

Brother Rice to play Detroit Central

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Birmingham Brother Rice took care of the best from the east side, now it's time to tangle with the best from Detroit.

The Warriors, Oakland County's only surviving football team in the Class A playoffs, battle Detroit Central at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Birmingham Groves on the corner of 13 Mile and Evergreen.

The winner of this semifinal battle faces the Dearborn Fordson-East Kentwood victor for the state championship two weeks later.

As usual, Rice coach Al Fracassa was worried about his immediate opponent, Detroit Central. The Trail Blazers (9-3) defeated Public School League (PSL) champion Detroit Cooley, 34-26, to advance to the semifinals. Central's

only loss was a 22-14 setback to Detroit Osborn in the PSL semifinals. Rice (10-0) beat Sterling Hts. Stevenson, 25-13, to advance to the semifinals.

"THEY ARE VERY big," Fracassa said of Central. "They have a couple of tackles at 250 (pounds) and a nose guard at 245."

Jackie Harris is the nose guard. He is a PSL first-team selection. Jeffrey Walker is one tackle, a second-team PSL choice.

But the two athletes who make things happen are backs Steve Jones and Chris King. Central runs a variety of defenses and offenses, including a wishbone option and a power-I.

"We're going to have to work very hard," Fracassa said. "I'm worried about their running game. And they have speed at the wide receiver — they

have a balanced attack."

CENTRAL COACH DAVE Sneed knows his team is the Cinderella squad of the tournament, but that doesn't bother him.

"(I'm) not surprised. We felt we had a good team from the beginning," Sneed said of his team's accomplishments. "We don't mind sneaking up on people. We should have beaten Osborn. We felt the officials took it away from us."

Sneed said his team enjoys the excitement of the state playoffs. It's the first time Central has been in post-season play in the six-year history of the tournament.

"It's just a good feeling to play a team like Brother Rice," Sneed said. "It's a class organization. It's a privilege to play any Al Fracassa team."

"I think it's going to be a representative playoff game."

BROTHER RICE lost four fumbles in last week's 12-point victory over St. No. 1 team in the Observer & Eccentric area.

"We played well enough to win — not as well as the last two or three games," Fracassa said. "But you have to have some luck to go all the way."

It was the Warriors' defense again

which came up with the big plays to shut down Stevenson's offensive threats.

"The defense played very, very well," the Rice coach said. "They were on the field more than we wanted them to be, but they had to reach down deep and come up with the big plays."

"I CAN STILL see Fred Konkel (nose

guard) making the big play of the quarterback."

(That was a fourth-down-and-three play at the Rice five-yard line. Stevenson trailed 19-13 with seven minutes left in the game, and Konkel came up with a sack to thwart the drive).

Although Rice's rushing game wasn't sharp, junior quarterback Dave Yare-

ma made up for it with a sparkling 13-0-17 day through the air for 283 yards and two touchdowns. Steve Allen caught five passes and Paul Jokisch grabbed four for 142 yards.

"This Yarema kid is going to be something else," Fracassa said. "He threw when was a lot of pressure on him too."

Okemos next for HHS

(Continued from Page 1B)

low, Ron Brown and Jeff Thorne.

"I think Harrison is one of the best coached teams in the state," he said. "I'm very impressed with the job John Harrison's defense was led by line-backers Bruce Yeager and Bill Miller, end Dan Kehagias and safety Upshaw. Upshaw was especially impressive with 16 solo tackles and an interception. Kehagias blocked the point-after kick."

The Hawks' offense, however, produced 45 fewer total yards than Lumen Christi.

"We didn't play that well offensively," admitted Herrington. "We just couldn't complete the passes when we had the men open."

The winner of the Okemos-Harrison game will advance to the Class B finals to meet the winner of the Muskegon Catholic-Chessing game to be played Saturday at Flint's Atwood Stadium.

occasion against Lumen Christi, blocking a point-after kick and stopping the opposition three times after it had penetrated the Hawk 19-yard line.

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Ski safely this winter

The Oakland County Medical Society is sponsoring a symposium on skiing safety from 8-10 p.m. Nov. 18 in the Seaborn High School Auditorium.

The symposium will cover proper equipment, conditioning to prevent in-

juries, ski patrol safety and winter survival.

Admission is free. For more information, call 646-5400. Seaborn High School is at Cranbrook and East Lincoln in Birmingham.

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