

# On to the Silverdome! Raiders rout Rice

By JOHN BOZZO

North Farmington's crushing ground game and opportunistic defense stunned Brother Rice 26-7, Saturday at Birmingham Groves.

Both teams had entered the game 10-0, with defending state champ and number one ranked Rice the favorite.

The victory advances North Farmington into the state championship game, Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome. Brother Rice watched its win streak checked after 24 consecutive triumphs.

"I knew it would happen (a loss) sooner or later," said Rice coach Al Precassa. "They beat us fair and

square. North Farmington is a first class football team."

Mike Miller spearheaded the North Farmington offensive effort with 191 yards in 15 carries and two touchdowns.

North Farmington finished with 325 yards total offense, while holding Brother Rice to a 141-yard total. Raider defenders intercepted four passes. They also recovered a fumble and blocked a punt.

"They did a good job of defending Marty Martinez," Precassa said. "Martinez is still a good receiver, the best receiver I've ever had."

**GOING INTO THE GAME.** Martinez had caught 41 passes, exactly half of Rice quarterback Jon English's completions prior to meeting North Farmington.

"This is one of the biggest victories in the school's history," said North Farmington coach Ron Holland. "We were 10-point underdogs going into the game. We were loose and ready."

Rice coach Precassa noted that his team had everything to lose with the number one rating and win streak.

"When you have the pressure on you, you make mistakes," Precassa said. "These are 15- and 16-year-old kids."

Trouble began early for Brother Rice. Jim Browne fumbled the ball on Rice's first play. Teammate Don Piotrowski saved the day by recovering the ball for a first down.

However, on the next play, North Farmington's Jim Minihinnett intercepted an English pass. Four plays later, Rice's Tom Finn intercepted a pass from North Farmington quarterback Greg Goldstein.

Midway through the second quarter the first big break of the game came. Rice fumbled a North Farmington punt. Dan Descom alertly pounced on the loose pigskin for the Raiders, at Brother Rice's 29-yard line.

Goldstein connected with Tom Godwin on a 21-yard touchdown pass six plays later. Rich Nutter's extra point kick put North Farmington up 7-0.

Following the kickoff, Rice drove 44 yards to North Farmington's 16-yard line. Rice's Don Piotrowski caught a fourth down pass, but was outside the end zone.

**NORTH FARMINGTON** took over with 2:49 remaining in the half at their own 16-yard line. On their second play, Jeff Cohen, who compiled 82 yards, ripped off a 30-yard gain. Three plays later, Miller burst loose up the middle for 43 yards and another Raider touchdown. Nutter's extra point kick gave North Farmington a 14-0 halftime lead.

Rice finally scored on its second possession of the second half. The Warriors drove 71 yards in six plays. John Baranska capped the drive with a 19-yard scoring run. English's 34-yard pass to Brian Brennan, on a third down and eight situation, was the key play in the drive.

After bobbling the ensuing kickoff, North Farmington took over from their own 18. The Raiders hammered 70 yards to the Rice 12 before Nutter failed on a 29-yard field goal attempt.

Rice took over at its own 20 yard line early in the fourth quarter with the score still 14-7. Then everything went wrong. English fumbled the ball on the snap. A pass went incomplete. Then English was sacked after a collision

with a teammate in the backfield.

Ed Lynch of Rice was forced to punt from the two-yard line. North Farmington's Tim Deighton blocked the punt. The ball rolled out of the end zone giving the Raiders a two-point safety.

**FOLLOWING A FREE KICK**, the Raiders took over from their own 43. Miller ran the ball twice — a 27-yard gain and a 30-yard ramble for a touchdown. Nutter again kicked the extra point.

Rice tried two halfback passes the next time it had the football. Brian Brennan's second attempt was intercepted by Jeff Cohen of North Farmington.

**Farmington Observer**

## SPORTS

Monday, November 20, 1978

(P.1C)

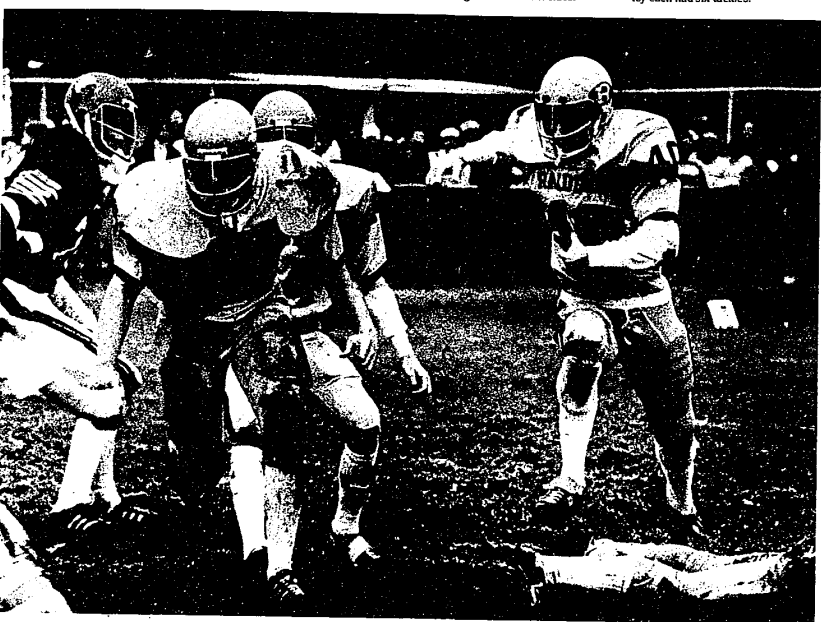
yard field goal.

Besides his blocked punt and interception, Tim Deighton led the North Farmington tackle charts with seven. Don Treglow had five tackles.

Sean Degan had 16 tackles for Brother Rice. Steve Kaiser had eight tackles, Ed Lynch and Tom Finn each seven and Mike Conney and Colin Hafley each had six tackles.



The scoreboard tells the story, as Mike Miller does a little dance after scoring a touchdown in the closing seconds of the first half.



North Farmington guard Dan Cohen leads the way for running back Mike Miller in last Saturday's state semifinal game against Brother Rice. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

## NF gridders chant, 'We will!' And they do—with big upset

By C. J. RISAK

"We will! We will!" the North Farmington football squad chanted all week during practice. And they did.

In what football coach Ron Holland called, "one of the biggest victories in the history of the school," North knocked off No. 1 rated Birmingham Brother Rice, 26-7, last Saturday at Birmingham Groves.

The semifinal win gave the Raiders a berth in the Class A state finals against Traverse City at the Pontiac Silverdome next Saturday.

"They believed in themselves," Hol-

land said afterwards amidst the victory cheers and tears. "The coaches started that chant this week. And the kids took it to heart. They really believed in themselves."

North handed Brother Rice with a bruising ground game that averaged up 285 yards. Almost all of that came on runs through the middle, as running backs Jeff Cohen and Mike Miller found gaping holes in the Rice line time and again.

It was Miller who made the big play for North. With 45 seconds remaining in the first half and North holding a 7-0 lead, Miller took a handoff and raced

43 yards for a touchdown. The score stunned the Warriors as they left the field at the half trailing 14-0, instead of by just one touchdown.

**THERE WERE** several times in the second half that the Raiders might have lost the momentum. Rice scored in the third period. Quarterback Jon English set up the touchdown as he passed for his longest gain of the day, a 34-yard strike to Brian Brennan. Running back John Baranska scored moments later on a 19-yard run, and Rice trailed by only one touchdown.

But the Raiders never lost their cool. After the ensuing kickoff, North

marched from its 18 to the Rice 12 before the drive stalled. It ate up six minutes of the clock.

But again, the elusive part of every football game, momentum, could have swung to Rice. The Rice defense held, and Rich Nutter's field goal attempt was wide.

But the Warriors did themselves in. On the first play after North's missed field goal, English fumbled the snap. On second down, Brennan dropped a pass, and on third down there was a miscue in the backfield and English was dropped for a 12-yard loss, all the way back to his eight-yard line. North Farmington linebacker Tim Deighton blocked the punt and the ball went out of the end zone for a safety.

"We played outstanding defense," Holland said. "We were 10-point underdogs (according to an article that appeared in a Detroit daily newspaper), but we played real relaxed and loose."

"I can't say enough about these kids. Some were really hurt last week like (kicker, running back) Tim Quinn. But there was no way he was going to miss this one."

"We really didn't do anything differently. We did what we wanted to do, and everybody did what they had to do."

Doing what they had to do included shutting down the state's best passing combination, English to end Marty Martinez.

And the Raider defense did just that. Martinez managed only one reception for six yards. English had one of his worst days passing, completing just six of 16 for 81 yards, while throwing three interceptions.

But the statistical story for both North and Rice could be summed up in a couple of figures: Miller gained 191 yards on fifteen carries, scoring touchdowns on runs of 43 and 30 yards. Rice managed only 141 yards in total offense.

**FOR RICE**, it was the end of another great season. The Warriors' 24-game win streak ended, as they finished 10-1 on the year. Top-rated in most state polls the entire season, Rice had faced pressure games each week, including Ohio state power Barberton and several teams in the Catholic League playoffs.

As for North Farmington, the Silverdome and Traverse City for the state Class A title game next Saturday.

## TENNIS LESSON #1

Pick an instructor with solid credentials!



Top left: Mark Reznich, director, Current S.E. Michigan Jr. Davis Cup Team Coach, Co-chairman S.E.M.T.A. Jr. Development Program. Top right/bottom right: Tim OldDusty Rhoads, native Californians, helped develop instructional programs at the famous Vic Braden Tennis College. Bottom left: Ken Germain, former National Jr. Collegiate Doubles and Mid-American Conference Champion. Four pros with a lot of teaching experience.

**At the Court House Racquet Club**, you can't miss. Because each instructor's credentials are as long as your arm. (See picture caption.) The fact is, Mark Reznich and his staff make up the most highly qualified and experienced quartet of instructors in the entire Southeastern Michigan area! And remember, the better the teacher... the better and faster you can progress. Call the Court House to schedule your lessons now. But hurry, because Fall classes are filling fast.

**Number 1 Junior Excellence Program:** Fifteen solid weeks of intensive teaching and training to turn youngsters from 8 to 18 into championship class players. There's no other program like it. Sign up now!

**Number 1 Adult Instruction Program:** A five-week course of close, personal instruction — from beginner to expert. All in the proven and capable hands of our number 1 staff.

Sessions starting Nov. 20, 1978. Call 626-2900 today. Non-Members Welcome



**COURT HOUSE**  
6343 Farmington Road  
W. Bloomfield, MI. 48033

## Mercy needs 2 OTs

By C. J. RISAK

Two more evenly matched teams could probably not be found.

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, the defending Class A champion, met Bishop Gallagher, the defending Class B champ, in the Catholic League play-off semifinal round last Thursday night. It was the third meeting of the season for the two basketball powerhouses, with each having won a game by 14 points.

But the rubber game of the series was no blowout. Gallagher jumped out to a big first half lead, but Mercy rallied and sent the game into two overtimes before topping Gallagher, 54-49.

Mercy turned in some sparkling defensive play in the first half, holding Gallagher to just 21 points. But the Marlins, after leading 34 after the first quarter, managed only one point in the second period as Gallagher moved out to a 21-10 lead.

"We give away height at every position," Mercy coach Larry Baker said after the game. "I told our team at halftime they were playing great defense, but I was disgusted with their shooting. I said they were the defending Catholic League champs, and that they had come back better in other games. I told them to be confident in themselves."

"We made a few other adjustments in the second half, and they seemed to work."

One of the adjustments was putting in Lisa Morris and moving Gretchen

Larges out to a wing position. The Marlins also went into a press defense. All the moves paid off, as Mercy outscored Gallagher, 17-7, in the third period to pull within one point at 29-28.

"Our bench was great," Baker said. "In the last two games, they've contributed a lot, while other teams can't get that kind of help. They're really made a difference."

Morris and Larges headed the team's comeback in the second half, as Morris scored six points in the third quarter rally and Larges hit for 21 of her game-high 23 points after halftime.

Mercy led both late in the fourth quarter and in the first overtime, but each time Gallagher rallied to tie. However, in the second overtime, Mercy's bench strength proved to be too much as they pulled away from Gallagher, eventually winning by five points.

**MERCY NOW** heads into the finals against Royal Oak Shrine. The game will be played at University of Detroit's Calhoun Hall on Sunday, at 4:30 p.m.

"Shrine has a great team, but their main strength is Rochelle Bostic," Baker said. "She's a great leaper and all-around athlete. And she's taller than anyone we have (6-0)."

Bostic was indeed the reason Shrine made it into the finals, as she scored 11 of her game-high 23 points in the final quarter to spark Shrine to a 40-36 semifinal win over Bishop Foley. The win raised Shrine's record to 18-1 on the season.



Mercy coach Larry Baker. (Staff photo)

**MERCY 14-BISHOP GALLAGHER 49**

MERCY (14)—Dennis Baskfield 3, 14, 8; Orlando Chapman 2, 13, 5; Anne Henscheid 2, 6, 4; Gretchen Jones 12, 24, 20; Lisa Morris 2, 12, 6; Kelly Walsh 1, 14, 2; Laura Zwickler 1, 24, 4. TOTALS: 22, 101, 54.

BISHOP GALLAGHER (49)—Beth Adorno 3, 24, 8; Terry Ivins 3, 12, 7; Terri Soulier 4, 12, 13; Mary Kasmala 2, 14, 15. TOTALS: 25, 97, 7.

**TOTAL FOUls—** Mercy 14, Gallagher 17. **FOULED OUT—** Soulier (10), Bostic (10), Zwickler (10).

**REBOUNDS—** Mercy 17, Gallagher 17.

**POINTS IN THE PAINT—** Mercy 17, Gallagher 17.