

Eaglets trounce Yellow Jackets; Warriors win at Toledo

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Senior running back Larry Batiste won the Catholic League 100-meter dash championship last spring. On Saturday, the 6-foot-3, 215-pound speedster showed he hadn't lost a step over the summer.

Batiste scored two touchdowns on runs of 16 and 78 yards, finishing with 104 yards on just three carries, as Orchard Lake St. Mary's crushed Detroit Country Day football, 34-6.

"He's lightning," Eaglets coach George Porritt. "He can move."

Senior James Gonzales opened the scoring and finished with 90 yards on 16 carries. His TD came on a broken play late in the first quarter.

His brother, junior quarterback Jermaine, broke free on a 30-yard run, then pitched the ball to James when he was about to be tackled. James finished the play with an 18-yard jump into the end zone.

Senior Matt Blue scored on a 4-yard run and finished with 32 yards on seven carries. Jermaine Gonzales, who rushed for 63 yards on 10 carries, threw a 29-yard TD pass to senior tight end Brad Mitchell. He completed seven of 12 passes for 125 yards.

Senior kicker Chad D'Amico was good on three of four extra-

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point kicks, and senior Ray Schultz split the uprights with his only extra-point attempt.

"St. Mary's is a good team," DCD coach Dan McLean said. "They have a lot of weapons, and they have good speed on defense."

That defense, led by senior linebackers Batiste and Joe Morris, sophomore cornerback Grant Mason (one interception) and senior free safety Mark Miller, limited Country Day to 114 yards of total offense through the first three quarters and 181 yards in the game.

DCD averted a shutout on the final play of the third quarter after sophomore safety Ashton Aikens recovered a St. Mary's fumble at the OLSM 21.

Aikens, who is also a running back, capped a seven-play drive with a 3-yard TD run. St. Mary's senior linebacker Bryan Gray blocked the extra point.

The victory over Country Day was St. Mary's third straight and sixth in the last 10 years. St. Mary's holds an 11-10 overall lead in the series.

Country Day's loss came with an added tragedy when senior tight end Colin Dill (6-7, 220) suffered a compound fracture of

his left leg midway through the third quarter after making his only reception of the game. Dill was taken by ambulance to the hospital and underwent surgery on Sunday.

The doctor said it was a clean break, and he should have a complete recovery," McLean said. "They put a rod in his leg and the big thing now is to keep it infection-free."

"The kids are rallying around him, and some of the guys want to see him on Monday. Some of the Orchard Lake players also want to see him, which was really a class act."

"If everything goes well, he should be healthy in three to four months, which means he could be back in time for some of the basketball season."

W.L. WESTERN 49, N. FARMINGTON 14: Western's explosive rushing tandem of Dave Johnson and Eric Sage accumulated over 300 yards and scored four touchdowns. Johnson rushed for 207 yards on 11 carries, Sage 122 yards.

Johnson opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 71-yard touchdown.

Sage's 17-yard TD scamper made it 14-0 after one quarter.

In the second period, Western's Richard Barbera had a 34-yard touchdown, while Johnson found the end zone after an 11-yard carry. Sage built on Western's 28-0 halftime lead with a 52-yard score.

North (0-2) put points on the board

when quarterback Garry Pento hit Brian Lafer for an 81-yard TD pass. But Sage found paydirt again, after rumbling for 55 yards, giving Western a 42-7 lead after three quarters.

Pento and Lafer hooked up again in the fourth quarter, this time from 10 yards, to put North on the board again. Danny Mikhail of Western (2-0) closed the scoring with a 14-yard run.

Pento was 13-of-28 passing for 183 yards, and Lafer caught six passes for 125 yards. Matt Weimington and Tim Muir had two receptions each.

North's Todd Weiss rushed nine times for 42 yards and Evan Feldman four for

33.

Brian Weiss was the leading tackler for the Raiders with five solos and three assists. Steve Fera had seven tackles and Amran Gowan six.

BROTHER RICE 14, TOLEDO ST. JOHN'S 13: Brother Rice went to Toledo and won by the slimmest of margins—a mixed extra point.

Host St. John's took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter on a 28-yard run by Greg Owens.

The Warriors scored in the second quarter on a 7-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Matt Baker to Brendon Hart.

In the third quarter, Rice took the lead with a 2-yard run by Mark Goodell. Kevin Gerback booted the extra point.

St. John's scored its second touchdown in the third quarter on a 25-yard run by Owens. But Rice senior Ron Jackson provided the winning edge by blocking the extra-point attempt.

Rice finished with 411 total yards, including 314 rushing. Mike Scott was the leading rusher with 201 yards on 18 carries.

Baker completed six of 12 passes for 58 yards. Rice starting quarterback Pat Craddock left the game early in the first half with a knee injury.

St. Mary's forfeits game to North

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

The Eaglets have been sacked! A perfect 2-0 start on the gridiron took an unfortunate turn this week when the Michigan High School Athletic Association ruled that Orchard Lake St. Mary's must forfeit its season-opening, 42-0 win over North Farmington because of an ineligible player.

The player in question transferred to St. Mary's from Thailand. He attended St. Mary's as a freshman, then returned to his homeland for two years before transferring back to St. Mary's for his senior year. Although he never played or attended any other school in the United States, St. Mary's still had to file a Michigan Educational Transfer form with the MHSAA, and that

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paper wasn't turned in by the start of the season.

Head coach and athletic director George Porritt noticed the error and immediately notified the MHSAA, which handed down the stiff penalty.

"When you move into a boarding school, you have to fill out a transfer form and send it to the state, and I didn't do that," said Porritt, who readily accepts full responsibility for the error. "It was my mistake, and it cost us a game. I knew it had to be filed and it just slipped by me. It was a terrible mistake. We weren't trying to get an advantage or anything like that. It was just a paper mistake; it just slipped by me."

The player in question isn't a

starter, but Porritt wouldn't accept that as an excuse for a possible lighter penalty.

"It doesn't matter if he's a starter or not. The form had to be filed and it wasn't," Porritt said. "The buck stops with me."

St. Mary's has a tough schedule ahead with games against Detroit DeForres (Saturday at DeForres), Birmingham Brother Rice (Oct. 24 at St. Mary's) and possibly top-ranked Detroit Catholic Central. If CC and St. Mary's win their divisions in the Catholic League, they'll meet in the Prep Bowl on Oct. 31. The Eaglets can't afford such a loss if they want to qualify for the state playoffs.

"We've got to move forward from here," Porritt said. "It's a hard thing to get over, but we've got to get over it. Hopefully, it won't hurt our season."

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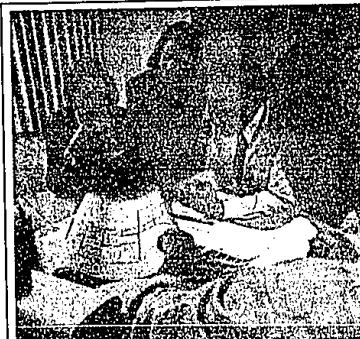
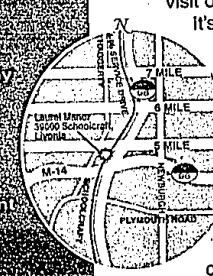
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