

Playoff time nears for prep grid fans

It's playoff time — the regular football season ends. That signals the start of the annual post-season bask known as the state playoffs.

There are two Class A teams from the Excelsior circuit area entering the playoff fray. They are undefeated Birmingham Brother Rice and Birmingham Seaholm. Detroit Country Day is a long-shot Class C playoff participant.

Rochester's bid for a post-season playoff berth was seriously impaired a few weeks ago when it lost to Birmingham Groves. That was Rochester's lone loss of the season.

Playoffs begin the weekend of Nov. 11. Southfield-Lathrup High School will host the top two Class A teams from Region 3 in a quarterfinal game, and Groves will host the top "A" qualifiers from Region 4. Both Seaholm and Rice are in Region 3.

Groves will also host a semifinal Class A football game Saturday, Nov. 12.

The state finals will follow Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome.

The Class D and A games comprise Section I and will be played 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively. In Section II, the Class C championship game begins 5 p.m. and the Class B championship game starts 9 p.m.

Tickets for the Silverdome games are now available at the Silverdome for \$3.50 per section.

For additional information, contact the Michigan High School Athletic Association at 1010 Woodward Road, East Lansing or call 517-332-5046.

SOCCER CLINIC
Detroit Country Day will host a soccer clinic from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12.

The clinic, conducted by the Detroit Express, is for youth ages 10-16. It will feature points in kicking, trapping, passing, heading and throwing. Express coach Brian Tinslon, assistant coach Gus Moffat and defenseman Steve Westbrook will be the instructors. There is a \$5 fee.

DDC is located at 23305 W. 13 Mile Road.

FIELD HOCKEY TOURNEY
Did you ever wonder what girls' field hockey is all about? Now's your chance to learn.

The public is invited to attend a field hockey tournament scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29, at Bloomfield Hills Kingswood High School. It takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to Kingswood, the competing teams include Academy of the Sacred Heart, Detroit Country Day,

sport shorts

Ann Arbor Pioneer, Huron and Greenhills high schools, Dearborn High and Dearborn Edsel Ford, Green Pointe and University Liggett and Maumee (Ohio) Country Day.

"With the enthusiasm and aggression displayed this early in the season, I see the potential for greater victories this year," said Kingswood athletic director Nancy Ryan. "The final Michigan State Tournament at Kingswood will be our greatest challenge."

Kingswood is located at 885 Cranbrook Road in Bloomfield Hills.

MCCLARY: ALL AMERICAN
John McClary, a 1983 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice, was recently selected as a high school All-American in boys' track.

McClary had the nation's eighth best time (1:52.10) in the 800-meter run. The best 800-meter time was posted by John Carroll (1:50.10) of Bernards High School of Bernardsville, New Jersey.

McClary, 18, played variety football, basketball and track at Rice. He is attending the University of Michigan on a track scholarship. Majoring in engineering, he is preparing for the indoor track season.

The All-American award is presented in conjunction with the National High School Athletic Coaches Association and the American Textile Manufacturers Institute.

There were a total of 360 boys and girls throughout the country named as All-Americans. Individually, California, with a total of 70, had the most runners selected.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Oakland Community College will conduct a pair of men's basketball leagues this winter.

The open league will be on Monday night while the Friday night league will be for the new, "pro" style. The "pro" style league consists of the three-point play, a 14-second clock and the six-foot rule.

The league starts Monday, Nov. 21, and the registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 4.

There will also be Christmas Basketball Tournaments for the following leagues: men's pro style; seventh and eighth grade girls; seventh and eighth grade boys; sixth grade girls and sixth grade boys.

For further information, call Steve Ogg at either 350-3042 or 681-9720.

Missed opportunities thwart OU

By C.J. Giesk
staff writer

Check the horoscope. Biorhythm charts. Crystal balls. Something — anything — that will reveal your fate. That's such a cruel blow to Oakland University's soccer squad.

The team had been perfectly set. OU, No. 6 nationally in Division II, boasting Akron University, the 18th-ranked team in Division I, a team that had been rated among the top 10 in the nation. It was the Pioneer's biggest test, a game against a true powerhouse.

A week without a game allowed OU to prepare, mentally and physically. Injuries were healed. Furies were

psychic. All systems were go. So what happened? The Pioneer misfired on half a dozen scoring opportunities, made a mistake in their own end, the field that Akron turned into a goal, and ended up dropping a 1-0 heartbreaker yesterday at OU.

"I FELT LIKE we had our chance," Pioneer coach Gary Parsons said. "The game was the toughest in 16 games. I think we should have won that game."

Or at least tied. It was difficult to believe all the things that went awry just when it seemed OU was ready to put the ball in the net.

Like in the final seconds of the opening half. With the game still

scoreless, the Pioneer drilled a corner kick to the front of the Akron goal. The ball dropped free just to the left of the net, and in the scramble that ensued OU banged the ball not once, but twice, off the left post before Akron goalkeeper Sean Burke covered it.

Mike Lupenc, who had one of the near misses, could only trot away shaking his head.

IN THE SECOND half, Akron got on the board when OU failed to clear the ball from its own end. J.B. Amagusa intercepted, drove into the left corner and fed it to Steve Frick, who converted for the game's only score 11 minutes into the second half.

"It was a dangerous pass from our back," Parsons analyzed. "And they intercepted. That's what happens when you can't clear it."

There was more trouble at the other end of the field for OU. Mark Christian got the worst of it, missing a pair of golden opportunities.

The first came five minutes after the Akron score. Christian slipped between the Akron defenders and closed in on goal, but Burke made a sliding save.

THEN WITH LESS than 10 minutes to play, Christian was positioned 10 yards in front of the net when the ball rolled toward him. But before he could get his foot on it, it was tipped away.

Rice, St. Mary's zip foes

Streaking Falcons top Adams

Birmingham Groves handed Rochester its first — and only — loss of the season three weeks ago and the Falcons are still rolling.

After starting the season with four consecutive losses, Groves has won three straight games. Its latest was a 31-12 triumph Saturday over Rochester Adams.

The Falcons are now tied (3-3) for third place in the Metro Suburban Activities Association with West Bloomfield and Southfield-Lathrup.

Groves hosts the Chargers 7:30 p.m. tomorrow and a win will even its season mark at 4-4. Lathrup, with its potent passing attack, is 4-3 overall.

"The Rochester game was the turning point of the season for us," said Groves coach Bill Rankin. "Rochester may have been looking ahead to a showdown with Lakeser that night. But, we played extremely well against them."

"After the win over Rochester we said let's keep right on working. The kids are starting to see the fruits of their labor."

"It's really nice... we're really having fun together," he said. "We've had six weeks of really good practices and the kids believe in each other."

Groves spotted Adams a 12-0 first-quarter lead and outscored the Highlanders 31-0 over the next three quarters.

The Falcon touchdowns were scored by Mike Cloutier, on runs of 25 and 33 yards; by Neil Keurjian, on a six-yard run; Paul Sechrist, on a school-record 77-yard interception return; and Eric Danjel, on a recovered fumble which he ran four yards into the end zone.

Adams scored on a nine-yard pass from Mike Smith to Darrin Lamphier. The other touchdown came a few minutes later on a 43-yard run by Lamphier.

Adams had 223 total yards to Groves' 174. Lamphier led all rushers with 120 yards on 16 carries. Cloutier gained 83 yards on eight carries.

Adams, winless in seven games, plays at Ferndale 7:30 p.m. tomorrow.

BROTHER RICE 28, BISHOP GALLAGHER 6: Brother Rice soared to the top of the Catholic League's Central Division with this shutout win over Gallagher.

The Warriors are now 4-0 in the division (7-0 overall) heading into Saturday's 7:30 p.m. clash with Redford Bishop Borgess at Garden City High School. Borgess is 6-1 for the season, having suffered its first loss last week against Warren De La Salle.

"They (Borgess) have tremendous speed... at any given time they can break away from you on the field," said Rice coach Al Fraccasca. "We're talking about touchdowns from 50 yards out. We can't do that. We don't have that kind of ability."

football

"This is the biggest game of the year for us," he said.

Rice scored a touchdown in every quarter against Gallagher, which is 0-4 in the division and 3-4 overall. The touchdowns were scored by Luigi Ivezaj (two), Mike Farr (on a reverse play) and Mark Barron (who ran an interception back 30 yards).

McL. Farr Jr. carried the ball 23 times for 160 yards. Quarterback Allen Saydowski completed six of 10 passes.

ST. MARY'S 12, ST. AGATHA 0: St. Mary's scored two touchdowns in the first quarter and held on the rest of the way in this bitter-sweet Catholic League C Division victory.

Despite the win, the Eagles' string of four consecutive league titles (which were either shared or won outright) came to an end.

St. Mary's is 3-1 in the league (5-3 overall) with one game left. Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes is first with a 4-0 mark (7-0 overall). Lakes continued its undefeated status with a close 21-20 victory

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