

Brother Rice controversy goes to committee

and MARTY BUDNER

The Brother Rice controversy has gone to committee. The issue of attracting or recruiting student-athletes will try to be resolved by a 10-member panel of athletic directors representing public and private schools from the tri-county area.

Meanwhile, Birmingham Brother Rice, the Class A athletic power at the center of this controversy, will continue to get the cold shoulder from local public school athletic directors when attempting to schedule contests for the 1981-82 season.

The scheduling boycott began last November as a protest by public school officials against Rice and other private schools. Public school officials claim Rice's athletic success is the result of an unfair advantage because of different attendance-boundary rules.

Presently, state law restricts public schools to specific attendance boundaries, while private schools can draw from all over the state. Rice doesn't want the scheduling headaches of playing non-league games outside. It wants to develop local public-school rivalries.

More than 50 athletic directors from Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties attended the luncheon — one of the largest gatherings in recent years. The committee will try to develop amicable solutions to the problem before the next regular meeting on March 26.

Examining vague state transfer rules is one of the committee's major tasks. "We're concerned with fair and equitable competition," said Pendracki. "The old (current transfer) rule is not restrictive enough."

"I think it's totally fitting to sit out a year if you physically transfer from one school to another." If committee solutions are reached and accepted by the athletic directors at the March meeting they will be presented to the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), the state body which governs prep athletics.

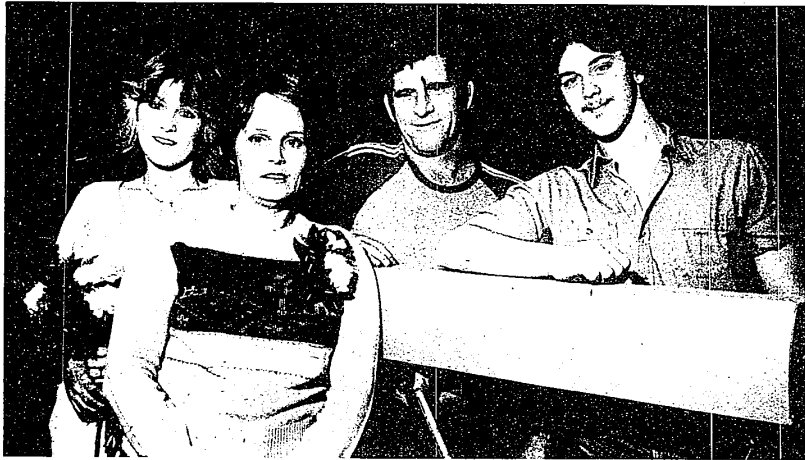
Ironically, the MHSAA recently formed a similar committee to investigate these problems on a state-wide basis.

NORM QUINN, Athletic Director in Bloomfield Hills and head of the committee, has criticized Brother Rice's alleged unfair advantage in the past. At the luncheon, Quinn outlined the pros and cons of the problem. He called for other public schools to better promote their programs in the same manner as private schools.

"Now, we don't have opportunity for equal competition, and we have the responsibility to sit down and solve the problem," Quinn told the group. "We have damn good (public school) programs and a damn good educational system."

"We have a product in our public schools that no one can match. But we've got to get out and publicize these programs." Other members of the committee include Joe Francis (Troy), who with Quinn, represent Oakland County; George Lovich (Livonia Franklin) and Bob Atkins (Redford Union), representing Wayne County; Tom Lusk (Fraser), and Ron Heller (Chippewa Valley), representing Macomb County; and Norton, Gene Reilly (Detroit Country Day), Joe Spada (Harper Woods Notre Dame) and Nancy Ryan (Bloomfield Hills Kingswood), representing private schools.

Quinn also will ask John Dean (Detroit Northern) to sit on the committee, representing Detroit schools.



Gymnastics is a family sport for the Thompsons. Tammy (far left) coaches at Farmington Harrison, Chuck Sr. (middle) coaches at Clarenceville and Chuck Jr. competes for Clarenceville. Gail (second from left), mother and wife, announces meets on the PA system. (Staff photo by Bill Bresler)

Gymnastics a family affair

Question: What do Chuck Thompson, Gail Thompson, Tammy Thompson and Chuck Thompson Jr. have in common? Guess again — we're looking here for something besides their common last name and identical Livonia addresses.

Answer: Each member of this family is dedicated to gymnastics. Since 1963, Chuck Thompson has coached the girls' gymnastic team at Livonia Clarenceville. One of his proteges from the class of '78 was his daughter Tammy, the current girls' gymnastic coach at Farmington Harrison.

Gail Thompson has announced her husband's home gymnastics meets for six years. Chuck Thompson Jr., 17, a senior at Clarenceville, made all-league, all-state and all-American both his sophomore and junior years. This year should make it three straight. His probable selection on the all-American team will be the last high school hurrah.

THURSDAY, for the first time, Chuck Sr. and Tammy went at it, head to head. Their teams competed against each other at Clarenceville. First-year-coach Tammy lost to her dad as Clarenceville defeated Harrison, 86-10-77.35. "I'm glad it's over," said the Clarenceville coach, who first entered gymnastics as a member of Michigan State University's team. "We were all walking around the house speculating for two weeks. "I wish she would have won. But you've got to keep in mind that this is the 11th meet she's ever coached. "It's my three-hundredth."

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HHS cops title

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison's basketball players were savoring their half of the Western Six League championship last Friday after their 68-43 win over Waterford Mott in the regular-season finale.

The victory pulled the Hawks into a tie with Northville, which beat Livonia Churchill last Thursday. Both Northville and Harrison finished with 8-2 conference records. Steve Hollatz, a 6-foot-4 junior, paced Harrison with 17 points, 17 rebounds and four blocked shots. Teammate Goran Vasovski scored 17 points to go with his six assists and six rebounds.

John Hingst scored 10 points for Mott, which trailed by just a point (19-18) at the intermission. The loss dropped Mott to 3-17 overall and 2-8 in the league.

Coach Mike Teachman's Harrison club will meet host Novi High at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 2, in the opening round of the state Class B district.

REDFORD UNION 56 NORTH FARMINGTON 36 Redford Union wrapped up the Northwest Suburban League basketball championship last Friday with a 56-35 thumping of North Farmington. North finished at 5-13 overall and 3-7 in the NSL. Rocco Rucinski and Todd Hillis each scored 18 points for Redford Union, which last won a basketball title in 1972, when it played in the Suburban 8 League. But RU needed some help from another NSL team, Livonia Franklin, which eliminated contending Thurston High last Friday. Jim Crawley and Mark Bowditch scored nine and eight points, respectively, for North Farmington. Coach Ken Dean's Raiders (5-13 overall and 3-7 in the league) trailed, 38-16, at halftime.



MIKE TEACHMAN Shares WSL championship

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North will participate in the Class A district tournament at Southfield High. On Tuesday, March 3, the Raiders and Detroit Henry Ford will clash at 7 p.m.

WATERFORD 84 FARMINGTON 56

Carl Soldan scored 22 points, and Steve Braun and Ken Hayward each added 13 as Waterford Township battered Farmington High, 84-56, in the Inter Lakes League and regular-season finale for both teams.

Mark Orlando led Farmington with 14 points, and Jerry Liphardt had eight. Farmington finished with a 9-11 overall mark and a 3-7 ILL record. Farmington and Livonia Churchill will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday on Churchill's court in a Class A district contest.

He went from blocking shots to pouring them

By BILL CASPER

Recognized by area hockey fans as old number 31 on a Detroit Red Wing jersey, Bloomfield Township resident Eddie Giacomini has hung up his skates in a Redford Township bar.

But, then, he can hang anything he wants there. He owns it. Giacomini recently purchased the Nashua bar Telegraph just north of Plymouth Road. He's changed the name of the bar to Eddie Giacomini's Sports Den, and he intends to make a go of it. But he admits that his former vocation could drag him away.

"Hockey has been my life," said the former hockey player. "All I ever wanted to do when I was wrapping up in Sudbury, Ontario, was to play hockey. And if some professional team calls me and offers me a coaching job, I think I'd accept if I could get a good contract."

He got his first break in the sport during his late teens.

"WHEN I WAS 18 and 19, my only love was hockey, but I couldn't make any of the junior teams, but I never said die," said Giacomini. "Then one day, my brother had a try-out with the Washington Presidents of the old Eastern Hockey League. But he couldn't get off work in time to make the try-out, so I went in his place and made the team."

He later played with the Providence (Rhode Island) Reds of the American Hockey League from 1961 to 1965 when he was purchased by the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League — the big leagues at last.

"Playing professional hockey with the Rangers in the NHL fulfilled a dream for me," Giacomini said. His brilliant career in New York spanned

10 years, highlighted by five all-star appearances and a share (with teammate goal tender Gilles Villeneuve) of the coveted Vezina Trophy, which goes each year to the goalie or goalies who allow the fewest goals during a season.

IN THE FALL of 1975, the Detroit Red Wings acquired Giacomini and two years later he retired at age 38.

"I wish I had played in Detroit longer because Olympia Stadium was made for me," he said. "The design of the corners are such that it made it easier for me to get to the puck and that fit my style of play because I liked to roam in the net and handle the puck."

FHS tankers sink Northern

Following his playing days, Giacomini landed a broadcasting job, doing the color commentary for the New York Rangers. He was then hired as an assistant coach for the Islanders, but says "things didn't work out."

Giacomini also worked for two months as an assistant coach in charge of the goalies for the New York Rangers, but as with the Islanders, no one offered him a contract to continue, he said.

He ran into the same situation last March when Red Wings owner Bruce Norris was looking for a new coach with 10 games left in the season.

"He approached me about taking the job and I threw my name in," said Giacomini. "He (Norris) called me with five games left and asked if I take the coaching job, but he

didn't offer me a contract beyond the last five games.

"THE WINGS were still in contention for a playoff spot and if I would've gotten them in the playoffs, I would have been the hero and probably gotten a contract for the next season. But if I failed, it would've looked bad for me and may have damaged any future coaching prospect."

After his negotiations with the Wings' management broke down, Giacomini turned to some business connections he had made in Detroit during his playing days, leading him to the former Nashua bar, which was up for sale.

"The place was going down, but I thought it could be a good business because of its location at an active intersection," said the 41-year-old Giacomini.

"This is my first business venture and I'm still learning," he continued. "I got some experience by managing the bar for three months before I took ownership Feb. 2 as part of the purchase agreement while waiting for the liquor transfer."

"It took a lot of work to get the place cleaned up and I have plans to expand the interior along with a lot of other ideas which I hope will increase business."

"I WANT to put a little of me in the bar such as photographs of me in hockey action and a showcase where I plan to display some of my equipment. I wore as a player, like my mask, jerseys and goalie stick."

As the sign in front indicates, Giacomini intends to create an sports atmosphere in the bar where people can come to view and discuss sports events.

"I plan to have three televisions placed in different areas of the bar so people can come in and watch whatever sport they're most interested in," Giacomini said.

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