

# Rice, CC to clash in Silverdome

**By Marty Budner**  
staff writer

Don't look now, but guess who's in the Catholic League championship game this weekend at the Pontiac Silverdome?

It's none other than two-time defending league champion Birmingham Brother Rice. The Warriors assured themselves of another title shot by downing previously undefeated Dearborn Divine Child, 19-6, last Saturday night at Birmingham Seaholm High School.

Rice will play in the championship game against Catholic Central at approximately 8 p.m. Sunday at the Pontiac Silverdome. Ironically, the Shamrocks defeated the Warriors, 7-0, earlier this year in the 38th annual Boys' Bowl at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium.

"We know them (CC) a lot better than we did before, and of course, they know us, so in that respect, it's the same advantage," said Fracassa, whose

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, very good football team," he said. "They're powerful, they're very well coached and we'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 58-18. Over the first five games, Rice scored 50 points and the opposition tallied 60.

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

Fracassa credits an improved kicking game, plus a young offense which has finally learned to play together as the reasons 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 couple games was our kicking game. I believe the kicking game has a lot 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 on the punts and the punt returns."

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

Rice had a 6-0 halftime lead and increased the margin to 19-0 with two fourth-quarter scores. The Falcons ruled the shutout when Chip Bowman tossed a 24-yard pass to Todd Sisker.

Rice had 189 total yards — 134 rushing and 55 passing. Baughman, a senior quarterback, completed five of eight passes — the longest a 22-yarder to Jim Scott.

Defensively, junior end Matt Diggins and senior cornerback Chris Ryan had 11 and 10 tackles, respectively. Dave Joyce 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

**By Marty Budner**  
staff writer

Andover swim coach Mike Lane was rather quiet in explaining his team's success at Saturday's Oakland County girls' swimming meet at the Oakland University pool.

But you really can't blame him. There's not too much more Lane can say about his perennial powerhouse.

The Barons, state class A champion the past two years, won the annual county swim meet over the weekend for the fourth straight season.

Andover amassed 244 points, while second-place Seaholm had 171.5 and third-place Groves 158. Rochester Adams was fourth with 134.5 points and Birmingham Marian took fifth with 131.

"Everything went pretty much as expected," said Lane, whose team is 9-0 this year and 23-1 in dual meets over the past three seasons.

Andover dominated the meet, winning both relays and taking four of the nine individual events. Representatives from Seaholm, Marian, Groves and Rochester won the other four events (there was one tie).

**MISSY PROCTOR** led the Barons charge with first-place finishes in both the 200- (1:55.68) and 100-yard freestyle (53.28) events. Her 100-yard freestyle swim set a new meet and pool record.

Karen Barnicoat won the 200-yard IM for Andover in 2:12.66, while sister Sheryl Barnicoat took the 100-

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

Adams' Kelly Smylie, 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 computerized read-out times of 1:11.11.

Seaholm's Jackie Moss won the 500-yard freestyle in a "lifetime best" of 5:15.04.

**MAILMAN'S CHRIS** Gurdick set a meet record of 25.14 in winning the 50-free. Troy's Marilee Seiner had a 23.22 in finishing second in that event.

Groves' Carolyn Kennedy won the diving competition with 376.85 points. Seaholm's Gretchen Hawkins was second (375.30) and Groves' Karen Streiff took third (347.10).

"I had hoped that we would 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 some 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 anticlimactic plays.

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, 50-48, in non-league girls' basketball Tuesday.

"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.

Lathrup's Denise Hardiker scored 15 points, 14 coming in the second half, six in the fourth quarter. Teammate Mary Coleman scored 10.

Lathrup established a 22-14 halftime lead and seemed to have the Lakers on the ropes.

"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."

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

Sandy Niederman of Lathrup led all scorers with 18 points, and teammate Colleen Betts had nine. West Bloomfield started Dianna Brooks and Kim Kersten fouled out early in the last quarter.

"I'll be Parents Night when Lathrup, now 11-6, hosts Royal Oak Dondoro on Thursday. West Bloomfield travels to

Waterford Mott on Thursday.

**SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN** missed six free throws in overtime Tuesday and lost to Clawson Zion Christian, 38-36. The Southfield team is 13-4.

Kim Raymond led SC3 with eight points. Cindy Sanders, Julie Dace and Pam Burch each had six. Kim Bormarito and Jill Miller combined for 28 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 Christensen scored 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 a feat the women's basketball team accomplished last year advancing to the final four before bowing out in the semifinals.

OU, WHICH could move up from its No. 8 ranking, must play its last four games on the road. The Pioneers invade Akron University Wednesday, and Lock Haven State Saturday.

Christian leads the Pioneers with 26 points (11 goals and four assists). Nick O'Shea has 17 points, Morris Lupence has 16, and Lou Vulovich and Oskey each have 15.

Vulovich, a graduate of Farmington Harrison High, recently was selected in the second round of draft by the Phoenix Inferno of the Major Indoor Soccer League.

A co-captain sweeper back, Vulovich was the first player selected by Phoenix in the annual draft. The 5-foot-3, 135-pounder was the mainstay of the Oakland University defense, which has allowed just eight goals this year with nine shutouts.

"We are very happy for Lou and he certainly has the ability to make an outstanding contribution. It's an honor he deserves after the way he has played on defense this year," Parsons said. "He has the talent to become a super player in the MISL and I'm sure Phoenix knows what kind of player they drafted."

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