

Rice, CC to clash in Silverdome

By Marty Budner
Staff Writer

team defeated Divine Child in last year's Catholic League title game. But, you don't get another chance too often, and we feel very grateful for another chance to play them.

"They'll be awfully tough to beat because they're the Central Division champs. They have a very good football team," he said. "They're powerful, they're very well coached and they'll just have to be at our best to beat them."

THE WARRIORS, after a slow start in which they lost three of their first five games, are now on a three-game winning streak.

In its last three games, Rice (5-3 overall) has outscored its opponents 55-18. Over the first five games, Rice scored 50 points and the opposition totaled 60.

Those statistics demonstrate, the Warriors have improved substantially both offensively and defensively in recent games.

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Fracassa credits an improved kicking game, plus a young offense which has finally learned to play together as the reason for the mid-season turnaround.

"An offense takes a lot longer to develop — there's more skill involved," said Fracassa. "When you lose your entire offense, and you have a new one, it takes a little time. We're starting to move the ball a lot better now than we did before."

"One of the biggest things that has enabled us to win the last three games was our kicking game. I feel like the kicking game is about to do with the outcome of a football game. It's given us an opportunity to put the pressure on the other team."

"Mike Baughman is doing both the punting and kicking for us," he said. "But, I'm talking about all the phases of the kicking game — like the coverage of the punts and the punt return."

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game, the Warrior rushing attack was led by Mel Fair, Jr. who scored twice on four-yard runs. Senior Matt Chioldo scored Rice's other touchdown on a four-yard run.

Rice has a 6-0 half-time lead and increased the margin 19-0 with two fourth-quarter scores. The Falcons ruined the shutout when Chip Bowman scored Rice's other touchdown on a four-yard run.

Rice had 189 total yards — 134 rushing and 55 passing. Baughman, a senior quarterback, completed five of eight passes for 122 yards.

Defensively, junior Matt Dinges and senior corner back Chris Ryan had 11 and 10 tackles, respectively. Paul Burch had six tackles and set up the second score by recovering a fumble.

"That was probably one of the finest victories I've ever been a coach of because we did beat a team that had outstanding players," said Fracassa. "When you beat someone real good the victory means a lot more."

Andover swims to Oakland title

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yard backstroke in 1:03.23. Molly Billeden (100-free) and Karen Barnicoat (100-free) logged second-place finishes for the Oakland County champs.

Adams' Kelly Smiles, a sophomore, set a new meet record in winning the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 59.19. Highlander teammate Mary Carr tied Seaholm's Kristen Hommel for first place in the 100-yard breaststroke with a computerized reading of 1:11.11.

Seaholm's Jackie Moss won the 500-yard freestyle in a "lifetime best" of 3:15.04.

MAHIAN'S CHRIS GURICK set a meet record of 25.14 in winning the 50-free. Troy's Marcie Seiner had a 25.22 in finishing second in that event.

Groves' Carolyn Kennedy won the diving competition with \$76.85 points. Seaholm's Gretchen Hawkinson was second (\$75.30) and Groves' Karen Strelif took third (\$47.10).

"I think we could be able to finish second — we were fifth last year," said Seaholm coach Ken Shively, whose team is undefeated in 10 dual meets. "We knew we didn't have a chance to get first."

"We swam pretty good. It was not one of our best outings, but it was a good and exciting meet. We're having a good year — we could probably win our league (Southeastern Michigan Association) if Andover wasn't in it."

"We were eighth at the state meet last year," he said. "We would like to get into the top five at this year's meet."

Lathrup cagers fade in 4th quarter

It is for men like Bob Harding that they make those antacid tablets.

Harding, the girls' basketball coach at Southfield-Lathrup, watched his charges blow a nine-point lead in the fourth quarter and lose to West Bloomfield, 56-48, in non-league girls' basketball.

"We just weren't intense," said West Bloomfield coach Mike Greene. "We played our worst half of the year and things got worse in the third quarter."

"I don't even want to think about it," said Lathrup coach Bob Harding after seeing West Bloomfield outscore his

team, 26-5, in the last quarter.

Lahser's Denise Harkrider scored 15 points, 14 coming in the second half, six in the fourth quarter. Teammate Mary Coughlin netted 10.

Lathrup established a 23-14 halftime lead and seemed to have the Lakers on the ropes.

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"Magnifically, it turned around in the fourth quarter."

Sandy Niederman of Lathrup led all scorers with 18 points, and teammate Coughlin added nine. West Bloomfield got a big boost when Lathrup starters Diana Brooks and Kim Stern fouled out early in the last quarter.

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Watford Mott on Thursday.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN missed six free throws in overtime Tuesday and lost to Clawson Zion Christian, 38-34. The Southfield team had 13-13.

Kim Rymann led Zion with eight points. Cindy Sanderson, Julie Dales, and Pam Burch each had six. Kim Bonmarito and Jill Miller combined for 20 Zion Christian points.

Southfield Christian plays next on Tuesday at Whitmore Lake.

OU kickers seek place in playoffs

Oakland University may have another NCAA tournament to attend this year as the Pioneers make a drive toward a possible berth in the NCAA Division II soccer playoffs.

Head coach Gary Parsons' unit raised some eyebrows Sunday with a 3-1 victory over the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the nation's fourth-ranked Division II team.

The Pioneers, 10-2-3 this season, looked impressive in the win. Freshman Mark Christian sparked OU with a second-half goal which broke a 1-1 tie. Dandy Oskey scored five minutes later to ice the win.

"This puts us a lot closer to an NCAA playoff bid," Parsons said. "People around the country will have to regard us as a NCAA-caliber team now. It will open some eyes this week."

However, the road will not be an easy one for the Pioneers who are trying to duplicate the feat the women's basketball team accomplished last year — advancing to the final four before bowing out in the semifinals.

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