

Rice grad making the grade at Tech

By C.J. Rieak
staff writer

Dave Barrett's mind is made up. This is his last year of mixing school and sports. "From here on in it's education," was how Barrett put it. "I'm going to — quote-unquote — 'settle down.'"

That sounds definite enough. But take note: Barrett said much the same thing a year ago as he finished his high school career at Birmingham Brother Rice.

The Bloomfield Hills native captained both the tennis and ski teams his senior year at Brother Rice. He played first doubles on a tennis team that tied Ann Arbor Huron for top honors in the state.

BARRETT AND PARTNER Dave Cosgrove, now a senior at Rice, were rated among the best doubles teams in the nation. They were favorites for the state title but were supplanted in the finals by a pair from Kalamazoo Loy Norrix. The scores were 7-5, 7-5.

"They were no slouches," Barrett recalled of his opponents.

That loss, perhaps more than anything else, has benefitted Michigan Tech.

Barrett chose to attend the Houghton school not to play tennis — Tech offers no scholarships for the sport — but because of its engineering program. Once he got there, however, he began to change his mind on several subjects.

For one, he wasn't quite as sure about going into engineering. For another, he discovered he hadn't had his fill of competitive tennis.

"Tennis is a very demanding sport," said Barrett. "I thought last year was my last, but I came up here and I couldn't get that last match off my mind. When I see Dave (Cosgrove), we still talk about it."

A FRIEND of Barrett's, Mark Midgley of Rochester who plays second singles for Tech, convinced Barrett to try out for the Tech team.

What's transpired is not what anyone would have guessed, including Barrett. The freshman not only won a spot on the team (Barrett is the only freshman starter for Tech), he quickly moved up from No. 8 in singles to six, five and four.

Last weekend at Northwood, Barrett played third singles. He kept moving up the ladder even though he hadn't played a competitive singles match since his junior year at Brother Rice.

And he was playing third singles then.

"As a matter of fact, I was kind of surprised," said Barrett. "I got a lot of backing from my teammates. They showed a lot of confidence in me."

"I'm playing the best tennis of my life."

IT'S SHOWING UP in the win column, too. Barrett rang up seven straight victories in singles play before losing a three-set heartbreaker at Northwood, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4. It was his second try at third singles. Barrett now expects to play fourth singles the remainder of the season.

Barrett attributes his success to a change in style. "Before I was always a very fast person on the court," he recalled. "Now I pace myself."

That helps him in his serve-and-volley game. "I haven't played that way for a long time," he said. "It gets me more motivated. It's a more effective way of playing because guys are much better in college. They make fewer mistakes, they're stronger and there's much more depth than in high school."

Barrett's attitude, too, has played a role in his improvement. "I haven't played singles since my junior year (at Rice)," he said. "Then I wasn't a mentally tough player. I didn't go out there with a killer instinct. If I'm aggressive, I play a lot better."

college sports

AND YET, Barrett has found he must control that aggression to be successful. "I have a temper that, when it flares up, I'm not happy with myself. I play a lot better when I'm calm."

"I've matured, I have more patience with tennis."

So why, then, is he giving it all up, as he plans to do no matter how this season goes?

"Because school comes first," is his answer. And Barrett has decided to go elsewhere in pursuit of an education. By next winter he will be attending the University of Michigan, where he feels he can get a "broader-based education" and be closer to family and friends.

"I STILL PLAN" on going into engineering at Michigan, but I won't have to make up my mind until my junior year," he explained. Tech, he said, would be fine if he was committed to engineering.

Michigan, too, boasts one of the best tennis programs in the Big Ten. "We have a pretty good team (at Tech) but we couldn't play a school that big," said Barrett, referring to Michigan.

"I'm not really that good a player," he added, reiterating once again. "From here on in it's education. I've had my athletic career."

Of course, should he continue to improve and should there be a chance to make it with the Wolverines, who knows?



Brother Rice graduate Dave Barrett never planned on playing tennis at Michigan Tech, but he is, and with startling success.

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10-1-84	91.39	10,536.59
11-1-84	92.19	10,628.78
12-1-84	93.00	10,721.78
1-1-85	93.81	10,815.59
2-1-85	94.63	10,910.22
3-1-85	95.46	11,005.68
4-1-85	96.30	11,101.98
5-1-85	97.14	11,199.12
6-1-85	97.99	11,297.11
7-1-85	98.85	11,395.96
8-1-85	99.71	11,495.67
9-1-85	100.58	11,596.25
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Dahm named All-American

Win Dahm, University of Michigan-Dearborn's leading scorer, has been chosen to the All-NAIA hockey first team.

A West Bloomfield native, Dahm scored 19 goals and added 35 assists for the Wolves, scoring 54 points in 38 games. He had four power play goals and two game-winners.

Michigan-Dearborn, which finished 18-20 for the season, landed two other players on the first team: forward Gary Charlson and defenseman Jim Brailcan. Forward Ryan Willette was honorable mention.

Michigan-Dearborn finished second in the NAIA national tournament, beating University of Wisconsin-Superior 6-2 in the semifinals before losing to University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire 6-1 in the finals. Dahm had one goal and four assists in the two contests.

