

Brother Rice air attack eliminates Groves

By JOHN BOZZO

He's silent. He's slick. And, boy, can he catch the football.

Marty Martinez tipped the scales of victory in favor of Brother Rice. Saturday, in their state quarterfinal play-off game with Birmingham Groves.

A slim, 6-1, 160-pound senior, Martinez caught nine passes for 116 yards and one touchdown.

His receptions helped Rice to a 21-7 victory at Groves Field, which is the home field for both schools. Rice's Warriors advanced into semi-final action 1:30 p.m., Saturday against North Farmington at Groves Field.

It was the first loss of the season for Groves, as both Rice and Groves entered the game with 9-0 records.

Prior to the game Groves coach Bill Rankin had prepared a game plan to stop the passing attack which had

made Rice the number one team in Michigan.

"I thought that if we could come at him (English) from different angles, we could upset their timing and throw off their passing game," Rankin said.

English did have a below-average game. He completed 11 of 21 passes for 133 yards—a 52 per cent completion average. His season completion average stands at 62 per cent.

What Groves couldn't stop was the fine receiving of Martinez.

"He's a legitimate all-state candidate," said Rice coach Al Fracassa. "What makes him good is his concentration and his relaxed attitude about going out to catch the ball and run good patterns."

"There were two or three passes he could have caught, but Jon (English) overthrew him," Fracassa said.

GROVES HAD entered the game

with a slight handicap. Chris Vogt, a junior starting quarterback and defensive halfback, was sidelined with a leg injury. However, Groves coach Rankin refused to elicit.

Rankin started senior Gary Hamming in place of Vogt in the defensive secondary. He slotted his own son, sophomore Bill Rankin, for the quarterback duties.

"I don't think it hurt us not having Vogt at quarterback," Rankin said. "We're not a passing team anyway. Groves attempted but one pass. The quarterback was sacked before throwing."

Gary Hamming played an outstanding game in Vogt's defensive halfback spot.

Despite their handicaps, the Falcons were giving Rice all it could handle, and more, early in the game. Rice failed to show much offense in its first two possessions.

THEN THE FIRST break of the game came when Rice's John Baranska was hit in the air. He fumbled and Groves' John Mulholland recovered the loose football.

Mulholland's recovery gave the Falcons field position on Rice's 33 yard line. Seven plays later, Don Olsen scored on a one-yard run. Eric Naslund's extra point kick gave Groves a 7-0 edge.

Rice advanced to Groves' 24-yard line after that touchdown, but the Falcon defense stiffened. Groves took over on downs, but could not mount any offense.

Regaining the football at their own 23, Rice's Warriors began an 11-play touchdown drive. English completed five of six passes on the drive. Pietrowski caught one for nine yards on the first play. Brian Brennan caught an eight-yard screen pass. Martinez had the big receptions.

Two plays after catching a 16-yard pass, Martinez out-fought Groves' Tom Shelly for a pass reception which netted 30 yards. English had thrown a "wounded duck" floating pass. Martinez fumbled the ball when he hit the ground, but recovered and saved the gain for Rice.

"I threw a bad pass. Marty made a great catch," said Rice quarterback Jon English.

Five plays later John Baranska scored from one yard away. Brian Swanson's extra point kick tied the game 7-7 at halftime.

BOTH TEAMS BATTLED to a standstill in the second half. Rice drove to Groves' four-yard line. Falcon defenders again put up a brick wall. Rice was forced into a 21-yard field goal attempt which went wide right.

2 teams dominate all-NSL

North Farmington and Westland John Glenn dominated the Northwest Suburban League all-league football team which was selected by the conference coaches.

North, which won the league championship, placed 10 players on the squad, while Glenn had nine players chosen. Livonia Franklin entered two players on the team; Redford Thurston and Garden City East each added one.

Senior quarterback Rob Suida and senior halfback Tim Ruark from Glenn made the offensive unit, while Mike Miller and Jeff Cohen from North rounded out the backfield. Miller made the team as a halfback and Cohen as a fullback.

Ron Nutter and Kevin Harrington from North tied for the position at left end, while Mike Kossick from East was chosen at the right end.

Karl Hamina was picked by the coaches for the center spot. Hamina is from North.

Jeff Killingbeck and Barry Alderman made the team at the right tackle

and left tackle positions, respectively. Killingbeck is from Glenn and Alderman is from Thurston.

Brian Sipes from Glenn and Dan Cohen from North were placed on the squad at the offensive guard positions. Defensively, the line consisted of Brad Jennings and Jim Hendrian from Glenn, Dan Gasser and George Houtekier from North, and Andrea Mondoux from Franklin.

Andy Pucci, Dan O'Brien and Pat Collins were chosen at the three line-backer positions. Pucci and O'Brien are from Glenn and Collins is from North.

The defensive backs were Kurt Hagemann from Glenn, and Paul Berry from Franklin. Tim Quinn was picked as the defensive safety. Quinn is from North.

Honorable mentions from Glenn were Russ Hall, Karl Shelly, Bob Shinske, Jim Demaray, Ed Hamel and Greg Houtley.

North's honorable mentions included Kevin DuDeK, Rich Nutter, Dan Deason, Paul Trabulsum and Jim Minniet.



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