.

Both teams are rated as the best possibilities to stop the Mason express.

Okemos has height and it has experience. Bob DeLind at 6-3, Bob Breckenfeld at 6-0, Bill Wess at 6-0, Guy Turner at 6-3, Steve Sawyer at 6-1, Stan Sawyer at 6-1, Bob Boykin at 5-11 and Ver Stehman at 5-9 are all lettermen with 3 years of experience behind them.

The height paid off against Haslett. The Chiefs dominate the backboards and playing the usual Coach Bob Baker style of defensive ball, kept the Lakers from opening up.

Okemos was in the lead all the way and outscored the Lakers in every quarter.

DeLind topped the Okemos scorers with 16 points. Breckenfeld scored 11 and Wess contributed 10.

Jim Bartow and Gary Magley topped the Lakers. Each contributed 10 points.

## Chiefs Top Haslett '5' In Opener

HASLETT, Dec. 2—Maybe it's just as well that Okemos high won't be able to defend its share of the Ingham County league basketball title this season. The Chiefs, now playing in the Capital Circuit, steamed past Haslett, 58-42, here Friday night.

Ahead all the way, Okemos made good use of better rebounding strength to outscore the Vikings in every quarter. Bob DeLind, the Chiefs' top scorer with 16 points, also was a leader in controlling the backboards. The Okemos defense also deserved much credit for holding Haslett at long range.

Jim Bartow and Gary Magley shared point-making honors for Haslett, each notching 10 tallies. Bob Breckenfeld had 11 and Bill Wess 10 for Okemos to go with DeLind's 16.

A 41-38 overtime decision went to Haslett's reserves.

## Okemos Defeats Dansville, 64-59

(Special to The State Journal)

DANSVILLE, Dec. 6 — Never completely out of contention, yet not quite close enough to create a real scare, Dansville of the Ingham County league surrendered to the Capital Circuit's Okemos quintet, 64-59, here Tuesday night.

Stan Powell, deadly from short range, netted 26 points for the Chiefs. Bob Breckenfeld helped with 14. A 15-7 margin in the second period gave Okemos the impetus toward victory.

Dansville showed good scoring punch with Gary Johnson bagging 18 markers, Carl Baker 17, and Bud Dockter 15.

Dansville gained a split by winning the reserve game, 59-48.

## Chieftains Edge Dansville 64-59

Dansville gave Okemos a run for its money Tuesday night but finally knuckled under 64-59. Damage to Dansville's chances came in the second quarter when the Aggies fell behind by 10. They just couldn't regain enough to overtake the Chiefs.

The Chieftains tossed up their usual pressing man for man defense to slow the Aggies in the first half. The defense coupled with phenomenal shooting on the part of Okemos put Dansville in the hole at the start.

On the first 7 Okemos shots the Capital Circuit visitor piled up 6 goals for 12 points. Stan Powell continued with the hot shooting after his teammates quit. He hit on 11 out of 15 shots and finished with 26 points.

Bob Breckenfeld was runnerup in the Okemos scoring race with 14 points.

Gary Johnson topped the Dansville shooters with 18 points. Carl Baker added 17 and Bud Dockter came through with 15.

## Late Rally Pays Off

# Shamrocks Top Chiefs In Overtime, 46 to 44

(Special to The State Journal)

OKEMOS, Dec. 9—Injury from falling rock isn't uncommon in mountainous areas, but damage from a rising 'Rock can be more severe, even in a location as level as Okemos.

The Resurrection 'Rocks (2-0) caused the trouble here Friday night, overcoming a five-point deficit in the last two minutes to rumble past the Chiefs (2-1) in overtime, 46-44. It was the first

Capital Circuit game for both teams.

John Keenoy's three-point play at the start of the extra session gave Resurrection the upper hand. Mike O'Brien added two necessary free throws later, but the Chiefs' three points fell short of forcing a second extra session.

After leading most of the game, Okemos had to come from behind in the last minute to even send the game into overtime. Jerry

Tripp put the Shamrocks ahead, 43-40, with less than a minute remaining, but three straight Okemos free throws leveled the score.

Keenoy led both teams in scoring with 12 points. Vern Stehman gave Okemos its only double-figure production with 11.

Resurrection made it a double-header victory of thrillers by winning the reserve game, 38-37.

RESURRECTION			OKEMOS		
fg	ft	tp	fg	ft	tp
Keenoy .5	2-6	12	Powell .4	1-2	9
O'Brien .1	6-6	8	Br'ken'd 1	1-2	3
Tripp .2	3-3	7	DeLind .3	3-4	9
Sharkey .1	2-4	4	Boykin .3	2-4	8
Fillion .2	2-5	6	Stehman .4	3-6	11
Kish .3	0-0	6	Wess .2	0-0	4
Kutas .0	3-6	3			

Totals	.14	18-30	46	Totals	.17	10-18	44
Resurrection	.4	7	12	10	12	5	46
Okemos	.3	9	15	3	14	3	44

Personal fouls: Resurrection 15, Okemos 22.

# Chiefs Run Past Holt Five, 59-57

(Special to The State Journal)  
 OKEMOS, Dec. 16 — Okemos

(3-1) asserted its power in the third quarter here Friday night to gallop past Holt (2-2), 59-37, for its first Capital Circuit victory.

Employing a full-court press off and on during the second half helped the Chiefs quickly widen the halftime lead of 25-19.

None of the Rams scored well enough to pose a problem for the taller and quicker Okemos quintet.

Stan Powell, scoring frequently on his favorite short jump shot, jammed in 17 points to lead the Chiefs. None of the Rams could get past the seven mark.

Okemos carried off a 48-41 reserve victory.

HOLT			OKEMOS				
	fg	ft	tp		fg	ft	tp
Hoislington	1	5-7	7	Powell	7	3-5	17
Linebaugh	2	2-2	6	Breckenfeld	3	2-2	8
Shaw	1	2-3	4	DeLind	1	0-0	2
Howell	1	1-2	5	Boykin	2	0-1	4
Brayton	0	0-1	0	Stehman	1	0-0	2
Kemmerer	2	0-1	4	Topkins	0	0-2	0
Landfair	1	0-0	2	Wess	3	2-4	8
Watts	1	0-2	2	Hoskin	0	2-2	2
Hoke	2	1-2	5	Gardner	2	0-1	4
Barnhart	0	2-3	2	Sawyer	1	0-0	2
				Turner	0	0-1	0
				Ambrose	0	4-4	4
				Shick	2	0-0	4
				Belknap	1	0-1	2
Totals	12	13-22	37	Totals	23	13-23	50
Holt	6	13	6	12-37			
Okemos	9	16	17	17-59			
Personal fouls: Holt 19. Okemos 18.							

# Chiefs Win Over Blues

## Okemos Holds Off St. Mary Rally to Post 52-41 Decision

Coach Bob Baker's Okemos Chiefs withstood a third-period rally by St. Mary to post a 52-41 Capital Circuit basketball victory at Sexton's gym Thursday night.

Both teams entered the game with 1-1 league records.

Okemos started as if it would all but run the Blues out of gym, building a 12-4 advantage midway in the first period. Coach Bill Blackburn's St. Mary crew then

## Tonight's Prep Games

GREATER LANSING  
 Ann Arbor at Sexton  
 Eastern at Jackson  
 Resurrection at Holt  
 Coldwater at East Lansing  
 Everett at Owosso  
 Pewamo-Westphalia at Boys Training School  
 CAPITAL CIRCUIT  
 Howell at Mason

started to pick away at the lead.

By halftime the Blues were trailing by five points, 28-23, and opened the second half with a flurry to pull within a single point, 30-29.

But the Chiefs then made four straight shots and moved back to comfortable 43-37 lead and to wipe out any further doubts about the outcome the Okemos crew ran the score to 52-39 on five straight free throws and two baskets.

Bob Breckenfeld, who had eight points in Okemos' early rush, topped all scorers with 18 points. Okemos center Bob DeLind had 15. Larry Davenport was high for the Blues with 12.

St. Mary won the reserve game, 43-40.

ST. MARY			OKEMOS				
	fg	ft	tp		fg	ft	tp
Kuth	2	2-7	6	Breckenfeld	9	0-0	18
Parker	2	1-2	5	Powell	1	0-0	2
Davenport	5	2-3	12	DeLind	6	3-4	15
Cook	2	2-3	6	Boykin	1	3-3	5
Bozzo	3	0-0	6	Stehman	3	0-3	6
Early	1	0-0	2	Wess	2	2-2	6
Dalton	2	0-1	4				
Morgan	0	0-0	0				
Totals	17	7-16	41	Totals	22	8-12	52
Period score:							
St. Mary	9	12	8	10-41			
Okemos	17	11	6	18-52			
Personal fouls: St. Mary 9. Okemos 12.							

CAPITAL CIRCUIT			
	W	L	Pct.
Mason	4	0	1.000
Resurrection	3	1	.750
Okemos	3	1	.750
St. Mary	1	3	.250
Holt	1	3	.250
Howell	0	4	.000

Okemos Beats Howell

## Chiefs Eye Showdown At Mason

(Special to The State Journal)

OKEMOS, Jan. 13—Not really sharp, but rolling fast enough to stay safely ahead, Okemos (5-1) hopped past Howell (1-6), 43-34, here Friday night, to hurdle the last obstacle before a showdown at Mason next Friday.

Reserves had the responsibility of maintaining a 22-point lead the regulars had built up by the third period, but Howell cut that margin considerably before the game ended.

Bob Boykin collected 13 points and Bob Breckenfeld 10 in their half-game appearances. Ken Hefner's 11-point effort was high for the Highlanders.

Okemos carved out a 53-42 reserve victory.

HOWELL			OKEMOS				
lg	ft	tp	lg	ft	tp		
Hancock	1	0-1	2	Powell	4	0-0	8
Carlson	2	5-9	9	B. B'k'l'd	5	0-3	10
K. Hefner	5	1-7	11	DeLind	2	0-2	4
Simmons	2	0-2	4	B. Boykin	5	3-4	13
Arnold	0	0-2	0	Stehman	0	0-0	0
Hoover	0	4-4	4	Wess	2	1-4	5
Dalley	1	0-1	2	Hopkins	1	0-1	2
Reid	0	0-1	0	Gardner	0	0-2	0
Roberts	0	2-2	2	L. B'k'l'd	0	0-1	0
				Turner	0	1-2	1

Totals	11	12-29	54	Totals	19	5-19	43
Howell	4	10	6	14	34		
Okemos	12	11	15	5	43		

Personal fouls: Howell 19, Okemos 24.

## Okemos Takes Easy Win In Warmup for Bulldogs

Okemos set the stage for a showdown battle with Mason Friday night by stopping Howell 13-34. The Chiefs are tied with Resurrection for second with a .750 record.

**The only difference is that Okemos has yet to meet Mason. If Coach Bob Baker can jockey his cagers past the Mason powerhouse he can move into the driver's seat by going the rest of the way undefeated.**

Friday night's contest will pit the fast breaking racehorse brand of Mason basketball against the defensive-minded ball control tactics which have marked Baker-coached teams of the past 3 years.

Mason has tossed terror into opponents with a full court press. When the Chiefs go to Mason Friday night the Bulldogs are quite apt to bump into a press Okemos style.

Howell has a home date with Resurrection Friday night. The Rocks need to win to keep pace with Mason and Okemos.

Against Howell Baker used his starters through the first 3 periods with the best action coming in the first and third periods. At the end of the first quarter the Chiefs had a 12-4

advantage. In the second period Howell found the range but still couldn't offset the Okemos shooting. In the third period Okemos came up with 15 points to 6 for Howell to give the reserves a 22-point cushion to play within the last period.

Bobby Boykin paced the Okemos attack with 13 points in his half-game effort. Bob Breckenfeld added 10. For Howell Ken Hefner was the only man to hit double figures. He dropped in 11 points.



# Mason Marches On

## Victory String at Eight

By WIN CHEAL  
(Journal Sports Writer)

MASON, Jan. 20 — When, or if, defeat catches up with the team, it won't catch the Bulldogs unawares.

Recognizing that Okemos (5-2) almost certainly would give them their severest test of the season Friday night, the Bulldogs went out and sank 10 of 14 shots in the first quarter, rallied later when Okemos came fighting back, and finally ran away with a 76-57 victory.

Larry Wright plunged four straight shots through the hoop. Tom Coss banged four out of five, and Dave Arnold hit two of four in that fierce first-quarter charge.

Though Mason couldn't be expected to keep up that 71 percent pace, the Bulldogs made 24 of 50 shots in the last three quarters, finishing with 53 percent for the game.

To the Chiefs' credit, they didn't collapse in the face of that withering fire. They stayed very much in contention through the first two quarters, mainly because of Bob DeLind's hard work around the backboards, and the 10-point contributions of Bob Boykin and Bob Breckenfeld.

Boykin's stolen-ball layup, and fast-break buckets by Stan Powell and Breckenfeld sliced Mason's lead to two points, 28-26, midway through the second period. Upset hopes quickly faded, though, when the Bulldogs tallied seven straight points. Okemos never got closer than five after that.

Mason's fast break, team work at its best, hurt Okemos several times, but the Chiefs countered with some alert maneuvering of their own. When the Bulldogs went into their full-court press, Okemos picked up some easy baskets by throwing passes the length of the court to create two-on-one situations which caught Mason shorthanded.

Arnold, who picked off 18 rebounds for Mason, had a worthy backboard opponent in DeLind, but the Bulldog center built up a 21-11 edge in scoring.

Wright finished second high

OKEMOS			MASON				
fg	ft	tp	fg	ft	tp		
Powell	4	1-3	9	Elliott	6	0-0	12
Breckfeld	5	2-3	12	Phillips	1	2-3	4
DeLind	4	3-3	11	Arnold	10	1-1	21
Boykin	4	6-8	14	Coss	7	1-2	15
Stehman	2	0-1	4	L. Wright	5	1-1	17
Wess	2	3-4	7	Burney	1	2-3	4
				Dudley	0	1-2	1
				D. Wright	1	0-0	2
Totals	21	15-20	57	Totals	34	8-12	76
Okemos	.....	16	14	6	21	57	
Mason	.....	22	15	20	19	76	
Personal fouls:	Okemos	10,	Mason	14			

with 17 markers. He made eight of 12 shots. Coss had seven of 13 and 15 points. Arnold dunked 10 in 17 tries.

Boykin made six straight free throws to go with four field goals for 14 points, best Okemos scoring effort. Breckenfeld had 12. Okemos hit a respectable 34 percent of its shots, a two-for-

14 record in the third quarter holding down its figure.

Heading into the second half of its schedule, Mason starts with St. Mary next week at Sexton's gym. Okemos has a Thursday date with Resurrection at Eastern's gym.

Mason won the reserve game, 46-39.

### Standings

Capital Circuit		
Mason	5	0
Resurrection	4	1
Okemos	3	2
Holt	2	3
St. Mary	1	4
Howell	0	5



**ALL-OUT EFFORT** makes Mason's full court press work. In this shot, Tom Coss, No. 22, broke through between Bob Boykin, No. 5, and Vern Stehman, No. 25, to break up a pass. Bob DeLind, No. 43, wear-

ing the white patch over a head wound, arrived too late to help. Mason's full court press and shooting ability helped the Bulldogs to a 76-57 win Friday night.

# Okemos Rides Past 'Rocks For Sweet Revenge, 61-46

By PLUMMER MIFFLIN

Okemos (7-2) gained full revenge on Resurrection (8-2) Thursday night in the Eastern high gym, 61 to 46. The victory soothed the Chief's hurt feelings, hurt earlier in the season when the Shamrocks tipped them in an overtime game, 46 to 44.

The contest evened the teams in the Capital Circuit race with 4-2 records. Both schools bowed to league-leading Mason earlier.

The game was up for grabs until midway in the final period when Okemos shot its way to victory at the free throw line. An average of three points separated the teams until that point.

With Okemos leading, 44 to 40, six straight free throws by Bill Wess, Bob Delind and Stan Powell, plus a fielder by Vern Stehman, stretched the lead to a dozen points with 1:13 to play, and it was all over for the Shamrocks.

Breckenfeld's field goal to open the second half gave Okemos the lead again, and the Chiefs were never headed after that, although they held the slimmest of leads until the final outburst.

OKEMOS			RESURRECTION		
	fg	ft	fg	ft	tp
Breckenfeld	6-14	13	Sharkey	3-11	1-7
Powell	2-5	9	Fillion	0-7	8-7
Delind	1-4	8	Tripp	3-2	4-8
Stehman	7-4	13	Keenoy	4-5	11-13
Boykin	1-2	4	Kutas	2-1	1-5
Turner	1-0	2	Prico	0-2	2-3
Wess	2-5	8	Kish	0-2	2-2
			Green	0-0	1-0
			O'Brien	1-0	1-2
Totals	20-21	33-61	Totals	13-20	31-46
Okemos	13	10	12	26	81
Resurrection	11	13	6	14	46

Personal fouls: Okemos 20, Resurrection 24.

Okemos outscored the east side team, 26 to 14, in the final quarter, with 14 of the counters coming from the charity line. Resurrection managed only four field goals in the last half.

Adding to the Shamrock's

grief was the exit of two of their key players via the personal foul route in the final stanza. Jerry Tripp sat down with 3:40 to go, while John Keenoy exited at the 1:04 mark.

Stehman took the game's scor-

ing honors with 18 points for the Chief's, while Keenoy, the city's leading scorer, was held to a 13-point output, well below his average.

Resurrection took the reserve contest, 42 to 23.

## Chieftains Square Score With Win over the Rocks

Okemos cut Resurrection down Thursday night 61-46. The win avenged an earlier defeat suffered by the Chiefs at the hands of Resurrection and at the same time shoved the Chiefs into a 2-

way tie with the Rocks for second place.

The Okemos win did one other thing. It shoved the Rocks off the heels of front-running Mason.

Resurrection could take care of that part of the problem Friday night at Mason. If the Rocks knock off the Bulldogs the situation will be just the same as it was before last week's games.

Okemos has a tough one coming up Friday night. The Chiefs must take on Holt in the Rams stronghold. Holt is coming or strong. While the season record isn't impressive, the last few times out the Rams have been hard to handle.

Vern Stehman was the big guy in the Okemos win over Resurrection. He tossed in 18 points when they were needed most during the last quarter to help pull the Chiefs well in front.

The first half was a hammer and tong affair. Okemos ended the first quarter on top 13-11. Resurrection came back in the second period to finish on top 24-23.

The Chiefs didn't fold, though, and came on in the third quarter to wrest the lead from the Rocks and in a 26-point spree in the last period sewed up the victory.

Bob Breckenfeld followed Stehman in the Okemos scoring parade with 13 points.

For Resurrection John Keenoy topped the shooters with 13 points, well off his usual scoring pace. He was the only Rock in double figures.

Thursday night, Okemos tripped Resurrection in a Capital Circuit game after trailing 24-23 at halftime. The Chiefs led 35-32 after three quarters, and then outscored the Shamrocks 26-14 in the final period. Vern Stehman led Okemos with 18 points, and Bob Breckenfeld had 13. John Keenow had 13 for Lansing.

## Chiefs Down Blues, 66 to 47

# Okemos Scalps St. Mary With Hot Third Stanza

(Special to The State Journal) OKEMOS, Feb. 10 — Though St. Mary (6-7) never was ahead after the first basket, the Big Blues kept hot on the heels of Okemos (9-2) for two quarters here Friday night before the Chiefs organized a full-scale stampede and whooped away to

a 66-47 Capital Circuit triumph. The victory kept the Chiefs' faint championship hopes alive at 6-2, while St. Mary settled deeper into fifth place with a 2-6 mark.

Led by Bob DeLind and Vern Stehman, Okemos all but chased St. Mary out of the

Chiefs' teepee in the third period by outscoring the Blues, 19-19. And the margin continued to grow in the last period although six reserves got their names in the scoring column.

Larry Davenport, Pat Early and Ron Bozzo came up with 10 points each for St. Mary, while Stehman notched 21 and DeLind 13 for Okemos.

St. Mary won the reserve game, 50-47.

ST. MARY			OKEMOS				
	fg	ft	tp		fg	ft	tp
Parker	0	3-6	3	Powell	2	0-1	4
Cook	2	0-0	4	Bob			
Davenport	4	2-3	10	Breckenfeld	2	4-5	8
Early	4	2-3	10	DeLind	5	3-3	13
Bozzo	3	4-5	10	Boykin	2	4-5	8
Boggs	1	0-0	2	Stehman	7	7-9	21
Morgan	1	0-0	2	Hoskin	0	2-2	2
Finnerty	1	0-0	2	Wess	1	3-3	3
Foster	0	0-4	4	Gardner	0	0-1	0
				Bill			
				Breckenfeld	0	1-2	1
				Shick	1	0-0	3
				Ambrose	1	0-1	2

Totals 16 15-23 47 Totals 21 24-32 66  
 St. Mary.....10 15 9 13-47  
 Okemos.....14 13 19 20-66  
 Personal fouls: St. Mary 19, Okemos 15.

## Okemos Rallies For 66-47 Win

It took a hot third quarter for Okemos to shove aside a stubborn St. Mary basketball team. The Chiefs finally came out on top 66-47 but it was anybody's game in the first half.

Friday night Okemos will play at Howell. The Chiefs will be favored to clip the Highlanders but the game shouldn't be a walk-away. Howell has some good basketball players. The night they all start hitting will be the night the opposition will be surprised.

St. Mary has a Thursday night date with Resurrection. This is the annual Lansing parochial blood letting in which the form chart doesn't mean a thing.

St. Mary and Okemos put on a show Friday night. At the end of the first quarter Okemos was in front 14-10. In the second quarter St. Mary pared 3 points off the 4-point bulge.

That was as close as the Big Blues came. Vern Stehman and Bob DeLind pulverized the St. Mary defense with successive shots and when the third period drew to a close Okemos was safely in front 46-34. The Chiefs continued on the warpath in the last quarter and won going away.

Stehman was high for Okemos with 21 points. DeLind finished with 13. St. Mary had 3 players split the Big Blues honors. Larry Davenport, Pat Early and Ron Bozzo each came up with 10.

## Two Games Behind, But—

# Chiefs Stay on Mason's Trail by Nipping Holt

(Special to The State Journal)

HOLT, Feb. 3—Okemos (8-2) kept alive its dim hope of at least sharing in the Capital Circuit basketball championship by belaboring Holt (4-6), 61-50, here Friday night. The Chiefs trail unbeaten Mason by two games.

On top all the way, Okemos permitted Holt to gain an edge only in the second quarter, and then only by two points. The Chiefs held a 31-24 halftime lead and never were in any danger.

Each team produced three scorers in double figures, but the Okemos threesome proved more prolific than the Rams' trio. Bob Breckenfeld led the Chiefs with 18 points. Stan Powell had 13 and Bill Wess 14, for a total of 45. Holt had Dick Hoisington with 12, John Linebaugh with 11, and Carl Howell with 11, for a total of 34.

Connecting on 24 of 56 shots, Okemos had a 43 percent rate of success, while Holt could hit only 21 of 69, a 29 percent figure.

Okemos came out ahead in the reserve game, 62-57.

OKEMOS			HOLT						
	fg	ft	tp	fg	ft	tp			
Powell	4	5	5	13	5	2	4	12	
Breck'feld	7	4	5	18	5	1	4	11	
DeLind	2	0	0	4	3	0	1	5	
Stelman	3	3	3	9	4	3	4	11	
Wess	7	0	0	14	2	0	1	4	
Turner	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	2	
					Hake	0	2	2	
					Rodocker	1	0	2	
					Kemmerer	0	0	1	0

Totals	24	13	14	61	Totals	31	8	17	50
Okemos	18	13	15	61	Holt	9	15	12	50
Holt	9	15	12	50	Personal fouls:	Okemos	14	Holt	13

### Capital Circuit

Team	W	L	Pct.
Mason	8	0	1.000
Okemos	6	2	.750
Resurrection	4	4	.500
Holt	4	4	.500
St. Mary	2	6	.250
Howell	0	8	.000

## Central Michigan's Big 4

Team	Class	Record	Pos. Last Wk.
1—East Lansing	A	11-0	1 (tie)
2—Mason	B	11-0	1 (tie)
3—Perry	C	14-0	3
4—Charlotte	B	9-2	—

### Leaders

CLASS A		CLASS C	
1—East Lansing (11-0)		1—Perry (14-0)	
2—Everett (8-3)		2—Shepherd (12-1)	
3—Eastern (6-7)		3—Bath (11-3)	
4—Sexton (4-9)		4—Dansville (9-2)	
CLASS B		CLASS D	
1—Mason (11-0)		1—Fowler (10-2)	
2—Charlotte (9-2)		2—Pottersville (8-4)	
3—Okemos (9-2)		3—Dimondale (10-4)	
4—Ithaca (12-3)		4—Portland St. Patrick (10-3)	



## Okemos Practices For Mason Game

Okemos warmed up for the grudge battle with Mason Friday night by tromping on the winless Howell Highlanders 78-50. The win assured the Chieftains of second place in the Capital Circuit. Howell is deep in the basement with no chance of getting out.

Even though Mason has the title salted away, indications from Okemos are that the Chiefs will pull all stops in trying to hand the Bulldogs their first loss Friday night.

It should be one of the best games of the year and will pit 2 of the district tournament favorites against each other in a preview of the March festivities at Okemos.

Mason easily handled Okemos the first time around at Mason—too easy for tribal Chief Bob Baker and his Indians. Okemos, always hot in its own camp, has the rebounders and the shooters to give Mason a tough time if the Bulldogs let down their guard for any length of time.

Howell has a Thursday night date with Resurrection at Lansing Eastern.

Against Howell everything worked for the Chiefs. Eleven men figured in the scoring. The first 2 quarters were tight. Howell stuck close to Okemos but in the second half the Chiefs broke the game open, scoring 28 points in the third period and 20 in the last.

Vern Stehman was top shooter for Okemos with 12 points. Bill Wess added 11. For Howell Jim Simmons was top man with 13.

Both the season closers will be tough. Okemos is spoiling for a fight after the easy way Mason took care of the Chieftains last month in the first meeting.

With the pressure off as far as the title is concerned Coach Bob Baker will pull out all the stops to prove that the Bulldogs can be stopped.

Okemos put on its best offensive show at Howell Friday night, downing the Highlanders 78-50. With Vern Stehman, Bob Boykin, Bob DeLind and Bob Breckenfeld hitting all at once the Chiefs could derail the Mason express.

The Chiefs have been the only team to give Mason a battle on the backboards. Friday night's game could be the forerunner of the district struggle scheduled for the first week in March at Okemos.

## Stehman Supplies Punch for Chiefs Over Fowlerville

OKEMOS, Feb. 15—Vern Stehman supplied the nine-point impetus which gave Okemos a running start against Fowlerville and helped carry the Chiefs to a 60-55 triumph here Wednesday night in a non-league basketball game.

Fowlerville, leader of the Ingham County league, never got in front of Okemos, but the Gladiators clambered back from a 12-22 deficit in the first period to trail by only two points as late as the fourth period.

Stehman dropped in 19 points to lead both teams in scoring. Bob DeLind contributed 12 to the Okemos cause. The Chiefs are second to Mason in the Capital Circuit. Ken Curtis collected 17 markers and Owen Judd 16 for Fowlerville.

Fowlerville won the reserve game, 57-45.

# Okemos Pushes Undefeated Mason but Bows, 61 to 57

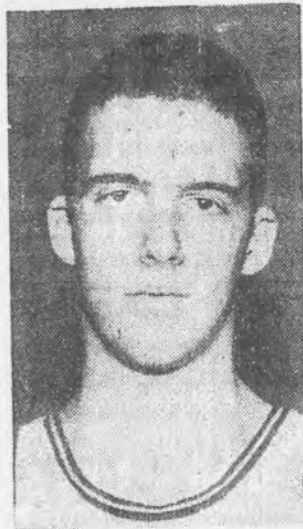
By WIN CHEAL  
(State Journal Sports Writer)

OKEMOS, Feb. 24—Okemos (11-3) brought Mason (14-0) back into the class of "human" basketball teams with an excellent second half here Friday night, but phenomenal shooting by the Bulldogs in the second period helped carry them to a 61-57 triumph.

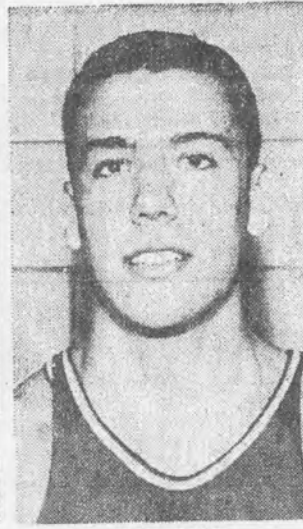
Heading for a perfect season if they can beat Jackson St. John next week, the Bulldogs sank 10 of 15 shots in the brilliant second period to go 10 points up at halftime.

Although the Chieftains clearly outplayed Mason in the second half, the Bulldogs had the poise to fight off every Okemos thrust which looked like it might even the score.

Bob DeLind's fine play at center for the Chiefs overshadowed the efforts of Mason's Dave Arnold around the backboards, although Arnold was the central figure of the Bulldogs'



**BOB De LIND**  
Chiefs' Top Scorer



**TOM COSS**  
Bulldog Playmaker

big quarter when he dunked four of five shots.

A past master of the fast break, Mason found itself trail-

ing several times in the last two periods when Okemos picked up the ball to go flying in for lay-ups. Vern Stehman

ignored a scoreless first half to come up with several slick maneuvers which netted him four field goals in the last two periods.

Notwithstanding the Chiefs' gallant efforts, it was the crack shooting and floor play of Tom Coss which held the Bulldog attack together at crucial moments and made victory possible for Mason.

When the Bulldogs had trouble getting started at the outset, Coss sank three of four shots to account for half of the Bulldogs' first-period total. And he came right back with two out of three in the second quarter. Four of the baskets were one-handers and the other resulted when he alertly stole the ball and galloped in for a lay-up.

Free throws, which eventually proved the difference in the final score, kept Mason in front during the third period when they made but two of 13 shots. It was then that Okemos took advantage of careless passing by the Bulldogs to score 16 points, including seven field goals. All but two of the baskets were from close range.

Three times in the final quarter Okemos prepared to close in on Mason by cutting the lead to three points, but each time a different player in the Bulldogs' well-organized quintet leaped into the starring role.

After DeLind popped in a pivot shot to make it 48-45, Larry Wright sank two free throws. When Bill Wess slipped in a bucket and followed soon after with a free throw, it was 52-49, but Coss flung in a long one-hander. With less than two minutes left, Stan Powell's swisher made the score 58-55. Screaming Okemos rooters, waiting all week for the chance at Mason, felt that this was the time, but Vern Elliot raced under the basket to tip in his own missed free throw, and that was enough to win.

DeLind led all scorers with 17 points. Bob Breckenfeld and Powell each added 12 to the Okemos total. Wright had 15 points, Coss 14, and Arnold 13 for Mason.

Mason finished with a perfect 10-0 Capital Circuit record, Okemos settling for the runnerup spot at 7-3.

MASON (13-0)			OKEMOS (11-2)				
fg	ft	tp	fg	ft	tp		
Elliott...	4	1-4	9	Powell...	5	2-3	12
Phillips...	1	6-7	8	Breckenfeld	5	2-4	12
Arnold...	6	1-1	13	DeLind...	6	5-5	17
Coss...	6	2-4	14	Bohkin...	1	1-1	3
L. Wright	5	5-6	15	Stehman...	4	0-0	0
Dudley...	0	2-2	2	Wess...	1	3-4	5
				Turner...	0	0-1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17-24</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13-18</b>	<b>57</b>
Mason	12	22	11	16	61		
Okemos	7	17	16	17	57		
Reserves—Okemos			64	Mason	47		



**MASON BASKETBALL FANS** were almost as much agony as Mason's Tom Coss when the cage sparkplug fell to the floor with an out of kilter ankle at Okemos. Dave Arnold, No. 21, and Dean Dudley, No. 51, along with Referee Dave Williams, offer solace to Coss while he waits for doctors to put him back together. Coss finished the game but may miss Friday night's tussle.

## CAPITAL CIRCUIT

	W	L	Pct.
Mason	10	0	1.000
Okemos	7	3	.700
Resurrection	6	4	.600
Holt	3	7	.300
St. Mary	3	7	.300
Howell	0	10	.000



OKEMOS' Vern Stehman (24) attempts to get the ball away from Mason's Bill Coss in Tuesday night's district tournament game. Mason won, 59-52. —Meridian News Photo



The stripe shirt always wins

# Mason Has Mason... Hard Go At Okemos

Maroons Win, 59-52,  
With Game Chiefs  
At Their Heels

By WIN CHEAL

Somewhere in an Okemos school a dark-haired, dark-eyed teacher must have interrupted the fast pace of education slightly today by giving her delighted classes a letup in assignments.

There's a serious doubt whether she could talk above a whisper after doing her best to scream Okemos (11-4) to victory over Mason (16-0) Tuesday night.

"Check the fouls on that No. 21," she'd fiercely demand of the oblivious scorekeeper.

Or maybe it was "No-o-o Stehman . . . pass . . . great shot, Stehman," she'd loudly interrupt herself.

And the ringing in her ears, especially from the cheering in a violent last-quarter rally by the Chiefs, couldn't have permitted much classroom conversation.

Conscientious about her job, the petite little miss arrived more than an hour early with a batch of papers to grade. But she forgot her "homework" as soon as the game started and whooped it up along with the hundreds of other Chieftain rooters in the turn-away crowd of 2,000. And every last one of them was sure they had a winner during that feverish rally.

Only the five Mason players on the court wouldn't be convinced when Okemos came storming from 10 points behind to tie the score five times in the last period before Mason pulled away to its 59-52 victory.

First it was a one-hander Stan Powell let fly right after the fourth period tipoff which knotted the game at 39-39. Then Powell scored twice more to tie it after Mason had gone two points in front. Bob DeLind made two free throws to level the count at 45-45, and Bill Wess flipped in a swisher so it was 47-47. Then a free throw by Jim Phillips, Vern Elliott's bullseye from the side, and away went the Bulldogs.

Who was the fuse responsible for setting off the near-miss blast by Okemos? Vern Stehman, a whirling 5-9 dynamo who scemed

See MASON—Pg. 34, Col. 5

(Concluded from Page 33)

almost to strike in two places once, slashed the Bulldog flank with outside shots, then danc in for short jabs. He stole t ball, tore it out of bigger han passed daringly and well fo go shots by his mates, did far mc than anyone could expect of t players his size.

Then why didn't Okemos coll the Bulldogs?

Call it the unanimity of Maso attack, the confidence of ea player in himself and his tea mates, none of which ever f tered, and you might be close the answer.

Jim Phillips didn't make a fi goal, but he came through w 13 free throws. Elliott didn't ma a free throw, but he sank sev field goals. Dave Arnold, fighti as hard as he ever has arou the backboards, dunked 14 poi Larry Wright had 10.

And guard Tom Coss play most of the game despite injured ankle which obviu slowed down both him and Bulldogs. Not once did they to their effective full-court pr Nor did the fast break prod heavy dividends.

But the steady influence playmaker Coss, certainly dur the first half when he zipped three of his one-handed net-sj ters, had its effect in the te early moments.

Just as in the regular sea thriller between the two tea a bewildering volley of basl staked Mason to a seemingly c fortable lead of 10 points in third period. Elliott slammed three shots in a string of straight which made it 37-27. this time the Chiefs fought b with equally-powerful weapons til they finally exhausted their munition.

"We can't catch up no wailed the peppery little teac And she was right. Elliott's from the side made it 56-48 1:48 to play, too late for any ring of the Chieftains.

MASON			OKEMOS		
	fg	ft tp!		fg	ft tp!
Phillips	0	13-19 13	Turner	..0	0
Elliott	.7	0-1 14	Powell	..6	3
Arnold	.5	4-6 14	DeLind	..3	4
Wright	.4	2-5 10	Stehman	..5	3
Coss	..3	0-0 6	Breck'feld	3	0
Dudley	.1	0-0 2	Boykin	..2	3
			Wess	..1	1

Totals	.20	19-31 59	Totals	.20	12-
Mason	.....	8 14 17 26			
Okemos	.....	8 12 17 11			

Personal fouls: Mason 15, Okemo

What the Dummies?

Who was the fuse responsible for setting off the near-miss blast by Okemos? Vern Stehman, a whirling 5-9 dynamo who seemed



