

# Lions give Rice grad a shot

By Marly Dudner  
staff writer

"I have a lot of heart. That's the key. If you don't have it, you won't go too far."

— Jim Browne  
Lions free agent

JIM BROWNE, unshaven and dressed in gold shorts and a red T-shirt, consumed a light lunch Wednesday afternoon inside the Detroit Lions cafeteria at Oakland University.

Appearing relaxed and rested after a tough morning practice, the former Birmingham Brother Rice football star sat back and patiently discussed his status as a rookie free agent with the Detroit Lions.

"It's just a thrill to be here with all of them," said Browne, as Lions general manager Russ Thomas tackled a place a birthday cake in one corner and quarterback Eric Hipple chomped on a thick hamburger in another section of the Oakland Center room.

"I can remember coming down here in the summer and watching them practice. Now I'm one of them. It's a definite thrill to be out there in a Lions uniform."

"I always wanted to be a pro. I love the game of football. I loved it when I was at Brother Rice so I wanted to play in college. Then I didn't want to quit after college, so I decided to try out for the pros."

"It would be great to play at home in front of my family and friends," he said. "I always loved the Lions."

BROWNE'S JOURNEY to the Lions training camp was not always smooth. It hit a few detours along the way. After graduating from Brother Rice, Browne decided to attend Northwest-

ern University because he thought the historically model Wildcats football program would "turn around" under a new coaching regime.

After his sophomore year, Browne grew disenchanted with the program and ultimately wanted a change. He transferred to Boston College where he was red-shirted for the 1982 season.

Everything appeared fine as he started eight games his junior year to help BC land a spot in the Liberty Bowl. But, the Waterford Township resident suffered a strained knee ligament midway through the 1984 campaign.

IT WAS a disappointing setback as he had scored a touchdown in each of the team's first four games. The injury nullified what started out to be a sensational senior season.

And, as if the injury wasn't enough, Browne also was charged with — and later cleared of — cocaine possession. It's a circumstance he realizes he'll always have to deal with.

"It was a classic situation of being in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Browne. "I was put on probation for six months, and it went back to court and the charge was completely dropped. I have no record."

"People who know me know that (drugs) are not a part of my life. But, for the people who don't know me, it tainted my reputation," he said. "I try to put it all behind me now."

BROWNE, 23, figures the injury and drug charge were the main reasons he wasn't drafted.

"I was prepared for (the NFL) draft, and I thought I had a chance," Browne said. "I didn't get drafted, and I think it was a combination of the injury and the drugs. Drugs are a sensitive subject in the NFL these days."

"But, the system is you have to make the team no matter who you are or where you came from," he said.

Browne said he was considered as a free agent by Buffalo, Philadelphia, Denver, Seattle, Atlanta and, of course, the Lions. "The No. 1 reason why I picked the Lions was because they were the hometown team," he said.

BROWNE is wearing No. 38 in camp and is listed on the fullback depth chart behind veterans James Jones, Dave D'Addio and Mike Meade.

First-year Lions coach Darrell Rogers likes Browne's versatility and strength.

"The biggest plus is he's extremely strong and he's versatile enough to do a lot of things," said Rogers, who replaced Monte Clark over the winter.

"He's done well from his fullback position. He's caught the ball well and blocked well and has picked up the system. But, you have to keep things in perspective."

"He's been doing well with the rookies," said Rogers. "We have to wait and see what happens next week (when the veterans report)."

BROWNE, 6-FOOT-1 and a solid 230 pounds, began lifting weights seriously when he was a senior at Rice. He still lifts five days per week — pressing 460 pounds and hip-throwing 1,100 pounds — which has improved his overall game.

"My strength helps me blocking a little easier and helps my speed since I work on my legs a lot," he said. "If you're a good ball player and lift weights, you'll be better. I don't think lifting weights can ever hurt you. It only helps."

Browne believes he's progressing and can cut it as a member of the Detroit Lions.

"There's definitely a chance to make this team as a fullback," he said. "But, it's just hard to tell what they're looking for."

"You just have to do your best on every play. You have to make something happen. I'm just starting to get my legs back, and if I keep working hard I'll be all right."

"I have a lot of heart. That's the key," he said. "If you don't have it you won't go too far."

## Grid all-star classic set

the head coach of the East team.

The fifth annual Michigan High School East-West All-Star Football game is set for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at Michigan State's Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

The game features 80 of the top high school seniors from last year. Some are highly-touted college freshmen, others are hoping the game will help them garner a scholarship.

As always, the Observer & Eccentric area will be well represented on the East squad.

Ken Kaestner of Livonia Churchill is

NINE PLAYERS from the area are on the squad. They are John Miller, two-time All-American from Farmington Harrison; Fred Owens, Redford Bishop; Burgess, Dave Mize, Livonia Churchill; Mike Parr, Birmingham Brother Rice; Craig Morton, Plymouth Salem; Ron Wandzel, Redford Catholic Central; Tony Beane, Livonia Stevenson; Chuck McSwain, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; and Chad Danke, Livonia Bentley.

## hockey

MIDWEST SUMMER  
HOCKEY LEAGUE  
STANDINGS  
(through July 24)

TEX CONFERENCE	
Wolverines	4-2
Buildings	4-3
Dinos	3-3
Falcons	1-4-1

BAKES CONFERENCE	
Wizards	5-1
Huskies	4-2-1
Lakers	2-4
Spartans	1-4

Monday: Spartans vs. Wizards, 8 p.m.; Lakers vs. Huskies, 8:30 p.m.  
Tuesday: Wolverines vs. Falcons, 7:30 p.m.; Huskies vs. Wizards, 9 p.m.  
Wednesday: Lakers vs. Spartans, 9 p.m.  
Thursday: Dinos vs. Falcons, 8:30 p.m.

Games played at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

## Darnell wins

Continued from Preceding Page

WHEN ASKED IF it was the left hand that finished Bell, Darnell grunted and answered, "Yeah, a couple of them."

Bell took the left uppercut to the throat and was spraying in his corner afterward.

"I thought I got him on the button," Darnell said, pointing to his chin. "This was supposed to be a six-round fight, so I thought he'd come out and see what I had. But he came out storming. I stepped back and tried to measure him with a straight left, then I jacked him with the uppercut."

The KO was the third Darnell has recorded in the first round and fifth inside of two rounds.

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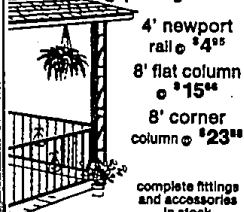
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\*Allstate Motor Club 24-Hour Dispatch available in Detroit Metro, Ann Arbor, and Flint only.

## Senior Olympics results

Continued from Preceding Page

120-yard low hurdles (men): 1. Ian Schermers, 2:14.9.  
440-yard run (men): Jerry White, 1:05.48; 2. Bill Craig, 1:13.01; 3. Art Kitz, 1:16.40.  
880-yard run (men): 1. Rich Reume, 2:38.56.  
1.5-mile run (men): 1. Rich Reume, 5:28.0.  
Class D (42 and over)

Long jump (men): 1. Richard Glands, 14-9.  
Shot put (men): 1. Richard Levy, 30-3.  
Discus (men): 1. Richard Levy, 64-3.  
50-yard dash (men): 1. Richard Levy, 8:52; 2. Jerry White, 9:07.3; Art Sherwood, 7:01.  
100-yard dash (men): 1. Jerry White, 12:18; 2. Richard Levy, 12:40; 3. Art Sherwood, 12:18; 4. Bill Craig, 14:00.  
100-yard dash (women): 1. Melba Hatch, 17:54.  
120-yard low hurdles (men): 1. Ron Munson, 2:15.1.  
880-yard run (men): 1. Rex Parine, 2:34.28; 2. Bill Craig, 2:45.31; 3. Art Kitz, 2:51.11.  
1.5-mile run (men): 1. Bob Lake, 4:55.55; 2. Rex Parine, 5:04.10; 3. Bill Craig, 5:00.18; 4. Jerry White, 5:22.3; 5. Art Kitz, 6:00.0.  
1.5-mile run (women): 1. Melba Hatch, 6:41.16.  
Two-mile run (men): 1. Bill Craig, 11:40.57; 2. Art Kitz, 12:24.17; 3. Rex Parine, 12:25.41; 4. Richard Levy, 13:59.21.  
Two-mile run (women): 1. Melba Hatch, 13:40.08 (new national record for women, 55-59; old record, 14:26.0).

Long jump (men): 1. Richard Glands, 15-0.  
Shot put (men): 1. Greg Bassara, 27-0.  
50-yard dash (men): 1. Richard Glands, 6:36.  
2. Ian Schermers, 7:11.  
100-yard dash (men): 1. Richard Glands, 11:19; 2. Milton Knight, 12:37.  
880-yard run (men): 1. Dave Bariles, 2:18.02; 2. Dennis Voz, 2:42.50; 3. Greg Bassara, 3:15.0.  
1.5-mile run (men): 1. Tom Gross, 6:40.0; 2. Greg Pous, 7:01.0.  
Two-mile run (men): 1. Tom Gross, 11:49.84.  
Class C (35-41)

Shot put (men): 1. Jim Gibbons, 35-7; 2. Ian Schermers, 30-10.  
Discus (men): 1. Jim Gibbons, 87-0.  
100-yard dash (men): 1. Ian Schermers, 12:08; 2. Richard Reume, 12:52.

Shot put (men): 1. Jim Gibbons, 35-7; 2. Ian Schermers, 30-10.  
Discus (men): 1. Jim Gibbons, 87-0.  
100-yard dash (men): 1. Ian Schermers, 12:08; 2. Richard Reume, 12:52.

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