

Beavers Win First Class C Regional Title



PLAYING BEFORE a sell-out in the Alma High School gym last night, the Beaverton Beavers gave their rooters something to shout as they defeated Lakeview, 57

to 54.

The win earned them the regional title and a berth in the quarterfinals Thursday night in Owosso. - photos by Guys and Dolls Photography.

The Beaverton Beavers returned to Alma twice last week and returned with their Class C Regional basketball championship in the school's history.

It was no easy feat, but the Beavers knuckled down and the going got rough. They defeated Lansing Catholic, 64 to 57 and then defeated undefeated Lakeview School, 57 to 54, Friday night for the title.

Against Lansing Catholic, the Beavers found themselves up 47 to 42 at the end of the first quarter. In the final period, Doyle Durkee, Beaverton's top point guard, helped his team get checked with key baskets to take a 56 to 51 lead.

Lansing then closed the gap to 56 to 54 with two minutes left, but another basket by Durkee and four free throws by Randy Sroufe iced the game for the Beavers.

Durkee took scoring honors with 28 points, 10 of them coming in the final period. He was followed by Sroufe with 16 and Ken Neighbors added 10. Charles Willis was high for Lansing Catholic with 26.

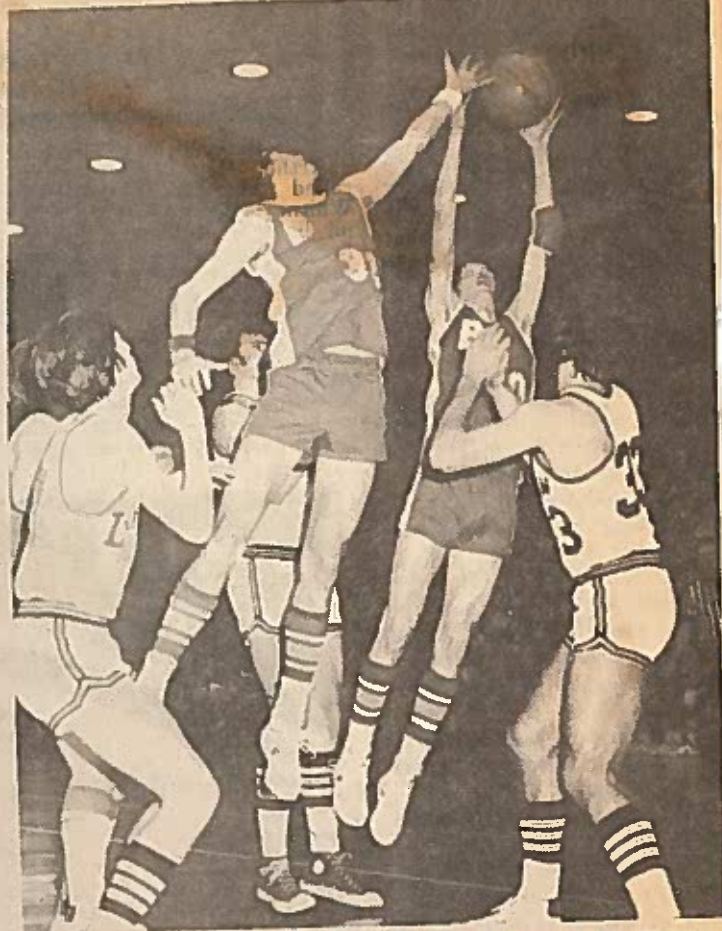
Friday night Beaverton took on Lakeview, champion of the Tri Central Athletic Association Conference three years in a row and the 6th rated team in Class C in the state. When the smoke cleared the Beavers had felled the giant and copped the regional title.

Lakeview took the lead at the first quarter mark, 16 to 12, but the Beavers came back in the second period to lead at the half, 34 to 31. The third period was a stand-off as both teams came up with 13 points. Although both teams also made 10 points in the fourth stanza, it was a thriller right down to the wire.

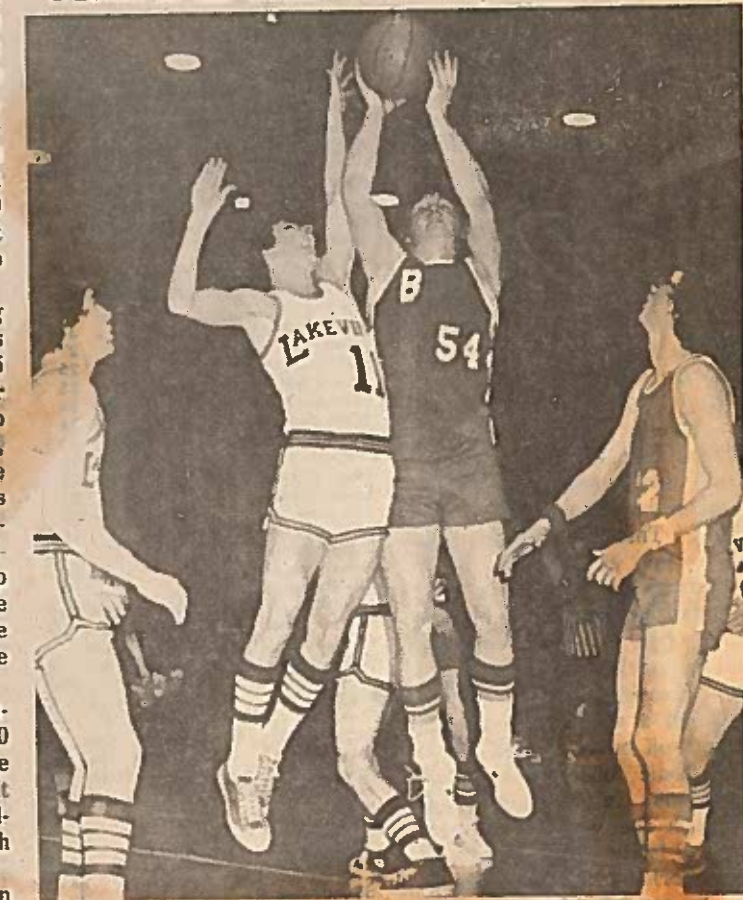
With 20 seconds remaining in the contest, the Beavers held a slim one-point lead, 55 to 54. Lakeview playing for the last shot gave the ball to its top scorer, Larry Nielsen, but his shot went off the side of the rim and Neighbors rebounded the ball for Beaverton, only to have it knocked loose. Sroufe picked up the ball and was fouled. He walked to the charity line and sank both shots for the victory margin.

Durkee again led his teammates in scoring with 20 points. Neighbors was the only other Beaver to hit double figures with 13. Nielsen finished the night with 20 markers for Lakeview.

The Beavers now move on to the quarterfinals at Owosso Thursday night against Unionville-Sebewaing. #



ATTEMPTING TO control a rebound in Friday night's contest are Ken Neighbors, 32, and Mike O'Brien in the back.



JEFF ROEHRS, 54, gets off a jump shot while being closely guarded by a Lakeview player. Watching Roehrs shoot is Ken Neighbors.

"BEAVER BELIEVERS!" is the slogan and chant that is rippling through the streets of Beaverton this week as everyone prepares for the quarterfinal game Thursday night in Owosso. Members of the Boosters Club have made 1,350 red and white streamers and 1,500 signs to wave and display at the game. The cheerleaders have also made up special cheers. And after 4 p.m. Thursday the town will be deserted. You will find everyone packed in the Owosso gym.