

# Brother Rice triumphs

## Benedictine stops St. Mary's in crucial game

By DENNIS O'CONNOR  
Sports Editor

For three quarters, it looked like Orchard Lake St. Mary's "Impossible Dream" of playing in the Catholic League final at the Pontiac Silverdome would become a reality.

But Class C state-ranked Detroit Benedictine would have none of that.

The defending Catholic League C Division champion Ravens pushed and showed their way to 17 fourth-quarter points to beat the upstart Eagles, 23-7, Sunday afternoon.

Both squads entered the game with perfect league records and a trip to the Silverdome was on the line. And it was the bigger, stronger, and more physical Benedictine squad which walked away with its third straight division crown.

The Eagles gave it their best, however, holding a 7-0 halftime lead. And they held a 7-6 advantage until a 41-yard field goal with 10:29 left in the game gave the Ravens the upper hand.

"WE GAVE IT a shot, they just wore us down," said St. Mary's coach Al Dicken, whose young team includes

only three seniors. "We have nothing to be ashamed of — we should get our heads up."

Actually, Benedictine's (7-0) overwhelming size wore down St. Mary's (5-2). Raven All-State candidate Joe Gray, a linebacker who looks like Franco Harris and plays like Jack Lambert, was all over the field, outmuscling the Eagles' smaller interior line all day.

"You can only ask those little kids to go against those big guys for so long," Dicken said. "We're not kidding anyone. We played on emotion, beside that, we were hurt."

Junior Carl Pellegata, an All-State candidate himself, was the Eagles' major injury. Pellegata, the team's quarterback, punter, safety and return specialist, played the entire game with bruised ribs — and his injury hampered his effectiveness. He completed only six of 15 passes for 59 yards.

"I'LL TELL YOU what," Dicken said. "It would have been different if we had everyone healthy. . . Carl wasn't at full strength to get the passing game going."

St. Mary's dominated the entire first

half, but managed only one touchdown. Martin Brennan, who later injured his right arm, recovered Dwight Padillo's fumble on a punt return, giving the Eagles the ball on Benedictine's 13-yard line. Four plays later, Brennan snuck over from 1 yard out and Martin Vucina kicked the extra point for a 7-0 lead in the second quarter.

Benedictine's Clyde Smith ran back the opening kickoff of the second half 80 yards for the Ravens' first touchdown. It was the first time St. Mary's allowed points in the second half this season. But Pellegata intercepted a Tony Mac pass on the attempt for two points to preserve St. Mary's lead, 7-6.

Then came the fourth-quarter disaster. After the long field goal, Derrin Powell scored on a 35-yard run on

Benedictine's next possession for a 16-7 lead. Powell finished the day with 133 yards in 11 carries. The Ravens gained 192 yards on the ground in the second half, after gaining only 55 yards rushing in the first two quarters.

Andre White scored the Ravens' last touchdown on a 15-yard return after a Pellegata fumble.

St. Mary's hosts St. Florian at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

### RICE 25, U-D HIGH 14

Dave Yarema hooked up with Paul Jokisch for three touchdown passes Saturday as the Warriors rolled past a stubborn U-D High team.

Yarema hit Jokisch with touchdown passes of 31 and 53 yards in the second quarter, putting Rice up 13-0. Kicker Jim Ostrowski missed the extra point on the second touchdown.

Noseguard Fred Konkel got in on the scoring in the second quarter. Konkel ramblled six yards for a touchdown after recovering a U-D fumble. Rice elected to go for the two-point conversion and failed. The Warriors had a 19-0 lead at the half.

Neither team was able to score again until the fourth quarter. Chris Alridge got the Cubs back into the game when he picked up a Rice fumble and scampered 65 yards with it for a touchdown.

But Yarema and Jokisch came right back, giving Rice its final touchdown on a 35-yard pass. The Warriors again went for two and failed.

U-D's Jim Bobbitt scored the game's last touchdown on a 32-yard run. The Cubs were successful in a two-point try, making the final 25-14.

The Warriors totaled 273 yards on offense while holding U-D to 139. Rice rolled up 129 yards rushing while Yarema was five for 12 for 144 yards.

Yarema was intercepted Saturday for the first time in seven games.

Rice is 7-0 overall, 3-0 in the Central Division of the Catholic League. The Warriors host Harper Woods Notre Dame at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Birmingham Groves field.

## Falcon kickers win

(Continued from Page 1B)

Mark Bartram assisted on all three goals, and Falcon netminder Jack Macintosh recorded his seventh shutout while stopping 14 shots.

In another recent game, North Farmington blanked Ferndale High, 2-0, in the league's Eastern Division. North is 4-5-1 in division play.

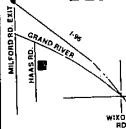
Jeff Simon and Chris Plummer handled the scoring for North, and goalie

Dan Myeris kicked out six shots. Grosse Pointe University-Liggett bombed Farmington Lutheran High Northwest, 8-0, in a non-league game. Northwest is 0-8-1 this season.

### GIRLS' SWIMMING

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy raised its swimming record to 6-0 this season with a 56-27 win over Harper Woods Regina.

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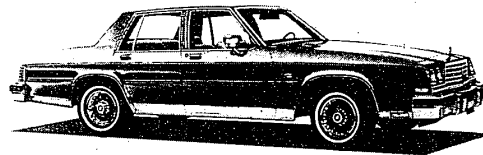
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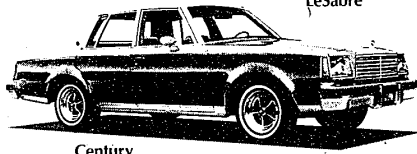
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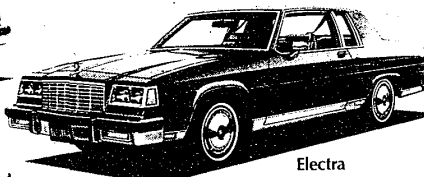
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