



















BRIAN PLACHTA







'Big Five' grid powers dominate **O&E** Area team

By TOM BAER

Five area high schools — North Farmington, Birmingham Brother Idea. Birmingham Cores, Birmingham Gross, Birmingham Gross, Birmingham Gross, Birmingham Gross, Birmingham Gross, Birmingham Gross, Gross

pounds) highlighted the offensive back selections. An outsatanding passing quarterback, he completed 89 of 148 passes for more than 1,200 yards and 13 touchdowns.

IS touchdowns.

GROVES BILL

Eberhart (5-8, 170) was another understandable choice. The Falcon senior nushed for 1,009 yards and soured 15 touchdowns. Groves coach Bill Rankin called Eberhart 'the best numer I've ever coached."

Jeff Coken, North Farmington's tall-back, had both the speed (4.5 seconds in a 49-yard sprint) and the size (190 pounds) to be a devestating runner. The Raider senior nushed for 703 yards and 17 touchdowns desylte being side-lined by injuries early in the season.

Canbalmer Bill Kenthur (5-8, 180)

and I7 toucnowns essague seeing suserlined by injuries early in the season.

Seabolm's Bill Kendro (5-9, 180)
earned a god on the backfield by gaining 592 yards in 124 current of social
ing 592 yards in 124 current of social
Science's Maples.

Little (5-3, 135) Bruce Bentley may
be the smallest player on the team,
but he did a big jole for Tray Athens as
a running back. The Athens' senior
gained 1,110 yards and soored 10 TDs.
Two outstanding ends — Rice's
Marty Martinez (6-1, 180) and Rochester High's Terry Weathers (6-0, 176) —
were picked for the first team. Martinez, English's favorite target, caught
vacchiowns. Weathers, a good blocker
touchdowns.
The four offensive linemes were big
(212 yound average) and experienced
(all seniors). The line pickes Groves'
Stu Hixon (6-2, 240), Detroit Country
Day School's Bill Aliber (6-1, 225),

bolm's Craig White (6-0, 185). All were two-way players.

RICE NAILED down both kicking spots with punter Ed Lyuch and place kicker Brian Swanson, both seniors. Lynch, who received a life of votes as a lineman, punted for a 43-yard average. Swanson kicked 23 of 28 extra points and made good on four of 11 field goals, including 46-and 41-yard attempts.

The defensive first-team players were just as impressive as their offensive counterparts.

The squad included four rugged senior linebackers: North's Pat Collins, The squad included four rugged senior linebackers: North's Pat Collins, Bloomfield Hills Andower's Bill Hertle, Groves' Bud Plucass and Southfield-Lattrup's Pat II yels.

The smallest of the lot at 5-10 and 175 pounds, Collins proved his worth to coach Ron Holland's Raiders by logging 33 solt becked four pesses and two punts. The hard-hitting Plezas (6-1, 150) was Grover's starting QB until an ashle injury forced him to concertate on defense.

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THE COACHES picked two Groves players, senior Tom Saelly and junior Chris Vogt, for the defensive back-field. North's Tim Quinn and Avo-dale's John Janes, both seniors, com-

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SPORTS

The '78 All-Area team has three of the best defensive linemen around in Groves' Brian Plachta (6-3, 215), Rice's Steve Chiodo (6-2, 200) and Rochester Adams' Jack Lawless (6-3, 185).

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Two coaches, Groves' Rankin and North's Holland, shared Coach of the Year borns' this season.

Holland, who has a 121.36-3 record in 20 years as a head coach, guided the 1978 Raiders to an 11-1 record and a Northwest Shourban League championship. The Western Michigan University graduate coached North to unbeaten seasons in 1958 and '70.

In six years as Groves' head coach, Rankin has brought the school from a 14 record his first year to 9-11 and a Metro Suburban Association title this season. His teams had an impressive 15-4 record over the last two seasons.

A graduate of Alma College, Rankin had coaching stints at Detroit Cooley and Detroit Western before coming to Groves.

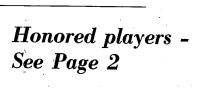




PAUL PYLES









COACH RON HOLLAND NORTH FARMINGTON



JACK LAWLESS







CRAIG WHITE





COACH BILL RANKIN BIRMINGHAM GROVES