# Fracassa to receive award at Super Bowl

BY CHRIS MAYER

The phone has been ringing off the hook at Al Fracassa's house. But that's what happens when you're the winner of the Third Annual NFL High School Coach of the Year competition.

Fracassa, who completed his 29th season as Birmingham Brother Rice's head football coach, received word from the NFL on Dec. 18 of his prestigues award, much to the delight of his family, friends and former players.

players.

"The phone has been ringing a lot," Fracassa said. "My kids (former players) are all over the

#### FOOTBALL

country, and I've gotten calls from people in San Francisco, Florida, Texas and many other places. I feel like Barry Sanders with all the recognition."

The NFL High School Coach of the Year is an award honoring high school coaches who are nominated by a professional football player, Pete Mitchell, a 1990 Rice graduate and third-year tight end for the Jacksonville Jaguars, nominated Fracassa.

Talked to Pete right after I found out I had won and he was very happy," Fracassa said. "He

is a very special person and he's like my son.

"That's why this award is such an honor. It's not about how many state championships you have won; it's about a player-coach relationship. That means a let to ne."

coath resistance, in the time as a lot to me."

Mitchell, whose three older brothers also played for Fracasa, said in a statement: "You hear a lot about coach Fracasa, but it's all true. He teaches you that it takes a lot to succeed in football or anything else. Even the guys that don't go on to play football for a living, they all take that with them.

"Coach Fracassa was like a

second father to me," he added.
"If you ask any athlete that
played for him, they will probably tell you he was among the
most influential people in their
lives. He taught me the game of
life."

life."
Mitchell reportedly heard about the award in the NFL Players Association newsletter and sought out the nomination

and sought out the nomination process himself.

The field was eventually narrowed to five finalists. Those still in the running traveled to Philadelphia in September for final interviews and that process included making a television commercial. Fracassa's "win-

New England and Miami.

In addition, Fracessa will attend Super Bowl XXXII in San Diego as the NFL's guest where he will be presented with his award. Fracessa's only other visit to the Super Bowl was at Super Bowl XVI where he watched San Francisco defeat Clincinnati at the Pontiae Silverdome.

ome.
"I wen't to the Super Bowl
when it was here in Michigan,
and I'm looking forward to going
out to San Diego," he said.
Fracassa's award will also ben-

ning" commercial aired during
ABC's Monday Night Football
Brother Rice High School. A
telecast last Monday between
New England and Miami.
In addition, Fracassa will
Jan. 25.

will be presented to Fracassa on Jan. 25.
Fracassa, 65, is looking forward to his 30th season directing the Warriors. Fracassa says he'll continue conching as long as, his passion for the game and desire to teach remains.
"Coaching is not always easy, but I simply have a passion for coaching and working with kids," he said. "That's the bottom line. If you don't have a passion or a love for what you do, then you shouldn't be deing it. And I love what I do."

## Pesci from page E1

The injury also forced Pesci to miss the next-to-last game at Hope. The Britons lost, 28-25, and with it their championship hopes. Adrian and Hope finished as MIAA co-champs; Albion was third at 3-2.

"Here it's my senior year and I'm getting some playing time." Pesci said. These are the two biggest games of the year, and I couldn't do anything.

"Those are the type of games you love to play in, and it was very hard for me to sit there and watch.

"I'd never been hurt; I'd never been knocked out of a game. For that to happen at the end of the year, with a chance to win the league title, was very frustrating."

Not playing in two MIAA games also probably cost Pesci The injury also forced Pesci to

any chance he had of achieving his personal goal of making the All-MIAA first team. "Who knows? If I had played in these sames, my numbers could

"Who knows? If I had played in those games, my numbers could have been better, but those are the breaks," he said.
"Overall, it was a lot of fun. Sure, we didn't make the playoffs or win the league, but I had the most fun I've ever had playing football."

There was one game remaining on the schedule, a non-league contest at Bellevue, Ky. Pesci wasn't going to be denied a chance to play one last time against 5-4 Thomas More.
"No way was I going to sit out the last game of my football career, regardless of what the trainer said," Pesci said. "I was pretty much a hundred percent by then, but it was something I

Pesci played the whole game against Thomas More and led the Britons to one more victory. It wasn't his best game as a passer — he was 8-6-24 for 108 yards and no touchdowns — but it's one he'll always remember. "It was the last time on the field with the other seniors, head." (College) was the most fun time any of us had playing football. (Winning) made the season end on a high note for me. It was sad but joyous because we won.

"We played in the mud and snow; the field was in terrible condition and it was freezing. It was hard to see with the snow coming down; we couldn't see the wast naretwar. That made it

coming down; we couldn't see the yard markers. That made it

more fun and memorable.

"Me and the 11 other seniors left everything we had out there,

because we knew we wouldn't have another chance to put on the pads and step on the field." Peact's most memorable moment and career highlight occurred last year in a first-round Division III playoff game against Illinois-Wesleyan. Albion was losing 21-7 in the third quarter when Peaci was rushed into the game in place of injured quarterback Kyle Klein. Peaci helped rally the Britons, leading them on two touchdown

Fesci helped rally the Britons, leading them on two touchdown drives and another that fell short in an eventual 23-20 loss.

"I was freezing on the sideline and nervous as all heck," Fesci said. "I got thrown in there and was not even close to being warmed up."

warmed up."

Pesci did just fine, however.

He was 11-of-20 passing for 174
yards with one interception, and

Albion drove 86 yards in 12 plays and later 72 in nine to score touchdowns with him at quarterback.

quarterback.

Then, his 60-yard pass to Mike
Oursler put the ball on the Wesleyan 8-yard line. But the field
goal that would have sent the

goal that would have sent the game into overtime was blocked. Pesci also set a school record with 43 pass attempts in the Wabash game earlier this year. "We didn't start throwing until the end of the game when we had to play catchup," he said. "That's a record I never thought I'd set. I never witnessed an Albion game when we threw 43 times."

mes."
Pesci, who quarterbacked
'armington Harrison to the
'lass A title in 1993, finished his
ollege career with 174 pass
ompletions, 342 attempts, 2,459

yards, 19 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

He will graduate in May with

a degree in physical education and hopes to be a graduate assis-tant coach at a school other than

and nopee to be graduate used that coach at a school other than Albion next fall. If he isn't working as a grad assistant, he'll fulfill his student-teaching duties, hopefully at a school in the Farmington area. That way he can watch his young brother, David, who is expected to be the Harrison High School quarterback next year. "I can't wait," Joe said, adding he's only seen his brother play once in high school and that was at the end of the game. "If I end up sticking around here, I'll be enthused and helping him as much as I can. I'll be looking forward to it. I know he'll step up and do a good job."

## Brzezinski from page E1

with pro potential. They give us a formidable middle.

"Doug has a very good work ethic. Off the field he worked to better himself and we'll do what we can, as coaches, to make sure we can better him on the field.

"He never gest flustered, but what I'd like to see — and we've talked about it during the offseason — is him get a little more fiery on the field. We'd like him to be a leader on this team and show a lot of enthusiasm his senior year. And he has the talent to be some type of All-Ameri-

## U-M from page E1

"All year we've been playing in different climates and adapted each time, so it shouldn't be a problem for us, he said. "We've been out here practicing over a week, so we're getting used to it."

The Wolverines have been

The Wolverines have been doing a lot of sightseeing, too, with trips to Hollywood and Universal Studies still planned. The annual Beef Bowl took place Thursday night at Lawry's Restaurant where the Rose Bowl opponents try outde each other at the table. It's an event dominated 280-pound linemen, but Bryant planned to do his part for the cause.

bryant plants the cause.
"They say it's one of the best beef places you can go, so I'm going to try to cat as much as I can," he said.

DAWN M. SCHLUTER, Attorney, 1400 N. Woodward, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, Weedward, Salie 199, MI 48384 STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, No. 97-261, 362-1K

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Newspaper, Observer & Recentric
Publish: December 23, 1997

page 1997

offensive line coach was Jeff
Jagedzinski from East Carolina.
The two new coaches ditched Henning's one-back set. And the offensive line gave up only 21 sacks after allowing 53 the year before.
"Doug and the whole offensive line progressed," O'Brien said.
"Our center, Damien Woody, and Doug are both built about the same. Both very good players, with pro potential. They give us a formidable middle.
"Doug has a very good work o'blocking. Things got confuspionship team.)

"I liked our offense a lot more because it was simplified," said Brzezinski, a former soccer player who didn't play football until the ninth grade. "Under Henning, we had five different ways of blocking. Things got confusing. We went back to a more basic set. If was a lot more physical. It was a lot better, more fun. It tust made more sense." fun. It just made more sense."

And the discipline was also

Mach's style.
"He (O'Brien) addressed the

problems right away, he streased team unity right away." Brzezin-aki said. "Nobody was putting up with any guff. He threw two or three guys off the team right away. It was all business. There

away. It was all business. There was no gray area."
This fall, the Eagles lost several close Big East games, including a double overtime loss to Miami. They beat West Virginia, at po 25 team, which turned out to be Brzezinski top game. "Coach O'Brien had been in the Marines, and he said don't look for any sympathy." Brzezinski said. "He knows what it takes. I like it a whole lot better. Things are getting better now."
This year the Eagles racked penerly 5,000 yards in total offense with an even balance of

rushing and passing.

A three-year starter, Brzezinski, a Sociology major, is looking forward to his final season in a BC uniform.

But there was a time when he felt bewildered.

The BC coach that recruited him out of high school. Tom Coughlin, left shortly after Brzezinski signed his NCAA National Letter-of-Intent to take the head coaching position with the NFL expansion Jacksonville Jaguars.

"I was still committed to the school and I said to myself that I had to stick it out," he said. "But it (1986) was like a nightmare. It reminded of a book I read, "Heart of Darkness." I thought about transferring."

He is now home for the holidays with his family, including brother Nick, a junior tight end who caught touchdown puss in CC's 23-6 state Class AA championship win over Ann Arbor Huron.

But he would rather be away

at a bowl game.

"I get nervous sitting around at home, I always have to be doing something," said Brzezinski, who works out regularly at Gold's Gym on Eight Mile Road.

A big year could put Brzezinski high in the NFL draft, but he isn't thinking about the pros just yet.

yet.

He's just trying to keep the
Boston College ship from sinking
and steering it back on course.

# COUNTY OF OAKLAND CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS WOLF DRAIN

NOTICE OF MEETING TO HEAR OBJECTIONS TO APPORTIONMENTS OF COST OF ABOVE INTRA-COUNTY DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the cost of the Wolf Drain, a proposed ain to serve an area located in the public corporations listed below, has en tentatively apportioned as follows, to wit:

Tentative Percentage Public Corporation
City of Rochester Hills
County of Oakland, on account
of drainage of county highways
State of Michigan, on account
of drainage of state highways 89 88% 1.66%

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Drainage Beard for the Wolf rain, will meet at 1.00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, on Tuesday, the 20th y of January, 1998 in the office of the Cakitand County Drain numissioner, Public Works Building, One Public Works Drive, Waterford, Idigan, for the purpose of hearing any objections to the said

Michigan, for the purpose of nearing any conjections to the experimental apportionments.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the plans, specifications and an estimate of the cost of the Wolf Drain and a description of the area to be served by the drain are on file in the office of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner, Public Works Drive, Waterford, Michigan. The estimated cost is \$4,632,500 but the apportionment percentages as finally established by the Drainage Board shall apply to the actual cost of the drain when finally completed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at said hearing any public corporation to be assessed, or any tarpayer thereof, will be entitled to be heard.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at latin nearing any justice corporation to be assessed, or any tarapayer thereof, will be entitled to be been continued to be assessed or any tarapayer thereof, with the entitled to be the apportionmenta, the Drainage Board shall determine monthbutes to the apportionmenta feirly reflect the benefits to accrue to each public corporation and the extent to which sech public corporation contributes to the conditions which make the drain accessary. If the Drainage Board determines that the apportionments are significantle, it without the accordance of the Contribution of the Drainage Board for the Well Drain, and that I no such proceedings shall be brought when of the Contribution of the Drainage Board for the Well Drain, and that I no such proceedings shall be brought when the Contribution of the Contribution of the Drainage Board for the Well Drain, and that I no such proceedings shall be brought when the Contribution of the Drainage Board for the Well Drain, and that I no such proceedings shall be brought when the Contribution of the Drainage Board and presented to the Drainage Board for the Well Drainage Board on the Drainage Board of the Drainage Board on the Contribution of the Drainage Board of the Drainage Board for the Drainage Board for sproval. The Drainage Board and presented to the Saccessment I nated moneys sufficient taxes to pay the saccessment and all targets the reflect of the Brainage Board on the saccessment lated moneys sufficient taxes to pay the saccessment lated moneys suffi

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