

# Good defense could make Brother Rice a winner

By BOB GROSS

Defense is Bill Norton's trademark. The Brother Rice basketball coach subscribes to the school of defense — stop the other team from scoring and you'll win the game. And Norton may have a new defensive wrinkle for Warrior watchers. Instead of the man-to-man defense and the 1-3-1 zone employed in previous years, Rice may line up in a 2-3 matchup zone. "This year," said Norton, "because we're really not big at guard, and we're fairly big on the front line... we're spending a lot of time on the 2-3 matchup zone."

Norton said that such a zone, used most notably by last year's NCAA basketball champion Michigan State, is a little more man-conscious than area-conscious as a normal zone is.

The matchup zone, according to Norton, is a little like playing man-to-man with defensive players stationed in designated areas of the floor.

"I think it has possibilities," he said.

Norton was quick to add, however, that the matchup zone is only a possibility. He said his team has 20 defenses in four series to choose from.

**OPENING THE SEASON** at center and point guard for the Warriors will be 6-5 senior Bud Hart and 5-11 senior Brian Brennan. There's a temptation to compare the two to the players who held those positions last year — high school All-American Tim Andree and Mike Dietz — but Norton says he's been able to resist making that comparison.

"We don't try to compare them with Dietz and Andree because they're different people," said Norton. "We want Hart and Brennan to work to their own potential."

Kerwin "Mike" Smith joins Brennan in the Warrior backcourt. Smith, 6-0, is the brother of former Rice backcourt star Kevin Smith.

Rob Manila, a 6-3½ senior forward, gives the Warriors a lot of quickness on the front line. Manila is the lone full-time player back from last year's Catholic League championship team.

Paul Jokisch, a 6-6 sophomore, teams up with Manila and Norton to give the Warriors a front line averaging a little under 6-5. Jokisch saw limited action last year as a freshman.

Jokisch is the only non-

senior starting for Rice. Tom O'Leary, a 6-4 senior, is the backup forward. Tom Chisholm, a 6-0 senior, is the backup guard.

Seniors Dave Maxwell, 6-4, and Dave Gorsika, 6-6, round out the Warrior top nine.

Chisholm, Maxwell and Gorsika are all graduates of the Brother Rice intramural basketball program.

**NORTON SAID** his team started work on this season just as soon as school let out this past summer, first at the Brother Rice basketball camp, then in a recreation block into Rice's hopes to repeat as the Catholic League champ is Detroit Catholic Central.

"It appears," said Norton, "as if we're going to

have good leadership in the senior class — a lot of things point to this team playing close to its potential."

In order to fulfill their potential, the Warriors are going to have to overcome some pretty stiff opposition both in the Catholic League and out.

The team that stands out as a prime candidate to throw a stumbling block into Rice's hopes to repeat as the Catholic League champ is Detroit Catholic Central.

"THEY'RE BIG," said Norton of the Shamrocks, "and they have veteran players, and they have a high school All-American."

That All-American is Barry Spencer, a player considered by many to be

one of the top two or three prep players in the country.

Detroit DeLaSalle, the only Catholic League team to beat Rice last year, returns its entire starting five. So does U-D High. The only team in the Catholic League Central Division replacing as many players as Rice is Redford Bishop Burgess, according to Norton.

"We really will have some formidable opponents," the Rice coach said.

Outside the Catholic League, Norton sees River Rouge and Bloomfield Hills Lahser as the toughest teams on his schedule.

The Warriors get that schedule underway Friday on the road against Warren High.

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Six swimmers from the West Bloomfield Swim Club earned high finishes during an AAU meet at Clarenceville High School Nov. 17-18.

The meet, sponsored by the Clarenceville Swim Club, was for "A" swimmers. Steve Pancratz, competing in the 10-and-under age category, was the most successful in individual events for West Bloomfield.

Pancratz finished second in the boys' 100 yard backstroke and was fifth in the 200-yard individual medley. Tim Liu, swimming in the 11 and 12 age group, was fourth in the boys' 100 yard breaststroke and fifth in the 200-yard individual medley. Paul Lachner placed second in the boys' 15-18, 100-yard backstroke.

Jerry Missel, Dave Pancratz and Bill and Dick Grady combined to place second in the 13- and 14-year-old boys' 400-yard freestyle relay and splashed to a third in the boys' 200-yard medley relay.

Overall, there were 2000 entries in the meet.

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