

Rugby is the sport for Rice grad at Oxford

By BRAD EMONS

Although not a native Englishman, Dennis Feeheley is making quite an impression as a rookie rugby player, performing for Oxford University.

In and about the walls of Ivy at the prestigious English school, Feeheley, a 1977 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice, has picked up the nickname Oxford Yank around the rugby fields.

Rugby is a sport which originated in England in 1823. The sport has many characteristics of soccer and American football and is played on a field 100 yards long and 75 yards wide.

Feeheley, who played baseball in

high school, plays league rugby, with 13 players on each side. Union rugby has slightly different rules, and fields 11 men on each side.

Feeheley, who was accepted at Oxford this fall after attending Harlaxton College in England last year, signed up to play rugby with no previous experience.

"We have a freshmen fair where you can sign up for activities at the beginning of the term," said Feeheley. "Rugby sounded like a good sport to try, so I signed up."

The Birmingham resident had to play his way onto the University squad.

"During the tryouts I didn't really

know the rules, I just tried to learn things by watching," he said.

Feeheley said rugby is a sport that is not complicated or disciplined.

"I made the team, I guess, because I was quick and was a good tackler," said Feeheley.

Feeheley played football in junior high school but not in high school.

"In rugby you can't be afraid of being hit. You just go out there and play as hard as you can," he said.

The only protection rugby players can wear are shin pads.

"There is basically no equipment for this sport," he said.

Rugby is known for being an extremely physical sport. Feeheley

said the English players play hard and display a lot of sportsmanship.

"You get a lot of cuts and bruises out there. We've had a few broken legs and noses since I've been playing," Feeheley said.

The Brother Rice grad plays the wing, or loose forward, position for a team which finished around the 500 mark.

"We practice three times a week and work on lateralizing the ball a lot," said Feeheley. "In a game, you play 80 minutes straight with no rest."

"With all the running and ball handling, you can get tired very easily. In some respects, it's rougher than football," he said.

Feeheley recently led his team to a victory scoring the winning try, which is similar to a touchdown in football.

"I enjoy playing and my family thinks it's good," said Feeheley.

"We don't get big crowds at our games but we do have a good rivalry with Cambridge," he said.

Feeheley will study at Oxford until May. He is currently involved with international law and political science. He is also a member of the school's student union. When he is not playing rugby, he spends an average of six to seven hours a day studying.

"Oxford is a self-motivation school," he said. "We have tutors and write a lot of papers."

Feeheley has played basketball at Oxford also and enjoys the atmosphere of the school.

"I enjoy the curriculum there," said Feeheley.

Feeheley saw former President Richard M. Nixon drive into the stu-

dent union when he visited the Oxford campus.

"We really have a lot of interesting and informative lectures here," said Feeheley.

The Birmingham resident is back home for Christmas break and will go back to study at Oxford in May.

AS FOR THE future, Feeheley said he'll probably come back to the states to complete his education.

"Right now I'll go back and play rugby and enjoy the rest of the term," said Feeheley.

"Our team is trying to attain the blues award, which is one of the highest awards for athletes," said Feeheley, who is the only American on the Oxford squad.

"England has a lot of heritage, culture and tradition," said Feeheley.

"But there are many conveniences in America," he said.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Feeheley of Birmingham.

Spinelle picked as Olympic official

By BRAD EMONS

Dr. James Spinelle is headed for the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Although Spinelle, a resident of West Bloomfield, did not qualify for any of the events, he has been selected to officiate over the cross country ski events.

For the past two years, Spinelle has been a consultant for the United States Olympic Committee's Transportation Network.

Spinelle has been working on plans to bring spectators into the Lake Placid area in the most effective way during the Winter Olympics.

"I'm going to be a referee and finish-timer at most of the cross country ski events from the biathlon (rifle-pistol

accuracy on skis) to the Nordic race events," said Spinelle.

"I was selected as an official as a reward for my work with the Olympic committee. Spinelle, a teacher and chairman of the social studies department at West Bloomfield High School, is an active cross country skier.

He instructs on weekends at the Timberline Ski Lodge near Cadillac. Spinelle will take a sabbatical leave from teaching to work at the World Championships next month at Lake Placid.

DURING HIS SABBATICAL, Spinelle will also do research in South America. He plans to drive from the southern tip and come back by car.

"Hopefully I will be able to discover things the next six months and explore other parts of the world," said Spinelle, who said he is looking for riders for the South American trip.

Spinelle said the World Championships are a prelude to the 1980 Olympics.

"The 1980 Olympics has been appropriately named the 'Olympics in perspective,' meaning the facilities being used will be used not just for the games," said Spinelle.

Spinelle said the new complex at Lake Placid will cost a minimum of \$30 million. The last Olympics held in the U.S. were in 1932 at the Lake Placid facility.

"The existing Olympic village has been used as a federal minimum security prison," said Spinelle, "which is now being expanded."

"The Olympic stadium

at Montreal alone cost \$90 million."

The West Bloomfield teacher, who has also been selected to officiate at the Winter Olympics, said over 1,000 athletes will be housed at the village.

"THERE ARE OTHER facilities such as the ice arena that are undergoing renovation," said Spinelle.

"Lake Placid will also be the sight for a training center for aspiring American Olympic athletes," said Spinelle.

The West Bloomfield resident said that in four years the U.S. team will do quite well because of the Lake Placid facility.

"We do not have one bobbed training area for our athletes," said Spinelle, "but because of our efforts in Lake Placid, our performance in that sport will take a turn upwards."

students to form a cross country ski club.

"Once you learn the technique, cross country skiing can be addictive," he said.

"We have seen just the tip of the iceberg," Spinelle said. "A lot of jagers are getting into cross country skiing."

"If you can walk, you can cross country ski," he said.

"The better the endurance, the better one can become involved competitively."

At West Bloomfield, Spinelle has organized

Gerard Grabowski, a cross country runner at West Bloomfield, has formed a race team.

"Gerard has an active interest in the sport and has applied to become a torch bearer at the 1980 winter games," said Spinelle.

Grabowski also plans to become involved in the competitive aspect of cross country skiing.

SHS tankers win; Ford edges S-L

By C.J. RISAK

Southfield captured seven of a possible 11 first places as it swam past Redford Thurston, 100-72, Wednesday at Southfield.

The Blue Jays' victory was never in doubt, as they placed two swimmers in the top three in all but one event. They also finished first in both relay events, as they raised their dual meet record to 2-1.

In the individual events, Southfield winners were Raif Brooks in the 200-yard individual medley (2:17.9); Bob Shroesbee in the 50-yard free (24.2); Mark Albrant in the 100-yard fly (1:03.1); Lance Gorney in the 100-yard free (55.3) and Ken Lynchey in the 100-yard breast (1:10.1).

In the relays, Southfield's 200-yard medley team of Todd Avery, Brooks, Albrant, and Shroesbee swam to a win (1:56.1), while Steve Wolfe, Dave Dock, Brooks, and Shroesbee took the 400-yard free relay (3:46.0).

The Blue Jays next meet will be Jan. 9 when they entertain Troy.

Edsel Ford-Lathrup

Southfield-Lathrup was unable to stop a late Edsel Ford surge, as the Chargers dropped their first dual meet of the season, 89-83, Wednesday at Lathrup.

Most of the meet was close, with Edsel Ford winning the 200-yard medley relay to open the meet. Lathrup came back with four straight wins in individual events, including a one-two sweep in the diving. Edsel Ford rallied, winning four of the last five individual events before Lathrup captured the 400-yard free relay to end the meet.

Lathrup individual winners were John Roberts in the 200-yard free (1:52.5); Chuck Roberts in the 200-yard individual medley (2:16.0) and the 100-yard free (53.1); Dave Bowser in the 50-yard free (24.2) and Todd Winston in diving (202.40 points).

Bowser, John Roberts, Jerry Wincek, and Begreen teamed for a win in the 400-yard free relay (3:39.5).

Lathrup is off until Jan. 9, when it travels to Birmingham Seaholm for a dual meet.

Edsel Ford-Lathrup

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY—Southfield (Todd Avery, Raif Brooks, Mark Albrant, Bob Shroesbee) 1:56.1; Thurston, 2:00.0.

50-YARD FREESTYLE—Dave Miller (T) 1:04.1; Pete Hendrich (S), Mitch Phillips (S).

100-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY—Raif Brooks (S) 2:17.9; Don Fried (S), D. O'Bradovich (T).

100-YARD FREESTYLE—Bob Shroesbee (S) 55.3; Ken Lynchey (S), S. Vinnabo (T).

DIVING—K. Hines (T) 182.50; Scott Barber (S), Don Zane (S), Bob Hernandez (S).

100-YARD FLY—Mark Albrant (S) 1:03.1; C. Hernandez (T), Bob Hernandez (S).

100-YARD FREESTYLE—Lance Gorney (S) 55.3; Dave Dock (S), J. Coban (T).

100-YARD FREESTYLE—Dave Miller (T) 51.03; Mitch Phillips (S), Jeff Cals (S).

100-YARD BACK—P. Cady (T) 1:07.8; Ron Fried (S), John Walle (S).

100-YARD BREAST—Ken Lynchey (S) 1:10.1; D.O'Bradovich (T), S. Rozanec (T).

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY—Southfield (Steve Wolf, Dave Dock, Raif Brooks, Bob Shroesbee) 3:46.0; Thurston, Thurston.

EDSEL FORD—LATHRUP

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY—Edsel Ford (Wittenberg, Barrett, Ruffa, Robert) 2:02.2; Lathrup, 2:05.0.

100-YARD FREESTYLE—John Roberts (S) 1:52.5; Cornell (EP), Berggren (S).

100-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY—Chuck Roberts (S) 2:16.0; Ruffa (EP), Apple (EP).

50-YARD FREESTYLE—Dave Bowser (S) 24.2; Coker (EP), Roberts (EP).

DIVING—Todd Winston (S) 202.40; Brian Hahn (S), Penn (EP).

100-YARD FLY—Scott Barber (S) 1:04.1; John Roberts (S), Hines (EP).

100-YARD FREESTYLE—Cornel (EP), Cady (EP), Berggren (S).

100-YARD BACK—Apple (EP) 1:07.1; Dave Bowser (S), Wittenberg (EP).

100-YARD BREAST—McGuck (EP) 1:04.4; Hammon (EP), Ken Coban (S).

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY—Southfield-Lathrup (John Roberts, Jerry Wincek, Dave Bowser, Benjamin) 3:39.5; Edsel Ford, Edsel Ford.

SOUTHFIELD 100—THURSTON 72

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY—Southfield (Todd Avery, Raif Brooks, Mark Albrant, Bob Shroesbee) 1:56.1; Thurston, 2:00.0.

50-YARD FREESTYLE—Dave Miller (T) 1:04.1; Pete Hendrich (S), Mitch Phillips (S).

100-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY—Raif Brooks (S) 2:17.9; Don Fried (S), D. O'Bradovich (T).

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400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY—Southfield (Steve Wolf, Dave Dock, Raif Brooks, Bob Shroesbee) 3:46.0; Thurston, Thurston.

FORD 81—LATHRUP 8

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY—Edsel Ford (Wittenberg, Barrett, Ruffa, Robert) 2:02.2; Lathrup, 2:05.0.

100-YARD FREESTYLE—John Roberts (S) 1:52.5; Cornell (EP), Berggren (S).

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400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY—Southfield-Lathrup (John Roberts, Jerry Wincek, Dave Bowser, Benjamin) 3:39.5; Edsel Ford, Edsel Ford.

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