

U-D's Dubois fits mold of student-athlete

PERHAPS YOU'RE wondering what makes Ken Dubois such a fierce competitor.

Probably, though, you're not. One reason you're not is that although Dubois is a top-level NCAA Division I athlete who hails from Livonia, he graduated from Stevenson 3½ years ago, his sport is cross country.

And calling a cross country runner a "fierce competitor" seems wrong, somehow, it's a description usually reserved for the more "savage" sports like hockey or football.

Another reason you're not wondering much about Dubois is, well, why should you wonder about him at all? I mean, how exciting can cross country be?

Thousands of fans don't jam into bleachers to watch the race. There is little drama, except during the last 20 yards — maybe. No game-winning shots, no last-minute heroics, no touchdown-saving tackles.

If the sport lacks pizzazz, how much do you figure someone that devotes hours upon hours of training to compete in it has?

WHICH FIGURES. Because Ken Dubois deserves better although he'd never ask for it.

Dubois, now in his senior year at University of Detroit, says he's got



C.J. Risak

ten everything he could have asked for out of college athletics. Mainly, he's gotten an education.

"Sometimes I wonder what it would be like if I was a basketball player instead of a cross country runner," he said quietly, each word carefully measured. "I really don't know what it would be like."

It would be hard to place Dubois on a comparable level in such a high visibility sport. It wouldn't work. His goals wouldn't fit.

Dubois, you see, is a throw-back. He belongs in an era when athletics were a supplement to academics, not vice versa.

"I think I may have been a better runner if I had gone to another school," he said, "but I think I'm a better person and my career has been helped more because I came to U-D."

A BETTER runner? Imagine that. Dubois said when he left Stevenson for U-D, he "really didn't think I'd be

competing at the level I am." More accurately, no one is competing at his level. Not among the Titans, anyway.

Since enrolling at U-D, Dubois has won every team race in which he has competed. Every one. The only time he did not beat a teammate was his freshman season, when he was defeated during the NCAA District IV race (U-D did not qualify as a team. Dubois qualified individually).

In every race since, the first finisher for the Titans has been Dubois. Last Saturday at the Midwest Collegiate Conference championships, he placed second overall, 10 seconds behind Loyola's Ed Slowkowski, to again qualify for the NCAA districts — as an individual.

And Dubois has accomplished this without allowing his studies to slip. He enrolled at U-D for some very simple — but important — reasons, and they all dealt with academics.

First, Dubois wanted to go to a college with a strong engineering program. Second, he wanted to run cross country, but he wanted to do it on his terms, without it interfering with his studies. And third, scholarship Dubois got to be nice.

DUBOIS GOT all three at U-D. "Coach (Earl) Clark gave me the op-

portunity to combine my running with my studies, to practice on my own if team practices interfered with a class."

Despite his modest appraisal of his college athletic career, which could end after next weekend's NCAA District IV meet unless Dubois qualifies for the NCAA finals, he has succeeded in obtaining his goals.

His failure to make the NCAA finals has kept him from All-America status, at least on a strictly athletic basis. But...

"I think making academic All-American was a greater accomplishment," he said. "They only take 30 men in Division I at-large (which includes all sports other than football, basketball and baseball)."

To receive such an honor, an athlete must not only achieve in the classroom, but in the athletic arena as well. Dubois' athletic talents are well-documented; his academics indicate an equally high standard. A mechanical engineering major, Dubois has a 3.88 grade-point average.

HIS SECRET of success is blocking out. "Whatever I'm doing, I try to block everything else out," he explained. "If I'm running, I concentrate on just that. If I'm studying, I focus on that. And if I'm working,



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—Ken Dubois
ex-Stevenson runner

that's what I'm thinking about."

In an age when athletes choose colleges by weighing their prospects, it seems odd to hear of someone trying to balance athletics with academics and, when priorities must be established, athletics are second. Another reason Dubois chose U-D was that he wanted to finish in four years instead of redshirting and taking the five-year plan.

"It wasn't easy for me," said Dubois. "It's been very difficult. It's easy to forget about all the sacrifices, but, looking back, I did make quite a few."

But going to U-D was good for me. It set me in the right direction. One I wanted to go in."

And that's what being a student-athlete is all about, isn't it?

Warriors shoot down Ferndale

By Marly Dudner
staff writer

Birmingham Brother Rice has never lost an opening-round playoff game in its stellar football history. The Warriors, participating in their fifth Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) playoff tournament, kept that streak intact Saturday with a methodical 28-7 Class A pre-regional victory over Ferndale High School. The Eagles averted the shutout with a late fourth-quarter touchdown against five's second-string defense.

In its previous four first-round games, Rice scored wins over Clarkston (1977), Birmingham Groves (1978), Sterling Heights Stevenson (1980) and Birmingham Seaholm (1983).

Rice (9-1) now will play in the regional championship game 1:30 p.m. this Saturday at St. Clair Shores South Lake High School against Gross Pointe South (9-1). The Eastern Michigan League champion Blue Devils won their pre-regional over previously undefeated Warren Lincoln 30-21.

The Warriors had little trouble with Ferndale, a tri-champion this season with Troy and Berkley in the Southeastern Michigan Association.

Rice came out throwing and eventually scored on its second possession to take a quick 7-0 lead. The Warriors added a pair of second-quarter touchdowns for a 21-0 half-time lead.

AL FRACASSA, who has coached the Warriors to three Class A state championships in 19 years at Rice, was reserved in his post-game comments. The Warriors simply overpowered the Eagles.

"We got them early and it was just a good game for us," said Rice coach Al Fracassa. "We played hard."

While the offense stalked Rice to the early lead, the Warriors defense had the game firmly under control. The Eagles had just two first downs and a paltry 56 total yards by half-time.

Ferndale came out throwing in the



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Brother Rice's Jason Wolf (33) scored two touchdowns and ran for 131 yards Saturday against Ferndale.

third quarter in a desperate attempt to get back into the game. It didn't work as the Warriors defense, which had allowed only 54 points all year with three shutouts, stopped three straight Ferndale possessions via interceptions.

Joe "Hammer" Kelleher, Matt MacLean and Joe Kelly were responsible for the third-quarter thefts. Senior co-captain Charlie Brennan had a second-quarter interception to account for Rice's game total of four. The Warriors nearly matched their best regular-season effort of five interceptions against Bishop Borgess.

FERDALE PLAYED without injured running back John Trammell — its leading rusher this year. The Eagles showed a different face in the absence, but it wasn't enough to counter-act the tough Rice defense.

"If we had (Trammell) it might have helped put a little variety in our offense, but we just couldn't stop them from scoring," said coach John

Bassier, whose Ferndale team was making its first ever playoff appearance.

"Rice is a big, physical team and our kids tried hard. We were proud to have the chance to play them," he said. "Rice is the best team we've played this year beyond a doubt. They're a very, very fine team."

Farmington sinks city rival

Farmington set two pool records at Farmington Harrison as the Falcons defeated the cross-town rival Hawks 49-65 in girls swimming Thursday.

Lauren Weary set the standard for the 100-yard butterfly and participated in Farmington's record-setting victory in the freestyle relay.

Weary won the butterfly in 59.2 to break the mark of 1:02.3 set by Mary Schoenle in 1983. Weary swam the lead-off leg in the relay, combining with teammates, Katie Hohl, Stacy Schalm and Mandy Kendall for a winning time of 2:30.8. The foursome bettered the 1983 mark set by Livonia Stevenson (3:52.5) by nearly two seconds.

The Falcons also qualified for the Class A meet in the relay, as did Lori Kiel in the backstroke with a first-place effort of 1:11.5.

Harrison won the medley relay

swimming

and qualified for the Class B meet in the process. Danielle King, Elizabeth Tucker, Julie Parabeo and Jill Marany won the race with a 2:02.7 time.

Farmington's Hohl also won a pair of freestyle events, the 200 in 2:07.1 and the 100 in 57.2. Weary was the 50 freestyle winner (25.5). Tonya Slicker accumulated 190.1 points to win the diving and Julie Kendall captured the 500 freestyle in 6:07.3.

Harrison's Tucker won the individual medley (2:19.0) and King, the backstroke (1:13.9). The Hawks were 4-7 overall.

MERCY 119, REGINA 53: Karen Neyer won two events, leading a sweep of one, and helped the Marlins

win the freestyle relay Thursday as Mercy routed Harper Woods Regina in Catholic League competition.

The Marlins, 8-0-1 overall, conclude the dual-meet portion of their schedule Tuesday when they compete against rival Birmingham Marquette at 4 p.m. at Oakland Community College.

Mercy finished 1-2-3 in the 100-yard freestyle with Neyer being the leader in 58.95. She also won the backstroke with a 1:06.81 showing and teamed up with Cindy Grusk, Mary Quinn and Becky Wiquist to win the relay in 3:56.38.

Quinn anchored the medley relay team, which included single-event winners Roberta Orr and Liz DeMatia. Amy Cetnar joined the trio for a winning time of 2:01.36.

Orr won the individual medley in 2:16.02, and DeMatia led another Mercy sweep in the butterfly with a 1:04.51 time.

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NOTICE

1-696 WIDENING AND ORCHARD LAKE ROAD INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC HEARING

The Michigan Department of Transportation is calling a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 1987, in the Council Chambers of the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the opportunity for a public discussion of the proposed widening of I-696 from I-96 I-275 to US-24 from four to eight lanes and the proposed improvements to the I-696 Orchard Lake Road Interchange. This project will not have an effect on wetlands. Nor does it include noise abatement measures to shield residences along I-696 from additional freeway noise.

A description of the proposed project, maps, and other pertinent information including comments from interested federal, state, and local governmental units as well as local groups and officials, is located at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road in Farmington Hills, the Community Library, 32737 W. Twelve Mile Road in Farmington Hills, and in the Bureau of Transportation Planning, Third Floor, Transportation Building, 425 W. Ottawa in Lansing.

The hearing is held in accordance with Federal & State Public Involvement/Public Hearings Procedures. Testimony will be taken from interested citizens regarding the social, environmental, and economic impact of the proposed project. Written statements and exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the public hearing, or requests for copies of the Environmental Assessment for this project, may be submitted to Philip J. Chisholm, Public Hearings Officer, Transportation Planning Services Division, Michigan Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, at any time up to fifteen days after the date of the public hearing.

To further assist you in understanding the project, representatives of the Michigan Department of Transportation will be present in the Farmington Hills Council Chambers on Wednesday, December 9, 1987, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and again one half-hour before the hearing to answer any questions you may have.

In addition, information on this project or any Michigan Department of Transportation planning project may be obtained by calling (517) 373-9534.

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sports shorts

• HOLE-IN-ONE

A Farmington Hills golfer registered a hole-in-one at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Wixom on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Roger Walker, former Farmington city councilman, scored his ace on the par-3, 235-yard seventh hole using a three wood.

The shot was witnessed by playing partners Herbert Hohl and Torrey Smith of Farmington Hills and, in the group ahead of the threesome, Clyde Chappel of Walled Lake.

• WISE AT STATE

Michelle Wise, a junior from Farmington Hills and a Harrison High School graduate, is a forward on the Michigan State women's soccer team and is the Spartans' third-leading scorer.

She had accumulated 13 points with two games left in the season, having scored six goals and assisted on one other. Prior to the remaining games, the Spartans were 11-5 and in the midst of a three-game winning streak.

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