

## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312

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## The celebration's off

## Southwestern ends Rice's dream season at Jenison

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

It was 10 years ago this month that Birmingham Brother Rice won its first and only Class A basketball championship at Jenison Field House on the Michigan State University campus.

In fact, that was the last time a Class A championship basketball game was held there. They've since been played at Crister Arena in Ann Arbor.

The Warriors made a sentimental return trip to the "ol' big barn" on the banks of the Red Cedar River Friday afternoon. Things didn't work out quite as nice as that 1974 appearance.

Rice's bid for a second Class A state championship was foiled 60-57 by a well-coached group representing Detroit Southwestern. The Prospectors advanced to the Saturday's state championship game for the third straight year where they played tournament favorite Flint Northwestern.

Meanwhile, Rice's season ended with an overall 22-5 record, including a Catholic League regular-season title and state district and regional crowns.



Southwestern's Tarence Wheeler attempts to pass off while a leaping Andy Kolp defends.

The loss snapped Rice's season-ending winning string of seven games.

"Getting to the state semifinals is a dream that every high school coach has," said Rice's Nick Conti, who has never made it to a state semifinal game in 15 years of coaching.

"IT'S A GREAT experience to know your season has gone right down to the wire," he said. "It means the same to us in the same way that it means for Bob Knight to go to Seattle. This is our Seattle."

Even though it wasn't the NCAA basketball championships (which will be played this year in Seattle), the atmosphere was the same Friday in East Lansing. A large crowd from around the state watched the teams play a very mechanical game. For the most part, both squads were content to bring the ball slowly up court, set up their offenses and wait for the good shot.

But, in the end, it was defense that won the game for Southwestern.

The Prospectors watched their 35-26 halftime advantage disintegrate in minutes as the Warriors scored 13 of the third quarter's first 15 points. Rice took the lead 39-37.

The teams traded points and leads until four minute mark of the fourth quarter. That's when Southwestern's defense took over.

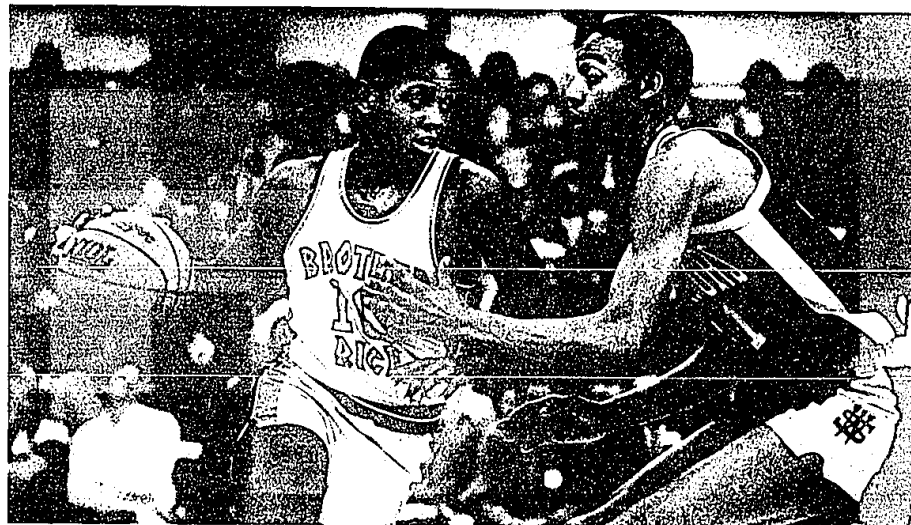
The Prospectors caused a couple key turnovers on Rice guards B.J. Armstrong and Andy Kolp. They took advantage of both those miscues to construct a 59-53 lead with less than minute to play.

Rice, looking a little tired from its stirring third-quarter comeback, could only foul in desperation as time ran out. Southwestern made six of its nine free throws down the stretch to clinch the victory.

"WE STRESS defense from the ninth grade on up," said Southwestern coach Perry Watson, whose team lost the last two state titles to Flint Central. "Our players understand that defense is what wins state titles. Offense gets the glamour but defense wins."

"I'm not surprised that Rice came back like they did because I have a lot of respect for coach Conti and Rice. But, we caused a couple turnovers and got some key rebounds. Right at the end Rice wasn't getting their second shots."

"We just have tremendous balance



Brother Rice junior point guard B.J. Armstrong is restrained by the hand of Detroit Southwestern's Clarence Jones during action Friday in the semifinals.

and I think over the course of four quarters we just slowed them down," he said.

Conti was satisfied with the way Rice responded in the second half. However, he said a couple second-half lapses were the difference in the game.

"I thought we could have gotten the ball inside a little better and I thought we were a little too soft defensively in the second half," said Conti. "But, in a situation like we were in (the state semifinals), it's usually what the winning team does right and not necessarily what the losing team did wrong."

The teams were tied at 12 after the first quarter, thanks to a red-hot opening minute as Rice guards Kolp and Armstrong hit nothing but net on three

straight shots. Rice had problems with Southwestern's press in the second quarter and that resulted in the Prospectors staking out their nine-point halftime advantage.

SENIOR FORWARD Matt Dingens opened the second half with a short jumper, then, after a basket by Clarence Jones, who scored all 10 of his team's third-quarter points, Rice trailed 11 straight points to get back into the game.

Armstrong, who finished with a game-high 21 points, scored seven of points in that streak, including a lay-up basket where he raced all the way down court after grabbing a rebound.

Southwestern then took command in the fourth quarter with its defense and timely foul shooting.

Senior forward Ray Wheelock — Rice's "super sub" — scored 16 points and had five rebounds. Dingens, had six rebounds, and Kolp finished with eight points each. Jeff Herberholz, a junior center, led Rice with eight rebounds.

Jones, who played two years in the shadow of highly publicized Southwestern alumnus Antoine Joubert, led Southwestern with 18 points and eight rebounds. Senior forward Chauncey Scott had 11 points.

"It's been a great year for us," said Conti. "Our team responded in every way possible. We've gotten better and

better and this loss can't take that away."

But, Conti and Rice would have enjoyed a state-championship celebration similar to that one held 10 years ago.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| SOUTHWESTERN 60 — BROTHER RICE 57   |                  |
| DETROIT SOUTHWESTERN (44) — Chauncey Scott 8, 1-2, 11; Samuel Simmons 1, 7-12; Clarence Jones 6, 0-1, 18; Johnny Slater 3, 0-3; 4; Johnny Johnson 4, 0-0, 8; Mark Barnes 2, 1-3; 4; Tarence Wheeler 2, 0-0, 4. TOTALS: 22, 16-31, 60. |                  |
| BROTHER RICE (45) — Tim Davis 1, 0-1, 2; Matt Dingens 4, 0-1, 2; Jeff Herberholz 0, 2-2, 2; B.J. Armstrong 4, 5-5, 21; Andy Kolp 3, 2-3, 11; Ray Wheelock 3, 4-4, 18. TOTALS: 21, 10-19, 57.  |                  |
| TOTAL FOULS: Brother Rice 21, Southwestern 14. FOULED OUT: None.  |                  |
| BROTHER RICE  | 12 14 17 14 — 57 |
| DET SOUTHWESTERN  | 12 23 19 12 — 66 |

## Depth charge: Area spikers deadly

By C.J. Risk  
staff writer

## FIRST TEAM

**T**ALK ABOUT DEPTH. This season's edition of the All-Observer volleyball team is so deep the third team could probably beat the second team — maybe even the top selections.

That's no knock against the first or second teams. But it is a tribute to the overall quality of play throughout the area this past season.

As team performance goes, Livonia Stevenson reigned supreme, coming up just one game shy of a Class A state championship. The Spartans lost a three-game heartbreaker to Flint Kearsley in the state finals.

Stevenson finished with a sparkling 33-5 match record, including tournament victories at Detroit Henry Ford, Dearborn Edsel Ford and Schoolcraft College.

Three Spartans were selected by local coaches to the nine-person first team. Redford Bishop Borgess landed two, with North Farmington, Livonia Franklin, Farmington and Farmington Hills Mercy putting one each on the team.

So here it is: the 1984 All-Observer volleyball team.

Linda Loeffler, Stevenson, senior: Loeffler was the Spartans' team leader — not just this season, but for the past three. A 94 percent server and 84 percent setter in Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) play, Loeffler was the team MVP, was All-WLAA, made the All-Tournament team at Schoolcraft and is an All-State nominee.

"Her ability to set the 5-1 offense was the key for our successful season," said Stevenson coach Leo Cagle. "Her sets were always predictable, very soft and consistent. She will be extremely hard to replace."

Tami Scuto, Stevenson, senior: Scuto excelled as a hitter. And as a server. And on defense and as a leader. In short, Scuto provided that quality every winning team needs — versatility.

Scuto's WLAA spiking average was 80 percent. Her setting was 83 percent, and her serving was a sparkling 93 percent. She was All-WLAA, All-Schoolcraft and an All-State nominee.

"She was an outstanding left-handed hitter on the strong and weak side," said Cagle. "She was a team leader, always positive, and an outstanding server, leading the team in aces."

## all-area volleyball

"She kept us in many matches with her hitting versatility."

Lisa Bokovoy, Stevenson, junior: Bokovoy's strong hitting ability was the center of the Spartan offense and defense. Her list of accolades reads the same as her two All-Observer teammates: All-WLAA, All-Schoolcraft, an All-State nominee.

Bokovoy connected on 87 percent of her spikes, 81 percent of her serves and 89 percent of her sets.

"Our front lines on offense and defense were built around her outstanding ability," said Cagle. "She'll lead us next year."

Nancy Rzepka, Bishop Borgess, senior: All-around seems the best way to describe this 11-letter winner (basketball and softball, as well as volleyball). At 5-foot-11, she led Borgess with an 87 percent spiking average, including 40 percent for kills.

A 4.0 student and team co-captain, Rzepka helped lead Borgess to a 34-16

record while earning All-Catholic League and Division honors.

"She is," summed up Borgess coach Jerry Abraham, "a top-notch young lady and a very dedicated team player."

Katy Smythe, Bishop Borgess, senior: While Rzepka finished the plays, Smythe started them. Abraham called Smythe "the finest setter in the Catholic League," but that wasn't her only qualities. She was also a team leader and very durable, playing every point of every game this season.

An All-Catholic League performer who carries a 3.3 grade point, the 5-6 setter and co-captain led Borgess to an 85-23 record over the past two seasons. She plans to continue playing in college.

"She is a very durable and intelligent athlete, with great leadership qualities," said Cagle. "Her poise and soft hands enabled Borgess to gain success attacking from various areas of the court."

Amy Austin, North Farmington, senior: Austin did a little bit of everything for the Raiders. She did a lot of everything, setting 14 school records in her career.

She was an outstanding server (91 percent) and equally superb on defense (80 percent serve reception). She connected on 87 percent of her spikes and collected 163 kills. Her school career records include digs (382), tips (245), blocks (217), spikes (1,089) and ace spikes (419).

"Amy is the total player in volleyball," said coach Sandy Lubienicki. "She combines her superior front row skills — blocks, spikes, tips — with aggressive back row play."

"Amy never quits, whether it's her effort to improve her skills or playing out a point in a game."

Carolyn Smith, Livonia Franklin, junior: Smith will be hard-pressed to improve on her performances of the past two seasons.

After all, she's been All-Northwest Suburban League as both a sophomore and junior. This season she collected 189 kills and 58 serving aces, but her talents were refined in all parts of the game.

"Carolyn is an excellent passer,

digger and server," said Franklin coach John Miltz. "She plays with intelligence, and most of her kills are a result of finding the holes in the defense."

Jill Waterman, Farmington, senior: A powerful left-handed hitter despite her 5-7 stature, Waterman, a four-year varsity player, was also an outstanding server (92 percent) and passer (82 percent).

Waterman led Farmington in kills and service aces and had a 90 percent hitting average. The team captain earned All-WLAA honors this season and has an offer from Oakland University to play next year.

"Jill is an excellent all-around player and team leader," said Farmington coach Kim O'Neill. "She's good in the back court as well as at the net."

Laurie Huston, Mercy, senior: Like many of the All-Observer choices, Huston excelled in all phases of the game. But her statistics were particularly impressive, surpassing 90 percent in serving (93), spiking (97) and blocking (92). She had a 55 percent kill average and 46 percent average in serving aces.

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Nancy Rzepka  
Borgess



Amy Austin  
N. Farmington



Linda Loeffler  
Stevenson



Lisa Bokovoy  
Stevenson



Tami Scuto  
Stevenson



Laurie Huston  
Mercy



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