

Warrior coach relives championship game

By JOHN BOZZO

Of the thousands of moments he could relive from the past basketball season, Brother Rice coach Bill Norton would like one particular moment. He'd like to have back those few fleeting seconds following Kevin Smith's spectacular half-court basket, which sent the state championship game into overtime.

Rice lost that game last Saturday at Ann Arbor, 62-56, as Lansing Everett came out strong in the overtime, grabbed a quick lead and held on for the victory.

"I'd like to have those few moments over again between the end of regulation and the start of overtime," Norton said, "to collectively get together and realize we tied and had not won,

and had only earned the opportunity to play three more minutes."

Just before Smith's long basket, which went through the hoop as the final buzzer sounded, Everett had taken a lead on a Paul Dawson basket with only three seconds to play.

"WHEN PAUL DAWSON made that shot with only a few seconds to go," Norton said, "several of our players were at the depths of emotion. A few seconds later (following Smith's game-tying shot) they were at the height of emotion."

"I thought Everett came out with better concentration at the start of the overtime," Norton said. "Basketball is an extremely emotional game and the momentum of emotion sometimes gets away from you."

Norton said that there was no one exciting moment from the season which saw Rice place second in the state tournament, compile a 22-4 record, and finish in a tie for the Catholic League Central Division title.

"Probably the greatest source of satisfaction came from the tremendous improvement of so many individuals from November 1, the first day of official practice, to March 26, the last day we played," Norton said. "Then the blending of those individual improvements to collective improvement was the entire team."

He characterized the Brother Rice team as one that possessed quickness and good outside shooting, and which made up for a lack of physical strength with its skill, awareness and overall intelligence.

"We'll be physically stronger next year than this year," Norton said. "But we won't have Kevin Smith, Smith, (Tim) Scheerer and (Mark) Hayden were excellent outside shooters. Someone will have to take up that slack. We'll be quicker and more experienced as far as players who have played in a competitive situation in a starting role."

AMONG THE NUCLEUS of players for next year's squad are nine of the 16 players on the varsity this season. Possible returners include 6-2 junior Mike McGowan and Mike Henry, and 5-10 junior Ron Washington.

Henry and Washington both saw duty as varsity starters during the season. Steve Ameli, a 5-11 sophomore, also had experience.

Norton mentioned four more sophomores, 6-3 Ted Williams, and George Duncan, Jon English and Don Pietrowski, who each stand 6-2. Norton said that some of these players will grow before next season.

Although Norton looking forward to a good performance next season, his expectations are no more or less than any previous year.

"I've been at Rice for 13 years," Norton said, "and felt from the very beginning here when we lost to Southfield in a district at Southfield and they were eventually runner-up in the state, that we couldn't have beaten Southfield that year."

"I've always felt, since that time, that we had a chance to go all the way," Norton said. "My feelings were affirmed in 1974 (when Rice was state champ) and I feel in any given year that we have a chance to go all the way."

"Even now, the boys that are undergraduates are thinking in terms of doing well next year. I doubt if they're thinking about a specific record. I think they believe that we'll be back in the state finals, or at least have a shot at it."

"You have to be lucky to get as far as we did, and if you define luck as we do, as what happens when preparation meets opportunity... we certainly will be prepared next year, and hopefully we'll get the opportunity."

Lathrup, Southfield trackmen open season at Huron Relays

By TOM BAER

Southfield High and Southfield-Lathrup got their track seasons underway with scoring performances at the Huron Relays, the initial test of the new track season, held last Saturday at Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Fieldhouse.

Southfield High managed four team points and finished in a three-way tie for 26th place thanks to junior Ken Raby, who finished fifth in the finals of the 65-yard hurdles. Lathrup finished in a five-

way tie for 42nd place as senior Dave Branik took sixth in the pole vault.

Grosse Pointe North won the team title with 45 points, while Birmingham Groves and Elyria (Ohio) tied for second with 30.

Raby, who should be an outstanding hurdler for Southfield this season, had one of the fastest times of the day (.08.2) going into the finals where he was clocked at .08.5. Vaughn Shores of Elyria won the 65 yards at .08.1.

"Raby'll get better when he moves outdoor doors," said Southfield

coach Chuck Balog. "He's having a little trouble with his start right now. It just isn't quite good enough for those indoor races which are so short. As the races get longer, he'll get better."

Although it didn't make the finals, Southfield's sprint medley relay (Marvin Miles, Shawn Rowley, Mitch Moses and Bob Church) set a school record with a 3:49.4 clocking. Southfield junior Dave Walbroth turned in a 48.7 in the shot put, a personal best, and missed making the finals by six inches.



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"THE THING about Walbroth is that he should only be in the 10th grade," Balog said. "He one of these kids who got enrolled a little big early way back in kindergarten, and it hurts him in athletics. A 10th grader throwing the shot 48.7 would be super."

Lathrup's Branik took sixth place in the pole vault with a 12.9 effort. "That's a good vault considering how little time we've been able to get outdoors," said Lathrup coach Gerald Minewasser. "Certainly that's a good start. It

looks like we'll have at least one strong individual in the pole vault."

Southfield Christian participated in the Class B part of the Huron Relays last Friday night. Christian, making its first appearance even in the meet, failed to score. The best effort of the night for Coach Carl Tichenor's Christian team came in the distance medley relay (Tim Johnson, Neil Kistler, Jack Meyers and Bob Kuntzman) finished in 11:39.8.

Birmingham Groves had outstanding performances in the sprint medley relay, taking a first in 3:38.5, and in the mile relay, posting a 3:32.9 to finish second.

Farmington High's Kevin Hansen, a senior, won the shot put event with a 53.0' effort in the finals to give his team eight points and a tie for 26th place. Hansen had turned in a 55.0, the best throw of any shotputter at the Hurons, at a winter meet.



Southfield's Ken Raby with teammate Bob Church. (Photos by Jack Margolis)

Local cagers fall in tourney

Two Southfield recreation basketball teams, Montgomery Ward's and Steak 'N Ale, participated in season-ending tournaments last weekend.

Montgomery Ward's played in the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association state tournament in Mt. Pleasant. Competing in the Class A field, Montgomery Ward's bested Lapeer, 81-74, before dropping a 92-81 decision to Pontiac Ahmed's Imports.

Against Lapeer, Derek Palm led Southfield with 29 points, while Mark Sulek and John Carnecki followed with 22 and 16 points, respectively. Against Pontiac, Palm fired in 25 points, Sulek had 25 and Carnecki 23. Larry Russell scored 20 points for Pontiac.

Pontiac lost a semifinal game to Kalamazoo, the eventual champion.

Southfield Steak 'N Ale dropped a 62-58 contest to Roseville in the opening round of the Inter-City Tournament in Dearborn.

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Lathrup's Dave Branik finished sixth in the pole vault at the Huron Relays.

Hockey race stays tight

None of the eight teams in the Southfield Over 30 Hockey League are making a runaway of the league playoffs. With just three dates left in the seven-game, round-robin series, three teams are tied for first place with 3-1-0 records.

Concourse Camera, Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home and Suburban Sports Center are deadlocked for first place. Three other teams — Star Lincoln-Mercury, Northland Heating and Southfield Holiday Inn — are tied for second place with 2-2-0 playoff marks.

In Over 30 action last Thursday, previously-unbeaten Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home dropped a 3-2 decision to Holiday Inn, which won the regular-season title by one point. Bob Hawk scored a pair of goals for Holiday Inn, and teammate Ray Tremblay added another. Bill Boyd and Lynn Evans scored Sawyer-Fuller's goals.

In another game, Concourse nipped last-place Roger Penske Chevrolet, 2-1, thanks to goals by Fred Kuhle and Nick Leo. Larry Dunne scored for Penske, which had a rough time beating Concourse goalie Paul Carlson.

Northland Heating stopped previously-unbeaten Suburban Sports, 4-1. Four different players — Marshall Cohen, Ray Brunett, Chris Minsky and

Bob Tarnow — scored for Northland. Jim LePine scored Suburban's lone goal.

Mike Kinney's second-period goal broke a tie and gave Star Lincoln-Mercury a 4-3 decision over Spartan Concrete. Bob Kiflik scored two goals for the winners and Jerry Kowalski added one. Mike Folster scored two goals and Frank Goldberg one for Spartan.

The remaining playoff games should be exciting ones with the top teams scheduled to play each other. The playoffs resume on Thursday (March 31) with four games scheduled at the Southfield Civic Center Arena. Concourse meets Suburban Sports at 8:35 p.m. in one key game.

OVER 30 PLAYOFF STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T
Concourse Camera	3	1	0
Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home	3	1	0
Suburban Sports Center	3	1	0
Star Lincoln-Mercury	2	2	0
Northland Heating	2	2	0
Southfield Holiday Inn	2	2	0
Spartan Concrete	1	3	0
Roger Penske Chevrolet	1	3	0

GAMES COMING UP

THURSDAY (MARCH 31) — Spartan Concrete vs. Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home, 7:30 p.m.; Concourse Camera vs. Suburban Sports Center, 8:35 p.m.; Southfield Holiday Inn vs. Star Lincoln-Mercury, 8:35 p.m.; Northland Heating vs. Roger Penske Chevrolet, 10:30 p.m.
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All games will be played at the Southfield Civic Center Arena, 1800 Evergreen Road.