

PCH a 'paper favorite' over Rice

By JOHN BOZZO

Although the state ratings favor Pontiac Central, Bill Norton does not consider his Brother Rice squad an underdog in Thursday's quarterfinal state boys' basketball tournament clash between the two schools, 7:30 p.m. at Ferndale.

"It seems that the Detroit News, the Detroit Free Press and the Associated Press have rated Pontiac Central number one or two," Norton said.

"Therefore, they have to be a paper favorite. However, we don't consider ourselves an underdog."

"I don't think that either team will clearly dominate the other," Norton added. "Turnovers will play a big part in the game. I think it will be important for us not to turn the ball over."

"Another thing would be that it will

be important for us not to be afraid to make the changes necessary offensively to take advantage of their pressing defense. We'll have to basically be opportunists because as a style of play, P.C. goes for the steal or blocked shot defensively. We'll have to take advantage of them (the breaks) when they occur."

RICE AND CENTRAL have clashed five times in recent years, all in re-

gional championship games. Brother Rice has won one of those games. Rice goes into the quarterfinal with a 20-3 record and state rating of eight. Central has a 22-3 mark.

Brother Rice defeated Utica Ford 56-55 in its regional final, while Pontiac Central dropped Lahser 45-41 in its regional championship.

Central coach Ralph Grubb said his team is physically ready for the quarterfinal contest.

"Physically we're all right," Grubb said. "We haven't been playing well of late. We haven't been doing the job. We've been winning, but as far as playing up to our capability, we've been playing below."

"It's something that's hard to explain," Grubb said. "We've reached a plateau. For 12 straight ball games we looked like a superb ball team. Then we weren't doing the job. We look good in spurts, but spurts aren't enough when you get this far, you have to do the job all the time."

BOTH COACHES have scouted each other in preparation for Thursday's clash, and offered an analysis.

Rice's Bill Norton: "They're a perimeter oriented team they shoot very well and their scoring comes in spurts. I think it will be important for us to have pressure on their outside shots and to keep them from scoring in spurts."

Central's Ralph Grubb: "They're a Real fine ball club. They're big and strong on the boards. They're real good shooters and have a real good leader in Kevin Smith. They play good defense too."

The winner will advance to semifinals at 5 p.m. Saturday against the victor of the Detroit Catholic Central-Highland Park quarterfinal.

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Andover loses cage coach

Hal Henderson has resigned the head basketball and head baseball coaching positions at Bloomfield Hills Andover.

The Bloomfield Hills School District Department of Health, Physical Education and Athletics (HPEA) announced the resignation Monday. Henderson said he was told last summer he would not be rehired after this year.

Henderson had been head basketball coach for 14 years and head baseball coach for 13 years.

Charles Johnson will replace Henderson as head baseball coach. HPEA

is accepting applications for the head basketball job.

HENDERSON WILL continue to teach math at Andover High School, but is looking around for another teaching-coaching position.

"The decision to resign was made last summer," Henderson said. "Technically speaking, they let me know. At first Mr. Quinn informed me that I would not be hired back for next year."

Norman Quinn, director of HPEA, confirmed that he had talked to Henderson about resigning last summer. Henderson appealed the decision

and was given another year, "to give me time to look around."

"There were a number of reasons," Henderson said, "but I don't want to go into great detail on them. I disagree with the reasons. I did receive some criticism about my coaching decisions."

Quinn said: "It's an internal personnel matter, one of the things we are not at liberty to discuss."

Quinn added that applications for the position should be directed to him and that he hopes to have the vacancy filled in six weeks.

Henderson compiled a 164-102 basketball record at Andover. His teams won five league titles and finished second three times. This year's team was 10-12 and tied for third in the Greater Oakland Activities League. His career basketball record is 248-154. He coached at Notre Dame and Greenville high schools before Andover. At Notre Dame his teams won five district titles in seven years. His baseball teams at Andover had a total record of 118-122.

2 teams advance in cage playoffs

Montgomery Wards and Steak 'N Ale will play each other for the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department's men's basketball playoff championship on Thursday, March 17, at 6:45 p.m. at Levey Junior High School. Both teams recorded victories to advance to the finals.

Wards defeated Michigan Bell, 65-51, in the 3 League title game. John Carnecki scored 21 points for Wards, while teammates Derek Palm and Mark Sulek added 21 and 15 points respectively. Larry Henderson and John

Tookes each scored 13 points for Michigan Bell.

In the B League championship game, Steak 'N Ale downed Seaman Patrick, 72-69, in overtime. Steak 'N Ale's John Hawk, who led all scorers with 27 points, hit a 35-foot jump shot at the final buzzer to send the game into overtime. Bill Slotnick added 20 points for the winners.

Bert Hershey scored 26 points for Seaman Patrick. Bob Fournier added 23 points, and Jim Corcoran had 13.

Detroit wins women's tourney

Detroit Fayette Wholesale won the Recreation and Parks Association's women's basketball state tournament by defeating Lansing 61-39, in the tournament finals last Sunday at Southfield High School.

The Detroit squad won three tournament games, posting victories over Saginaw (71-60) and Portage (81-27). A Southfield team also entered the tournament, and defeated Coldwater (51-31) and Dearborn Heights (49-23).

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